



SGT. KASSIE MCDOLE

A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 2, Marine Air Ground Task Force-8 fires a M2 .50 caliber machine gun towards a simulated enemy while conducting a Motorized Fire and Movement Exercises (MFME) during Integrated Training Exercise 5-17 aboard the Combat Center, Sunday. The purpose of ITX is to create a challenging, realistic training environment that produces combat-ready forces capable of operating as an integrated MAGTF.

ITX, preparing our Marines

STORY BY CPL. DAVE FLORES

The Integrated Training Exercise, formerly known as Enhanced Mojave Viper and before that the Combined Armed Exercise, is the longest-lasting training exercise that occurs aboard the Combat Center and is comprised of an intense 29-day training cycle involving a series of progressive live-fire exercises that assesses the ability and adaptability of a force of approximately 3,500 active duty or Reserve Fleet Marine Force Personnel.

Marines with 4th Marine Division finished ITX 4-17 June 29 and on July 21 ITX 5-17 will start, allowing Marines with 2nd Marine Division to enhance themselves as a force in readiness.

ITX focuses on the application of combined-arms maneuver warfare in the Marine Corps' largest training installation. As battalions and squadrons progress through the training, they integrate together as a cohesive unit through planning, briefing, rehearsals, execution and debriefing.

Each training iteration spans across the Combat Center's training area as well as Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. and the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range in Niland, Calif., to enable the units to access the high-

est echelon of training.

The ITX exercise force for each iteration covers all elements of the Marine Air Ground Task Force. The Ground Combat Element is designed to support two reinforced infantry battalions, the Logistics Combat Element is comprised of a Combat Logistics Regiment Headquarters and either a Combat Logistics Battalion or an Engineer Support Battalion.

The training allows the units to practice scripted exercises as well as afford commanders the ability to employ forces on their own. This training giving a cause-and-effect decision-making balance to ensure that all the required objectives are met. This allows units to not only highlight their successes, but learn from their mistakes and leave the installation better-prepared to protect our nation in every clime and place.



SGT. KASSIE L. MCDOLE

Staff Sgt. Ryan D. Peek, an aerial observer, with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 167, Marine Air Ground Task Force 8 fires a M2 .50 Caliber Machine gun at a target from a UH-1Y Huey Helicopter while conducting a close air support drill during Integrated Training Exercise 5-17 aboard the Combat Center, July 21.

More photos: Page A6

Acquisition Command gives congresswoman view of newest gear

STORY BY ASHLEY CALINGO

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Virginia—Marine Corps Systems Command welcomed U.S. Congresswoman Niki Tsongas to the Gruntworks Squad Integration Facility aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico July 11. During her visit Tsongas received an insider view of advancements in personal protective equipment and load bearing equipment for Marines.

Raised in a military family herself, Tsongas represents the Massachusetts Third District. She is also a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, and has been serving as the highest ranking Democrat on the largest HASC subcommittee, the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee (TAL), since the beginning of 2017. The TAL Subcommittee is responsible for overseeing and authorizing the research, development, production



EMILY GREENE

Massachusetts Congresswoman Niki Tsongas joins Marine Corps Systems Command acquisition experts aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, July 11, for a sneak peek at the latest gear for the 21st Century Marine. In a series of ongoing efforts, the Corps and the Army are collaborating to develop, test and deliver ever-better capabilities for Marines and Soldiers. From left: Brig. Gen. Joseph Shrader, MCSC commander; Lt. Col. Chris Madeline, program manager for Infantry Combat Equipment; Rep. Tsongas; and Mackie Jordan, an engineer in PM ICE.

and procurement of a large segment of the resources and equipment used by the military services. Rep. Tsongas has led the push for modernized body armor and is working to support military innovation, particularly when it comes to lightening the load for the Warfighter.

"The Marine Corps is always looking to improve on current equipment to make it lighter, provide additional capability, and make it fit better," said LtCol Christopher Madeline, program manager for Infantry Combat Equipment at MCSC. "It was important to us to provide Congresswoman Tsongas an interactive experience with our newest gear so she has a more intimate understanding of our capabilities."

The Marine Corps is collaborating with the Army in a series of efforts to develop, test and deliver enhanced capabilities for Marines and Soldiers. As part of these efforts MCSC is changing the sizing of clothing, uniforms, and personnel protective and load bearing equipment to provide better fit, function and form for Marines, Madeline said.

Plate Carrier Generation III: The Marine Corps and Army are closely aligned to ensure uniforms and personal protective equipment properly fit female and male service members in order to accommodate every individual Marine and Soldier. The services are partnering to develop the PC Gen III, a service-common vest that will provide better fit, comfort and mobility. The new prototype reduces

See **New Gear** A6

Inside the Observation Post

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Marines get creative at the Wood Hobby Shop
 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. Rebecca Floto.



U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Courtney Zielinski, dog handler, Provost Marshal's Office, K9 Section, Marine Corps Base, Camp Smedley D. Butler, controls her Military Working Dog (MWD) Dundee while training aboard Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, July 14. MWD's are trained to subdue or intimidate suspects and for detecting explosives, narcotics and other harmful materials.



Reprinted from the Observation Post
July 28, 1978

Reserves invade the Hi-Desert

Approximately 1,400 reservists of the 61st Marine Amphibious Unit were airlifted to the Training Center last week to begin final planning and logistical preparations for Palm Tree 8-78. The actual exercise will run from July 31 to Aug. 4.

Initial summer training for approximately 750 ground combat Marines began Sunday at Coronado, California

at the Landing Force Training Command, Pacific. There, the reservists participated in landing exercises and Field Firing Exercise 1-78. They also climbed dry nets aboard mock ships and practiced amphibious techniques while conducting an amphibious assault at Coronado Silver Strand Beach. Having completed this phase of training, they are air-lifting to

MCAGCTC today to link up with the rest of the exercise for the Palm Tree.

Proven a great success last year, the exercise consolidates what previously took three years of annual training duty to complete and is now accomplished in a single two-week period.

Palm Tree 8-78 will involve the live-firing of artillery, tanks and close air support in conjunction with infan-

try operations. "It will be as close to the real thing (combat) as possible," Maj. Tom Fisher of Reserve liaison Unit appraised the exercise, "some mistakes will be made," he remarked, "but that is what we're here for, to learn from and correct them." The major went on to add, "the spirit, mind and body will be tested here in the Mojave."

CROSSWORD

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64					65						66			
67					68						69			

Across

- Au ____
- Tender spots
- Clearasil target
- "Cast Away" setting
- Village
- Fizzles out
- Journey
- Above
- Less taxing
- One wife at a time
- Come together
- Honoree's spot
- Have second thoughts
- ____ de deux
- Bore
- Brews
- Big end
- "____ we having fun yet?"
- Band booking
- Women's loose

Down

- Bug
- "The Three Faces of ____"
- Frothy
- 100 centavos
- Brief brawl
- Alkaline liquid
- Assail
- Song and dance, e.g.
- "Fudge!"
- Sensible
- Bon mot
- Cuckoos
- Unorthodox or radical
- Barfly's binge
- Musical show
- Wizard
- "Green Gables" girl
- Swiss capital
- Checked out

Down

- Snowman prop
- ____ Minor
- Misfortunes
- System of rule
- Mixes up
- Electrical unit
- Be itinerant
- "Cogito ____ sum"
- Devote, as time
- Slowly, to a conductor
- A city like Rome and the Vatican
- Advertising sign
- Catch a glimpse of
- Back
- "Bellefleur" author
- A helix
- Earnings
- Breathing
- Plant life
- Anxious
- Put (away)

- Clear, as a disk
- Cache
- "A pox on you!"
- Pewter containing 80% tin
- Former capital of Japan
- Pseudonym used by authors
- Sad; sorrowful
- Two-masted vessel
- Eat or drink rapidly
- Montezuma, e.g.
- Pro ____
- Soon, to a bard
- Affirm
- ____ lamp
- Civil War side, with "the"
- Halftime lead, e.g.
- Cattail, e.g.
- Mother Teresa, for one

SUDOKU

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Difficult

Last week's answers

1	S	C	U	D		5	R	E	S	O	W		T	A	12			
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19	N	O	V	E	L	L	E		20	E	E	N		21	N	I	H	
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		32	P	R	E	D	E	C	E	S	S	O	R					
		35	F	E	E		36	N	A	V	A	H	O					
37	C	E	N	S	E		38		39	P	O	L	O		40	O	P	S
43	H	A	I	T	I	A	N	S		44		45	T	U	R	B	O	T
48	O	T	T		49	T	W	O		50	M	I	L	L	I	T	I	A
51	R	U	E		52	H	A	R	D	A	N	D	F	A	S	T		
54	U	R	N		55	E	R	M	I	N	E		56	L	I	E	U	
57	S	E	T		58	R	E	A	D	Y		59	E	N	D	S		

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

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- Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Highway, Yucca Valley
- NYPD Pizza, 260-262 North Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs
- Sam's Smoke Shop, 16520 West Main Street, Barstow
- Teazer's Bar & Grill Nightclub, 14269 Seventh Street, Victorville
- Angelo's Kars, 222 & 226 S. Coast Highway, Oceanside
- Denny's Parking Lot, 692 E Street, Chula Vista
- Burger King & McDonald's, 28th Street (parking lots), San Diego
- Club Mustang, 2200 University Avenue, San Diego
- Club San Diego, 3955 4th Avenue, San Diego
- Get It On Shoppe, San Diego
- Main Street Motel, 3494 Main Street, San Diego
- Trolley Stations, Palomar Street & San Ysidro, San Diego
- Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar Street, San Diego
- Dream Crystal, 1536 Highland Avenue, National City
- Sports Auto Sales, 1111 National City Boulevard, National City

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Cristopher RIEHL

Manheim, Pa. Corporal, Main Battle Tank Repairer/Technician, 1st Tank Battalion

RIEHL PLANS ON GOING THROUGH THE MARSOC TRAINING AND IF HE IS ACCEPTED THEN HE IS GOING TO REENLIST WITH THEM. RIEHL WANTS TO BE A BREECHER, THE MARINE IN THE FRONT WHO GOES INTO THE BUILDINGS FIRST.

>I was raised in Manheim, PA, by Collean and Ken Riehl. I'm 22 years old and the youngest of three boys. Manheim held farm shows where people would bring farm animals and machinery to show off. They have some of the best milkshakes I've ever had; they always ran out of milkshakes since everyone wanted some.

>My mom worked as a chef for 30 years, so whenever my parents couldn't find a babysitter she would take us to the restaurant. We helped with things around the kitchen such as cleaning dishes and the sweeping.

>I grew up wanting to be like my father because he is the toughest man I know. Ever since I can remember he has always been a hard worker. After I get out of the corps I plan on working with my father as a handyman with him.

>My oldest brother, Eric, works at an auto repair shop, and Greg, my second oldest brother, is a cop. My brothers and I grew up loving adventures, which more than often ended up with us getting in trouble or giving my mother a heart attack. We had a jungle gym with a slide and one time we watered it down and made like a ski way. I was small so I didn't stop at the bottom I kept going, I was about to hit my dad's car but at the last second I ducked down and went under it. Mom made us all go back inside, we nearly gave her a heart attack.

>When I was younger we made an extension over the garage so we could jump onto our trampoline. Whenever

it snowed we would jump of the extension onto the trampoline and into a large pile of snow.

>Before the Marine Corps I worked with my oldest brother at an auto repair shop. Since most of the people who worked at the shop were much older than me, I was considered the gopher of the shop. Being the gopher I was in charge of inventory and all the menial tasks no one wanted to take care of.

>The thing I love most about the Corps is the brotherhood. You can go up to anyone and make friends with them.

>I plan on going through the MARSOC training and if I'm accepted then I'm going to reenlist with them. I want to be a breacher, the Marine in the front who goes into the buildings first.

>Some advice for young Marines is that being a good Marine is not hard, you know what you signed up for, so do it. You go to physical training early in the morning, you work for a couple of hours and then you get off and do whatever you want for the rest of the day.

>Everyone gets dealt different cards in life, you either learn to deal with it, get out of the situation or find the positive in it. Take time to count your blessings and know that your life could be a lot worse. If you have a roof over your head, food in your gut and a place to lay your head at night, then there's not much to complain about, a simple life is a better life.



Interviewed and photographed by Lance Cpl. Natalia Cuevas

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Pride and passion: How one Marine fought through hardships and impacted his community

STORY BY
CPL. MATT MYERS

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania — Marine, fitness instructor and community leader — These are just a few of the titles used to describe a Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, resident who has dedicated his life to serving.

The past 12 years of Christopher T. Kaag's life have been a journey of discovery in which he has overcome his own personal challenges in hopes of supporting others to do the same. It has been a path marked by tragedy, pain, challenges and the euphoria of overcoming all of them to achieve a dream. It was a dream that took root when he was a young boy with a desire to grow in the footsteps of his father as a U.S. Marine.

"My dad, my grandfather and my uncle were all Marines," said Kaag, a Cherry Point, North Carolina, native. "I knew I wanted to be a Marine when I was 7 years old. I remember seeing all the pride my dad had and how patriotic he was, and I knew that was what I wanted. So my dad cosigned, and I shipped to Parris Island as an overweight, lazy 17 year old."

Upon completion of boot camp, and 50 pounds lighter, Kaag had a new perspective on hard work and was ready to begin his Marine Corps career.

He was sent to Millington, Tennessee, where he was trained as an aircraft electronic countermeasures systems technician on the EA-6B Prowler. After completing his initial training, he was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina, and then sent on two tours to Aviano Air Base, Italy, in 1996 and 1997.

It was during his second tour that Kaag realized that a previous traumatic experience had a greater impact than he initially thought.

"I was playing on the Marine Corps Rugby team in the spring of 97," Kaag explained. "There was a five-meter penalty, and I got in front of this guy and tried to tackle him, and he kneed me right in the temple. I was knocked out, and when I came to, I tried to

get back into the game and had no idea where I was or how to play — I had lost my short-term memory — so I went to the hospital and was diagnosed with a concussion."

Kaag was released from the hospital that same evening believing all was well.

"I went out drinking later that night with the other Marines, you know, I was young and healthy. I didn't think anything of it. About two weeks later, I went out to get ready for a (physical fitness test) and noticed my feet were dragging and that I had weakness in my hip flexors," said Kaag. "So I went and saw an Air Force doctor who thought I might have a tumor on my spine. The CAT scan came back with nothing, so they sent me to Walter Reed hospital in D.C. to try some different tests."

The doctors at Walter Reed took multiple blood samples, gave Kaag a spinal tap, and tried using electric stimulation tests to determine what caused the lack of mobility in Kaag's legs. After nine weeks of testing, one of the blood tests came back with a positive indicator of Adrenomyeloneuropathy, or AMN, a degenerative disorder that affects the spinal cord and nervous system. In March 1998, Kaag was placed in the Wounded Warrior platoon until his separation from the Marine Corps in February, 1999.

"I can still stand up. I just don't have any voluntary mobility in my legs. They do whatever the hell they want," Kaag explained. "After I was diagnosed, a doctor there connected my head injury to the onset of AMN. I was only 21 years old and unfortunately my Marine Corps career was coming to an end."

With his dreams of following in his family's footsteps fading, Kaag made the decision to blaze a new path for himself. He enrolled into Pennsylvania State University and dedicated himself to his education. Within a few years, he earned his bachelor's degree in business.

"I recall that it was during my last year of college that I started to figure out what I was going to do," said Kaag. "I did my



COURTESY PHOTO

Christopher T. Kaag poses for a photo January 2016 at Corps Fitness in Reading, Pa. Kaag is a leader in his community and uses his drive and personal story to help those in the community overcome their own personal challenges.

senior internship at Pfizer in Lititz between 2003 and 2004, and then I was working the night shift at the gym, and I would take the other workers there through some callisthenic workouts. I really enjoyed doing it, so I started looking more into personal training and eventually connected with Semper Fit."

Semper Fit is an organization with a variety of programs, services and activities that are provided to Marines, sailors and their families. Its mission is to strengthen individual, family and unit readiness

by promoting physical and mental well-being.

"In late 2004 Semper Fit was hosting a (physical training) Coordinators course in Camp Lejeune, so I reached out to them, and they allowed me to participate," said Kaag. "I received my certification as a group fitness instructor after the course and basically started hosting classes in a local gym for \$4 a person."

In 2005, Kaag began building his business, Corps Fitness, in Reading, Pennsylvania, which used Marine Corps workouts to motivate and inspire peo-

ple to improve their physical fitness through outdoor training sessions. In 2007, he was able to move into his own building, and since then, he has used the gym as a tool to give back to kids in his local area, especially Marine Corps enlistees.

"The Marine Corps and the lessons it taught me saved my life," said Kaag. "Those lessons inspired me to continue serving by supporting enlistees at my facility so they can learn how to be mentally and physically tough so they are better prepared for the rigors

of recruit training. I don't know an exact number, but I've helped over 200 kids prepare for boot camp so far."

In addition to being a fitness instructor for people of all abilities in his community, he is also active through his charity.

The IM ABLE Foundation, which Kaag launched in 2007, helps build and support active lifestyles for individuals with disabilities, according to Kaag.

"We've raised almost a million dollars that's helped about 1,000 people through adaptive equipment grants, donations to research efforts and educational classes," said Kaag. "I really just want to help people achieve the right kind of mindset so they can go out and be successful despite the disabilities they have."

One individual who has benefited from Kaag's work in the community and participated in the foundation is Melissa A. Hazlett, Corps Fitness program director and trainer, and a native of Mohnton, Pennsylvania.

"I've known him for about 10 years now, and it's simply amazing, all the work and different things he's involved in," said Hazlett. "He and I always joke around that we have a hard time saying no to people because we want to help everyone we can. Whether it's kids in the area, first responders, military or anyone really, it's just so rewarding and inspiring to be a part of something that is so involved in the community."

In 2007, while building Corps Fitness, Kaag also began acting as a public speaker. Since he started, he's spoken at the University of Scranton, Penn State Berks, local hospitals, rehab centers and a litany of other locations, offering words of encouragement and hope.

"I do it to allow people both able-bodied and disabled to take something away from my experience," said Kaag. "I've been doing it for over 10 years. It's helped me live more fulfilled because I'm dedicating my life to the service of others, which helps me focus on other things besides my own challenges."



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A U.S. Marine UH-1Y Huey helicopter mechanic with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 167, Marine Air Ground Task Force 8 (MAGTF) conducts pre-operation flight checks on a UH-1Y Huey Helicopter before beginning a close air support drill during Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 5-17 aboard the Combat Center, July 21. The purpose of ITX is to create a challenging, realistic training environment that produces combat-ready forces capable of operating as an integrated MAGTF.

SGT. KASSIE MCDOLE



SGT. KASSIE MCDOLE

U.S. Marine Corps UH-1Y pilots with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 167, Marine Air Ground Task Force 8 (MAGTF) observe the impact areas from a UH-1Y Huey Helicopter while conducting a close air support drill during Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 5-17 aboard the Combat Center, July 21.



SGT. KASSIE MCDOLE

U.S. Marines with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 167, Marine Air Ground Task Force 8 (MAGTF) conduct pre-operation flight checks on a UH-1Y Huey Helicopter before beginning a close air support drill during Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 5-17 aboard the Combat Center, July 21.



SGT. KASSIE MCDOLE

A U.S. Marine Corps AH-1 Cobra with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 167, Marine Air Ground Task Force 8 (MAGTF) flies for a close air support drill during Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 5-17 aboard the Combat Center, July 21.

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New Gear A1

the length of the protective vest by 1.25 inches; provides sports-graded shoulder straps to improve fit; and is about 23 percent lighter than previous models. The new sizes will provide small-stature Marines with a better fit and reduce the weight associated with wearing a larger plate.

Enhanced Combat Helmet: In May 2017, the Marine Corps awarded a contract to procure an additional 84,000 ECHs. Since 2014, Marines had only been issued the ECH prior to deployment. This purchase will enable Marines

to use the helmet during training as well, eliminating the need to trade helmets before and after deployments. The Marine Corps currently manages three ballistic helmets but the future vision is a single helmet for all operating forces, which greatly simplifies logistics considerations and increases cost savings. Also used by the Army and Navy, the ECH provides the most ballistic protection beyond any other Department of Defense helmet. It exploits lightweight material technology to provide enhanced ballistic protection against

select small arms and fragmentation. Fielding will begin in the spring of 2018, allowing Marines to train with the same equipment they use in combat.

Marine Corps Pack System: After extensive cold weather testing earlier this year, the Corps is working to re-enforce the frame of the pack system Marines use to carry equipment and gear on their backs. Although the frames were previously tested at temperatures ranging from -40 degrees to 140 degrees Fahrenheit, in accordance with North Atlantic Treaty

Organization standards, it was found that real-world artic conditions caused the frames to become brittle and snap in extreme cold. During the test period, more than half a dozen MCSC experts worked to solicit feedback from Marines using the packs in order to identify how to improve the equipment.

MCSC is planning additional environmental and field testing for a more comprehensive evaluation of the reinforced frame's performance in extreme cold temperatures. The testing will also determine addi-

tional root causes of the legacy frame failures, such as material aging and increased loads, to mitigate potential issues with the reinforced frame after fielding.

During Tsongas' visit, MCSC experts briefed the congresswoman on the evolution of Marine Corps personal protective and load bearing equipment, allowing her to try on the PC GEN III, ECH and Marine Corps Pack System. Tsongas also received a behind-the-scenes demonstration of how engineers and specialists analyze and assess body types for equip-

ment development.

"Since being elected to Congress, I have sought to ensure that our men and women in uniform are outfitted with the best life-saving equipment," said Congresswoman Tsongas. "I appreciate the opportunity to visit Marine Corps Systems Command to see firsthand how they are seeking to improve the personal protective equipment issued to Marines. I look forward to continuing to work with the Marine Corps and the joint services to continue advancements in this most important equipment category."

ITX, preparing our Marines

Marines with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Marine Air-Ground Task Force-8, maneuver down to range 400 prior to conducting a live-fire exercise during Integrated Training Exercise 5-17 aboard the Combat Center, Sunday.



CPL. CHRISTOPHER MENDOZA



CPL. JUSTIN SMITH



CPL. CHRISTOPHER MENDOZA

1st Lt. Solomon S. Thomas, platoon commander with Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Marine Air-ground Taskforce-8 gives an order while conducting Platoon hasty attack & maneuver range 410a during Integrated Training Exercise 5-17 aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.

Lance Cpl. Alexander Alvarez, left, and Lance Cpl. Ethan Donovan, mortarmen, both with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Marine Air-Ground Task Force-8, fire an M224A1 60mm mortar system during Integrated Training Exercise 5-17 aboard the Combat Center, July 21.

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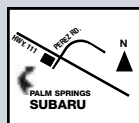
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Marines get creative at Wood Hobby Shop

STORY BY
CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

The sound of drills and saws reverberating against metal walls do little to distract 1st Lt. Kyle Repetti, platoon commander, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. His focus is centered on his current project; a board of plywood, the humble beginnings of a bedframe.

At the Combat Center's Wood Hobby Shop, Marines, sailors and family members, above the age of 16, are provided with the tools and the assistance needed to create anything they set their minds to.

"Here at the Wood Hobby Shop, we have all the tools the guys are going to need from start to finish," said Robert Henry, recreation safety specialist supervisor, Marine Corps Community Services. "Literally any project you can think of can be done here."

The projects made at the shop vary from simple plaques, awards and cutting boards to more complex woodwork designs such as kayaks, canoes, wooden chests and bed frames.

"Since I was stationed here I've made a bed frame, two nightstands and a wooden box," Repetti said. "It is definitely a good hobby and a way to help out your command. I've worked on several projects for going away and retirement presents. It's a whole lot cheaper than having to buy a present."

For those interested in woodworking, the shop has tools needed to build, repair or modify their own wooden crafts and hobby items.

"It's usually cheaper to build your bookshelf or your entertainment center than it is to buy it," Henry said. "You're the one that built it so you know how it's constructed and you know how to fix it."

Many of the projects that can be made at the Wood Hobby Shop also serve as

presents for holidays or retirements.

"I started woodworking after I retired from the Marine Corps and I didn't know this place existed until after that," said Carl Vanderzee, family readiness officer, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374. "One of the first things I made at the shop was a tea box for my mother. It's something that four years later is still a topic of conversation. It's a skill we are losing in America and who doesn't love a handmade gift?"

Even the simplest of designs tests one's problem solving skills when finding the right placement of the pieces. For many, it's a great way to keep their mind active during off hours.

"It's a healthy alternative to sitting in the barracks and playing video games," Vanderzee said. "As far as a hobby, it helps you develop skills and it's just great knowledge to have."

In addition to providing tools and assistance, the shop also provides a laser engraving service.

"Our laser engraving pretty much beats our competitors across the board as far as price," Henry said. "We do our engraving while you wait and our completion time is usually about 30 minutes from when you walk in the door."

A fee of 10 dollars per day covers the use of tools and machines with wood also available for purchase. To get started at the shop, patrons must first attend a free safety class held on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Saturdays at 11 a.m.

"Once you go through the free safety shop, we turn you loose and you can build whatever you would like," Henry said. "We have staff on hand to help walk you through your project for those who have little to no experience."

For more information about the Wood Hobby Shop, located at Building 1342, contact 830-7214.



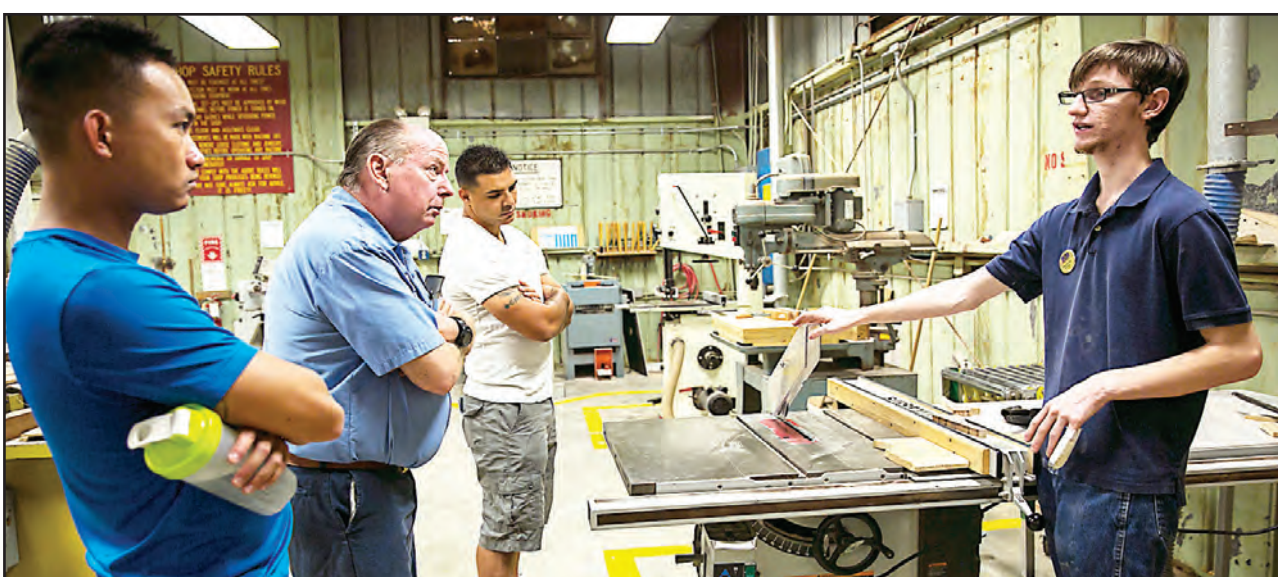
CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Joseph Viscuso, recreation attendant, Combat Center's Wood Hobby Shop, instructs patrons on the proper use of tools and machines during a safety class at the Combat Center's Wood Hobby Shop, Aug. 8, 2015. For those interested in woodworking, the shop has the tools needed to build, repair or modify their own woodwork, craft and hobby items.



1st Lt. Kyle Repetti, platoon commander, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, makes a cut on a plywood board with a table saw at the Combat Center's Wood Hobby Shop, Aug. 7, 2015.

CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ



CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Joseph Viscuso, recreation attendant, Combat Center's Wood Hobby Shop, instructs patrons on the proper use of tools and machines during a safety class at the Combat Center's Wood Hobby Shop, August 8, 2015. The projects made at the shop vary from simpler plaques, awards and cutting boards to more complex woodwork designs such as kayaks, canoes, wooden chests and bedframes.



1st Lt. Kyle Repetti, platoon commander, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, attaches sand paper to an electric sander at the Combat Center's Wood Hobby Shop, August 7, 2015. In addition to providing tools and assistance, the shop also provides a laser engraving service.

CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ



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- ### Sunset Cinema
- Friday, July 28**
- 5:30 p.m. – The Mummy, PG 13
 - 7:50 p.m. – The House, R
 - 9:50 p.m. – All Eyez On Me, R
- Saturday, July 29**
- 12:00 p.m. – Cars 3, G
 - 2:30 p.m. – Despicable Me 3 (3-D), PG
 - 4:40 p.m. – Transformers: The Last Knight (3-D), PG 13
 - 7:50 p.m. – Baby Driver, R
 - 10:20 p.m. – The House, R
- Sunday, July 30**
- 12:00 p.m. – Despicable Me 3 (3-D), PG
 - 2:20 p.m. – Transformers: The Last Knight (3-D), PG
 - 5:30 p.m. – Baby Driver, R
 - 7:50 p.m. – All Eyez On Me, R
- Monday, July 31**
- 6:30 p.m. – Cars 3, G
- Tuesday, Aug. 1**
- 6:30 p.m. – The House, R
- Wednesday, Aug. 2**
- 6:30 p.m. – Megan Leavey, PG 13
- Thursday, Aug. 3**
- 6:30 p.m. – The Mummy, PG 13
- Friday, Aug. 4**
- 5:30 p.m. – Baby Driver, R
 - 8:00 p.m. – Spider-Man: Homecoming (3-D), PG 13
 - 10:40 p.m. – The House, R

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LOST female Bengal cat with wild markings, green eyes, 6 years

HELP WANTED 300

LOST & FOUND 545

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POPE'S AUCTION'S WE BUY GOLD & SILVER, JEWELRY & COINS, AND SCRAP JEWELRY CALL JACK: 760-217-2179 or 760-365-7887 ALSO WE DO ESTATE SALES & AUCTIONS

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MUST BE CLEAN, HAVE VALID DL, GOOD WORK ETHICS. SALARY DOQ.
SEND RESUME TO: COPELANDELECTRIC@VERIZON.NET

The Town of Yucca Valley is recruiting for the following part-time, non-benefitted position:
Office Assistant \$13.26 to \$19.20/hour. Under general supervision, the successful candidate will deliver exceptional customer service; provide detail information and assistance to the public; answer and direct calls; receive payments, issues licenses and maintains records; and performs routine clerical duties including typing, data entry, filing and related duties as assigned. The schedule for this position is Monday through Thursday, 1:30pm - 5:30pm.
Educational and experience requirement include graduation from high school or equivalent, and one year of administrative work experience, possession of a California driver's license and the ability to maintain a satisfactory driving record; must pass a post-offer drug and tuberculosis screening, medical exam and criminal background fingerprint screening.
Applications and job descriptions are available at Town Hall and at www.yucca-valley.org.
Closing date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 by 5pm.
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If you're known for your outgoing personality and great communication skills, then check out our Sales and Customer Service position.
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Please do not apply if you oversleep, have court often, do not have a babysitter every day, have to get rides to work late, experience car troubles every week, have your phone in your hand all day, or become an expert at your job with no need to learn or take advice. Must have 1 year experience. Must be able to pass a background check and drug test, must have a valid CDL. To apply call (760)364-3019

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."
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O - CLUB

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UNIT TRAINING 0730-1030

MON - FRI
LAP SWIM 1100-1300

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OPEN SWIM 1330-1800

SAT/SUN 1100-1800

CLOSED Wednesdays

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Contact Information:
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BEGINNING AT 5pm
 EARN ENTRIES NOW - AUGUST 5TH

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Atomic Blonde (R)
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Dunkirk (Pg13)
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