



CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

Marines with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, provide security during a Non-combatant Evacuation Operation exercise Oct. 14.

'Island Warriors' conduct NEO exercise aboard Combat Center

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

As members of the nation's force in readiness, Marines may be tasked to evacuate U.S. citizens abroad in a time of crisis. To prepare, Marines with Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One from Yuma, Ariz., conducted a Non-combatant Evacuation Operation exercise aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 14, as part of Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 1-17.

"This training gives Marines important hands-on experience," said Sgt. Justin Viola, team lead, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group. "The Marines have to identify possible threats in a local populace while evacuating Americans."

The five-hour exercise began at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. Marines of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, were transported in MV-22 "Os-



CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

Marines with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, exit a landing zone during a Non-combatant Evacuation Operation exercise Oct. 14.

prey" tilt-rotor aircraft and CH-53 "Super Stallion" helicopters before arriving at the Combat Center, where they conducted a simulated rescue of approximately 140 U.S. personnel and local nationals, played by role-players with MAWTS-1 and TTECG.

"Each of the role-players has a specific motive and background story," said Cpl. Brandon Wards, role-player, TTECG. "This allows us to get into character and challenge the Marines' decision-making."

The exercise required aircraft to conduct evacu-

ations at three locations across the installation — Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Del Valle Field and Range 220. During the operation, Marines conducted screenings on all evacuees before transporting them to by aircraft back to MCAS Yuma.

OSC hosts breast cancer awareness walk

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES

For the third year in a row, the Officer's Spouse's Club held their Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Walk at Felix Field aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 14, 2016, to raise



LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES

Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center patrons participate in the Officer Spouse's Club's third annual Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Walk do laps around the track at Felix Field aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 14. OSC hosted the walk to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research.

awareness of and money for breast cancer research.

"This is our opportunity to celebrate those who have beaten cancer, as well as honor the women who have lost the battle to breast cancer," Jennifer Brown, coordinator, OSC said.

With more than 200 Combat Center patrons in atten-

See **Cancer A4**



LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES

Diane Durden, family readiness officer, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, speaks to participants of the Officers' Spouses' Club's third annual Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Walk about her fight with breast cancer at Felix Field aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 14. OSC hosted the walk to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research.

Inside the Observation Post

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1/7 Jane Wayne Day
 See page 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 Sgt. Lillian Stephens.



A UH-1Y Huey with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369 prepares to land after Marines with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, finished a fast-rope drill aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 6.



Reprinted from the Observation Post
Oct. 22, 1971

Ambulance drivers: the unsung heroes

He received the call at about 2:30 a.m. ... There has been a car accident; two men and two women are hurt, one of the men appears in serious condition. Forgetting his fatigue and concentrating on the problem at hand, he – the ambulance driver – gets behind the wheel of his vehicle with the corpsman at his side and they drive off with flashing lights and sirens wailing.

In those few precious moments between the time the ambulance is called and it arrives, someone's life may hang in the balance and the decision whether he lives or dies rests mainly on the driving ability of the ambulance driver and the cooperation he gets on the road from

the other drivers.

Lance Cpl. Douglas A. Jones, a truck driver who once transported ammunition to artillery batteries before volunteering to be an ambulance driver comments, "I like my work. It's different. The biggest problem I have while I'm on the run, especially on Code, is people not moving out of the way." Code is an expression used by ambulance drivers which means driving on the emergency run with flashing lights and sirens blaring.

The observation made by Lance Cpl. Jones of the discourtesy drivers not acknowledging the flashing lights or the siren is expressed by the other drivers. Cpl. James Edward Jones, a man who

has driven an ambulance for a year, says, "Many times they refuse to give us the right of way. This is time consuming and dangerous. Then people complain about the time we take to get to the scene of the accident."

In general, the attitude of all the ambulance drivers is unanimous toward their work which they view as not only interesting but highly rewarding. Their greatest feeling of accomplishment is seeing "their" patient walk out of the hospital and continuing this life which was interrupted by an unfortunate accident.

"Their" patient?

Yes, in his own way, the ambulance

driver feels that he has contributed to relieving the pain and suffering of the patient by getting him to where he can receive expert medical care.

As for the relationship between the Naval corpsman and the Marine driver, there is no interservice friction for even though both feel a certain pride in their own service they feel it is out of place in a situation where a person's life is in danger. Cpl. Gary K Lambert, an ambulance driver for two and one half years, expressed full and complete confidence in his corpsman of the Base Hospital saying, "I'll drive anywhere, any time, and under any condition with them. They really know their job."

CROSSWORD

"Autumn Activity"

- Across**
- 1 Muhammad ____
 - 4 Fairy tale figure
 - 10 Culmination
 - 14 Hullabaloo
 - 15 Sites for fights
 - 16 Genesis genre
 - 17 Semicircle
 - 18 Autumn activity #1
 - 20 Stake driver
 - 22 Blackthorn fruit
 - 23 Kind of knife
 - 24 Dinghy or dory
 - 26 Soft to the touch
 - 27 Autumn activity #2
 - 32 Hit for "Weird Al"
 - 33 German wine valley
 - 34 Cotillion girl
 - 37 Fifty-fifty
 - 38 Chessman
 - 39 Short car?
 - 40 Bit
 - 41 "So I lied!"
 - 42 Playwright Chekhov
 - 43 Autumn activity #3
 - 45 Actor Leary
 - 47 Narcissist's love
 - 48 Frigid
 - 49 Home to Honolulu
 - 52 Continental coin
 - 55 Autumn activity #4
 - 58 Sprout
 - 59 Oppositionist
 - 60 Mythical flyer
 - 61 Alkaline liquid
 - 62 Observed
 - 63 Hate
 - 64 Sycophant's answer

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- Down**
- 1 Garden figure
 - 2 Old Italian bread
 - 3 Developed, as in a lab
 - 4 Baseball's Maglie
 - 5 Magician's word
 - 6 Honest
 - 7 Scoop
 - 8 Scotch ____
 - 9 Vane dir.
 - 10 Revolt
 - 11 Pain in the neck
 - 12 ____ Python
 - 13 Circular waffle
 - 19 Cast out
 - 21 Register
 - 25 Sternward
 - 26 All there
 - 27 Toe locales
 - 28 Molten spew
 - 29 Bay window
 - 30 School assignment
 - 31 Push up muscle
 - 34 In an obedient way
 - 35 English boys' school
 - 36 Bell sound
 - 38 Little labs
 - 39 Sprain site
 - 41 V.P. Agnew
 - 42 One-spot
 - 43 Aleve alternative
 - 44 Japanese cars
 - 45 "Lorna ____"
 - 46 Make giddy
 - 48 Handhelds
 - 49 A while back
 - 50 Part of a Latin trio
 - 51 Jumper
 - 53 Actress Martha
 - 54 Keatsian works
 - 56 Purge
 - 57 Guess: Abbr.

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Medium

Last week's answers

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WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Ben MILLS

Philadelphia, Pa. Corporal, commanding general's driver

> **I grew up in Philadelphia, Pa.** My family is big, but I've only interacted with a few of them. I have an older brother, an older sister and a younger sister, but I only grew up with my sisters.

> **I'm very close to my sisters.** Growing up, my older sister always helped my mom take care of us.

> **I grew up eating chips, cookies and all manner of junk food.** By the time I got to high school, I knew I had to become healthier so I wanted to get into a sport. I was too short for basketball, I was too short for football and I knew I wasn't going to do anything else so I thought I might as well try out for track and field.

> **I ran a few minor events** but the two that I'm most proud of are the two marathons.

> **When I first started track and field,** I was really bad so I quit. After I stopped track, I joined a marathon running group. The training was progressive. When I first started, we would run two miles every day for a month. If our trainer saw improvement they'd increase the distance. I was in the group for about two years. It was a lot of fun, but it was really taxing.

> **Growing up, I didn't have my dad around** so my uncle became my father figure. He was the one who made sure I was disciplined, and that I got good grades in school. He made me read a lot. He punished me by making me read books.

> **My uncle taught me that I needed to be respectful, reliable and intelligent.** I needed to improve myself in some way every day. If you go a day without improving, then you're just wasting your life.

> **My uncle was the type of person who was very intelligent,** but he made a lot of mistakes. You could tell he wished he didn't make those mistakes, so he tried to prepare me for the world. As a kid, I resented that. Now that I'm older, I appreciate what he did for me.

> **When my uncle left I thought, "I can do whatever I want now."** I started hanging out with my friends and doing what I pleased. At the end of high school, I had a bunch of scholarships to go to college but at the time, I didn't think I was smart enough to go.

> **The mentality in my family is "get a job so you can help pay bills."** It's all about surviving, making money and helping out. I didn't want that, so I tried to get a job, but no one would hire me.

> **I was almost 19, still living with my mom, with no job.** I knew if I didn't do something I'd waste my time and I had to make money somehow, so I decided to join the military.

> **I attempted to take the [Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery] with the Army six times,** but for one reason or another I was never able to. There was always the Marine Corps recruiter right there, guaranteeing they could do a better job.



Cpl. Ben Mills, Commanding General's driver, was selected for his billet in April. While in high school, he ran two marathons as part of a running program in Philadelphia, Pa.

> **The Marine Corps was really efficient** and I liked that. I could tell that they cared about their work.

> **I am really glad that I joined the Marine Corps.** I'm grateful because it gave me the opportunity to go to school and better myself. Being stable is all I care about. I want to be able to take care of everything I have to and then be able to do all the things I want to.

> **I would say my upbringing prepared me for the Marine Corps.** I was always a tough person because of where I grew up.

> **I got selected from postal to serve as the Commanding General's driver.** I've been here for five months. It is important because you have to make sure you're paying attention to detail and taking care of the tasks you're assigned.

> **My responsibilities include making sure the CG gets where he needs to be** in a safe and timely manner. I'm in charge of updating his schedule, managing his invitations and maintaining the vehicle.

> **In my free time, I like to go to the gym and play basketball.** I also like to watch movies, that's my thing. I like action movies a lot, especially Kung Fu movies.

MILLS WAS SELECTED TO BECOME THE COMMANDING GENERAL'S DRIVER IN APRIL. WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL, HE RAN TWO MARATHONS AS PART OF A RUNNING PROGRAM IN PHILADELPHIA, PA.

> **I'm a certified [Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning] technician.** That means I'm certified to work on people's heating and cooling units.

> **Eventually, I want to lateral move** into a [Military Occupational Specialty] in the general technician field.

> **If you can handle the Marine Corps,** there should be nothing that you can't handle in the civilian world.

> **There are good people that I've met in the Marine Corps.** I had a master sergeant who just left and he really set the example for what a good Marine and person should be. There's a few Marines I've met that really inspired me to be better and do more.

> **When I got promoted to the rank of corporal, my whole idea was to lead,** but still be myself. Still do what's required of me but don't forget who I was before I came here.

> **If I had to give advice to a fellow Marine,** I would say don't forget who you are. Understand you're a Marine but don't try to become a robot because at the end of the day it's all about being a morally good person.

Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo

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Weekend sessions fill quickly because of a low player-coach ratio, so parents are encouraged to register now for special pricing. Full details and online registration at www.USBBaseballAcademy.com, or call 866-622-4487.

PMO, MCAGCC will host Drug Take Back event.

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- **Who** : Anonymous collection of unwanted and expired medicines
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Cancer From A1

dance, the track encircling Felix Field was filled with mothers with strollers, Marines in uniform and even children walking countless laps to support breast cancer awareness. In addition to walking laps around the track, participants took part in a Zumba class and OSC members sold shirts emblazoned with messages of inspiration. The proceeds will be donated to breast cancer research.

"I walk every year to support friends that have fought and are fighting breast cancer," said MaryKay Sherry, president, Retired Officer's Spouse's Club. "The more people in this amazing community who are willing to walk, the more aware we are and the more support we can give to those who need it."



LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES

Combat Center patrons participate in Zumba during the Officers' Spouses' Club third annual Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Walk at Felix Field aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 14. OSC hosted the walk to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research.



LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES

Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center patrons walk around the track with their children during the Officers' Spouses' Club third annual Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Walk at Felix Field aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 14. OSC hosted the walk to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research.

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A board signed by the participants is displayed during the Officers' Spouses' Club's third annual Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Walk at Felix Field aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 14. OSC hosted the walk to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research.

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NATO Allies conduct defense drills during Exercise Silver Arrow 16

PHOTOS BY SGT. ERIK ESTRADA



A British soldier with the Queens Company of the Royal British Army's Grenadier Guards, conducts patrols at Adazi Military Base, Latvia, Oct. 20, as part of Exercise Silver Arrow 2016. Silver Arrow is a multinational annual exercise led by U.S. Army Europe, designed to expedite NATO's response time during conflict and increase collective defense capabilities amongst nations.



A Royal Dutch Marine prepares to conduct a patrol at Adazi Military Base, Latvia, Oct. 20, as part of Exercise Silver Arrow 2016. Silver Arrow is a multinational annual exercise led by U.S. Army Europe, designed to expedite NATO's response time during conflict and increase collective defense capabilities amongst nations.



A U.S. Marine with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, radios in during a mission at Adazi Military Base, Latvia, Oct. 20.



A British sniper with the Queens Company of the Royal British Army's Grenadier Guards, surveys the area at Adazi Military Base, Latvia, Oct. 20. Silver Arrow is a multinational annual exercise led by U.S. Army Europe, designed to expedite NATO's response time during conflict and increase collective defense capabilities amongst nations.



A British soldier with the Queens Company of the Royal British Army's Grenadier Guards, provides security at Adazi Military Base, Latvia, Oct. 20, as part of Exercise Silver Arrow 2016. Silver Arrow is a multinational annual exercise led by U.S. Army Europe.



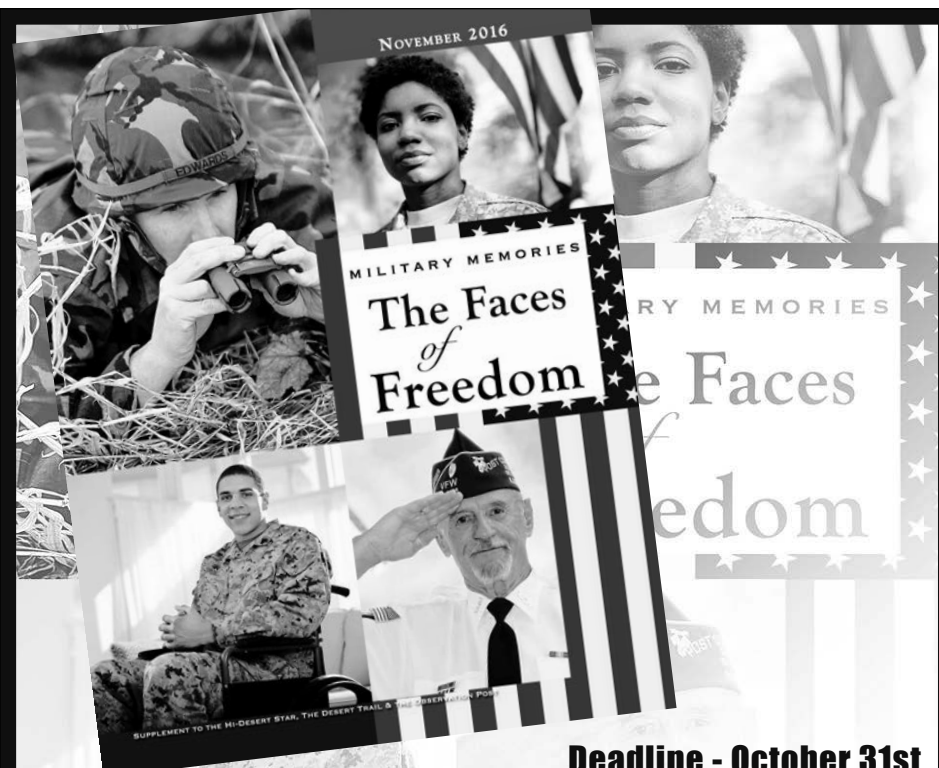
Dutch and British platoon commanders discuss plans prior to a mission at Adazi Military Base, Latvia, Oct. 20, as part of Exercise Silver Arrow 2016.



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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



I was notified Saturday morning of the unexpected physical death of my beloved daughter Michele in a New Orleans hospital. Michele has lived in New Orleans for many years where she was an admired and respected employee of the famed Café Du Monde Restaurant. Her physical death is a shocking loss to our entire family.

Many months ago Darlene Morris sent me the following note: "I like how you say someone "physically" died in your articles, because I have learned in Christian Science that Life is spiritual and never-ending. Even though to human sense someone seems to die, actually their life is continuing where we cannot perceive it."

What a great statement! I agree with every word. It was the Apostle Paul who wrote "We look not on the things that are seen, but on the things that are unseen. The things that are seen are only temporary, but the unseen spiritual things are eternal." (II Corinthians 4:18)

I think it is important that each of us prepare now in a very practical way with the certain knowledge that our own physical death is inevitable. Here is what I have done.

After discussing the matter thoroughly with my wife Patty I have donated my body to the Bodies for Science Program at the Loma Linda School of Medicine, Loma Linda University. The body will be used to help train young medical students as they continue making advances in medical science.

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Fun Facts

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KNOW

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PREP: quick rinse • no lids
CRV Plastic (soda/water bottles)

NO. 2 PLASTICS

PREP: quick rinse • no lids
milk/water jugs, juice bottles

ALUMINUM & STEEL CANS

PREP: empty and rinse out food and beverage residue

PAPER & CARDBOARD PRODUCTS

Copy paper, white ledger paper, shredded paper, newspaper, magazines, telephone books and all types of cardboard

GLASS CLEAR/BROWN/GREEN

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Recycling one ton of plastic
can save up to 1,000-2,000 gallons of gasoline.

For every ton of steel recycled,
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Cardboard and paper waste make up 41% of the municipal solid waste stream.

Recycling one ton of paper
saves 9 barrels (380 gallons) of oil

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• **Recyclables**
Plastics 1 & 2, aluminum & steel cans, paper & cardboard products and glass bottles.
Blue/grey bins on your trash day

• **Industrial items**
Microwaves, fridges and furniture
Place items on the curb the same day as your trash day.

COMMAND UNIT SERVICES

• **Solid waste trash**
Utilize the dumpster outside your building or facility.

• **Recyclables**
Utilize the marked containers and dumpsters throughout MCAGCC.

• **Industrial items**
Metal, wood or oversized items
For proper turn-in procedures, please contact base recycling @ 830.5666

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Lead acid batteries, used motor oil, light bulbs, paint, aerosol cans, and used anti-freeze can all be recycled and should be disposed at Hazardous Waste Management Branch (HWMB).

E-WASTE RECYCLING

Old, obsolete and non-functioning TVs, computers, monitors, printers, toner cartridges and other miscellaneous small electronic equipment can be turned into the HWMB for proper recycling.

NON-RECYCLABLE ITEMS

Aluminum foil, pie pans, etc., compact disks, wax paper (milk boxes, frozen food cartons), plastic no. 3, ceramic glass (plates, bowls, cups), styrofoam and rubber products (latex gloves) cannot be recycled aboard MCAGCC.



The residential and industrial recycling facilities aboard MCAGCC continually strives to exceed an Executive Order mandated recycling rate of 50% each and every year. Please do your part and support MCAGCC's efforts to reuse, reduce and recycle.

For more information contact Base Recycling at 760.830.5666 or visit www.green29.org.



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Page B2 every week



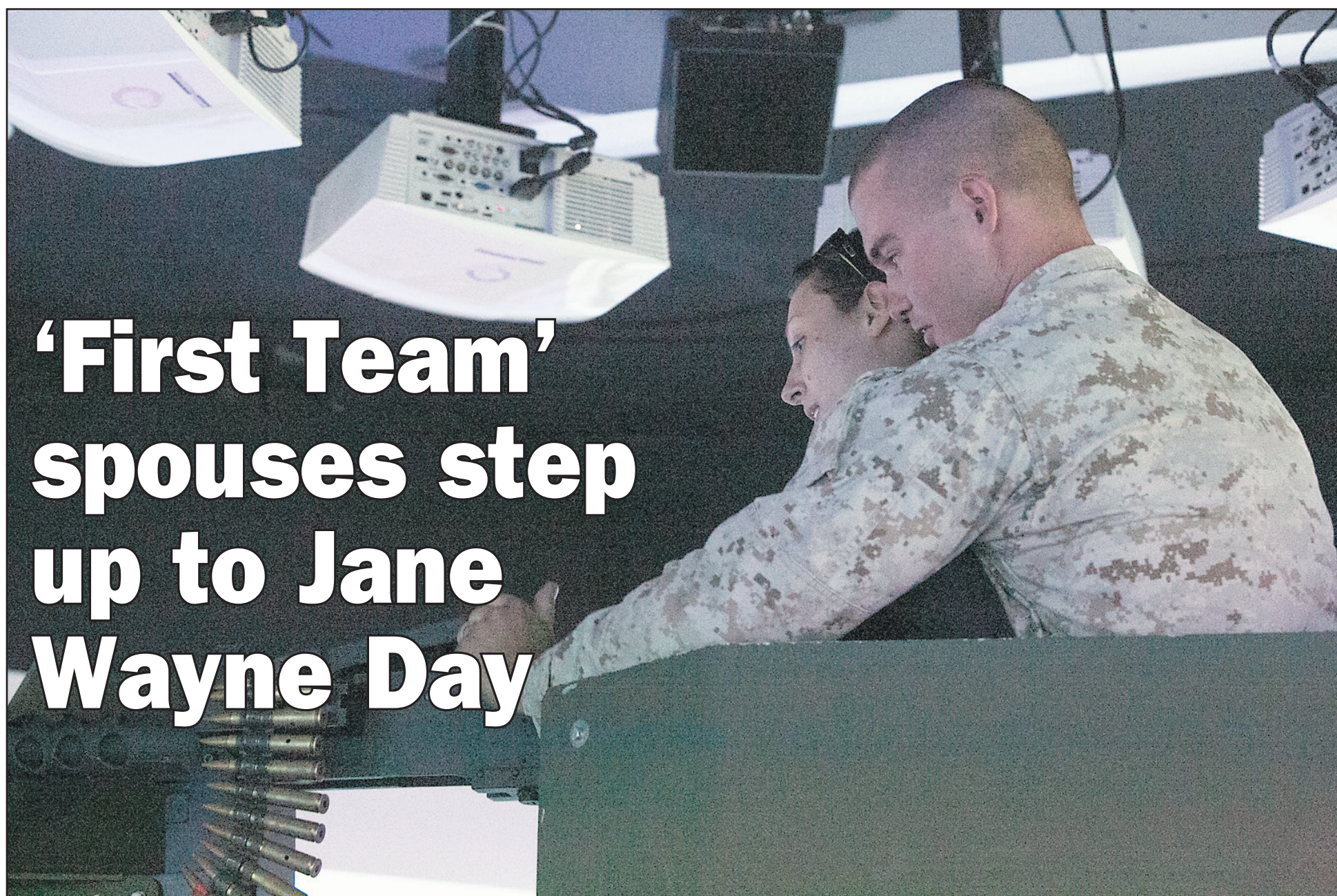
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‘First Team’ spouses step up to Jane Wayne Day

Lance Cpl. Brian Powell, team leader, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, shows his wife, Stacy, how to use an M2 Browning .50 caliber machine gun, in the Combat Convoy Simulator at Camp Wilson aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 14.

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
 CPL. THOMAS MUDD**

Spouses of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, spent a day in the boots of their Marine during the battalion’s Jane Wayne Day aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 14.

To promote unit camaraderie and family readiness, the unit invited spouses to participate in a variety of training events commonly

conducted aboard the installation.

“There is so much that we don’t understand about what our Marines do,” said Esther Aguilar, spouse of Cpl. Joseph Aguilar, rifleman, 1/7. “Today, we got to see some of what they go through. Most of us had our Marines with us, helping us get through some of the areas and showing us what to do.”

The Marines and their spouses had the opportunity to par-

ticipate in the obstacle course, the Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle Roll-Over Simulator and the Combat Convoy Simulator, as well as to fire an M4 carbine at Range 106.

“Some Marine spouses have never experienced the training that their Marines participate in,” said Mary Freese, family readiness officer, 1/7. “This allows those Marines to show their spouses what they do while they

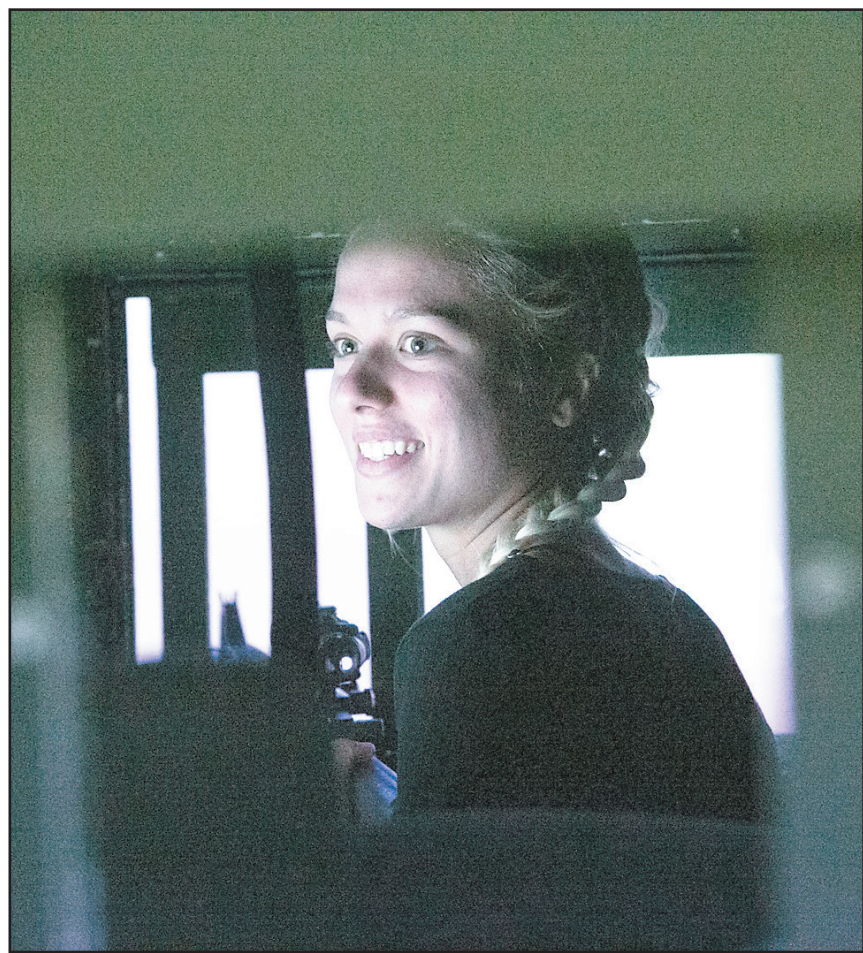
are training. All the spouses who participated had a great time with the O-Course and shooting rifles. They learned a lot about the lives of their Marines; what they do and why they do it.”

The Marines of the event took the event to prepare themselves for their training. Knowing that they don’t have troubles within their homes they can focus on their training and future deployments.

“Unit readiness comes from Marines and their families,” said Lt. Col. Eric Clark, battalion commander, 1/7. “The intent was to bring the families in 1/7 closer together. The Marines will be able to focus on their training knowing that everything at home is fine. With their focus on training, we can make sure they come back home to their families and they may continue to live happily.”



Cpl. Joseph Aguilar, rifleman, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, helps his wife, Esther, over the wall at the obstacle course during the battalions Jane Wayne Day aboard the Combat Center Oct. 14.



Megan Hipp, wife of Lance Cpl. Daniel Hipp, machine gunner, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, learns about the different components of a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle at the Combat Convoy Simulator at Camp Wilson aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 14.



Spouses of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment Marines, shoot M4 rifles at Range 106 during the battalion’s Jane Wayne Day aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 14.

Liberty Call



Combat Center Events

Combat Center mothers and mothers soon to be are invited to the ASYMCA baby tomorrow morning from 10:00 to 11:30 p.m. The ASYMCA will hand out gift bags to mothers that attend. For more information, call 760-830-7481.

Go to Del Valle Field, Oct. 28, for the Jack-o-Lantern Jubilee. The event starts at 5 p.m. and is open to all hands. Come in your favorite costume and enjoy games treats and other activities. For more information call 760-830-5086.

Head to Mameluke's Pub Monday Nights from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for Monday Night Football! Food and drink specials are available. See if your team will make it all the way to the championships. For more information, call 760-830-6610.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Oct. 21

5:30 p.m. – The Light Between Oceans, PG-13
8:30 p.m. – Snowden, R
11:30 p.m. – Blair Witch, R

Saturday, Oct. 22

11:30 a.m. – The Wild Life (3-D), PG
1:30 p.m. – Sully, PG-13
3:40 p.m. – Bridget Jones's Baby, R
6:30 p.m. – Snowden, R
9:30 p.m. – Blair Witch, R
11:30 p.m. – When The Bough Breaks, PG-13

Sunday, Oct. 23

12:30 p.m. – The Wild Life, PG
2:30 p.m. – When the Bough Breaks, PG-13
5:00 p.m. – Storks (3-D), PG-13
7:00 p.m. – The Magnificent Seven, PG-13

Monday, Oct. 24

5:00 p.m. – Deliver Us from Evil (NDVD-Free Admission), R
7:00 p.m. – Blair Witch, R

Tuesday, Oct. 25

5:00 p.m. – Evil Dead (NDVD-Free Admission), R
7:00 p.m. – The Magnificent Seven, PG-13

Wednesday, Oct. 26

5:00 p.m. – The Wild Life, PG
6:50 p.m. – The Conjuring 2 (NDVD-Free Admission)

Thursday, Oct. 27

3:30 p.m. – Hotel Transylvania(NDVD-Free Admission), PG
5:10 p.m. – Zombieland (NDVD-Free Admission), R
7:00 p.m. – The Light Between Oceans, PG-13

Friday, Oct. 28

5:30 p.m. – Monster House (NDVD-Free Admission), PG
7:20 p.m. – Storks (3-D), PG
9:20 p.m. – Bridget Jones's Baby, R
11:50 p.m. – Sinister (NDVD-Free Admission), R

Tears wash over 'The Light Between Oceans'

NEIL POND

"The Light Between Oceans"

Starring Michael Fassbender, Alicia Vikander and Rachel Weisz

Directed by Derek Cianfrance

PG-13

"With the ocean, anything is possible," says Tom Sherbourne (Michael Fassbender), the stoic World War I veteran who takes a job on a remote lighthouse island 100 miles off the coast off Australia in director Derek Cianfrance's adaptation of Tom Isabel's 2012 romantic novel.

It sure seems like anything is possible in The Light Between Oceans, in which a sea of happiness and an ocean of tears wash over the characters before it's over, all because of things brought in by the endless ebb and flow of the tide.

Blissfully alone on the barren island, Tom and his new young wife from the mainland, Isabel (Alicia Vikander), try to start a family. But two wrenching miscarriages leave Isabel an emotional wreck. Then one day, a small open boat washes ashore. In it is a dead young man—and a crying baby girl.

Tom dutifully prepares to telegraph the mainland



COURTESY PHOTO

Extreme camera close-ups show faces so tightly you can almost taste the salt from their tears.

to report the tragic incident, but Isabel begs him otherwise: She wants to keep the child and raise her as her own. "We haven't done anything wrong!" she pleads. It's a sign, a blessing, surely not just a coincidence, she says. Tom reluctantly relents, buries the corpse and pushes the empty dingy out to sea.

The repercussions of Tom and Isabel's morally questionable act ripple across the waves when they come home for a visit with their little "Lucy" and meet a grieving woman in the village (Rachel Weisz) whose husband and baby daughter were lost at sea... in a rowboat...at about the same time Tom and Isabel made their joyous

discovery on the beach.

Uh-oh. How this all comes together, and becomes even more complicated and crushing, is at the heaving melodramatic heart of the story, which goes beyond its soap-opera surface with some deeper, darker themes and things to ponder. Tom's lighthouse is situated between the warm Indian Ocean and the colder Antarctic waters on an island called Janus Rock, named for the two-faced Roman god of transitions, passages, beginnings and endings. One of the faces of Janus looks to the past, the other looks to the future.

The movie suggests that, like the waters of the

great oceans that cover the Earth, all things are connected—past, present and future; grief and happiness; war and peace; life, love, loss and death.

Cianfrance isn't known for making lite-and-lively movies. There are no real shining rays of sunshine in Oceans, but the photography is often sumptuous and sweeping, and Fassbender and Vikander do look cool in vintage 1920s garb. And there are some very strong performances, particularly from Vikander and Weisz, whose character enters late in the plot but becomes essential to the movie's message about what can happen when righteous anger gives way to forgiveness.

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SGT. ADWIN ESTERS

U.S. Marines with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force – Southern Command, depart Port-au-Prince, Haiti aboard CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters after their mission with Joint Task Force Matthew to assist the U.S. Agency of International Development with relief operations to the victims of Hurricane Matthew comes to an end, Oct. 18.



CPL. CLARENCE WIMBERLY

A U.S. Marine with the Black Sea Rotational Force fires his M40A1 sniper rifle during live fire training within exercise Silver Arrow in support of Atlantic Resolve at the Adazi training area, Latvia, Oct. 16. The U.S. and partner nations conducted land, sea and air exercises and maintained a rotational presence in order to reinforce NATO security commitments in Europe.



SGT. ERIK ESTRADA

A U.S. Marine with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment assaults his target during a live-fire shoot as part of Exercise Silver Arrow 2016 in support of Atlantic Resolve at the Adazi Military Base, Latvia, Oct. 18.

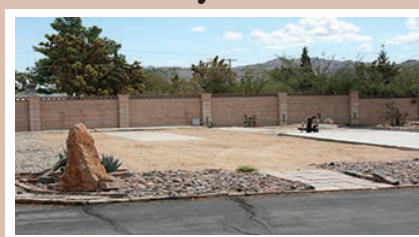
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SGT. RYAN YOUNG

U.S. Marines with 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit and a Sailor aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS San Antonio stand watch during a transit through the Suez Canal on Oct. 16.

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