



British Royal Marines conduct an assault on Range 205 as part of Exercise Black Alligator aboard the Combat Center, Sept. 13.

Coalition forces conduct Exercise Black Alligator

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
 CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

As the Marines approached the hill overlooking the combat town, machine-gunners took their positions to provide suppressive fire while engineers and rifleman made their advance on the facility. As the Marine Corps' premier combined-arms, live-

fire training installation, this style of training is routine aboard the Combat Center. However, this exercise was made unique by the country the combatants serve.

In support of Exercise Black Alligator 16, the Combat Center is hosting 40 Commando Brigade of the British Royal Marines, comprised of more than 1,000 British

Royal Marines and 150 Dutch Royal Army soldiers, for the duration of the 45-day training exercise that began mid-August.

"Black Alligator is two things principally," said Capt. Simon Long, training officer, 40 Commando. "It's a force-generation exercise,

See **Exercise** pg. A6

Combat Center encourages residents to stay prepared

STORY BY CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

The Combat Center is taking steps to educate residents with the information needed to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergency situations as part of America's Prepare-A-Thon 2016. Throughout the week of Sept. 18-24, the Prepare-A-Thon focuses on providing individuals with the resources they need to be prepared for any natural or manmade incident.

According to Luis Aguirre, installation emergency management specialist, G-7 Mission Assurance, all personnel should begin a process of learning about potential threats to be better prepared to react during an emergency. While there is no way to predict what will happen, there are simple steps you can take now to prepare yourself and your loved ones.

"Some of the things you can do to prepare for a disaster, such as assembling a supply kit and developing a family communications plan, are the same for both a natural or man-made emergency," Aguirre said. "With a little planning and common sense, you can be better prepared for the unexpected."

Schools, daycare providers, workplaces, neighborhoods and apartment buildings should all have site-specific emergency plans, Aguirre explained. Residents are encouraged to ask about these plans and to consider volunteering to help develop one if none exist.

"Ask how they will communicate with families during a crisis and do they store adequate food, water and other emergency supplies," Aguirre said. "You will be better prepared to reunite your family and loved ones safely during an emergency if you communicate with others in advanced."

For additional information on the National Prepare-A-Thon, visit www.ready.marines.mil or call G-7 Mission Assurance at (760) 830-6074.

Emergency Supplies Checklist

- **Water:** Store one gallon of water per person per day for drinking and sanitation in clean plastic containers. If you live in a warm-weather climate, more water may be necessary.
- **Food:** Store food that won't spoil and does not have to be heated or cooked. Choose foods that your family will eat, including protein or fruit bars, dry cereal or granola, canned foods and juices, peanut butter, dried fruit, nuts, crackers and baby foods. Remember to pack a manual can opener, cups and eating utensils.
- **Basic Supplies:** Store a flashlight, battery-powered radio, extra batteries, a first aid kit, utility knife, local map, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, soap, trash bags and other sanitation supplies, plastic sheeting, duct tape, as well as extra cash and identification. Periodically rotate your extra batteries to be sure they work when you need them.
- **Special Items:** Think about your family's unique needs. Pack diapers, formula, bottles, prescription medications, pet food, comfort items, books, paper, pens, a deck of cards or other forms of entertainment.

Combat Center youth volunteer in Red Cross bake sale

STORY BY CPL.
 THOMAS MUDD

The American Red Cross Youth Group shouted excitedly at passing cars while waving handmade signs to promote a bake and yard sale at the Lincoln Military Housing Athletic Field, Sept. 17.

"This is the first sale we have had this year," said Nguyet Gold, director, ARCYG. "We hold this event about once every month throughout the school year. The sale helps the members of the youth group learn responsibility and teamwork while helping fund



CPL. THOMAS MUDD

The American Red Cross Youth Group advertises a yard and bake sale by Del Valle Road aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Sept. 17. The event was used as a fund raiser for the youth group and charities.

See **Youth** pg. A6

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Chef of the Quarter Competition B1

Marine Corps' Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans cast their votes for the best photograph posted on the Corps' Facebook page. This week's top shot comes from Lance Cpl. Cristian Ricardo.



LANCE CPL. CRISTIAN RICARDO

Capt. Eric M. Montgomery hugs his father after receiving the wreath for his brother, Lance Cpl. Brian Montgomery, who was killed while in Haditha, Iraq in 2005, during a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony in Nashville, Tennessee, Sept. 11.



Reprinted from the Observation Post
September 22, 1983

FEX 1-84 plays host to 5,500 MAB Marines

More than 5,500 Marines, some coming from as far away as Hawaii, will take part in 7th Marine Amphibious Brigade (MAB) Field Exercise (FEX) 1-84, Sunday through Oct. 10, here, which will include a three-day live-fire attack.

This operation, the largest since exercise "Gallant Eagle" in April 1982, will test the brigade's readiness in responding to a crisis as part of the Near Term Prepositioning Force (NTPF).

From Sunday to Oct. 1, the 7th MAB will begin the exercise by simulating attainment

of operational readiness in a secure port. This NTPF scenario would follow the unit's capability of responding to a world crisis.

Phases of the operation will include a three-day aggressed exercise, after which the aggressor force will combine with the 7th MAB force for a three-day live-fire operation, to conclude FEX 1-84.

Units participating include those from the Combat Center; Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Ariz.; MCAS, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; and Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton;

MCAS, El Toro; and MCAS (H), Tustin, Calif.

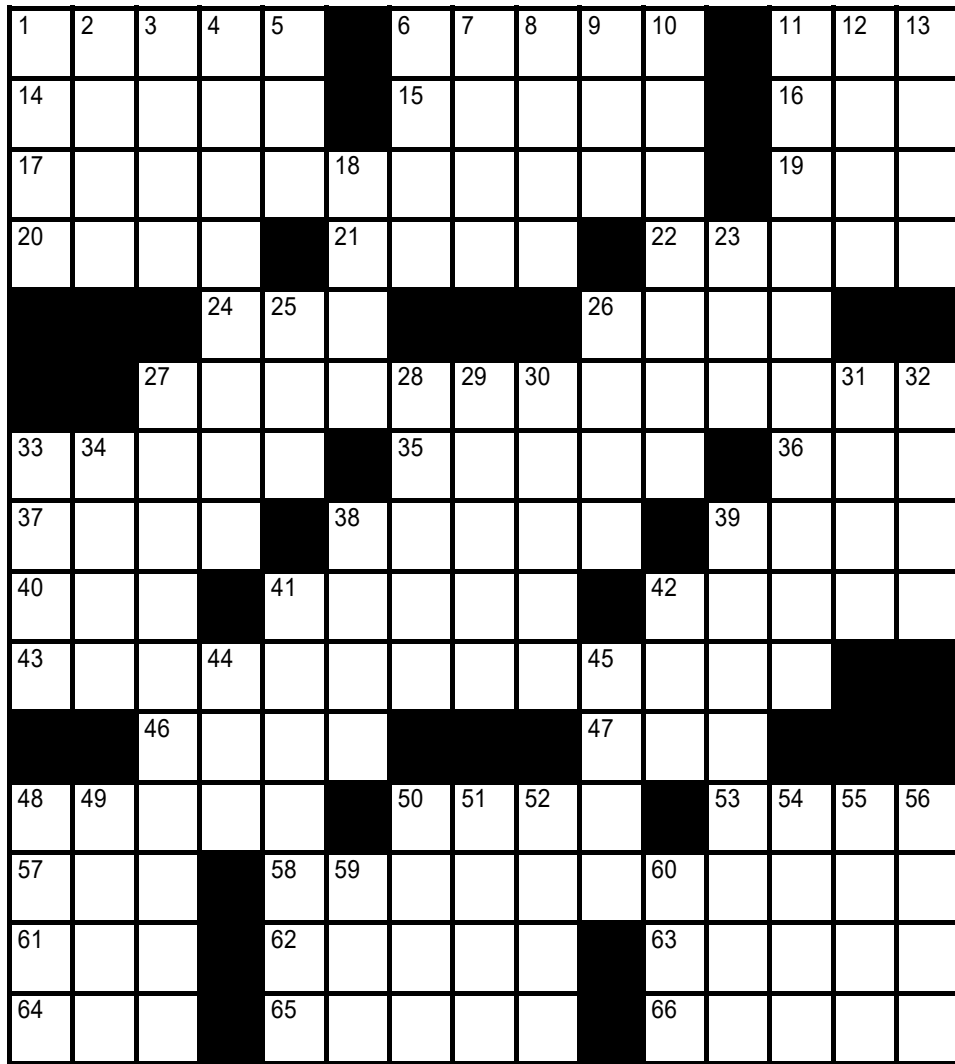
The attacking force will be led by Combat Center infantrymen of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines reinforced by the 3rd Tank Battalion; artillerymen from 4th Battalion, 11th Marines; crewman of Delta Company, 3d Assault Amphibian Vehicle Battalion; and Marines from Communication Support Company, 9th Communication Battalion. In addition, they will be augmented by Marines from 1st Combat Engineer Battalion and 1st Reconnaissance Battalion from MCB Camp Pendleton.

CROSSWORD

"Play On"

Across

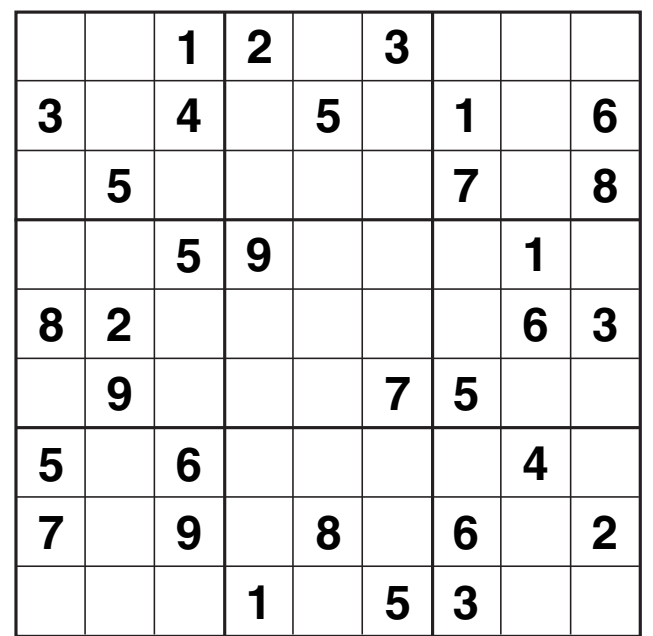
- 1 Olympic symbol
- 6 Sharp sound
- 11 Inexperienced
- 14 Steel girder
- 15 Island west of Maui
- 16 "You ___ here"
- 17 Proposal prop
- 19 Kind of party
- 20 Cry out
- 21 Coastal raptors
- 22 It's an honor
- 24 Memo letters
- 26 Et ___
- 27 Onsite journalist
- 33 Halt
- 35 Casting choices?
- 36 Diminutive suffix
- 37 Essence
- 38 Imitates a hot dog
- 39 Queens place
- 40 NBA great
- 41 Cavalry weapon
- 42 Promise
- 43 Play with fire
- 46 Takes care of
- 47 Keats piece
- 48 Joplin's Bobby
- 50 Chow
- 53 Darlings
- 57 Compact weapon
- 58 Propose a story
- 61 Whup
- 62 Soup server
- 63 Tack on
- 64 A little work
- 65 Result
- 66 Second best effort



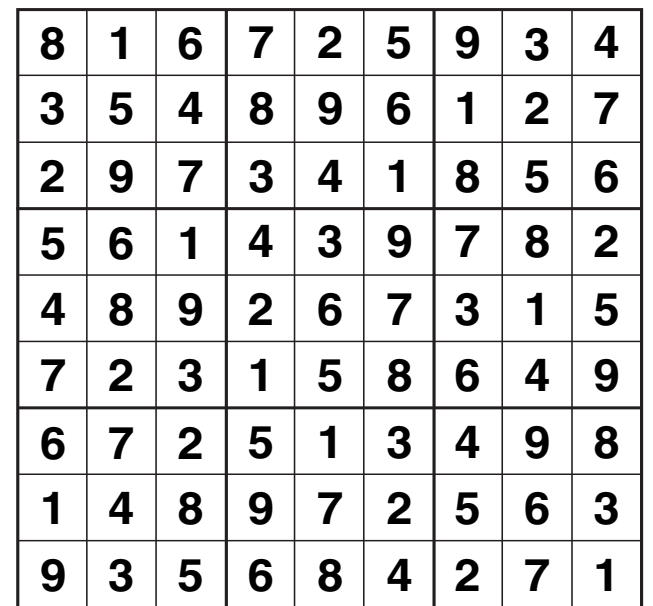
Down

- 1 Like some sums
- 2 "Rent" award
- 3 Not made up
- 4 Scout warmer
- 5 Med. care provider
- 6 Shortening online letters
- 7 Alert
- 8 Spanish liqueur
- 9 Bread served with korma
- 10 Ladies' men
- 11 Pest controller
- 12 Province
- 13 Become tiresome
- 18 Armstrong
- 23 Word said with a salute
- 25 Nevertheless
- 26 Big galoots
- 27 Sentencing prior to a trial
- 28 Abu ___
- 29 Clair and Coty
- 30 Seconds
- 31 Parmenides' home
- 32 Behind
- 33 Flexible, electrically
- 34 Staten Isl., e.g.
- 38 Stationer's stock
- 39 Cleaning job
- 41 Church part
- 42 Benchmark: Abbr.
- 44 Lobster coral
- 45 Slammin' Sammy
- 48 Silent
- 49 Mogul
- 50 LAX info
- 51 Rights grp.
- 52 Quaker's "you"
- 54 Irish novelist O'Brien
- 55 Overbrim
- 56 Old German duchy name
- 59 Publisher Ballantine
- 60 Collar

SUDOKU



Last week's answers



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 - Main Street Motel, 3494 Main St.
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- In National City:**
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- In Twentynine Palms:**
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 - 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:**
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- 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

Joel JENSEN

Hesperia, Calif. Lieutenant, Combat Center Fire Department

Jensen has been working aboard the base for approximately six years. During that time, he has dedicated his time to being a good father and working to help the people of the Combat Center.



>I grew up loving to ride dirt bikes; I would do it all the time. I received my first dirt bike when I was 4 years old. I'd say it was a big part of my life growing up.

>I got hurt a few times growing up, so I don't ride like I used to. When I started my career as a firefighter, work took precedence so I began to volunteer as a responder at different motorcycle events to help others who enjoy riding.

>I love being with my family. I became a father shortly after I began working here and it was one of the proudest moments of my life. I spend as much time with my family as I can.

>We go camping as often as possible and I even got my son into motorcycles. We try to go out into the desert once or twice a month and get in some riding time.

>There aren't a lot of ways to describe the feeling of being a father. It's just a great

feeling. He's only 6 years old, but he keeps telling me how much he wants to be a firefighter when he grows up. I'll have to wait and see if he does.

>I'm the third generation firefighter in my family. My father and grandfather were both firefighters and I believe growing up around the vehicles and seeing those men proud of what they do made me want to become a firefighter as well.

>I was a member of the San Bernardino Fire Department before coming to the Combat Center. While I was there, we always worked very closely with the members of the Combat Center Fire Department.

>The drive from home to here is about 100 miles. It's a little ways away but I don't make the drive every day. I'm at work every two to three days then I get to stay home for two to three days. It all works out in the end and I enjoy working on base.

>I remember when I was offered the opportunity to join this team. I was asked to perform a physical agility test, where they make sure that you can perform as a firefighter. After that, I was offered the position to be part of this team.

>We are a family here. When you work with the same people for long enough they become like family, but the people here are especially close.

>One of the most memorable moments I've had working here was when I was promoted to lieutenant.

>Another time I remember was when we received the Green Cross Award. Firefighters receive this award when they respond to a car accident that require the "Jaws of Life" and have a life-or-death victim live through the accident. That was a great honor for me. It's not an award that is given to people often, so the fact that I have received it is a great honor.

Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Thomas Mudd

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CPL. NEYSA HUERTAS QUINONES

Staff Sgt. Craig W. Harriman, left, speaks to Cpl. Andrea N. Villacis about her career progression aboard Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Sept. 12. Harriman was awarded Career Planner of the Year for fiscal year 2016 and has been recently selected to instruct at the Basic Career Planners Course at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif. He attributes his success to the leadership and mentoring he received during his years in the Corps. Harriman is the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of career planners assigned to Marine Air Control Group 28, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. Villacis is an administrative clerk with the unit.

Mentorship program inspires excellence

STORY BY SGT. NEYSA HUERTAS QUINONES

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT, N.C.—As Staff Sgt. Craig W. Harriman looks around his office, which is decorated with 12 years of awards and acknowledgements, he reflects on the day he first stepped into a career planner's office aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

"I was originally an administrative clerk," said Harriman, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of career planners assigned to Marine Air Control Group 28, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. "I considered getting out of the Corps after my first term. Before I made my final decision, I decided to see my career planner and evaluate my options. She convinced me to lateral move

into career planning and I have loved it ever since."

Harriman has been successful as a career planner and recruiter while serving three years in Alaska. He was awarded Career Planner of the Year for fiscal year 2016 and has been recently selected to instruct at the Basic Career Planners Course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif. He attributes most of the success in his career to the leadership and mentoring he received throughout his years in the Corps.

"I think the mentoring program is capable of doing great things for Marines," explained Harriman. "To have a successful mentorship, you need to show real interest in your Marines. Getting to know your Marines will make all the difference. We take care of our own, and what better way to do that than to

help Marines reach higher levels in all aspects of their life? We should strive to mentor all Marines whether they fall directly under us or not. Take me for example; if that sergeant would not have sat down with me at Parris Island years ago, I might have never ended up where I am today. You never know what will change someone's life."

According to Harriman, the most influential mentor he has had is Master Sgt. Jason E. Spangenberg, the career planner SNCOIC for 2nd MAW. In Spangenberg, Harriman saw the best work he has ever seen in a Marine. Harriman admired Spangenberg's leadership and strives to reflect that with his own while mentoring others the same way.

Spangenberg explained Harriman has been an exemplary Marine throughout his entire

career. He always sought guidance from leaders and used the knowledge he gained from his mentors through the years.

"The first time I met Harriman, I was the SNCOIC with 1st Marine Division, 5th Marine Regiment in Camp Pendleton, Calif. at the time," said Spangenberg. "He came into that unit with goals and ideas from the start. Now I find myself working with him again at 2nd MAW and he still demonstrates all the characteristics of a great Marine."

Harriman also worked with his command to raise awareness of an alternative to career course for those SNCOs that could not attend the residence course because of critical billets they held. He influenced the career progression of many staff sgt. assigned to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14

and Marine Aircraft Group 14 by pushing for more awareness of Staff Sergeants Seminar.

Although Spangenberg has been the most influential mentor during Harriman's career, Harriman explains that every Marine he has met in the Corps has helped him grow as a Marine and as a person.

"I remember my time spent as a recruiter in Alaska was the most challenging time throughout my career," explained Harriman. "It was a lot of work while also balancing raising my young daughter after a separation. Between myself, the other Marines in the office and their families, we raised her together. I worked hard and with the support of my leaders, I won the recruiter of the year for Recruiting Station Portland fiscal year 2013 and 2014. Those Marines were there for me both professionally and as my brothers."

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ROYAL MARINES OPERATIONAL SHOOTING COMPETITION BEGINS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. ROBERT WILLIAMS

ALTCAR TRAINING CAMP, United Kingdom — The Royal Marines Operational Shooting Competition commenced with its first set of official matches Sept. 14 at Altcar Training Camp, Merseyside, England.

The competition consists of six different matches using various pistols and rifles. The competitors represent teams from the U.S. Marine Corps, Royal Marines and Royal Netherland Marine Corps.

The teams were allotted time to practice each match in the days leading up to the event. This was the only time they can see their performance without it affecting the teams' scores.

During the official matches, the competitors score each other. The rules for scoring change for each match. When the competitors finish adding up the scores, the corresponding shooter looks over the score to ensure it's correct before turning it in to range personnel.

The U.S. Marine Corps Shooting Team took a small lead after the first day of official matches.

The team's familiarity to the match stipulations have significantly helped their outcome during the first day of matches, according to Capt. John Sheehan, a competitor with the Marine Corps Shooting Team.

"For these events there's a physical course of fire and a fundamentals-of-marksmanship aspect. The marksmanship skill and the application of that skill is really well established with the Marines," said Sheehan, a West Middlesex, Pennsylvania native. "For us on the shooting team, it's really about knowing the course of fire. That's where most of our time has gone, reviewing the matches days and the night before. That way when we come out here they know exactly what to expect."

They also plan on extending their lead via the pistol matches, according to Sheehan.

"We on the shooting team are extremely fortunate to get far greater exposure and time to work with the pistol to develop that skill set, because it's such a unique weapon system," said Sheehan. "Most (Marines) on a day to day would not get work with it otherwise. So we come here quite a bit more advanced than your average Marine and far ahead our counterparts."

The event is beneficial to the working relationship between the competing teams and their countries as the competitors share knowledge and moments together that establishes rapport, according to Sheehan.

"There really is a camaraderie that's being built between the British and Dutch Marines, even though it's only a two-week event," said Sheehan. "It's a lot of good fun in the competition and a fantastic opportunity to come out and test yourself."



An instructor with the Royal Marines Combat Marksmanship Team tells Sgt. Aaron Meares, a competitor with the Marine Corps Shooting Team, what adjustments need to be made to his SA80 A2 rifle sight, Sept. 11, at Altcar Training Camp, Merseyside, England.



Capt. William Cunningham, a competitor with the Marine Corps Shooting Team, gives advice to a Royal Marine to improve his control of a pistol in a practice match during the Royal Marines Operational Shooting Competition, Sept. 12.



Sgt. Chris Anderson starts running to the next course of fire, Sept. 13, at Altcar Training Camp, Merseyside, England.

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Exercise From pg. A1

which allows us to develop our training all the way from squad-level to battle-group size live-fire, and it's also a great opportunity to integrate with the U.S. Marines Corps and conduct joint training."

With the end goal of achieving battalion-level live-fire in a combined-arms environment, Black Alligator incorporates all assets ranging from infantry and engineers to artillery and close-air support. Each element is tested through a series of validation ranges before they are brought together as a single fighting force.

"We start at the squad-level before moving up to the platoon level," Long said. "While that is going, we have a lot of different elements holding specialty-arms training; our mortars are doing mortar concentration, our artillery is doing artillery concentration, and our engineers are down in [Marine Corps Base] Camp Pendleton conducting training with 1st [Combat Engineer Battalion.] We then progress and combine those elements in combined-arms live-fire at the end."

Throughout the exercise, more than 300 U. S. Marines, including artillerymen, engineers and tankers conducted training alongside the coalition forces.

"U.S. and Royal Marines train side-by-side in several events during Exercise Black Alligator," said U.S. Marine Capt. Andrew Mirsch, exercise officer, G-3 Operations, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command. "The most significant combined

training events are the Combined-Arms Live-Fire Exercise (CALFEX) and Final Training Exercise (FINEX)."

CALFEX, scheduled for Sept. 28 through Oct. 1, brings all the training together with a combined-arms live-fire attack that incorporates infantry, engineers, artillery, mortars, tanks and aviation fires. FINEX has a different focus, tasking the joint force with a clear-in-zone mission against an opposition force of U.S. Marine Corps role-players at Range 220, the Combat Center's largest Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain facility.

"[These exercises are] where we really test the commando both at the tactical level with the individuals on the ground all the way through with the decision making and of the highest levels of command," Long said. "We can do things out here that we can't do in the UK. While we don't have live-fire urban compounds, we can test all the way up to company and battle-group level."

According to Mirsch, the Combat Center provided the critical life support, logistics and infrastructure necessary to execute an exercise of this size. This included a variety of equipment drawn from MAGTF's Enhanced Equipment Allocation Pool.

"The equipment drawn by 40 Commando from the EEAP is particularly important to this exercise," Mirsch said. "It mitigates the need for British exercise forces to ship a battalion reinforced-sized gear



CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

British Royal Marines discuss their scheme of maneuver during an assault on Range 205 as part of Exercise Black Alligator aboard the Combat Center, Sept. 13.

set to [the Combat Center] from the U.K."

Exercise Black Alligator is held annually and will continue to promote operational forces readiness as well as strengthen relationships with coalition partners.

"Most importantly this is an opportunity to come out here and really train as we fight in austere desert environments while working alongside the U.S. Marine Corps," Long said. "We are really fortunate to receive support from 1st Tank [Battalion] and Charlie Battery with [1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment] alongside other assets. Black Alligator is a great opportunity to train as we fight but also to fight alongside our USMC brothers."



CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

British Royal Marines conduct an assault on Range 205 as part of Exercise Black Alligator aboard the Combat Center, Sept. 13.

Youth From pg. A1

the group and various charities."

The youth group sold muffins, cookies, banana bread and other baked goods, as well as clothing and jackets donated by the volunteers.

"It teaches us how to be responsible with money and how to communi-

cate with other members and adult volunteers that come out to help us," said Marisol Hernandez, president, ARCYG. "We are able to come out here and have a little fun while learning these things."

The money raised during the sale will be used to fund other activities for

the youth group and some will be donated to charities.

"We could not have done this without the help of the volunteers and the efforts made by the youth group's members," Gold said. "We are looking forward to holding more of these throughout the year."



CPL. THOMAS MUDD

The American Red Cross Youth Group organizes baked goods during a yard and bake sale at the Lincoln Military Housing Athletic Field aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Sept. 17.

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SGT. LAUREN FALK

A U.S. Sailor with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit guides a U.S. Navy Landing Craft Air Cushioned (LCAC) with Assault Craft Unit 4 during a bilateral non-combatant evacuation exercise at the U.S. Embassy, Muscat, Oman, Sept. 21. The Helo Dunker is an opportunity for the United States and Oman to practice a bilateral mission of quickly providing security and safety to U.S. and international citizens abroad during a natural disaster or contingency.



LANCE CPL. JESULA JEANLOUIS

Elizabeth Blanchford, an Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance employee and recent addition to the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, participates in Modular Amphibious Egress Training - also known as the "Helo Dunker" - on Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, Sept. 21. The Helo Dunker is designed to teach survival techniques in the event a helicopter lands in the water. Blanchford, originally from New Orleans, fills a key facilitation role for the MEB during humanitarian aid and disaster relief scenarios. The mission of OFDA is to save lives, alleviate human suffering and reduce the economic and social impact of disasters. Blanchford helps the MEB maximize unique military capabilities which can directly assist in supporting OFDA's mission in times of crisis.



SGT. JESSICA QUEZADA

A Humvee off-loads from a landing craft air cushion hovercraft during a mechanized raid as part of Exercise Valiant Shield at the Naval Base Guam Reserve Landing Craft Beach, Sept. 20. In order to gain operationally significant terrain Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, stormed the beach for follow on operations as part of island seizure for the exercise.



CPL. SAMANTHA VILLARREAL

Three MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262 (Reinforced), 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, idle atop the flight deck of the USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) during Valiant Shield 16 in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Sept. 20.

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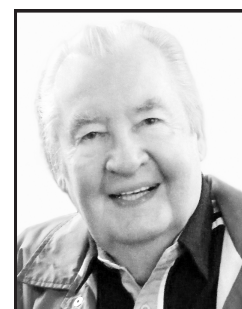
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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



When Grace, my wife of almost 40 years, physically died in 1994 our dear friend Rabbi Bernard Cohen officiated at her memorial services along with Father Joseph Becker a Roman Catholic priest and Burk Cree a Protestant minister. When Patty and I were married in 1995 the same rabbi, priest, and minister officiated.

I believe there is nothing more significant in positive cultural development than people of different philosophies respecting and loving one another.

It is my sincere belief that some day the spirit of ecumenism will dominate the world and "nation will not rise against nation and men will not make war anymore."

It almost goes without the need of comment that you and I must be ferocious fighters against prejudice in any form, however subtle.

Marcel Proust wrote, "The universe is true for all of us and different for each of us."

Perhaps that is the way it should be.

An ancient Hebrew prayer puts it very well: "From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, From the laziness that is content with half-truths, From the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, Oh, God of truth, deliver us."

WE HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED THAT OUR FRIEND BURK CREE HAS PHYSICALLY DIED. OUR POSITIVE THOUGHTS ARE BEING SENT TO HIS LOVING FAMILY.

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Chef of the Quarter whips up friendly competition



LANCE CPL. ERIC CLAYTON

Lance Cpl. Kenneth Martin, food service specialist, Headquarters Battalion, prepares banana cream pie as his dessert dish during the Chef of the Quarter competition at Phelps Mess Hall aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Sept. 21. The competition is held every quarter and provides Marine and civilian chefs aboard the installation an opportunity to showcase their cooking expertise.

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO**

Marine and civilian food service specialists cooked up some healthy competition during the Sodexo government services-sponsored Chef of the Quarter competition at Phelps Mess Hall, Sept. 20 and 21.

"Today is a culmination of efforts on both the Marine side and the civilian side," said John Rocca, senior brand manager of culinary, Sodexo. "This competition encompasses both the Marine and the civilian cooks in this environment, which is unique as far as food service goes because there are a lot of restrictions."

On the first day of the event, which is held quarterly, four two-chef teams completed a written test and trivia. The groups were assessed on their knowledge of physical safety and the technical aspects of cooking. Only the top three teams advanced to the second day to compete in the cook-off, where they were expected to whip up unique creations incorporating the ingredients given to them.

"We give each team a mystery basket containing ingredients they must use," Rocca said. "They're allowed to use anything else in the kitchen, but they have to incorporate what we give them into their dishes so that they can cook with things they're not accustomed to cooking with."

On the second day, each team presented an appetizer, main course and dessert to a panel of four judges. Each team was judged on food quality and aesthetic and physical appeal of their dishes, as well as the team's food safety in the kitchen. This quarter, Cpl.



LANCE CPL. ERIC CLAYTON

Judges critique a dish from one of three participating teams during the Chef of the Quarter competition at Phelps Mess Hall aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Sept. 21. The competition is held every quarter and provides Marine and civilian chefs aboard the installation an opportunity to showcase their cooking expertise.

Darius Hanson and Lance Cpl. Kenneth Martin, food service specialists, Headquarters Battalion, took first place with both people's choice and chef's choice.

"I feel very proud about myself and my teammate's success," Hanson said. "If you do proper prior planning, the competition is not as challenging. For Marines and civilians everything we've learned in the galley comes to light when we do events like this."



LANCE CPL. ERIC CLAYTON

A civilian food service specialist with Sodexo prepares a dish during the Chef of the Quarter competition at Phelps Mess Hall aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Sept. 21. The competition is held every quarter and provides Marine and civilian chefs aboard the installation an opportunity to showcase their cooking expertise.



CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Lance Cpl. Kenneth Martin and Cpl. Darius Henson, food service specialists, Headquarters Battalion, receive certificates after winning people's choice and chef's choice during the Chef of the Quarter competition at Phelps Mess Hall aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Sept. 21. The competition is held every quarter and provides Marine and civilian chefs aboard the installation an opportunity to showcase their cooking expertise.

Liberty Call



Combat Center Events

The Frontline Restaurant is scheduled to host a Beach Blanket Bunco today at 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Ticket price includes a game-card, appetizers and entry for an opportunity to win prizes. For more information visit OSC29Palms.com.

Come down to Felix Field today for a Picnic in the Park. The event is from 11 a.m. -1p.m. Bring your children and a picnic lunch for an opportunity to meet new families while your children explore and play. For more information call 760-830-3380.

Hashmarks Staff Noncommissioned Officer Club hosts Steak Night every Monday and Friday from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event is open to all hands Monday and SNCOs on Fridays. For more information, contact 760-830-5035.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Sept. 23

4:30 p.m. – Kudo and The Two Strings, PG
 7:00 p.m. – Ben-Hur, PG-13
 9:40 p.m. – Mechanic: Resurrection, R
 11:50 p.m. – Don't Breathe, R

Saturday, Sept. 24

11:00 a.m. – Peter's Dragon, PG
 1:30 p.m. – Suicide Squad, PG-13
 4:20 p.m. – Anthropoid, R
 7:00 p.m. – War Dogs, R
 9:30 p.m. – Sausage Party, R
 11:40 p.m. – Hell or High Water, R

Sunday, Sept. 25

12:30 p.m. – Mechanic: Resurrection, R
 2:50 p.m. – Kubo and The Two Strings, PG
 5:00 p.m. – Suicide Squad (3-D), PG-13
 7:30 p.m. – Don't Breathe, R

Monday, Sept. 26

5:00 p.m. – Pete's Dragon, PG
 7:20 p.m. – Hell or High Water, R

Tuesday, Sept. 27

5:00 p.m. – Don't Breathe, R
 7:00 p.m. – Ben-Hur, PG-13

Wednesday, Sept. 28

5:00 p.m. – Kubo and The Two Strings (3-D), PG
 7:20 p.m. – Mechanic Resurrection, R

Thursday, Sept. 29

5:00 p.m. - Pete's Dragon (3-D), PG
 7:30 p.m. – Anthropoid, R

Friday, Sept. 30

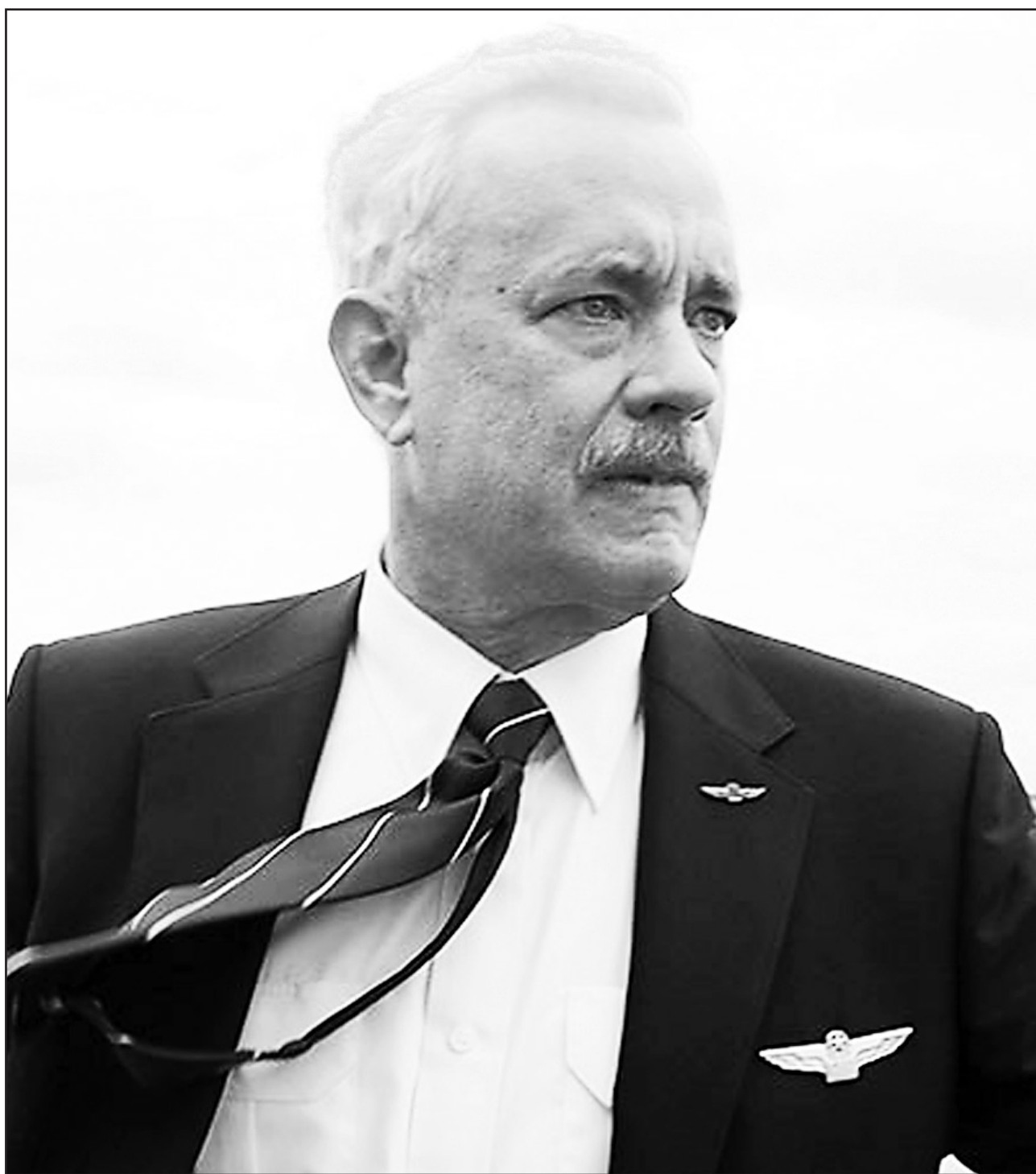
5:00 p.m. –Pete's Dragon (3-D), PG
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COURTESY PHOTO

Hanks looks very much like the real-life pilot he's portraying.

'Sully' signals start of serious fall movie season

NEIL POND

"Sully"
 Starring Tom Hanks
 and Aaron Eckhart
 Directed by Clint Eastwood
 PG-13

"Brace for impact." Those three words are at the heart of this inspiring big-screen salute to Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, whose successful emergency landing of crippled US Airways Flight 1549 became known around the world in 2009 as the "Miracle on the Hudson."

Sully makes the "impact" announcement when he realizes there's no way for his plane—with two failed engines, both destroyed by a massive flock of Canadian geese—to make a conventional landing. The line is later brought up, for much more lighthearted effect, when Sullenberger and his flight

crew make a TV appearance alongside late-night host David Letterman.

But "Brace for impact" also means for you, the viewer, to hang on and get ready to dig in: Summer is over and a more serious movie season has begun. Based on Sullenberger's 2009 best-selling memoir *Highest Duty*, directed by Clint Eastwood and with Tom Hanks in the starring role, Sully gives off somber Oscar signals with its theme of an ordinary, matter-of-fact man simply doing his job—until something extraordinary comes along requiring him to rise up to meet its unprecedented challenge.

"Everything is unprecedented," Sully notes later, "until it happens for the first time."

US Airways 1549 was in the sky less than four minutes, and Eastwood's film toggles back and forth between the incident itself, Sully's nightmarish flash-

backs, and the wrenching post-event investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board, which drilled and grilled Sully and co-pilot Jeff Skiles (an excellent Aaron Eckhart) on every detail. Was the plane really too damaged to fly? Did Sully do everything he could to get back to the airport—any airport—instead of risking lives unnecessarily by landing on water? Pilots in computerized flight simulators, fed with data of the incident, indicate that it would have been possible to bring the plane back to LaGuardia, or into nearby Newark, or Teterboro...

"They're playing Pac-Man!" an exasperated Skiles counters. "[We were] flying a plane full of human beings."

As the investigation drags on and Sully is hauled before the "court" for days and days, with his career and reputation on the line, the media feasts on his amazing feat—a water "crash" landing from which all 155 passengers and crew members were safely evacuated. And the Big Apple, in the financial dumps of the Great

Recession and still reeling from the aftershocks of 9/11, anoints him a hero. A bar names a drink—a shot of Grey Goose with a splash of water—in his honor. Strangers give him hugs and kisses.

"It's been a while since New York had news this good," one character tells him, "especially with an airplane in it."

"I don't feel like a hero," Sully says. "I'm just a man who was doing his job."

Hanks, his hair dyed white, looks very much like the real-life pilot he's portraying, a career aviator whose lifelong love of flight, as we see, dates back to boyhood and crop-dusting biplanes. "Never forget," his first flight teacher tells young Sully in a lesson that certainly reverberated through the years, "no matter what happens, fly the airplane."

Just a man doing his job, a guy flying a plane, a pilot controlling the stick. Brace for impact, Sully shows us just how important that one "ordinary" person can be, when ordinary circumstances sudden, unprecedentedly, become extraordinary.

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WeekINPhotos

SPMAGTF MASS CASUALTY EXERCISE

Photos by Sgt. Donald Holbert



Top photo Aircraft Rescue Firefighters with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command and the 407th Air Expeditionary Group, respond to a simulated mass casualty scenario at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Aug. 29.

Middle right U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Steven Lee with Shock Trauma Platoon, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command, provides medical aid to a patient during a simulated mass casualty scenario at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Aug. 29.

Middle left U.S. Navy Lt. Daniel Neubauer, a flight surgeon with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command, prepares an intravenous fluid bag during a mass casualty exercise at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Aug. 29.

Bottom U.S. Sailors with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command, and Airmen with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, transload a simulated casualty into an MV-22B Osprey with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363, SPMAGTF-CR-CC, during a mass casualty exercise at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Aug. 29.

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