



STAFF SGT. KOWSHON YE

A Marine Corps 120M grader assigned to Marine Wing Support Detachment 31 levels the terrain during Integrated Training Exercise 1-18 aboard the Combat Center, Nov. 3. ITX is a large-scale, combined-arms training exercise intended to produce combat-ready forces capable of operating as an integrated Marine Air Ground Task Force.

MWSD-31 swoops in to support ITX 1-18

STORY BY LANCE CPL. MARGARET GALE

Marine Wing Support Detachment 31, which is based out of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., supported Integrated Training Exercise 1-18 through the reconstruction of three helicopter landing zones at training area Lead Mountain, Nov. 1-13, 2017.

The reconstruction of the landing zones allows for sufficient support of rotary operating wings aboard the Combat Center which, in turn, allows the wing to conduct the training necessary to remain an effective fighting force.

MWSD-31 was assigned to rebuild the landing zones in place of a Marine Wing Support Squadron. This means that the detachment was expected to provide the same level of quality and proficiency with a lack of personnel. This manpower deficiency provided the detachment with a unique set of challenges during the rebuilding.

“We successfully prepared for this exercise with the amount of heavy equipment operators and equipment we need to complete the mission,” said Staff Sgt. Jorge Gonzales, heavy equipment operator chief, MWSD-31. “Being understaffed presented challenges coordinating with support and we had to pull from our internal resources but overall the Marines worked very hard and met the timeline set forth for completion of the landing pads.”

The landing zones are designed to last for a short period of time, resulting in reconstruction every six months to a year. The process consists of surveying the land to determine its natural layout and slope, a route

See **MWSD-31 A6**

2/4 assaults Range 230

PHOTOS BY CPL. DALLAS HAWLEY



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., assault Range 230 during Integrated Training Exercise 1-18 aboard the Combat Center, Monday. Coyotes with Tactical Training Exercise Control Group evaluate Marines during training exercises for the purpose of improving their war-fighting capabilities.



Lt. Col. Dominique Neal, maneuver Coyote, Tactical Training Exercise Group, and Lt. Col. Warren Cook, battalion commander, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., overlook operations as Marines assault Range 230 during Integrated Training Exercise 1-18 aboard the Combat Center, Monday.



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., lay suppressive fire at Range 230 while being evaluated by Coyotes with Tactical Training Exercise Control Group during Integrated Training Exercise 1-18 aboard the Combat Center, Monday.

See **Range 230 A6**

Inside the Observation Post

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Marines celebrate their heritage

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 Lance Cpl. Alex Quiles.



Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Ronald L. Green, cuts a cake with the oldest and youngest Marine during a cake cutting ceremony held by the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, D.C., Nov. 3. The cake cutting ceremony was held in honor of the U.S. Marine Corps' 242nd birthday.



Reprinted from the Observation Post
November 11, 1958

Base Observes Corps' 183rd Birthday

Three separate cake-cutting ceremonies held here last Saturday marked the Base's observance of the Marine Corps' 183 years as the nation's "Force-in-Readiness."

The Base Commanding General, Brigadier General R. M. Victory, accompanied by

Mrs. Victory and his staff honored the three separate affairs by cutting the traditional first piece of the Birthday Cake.

A sergeants and below ball held at the Base Theater featured Orin Tucker and his orchestra. Over 400 young ladies from outlying communi-

ties and Women Marines from Camp Pendleton were invited guests at the enlisted men's ball.

The Staff NCO ball featured Anne Hayes and her 10 girl orchestra as entertainment during that affair. Added attractions were COCO Te, a

calypso dancer and Wilbur Hall and Rene, a comedy team.

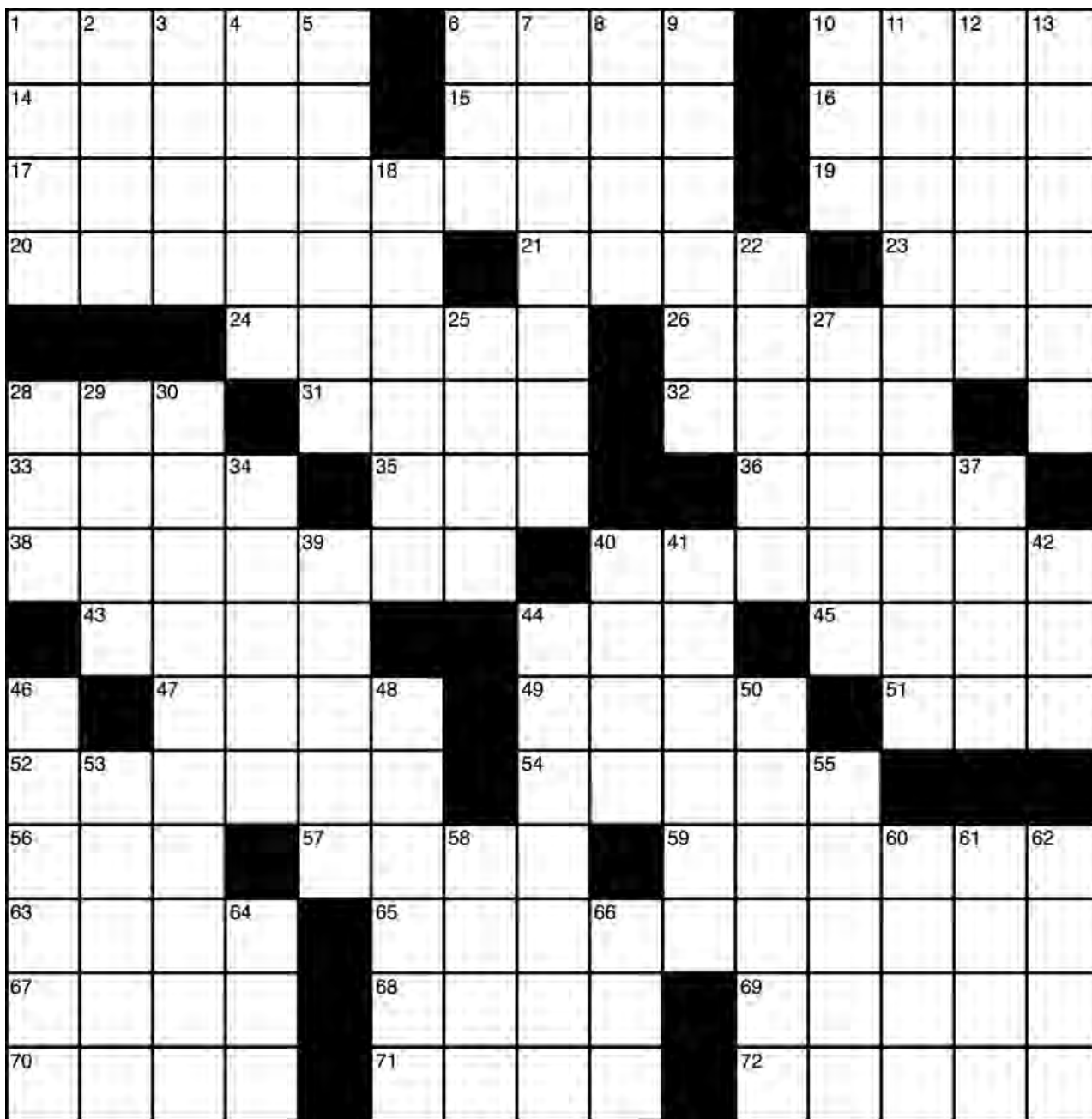
At COM, the "Tenor Tones," a combo made up from Base Band members provided the evening's entertainment.

The Commanding General extended anniversary greetings

and delivered special "Birthday Messages" at each of the three separate celebrations.

According to the Planning Committees of the celebrating activities Marine Corps' Birthday observances on the Base have been declared as a tremendous success.

CROSSWORD



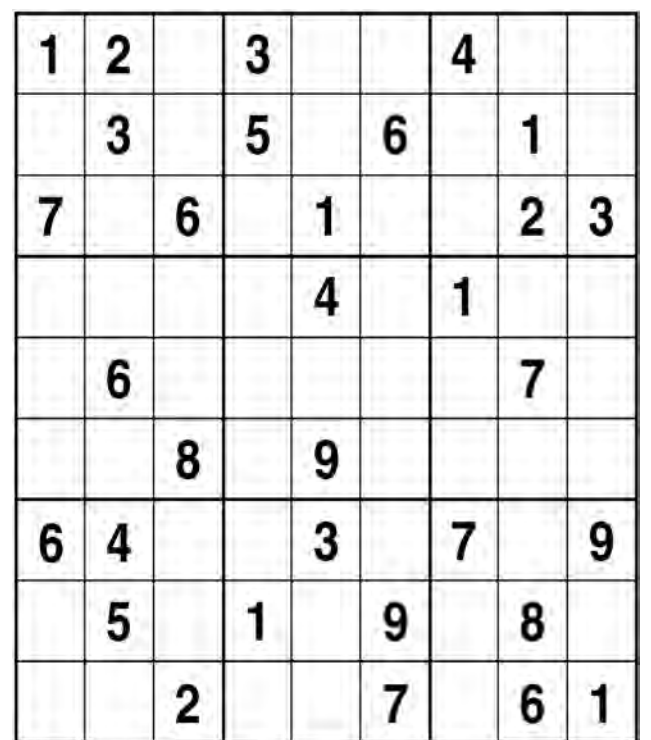
- Across**
- Leisurely walk.
 - Utterance made by exhaling audibly.
 - Large burrowing rodent of South America and Central America.
 - Light saddle horse of mixed breed developed in Australia.
 - Joint between the femur and tibia in a quadruped.
 - _ Savage, co-host of Mythbusters.
 - Avoiding waste.
 - Back of a bird's head between the crown and the hind neck.
 - Come to a decision about something.
 - Personification of the rainbow and messenger of the gods.
 - Force of workers available.
 - Connected series.
 - Metaphorically from a lower to a higher position.
 - Exclamation of surprise.
 - Eat the main meal of the day.
 - Manner.
 - Gymnastic apparatus consisting of two parallel wooden bars supported on uprights.
 - El _ Campeador, Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar.
 - Album by Slovenian indus-

- trial / techno group Laibach.
- Plot subordinate to the main plot of a literary work.
- Ride in a car taken solely for pleasure.
- Stead.
- Dull grayish brown; dust-colored.
- Dr. John _ , founder of epidemiology.
- Rectangular piece of stiff paper used to send messages.
- Town in the Netherlands.
- Rather than.
- Bay on the Mediterranean Sea in northern Egypt.
- Name of a hovercraft in the Matrix films.
- Babylonian god of the earth.
- Small cubes with 1 to 6 spots on the faces.
- _ Braga, director.
- Pertaining to the wing.
- Pertaining to the art of healing or treating the diseases of domestic animals.
- Ceremonial act prescribed in religious or other solemn use.
- Richard _ actor.
- Fragmented rocks usually found at the base of a cliff.
- Literary term for an ocean.
- Fredrick _ , baritone
- Robbery at gunpoint.

- Down**
- Having a feeling of mixed reverence, respect, wonder and dread.
 - Spice made from the dried, fleshy covering of the nutmeg seed.
 - Group of countries in special alliance.
 - Russian founder of the Bolsheviks.
 - Worn away as by water.
 - Long, slender runner made of wood, plastic or metal used in gliding over snow.
 - Cut into with a sharp instrument.
 - Mechanism performing one function in a complex machine.
 - Colorless, odorless inert gaseous element occurring in natural gas.
 - Greek god who watches over shepherds and their flocks.
 - Like a diamond in luster.
 - Pickled flower buds used as a pungent relish in various dishes and sauces.
 - Something paid in expiation of a wrong.
 - Spanish-speaking country in North America.
 - Covered with spines.
 - Organization regarded as part of a larger social group.

- Dams in a river to stop and raise the water for the purpose of conducting it to a mill.
- Obsolete.
- Transport in a vehicle.
- Circular in outline.
- Novel by Laurie Halse Anderson.
- Smell.
- Horrible in fierceness.
- Sport adapted from jujitsu.
- Asiatic wild ass.
- People of southern Ghana, Togo and Benin.
- No longer included on a specified market.
- Short, sleeveless outer tunic emblazoned with a coat of arms.
- Sail used on some sail-boats.
- Conforming to the current fashion.
- Represent falsely.
- From the time that.
- Relinquish to the physical control of another.
- Provincial capital of Mazandaran.
- Acronym for Ocean Research and Education Society.
- Acronym for Not Yet.
- Representative, especially a travelling salesperson.
- Concluding part of an event or occurrence.

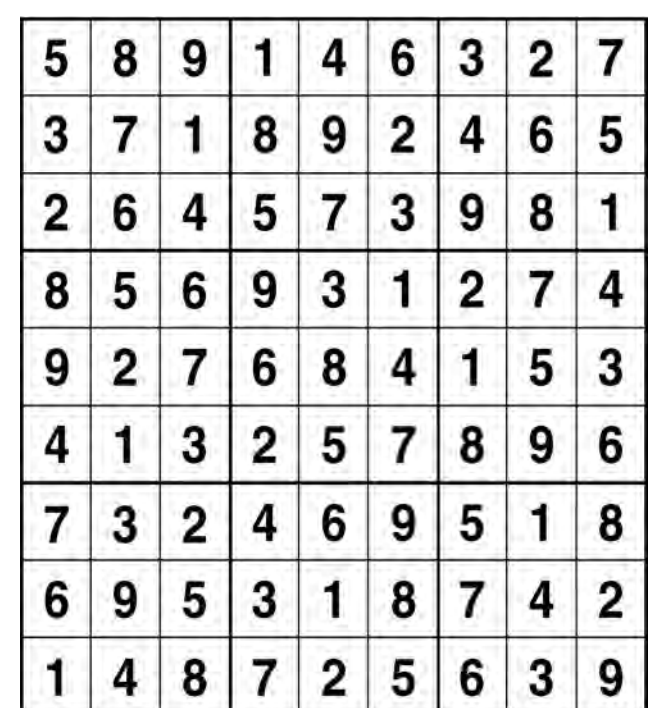
SUDOKU



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Medium

Last week's answers



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- Club San Diego, 3955 4th Avenue, San Diego
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- Sports Auto Sales, 1111 National City Boulevard, National City

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Wesley TURNER

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Marine Corps Air Ground task force training command gunner

TURNER HAS BEEN IN THE MARINE CORPS SINCE MARCH OF 1990. DURING HIS TIME IN THE CORPS, HE HAS BEEN FORWARD DEPLOYED EIGHT TIMES.

>Growing up, times were much different than now. Everything felt a bit freer. I wasn't a troublemaker by any means, but my friends and I would run the countryside. I grew up close to the Susquehanna River, which was nice too.

>I raced motocross when I was younger. The football coach always wanted me to join the team, but I never did and I was fine with that.

>I have a brother and three sisters. One of my sisters lives in Pennsylvania, two live in Wisconsin and my brother passed away when I was 45. Most of my family is originally from the Midwest.

>My great uncle on my mom's side was a Marine, a machine-gunner during World War I. His son was in the Air Force in Vietnam. There were a couple others on that side of the family who joined the military but as far as my dad's side of the family, I'm the only one.

>My dad had a federal firearms license and was a legal gun dealer, so I started shooting when I was around five years old. I always had an interest in weapons, so it was a natural progression for me to go down to the Marine recruiter when I was 17. I brought the papers home, my dad signed them and I was good to go. The recruiter never had to come and convince my parents.

>I went to boot camp in March of 1990. When I think back on what I was doing back then, it almost seems like a dream. It's been many years, and names and faces have faded away.

>I have a sort of selective forgetfulness. Not a lot bothers me anymore, which is good, but I have to sit and think about things for a bit to remember old stories and things like that.

>A time that really stands out is when I was in 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines from 1995 to 1999. It was the right people at the right place at the right time; a great unit and a couple great deployments. It was a very defining time for me because it was my second enlistment and my platoon commander at the time was a great leader.

>Another time that stands out was more recently is when I was a Regimental Gunner at 5th Marines from 2011 to 2014. That was another great time, and again it was great because of the people at that place and time. I had good bosses and great coworkers, everybody had a great attitude and everybody really cared. It



always comes back to the Marines you work with who make your time worthwhile.

>You learn from the good people and you learn from the bad. You can learn how you want to be from the good people.

>I remember a long time ago, I was in a rifle platoon on Lima-5 in [Camp Lejeune, N.C.] and we were conducting squad attacks. I was just a rifleman at the time. There was a staff sergeant there who was talking to the fire team leader about making decisions and what he needed to do to be successful. It wasn't a long and drawn out talk either, he just said "you've got to do this, this and this and you got to go! You've got to be aggressive! Observe, orientate, decide and act!"

>To me that was a very defining moment. You have to look around, look at what's going on, make a decision and you have to go. That's how you have to be. It's funny how small things that you observe from good leaders will make you realize what it is you want to do and what you want to be a part of.

>You can learn from bad people as well. You can see what you don't like about them and make sure that you don't do things their way when you get to that level.

It's important to pick from both the good and the bad experiences and try to define who you are as a person, as a Marine and as a leader.

>You're always learning, no matter what level you're at. I'm still learning at this level, working for general officers. I'm constantly learning, because there is always somebody who knows more than me. Even when you retire, you'll still be learning.

>The advice that I have in order to be successful is simple. You have to care about what you're doing, and you have to be focused on what you want to accomplish. You have to know in your mind where it is you want to go and how you're going to get there. You have to be serious, but you can't take yourself too seriously.

>The Marine Corps is a tough life and it's got to be something that you want to do. If you want to do it, you'll be successful. Think about what you're doing before you do it; think about what you're going to say before

you say it. There is a time and a place for everything; you just have to use common sense to decide what time you can do or say certain things.

>The whole point of this job, regardless of what your specialty, is to help us win. It is all about winning. A lot of people focus on survivability, but it's important to learn things in order to win because a byproduct of winning is surviving. Tactics, techniques and procedures make you a winner. If you do the right things, surviving, safety and all those other things are a byproduct.

>If I could go back to the moment I stepped on those yellow footprints, I'd tell myself to enjoy it more. Like I said, I have selective forgetfulness. I never took enough pictures and never talked to enough people. So that would be it, enjoy it more.

Interviewed and photographed by Lance Cpl. Isaac Cantrell

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A look inside: 242nd Marine Corps birthday meal

PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. MARGARET GALE

The Marine Corps' birthday is one of the many traditions that Marines take great pride in celebrating annually and on Wednesday Combat Center food service specialists partook in an early observance of the birthday through their preparation of the infamous steak, lobster tails, baked potatoes and Cornish hens.



Pfc. Alex Monge, food service specialist, Headquarters Battalion, checks the temperature of the corn in preparation of the Marine Corps birthday meal at Phelps Mess Hall, Wednesday.



Cpl. Brandon Brown, food service specialist, Headquarters Battalion, seasons the lobsters in preparation of the Marine Corps birthday meal at Phelps Mess Hall, Wednesday. The Marine Corps birthday is one of the many traditions that Marines take great pride in celebrating annually.



Jessica Hurtado, Sedexo employee, transfers cake slices for display in preparation of the Marine Corps birthday meal at Phelps Mess Hall, Wednesday.



The United States Marine Corps birthday cake sits on display during the Marine Corps birthday meal at Phelps Mess Hall, Wednesday.

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Around the Corps ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

1st MAW participates in exercise Blue Chromite 2018

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. JESSICA ETHERIDGE

Marines with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing participated in the joint field training exercise Blue Chromite 2018, throughout the prefecture of Okinawa, Japan, Oct. 23 – Nov. 3.

BC18 is a U.S.-only mission rehearsal which strengthens the Navy-Marine Corps expeditionary, amphibious rapid-response capabilities required to swiftly and effectively respond to a regional crisis or contingency across the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

“Blue Chromite presents a really exceptional training opportunity for Marines. It gives them the opportunity to exercise the entire MAGTF (Marine Air Ground Task Force) concept, where we can get members working together from the ground and air combat elements as well as the specific unit headquarters to plan together and train together,” said Maj. Scott R. Wood, the current operations officer for BC18. “So eventually if we need to, we can fight together effectively.”

BC18 is a decisive demonstration of the range and strength of the Navy-Marine Corps capabilities. It is not a question of if but when those capabilities will be called upon in response to crises or disaster in the region.

“We exercised command and control for the Marine Aircraft Group headquarters, to facilitate training with 4th Marine Regiment, Victor 1/3 and 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, with aerial support,” Wood said.

Throughout the exercise they conducted many essential tasks such as establishment of forward arming and refueling point, air delivery ground refuel, air assaults, ground threat reaction training, close air support, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel and carrier qualifications for all flying squadrons.

The Navy-Marine Corps team remains forward and ready through our shared commitment to employ the full range of military capabilities. Not only do we share common values and tactics, we face common threats requiring our combined resolve.

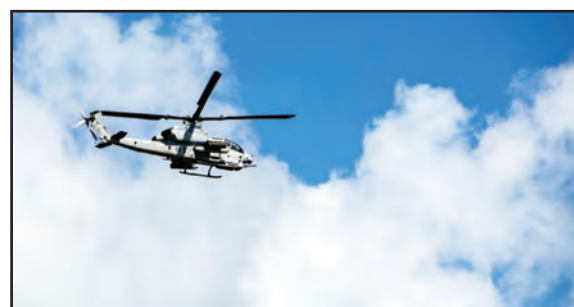
“We always need to be ready to fight, it’s briefed constantly, like are we ready ... what are you doing right now that’s making you ready to fight tonight,” Wood said. “Conducting this exercise and having the squadrons working together is going to make everyone a more effective fighting force when we are called upon.”



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MWSD-31 From A1

reconnaissance and an engineer reconnaissance. After drafting all of the information, the operator chief is able to relay the knowledge to the equipment operators so they can begin the labor. With the repeated updates of the HLZs, opportunities to conduct training read-

iness events are provided frequently.

“I find this project to be very beneficial to our unit,” said Cpl. Elmer Araiza, heavy equipment operator, MWSD-31. “The dirt gear is like a language, so being able to come participate in this project allows us to hone our skills.”

According to Gonzales, the reconstruction of the landing zones is not only important to the unit, but to the Marine Corps and the public. It provides a real life scenario to better train Marines in the event of a deployment, rendering them unflinching ready to answer the Nation’s call.



STAFF SGT. KOWSHON YE

Cpl. Manuel Vasquez, heavy equipment operator, Marine Wing Support Detachment 31, guides a 120M grader during Integrated Training Exercise 1-18 aboard the Combat Center, Nov. 3.



STAFF SGT. KOWSHON YE

Marine Corps 120M graders assigned to Marine Wing Support Detachment 31 level the terrain during Integrated Training Exercise 1-18 aboard the Combat Center, Nov. 3.



STAFF SGT. KOWSHON YE

A Marine Corps 624KR Tractor, Rubber-tired, Articulated Steering, Multipurpose vehicle assigned to Marine Wing Support Detachment 31 dumps gravel during Integrated Training Exercise 1-18 aboard the Combat Center, Nov. 3.

Range 230 From A1



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., assault a hill to set up suppressive-fire teams at Range 230 during Integrated Training Exercise 1-18 aboard the Combat Center, Monday.



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., assault a Military Operation on Urbanized Terrain town at Range 230 during Integrated Training Exercise 1-18 aboard the Combat Center, Monday.

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STORY BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

The Marine Corps was born on November 10, 1775 in Tun Tavern, a small Philadelphia pub. On that day, the Continental Marines were established with the intended purpose of being able to fight for independence on land and at sea. Over the years the Marine Corps has evolved into a force capable of defending its people and providing humanitarian aid to the nation and its allies from air, land and sea, all while maintaining itself as a force in readiness.

“Being a Marine is something I take pride in, and that is instilled in us from day one,” said Sgt. Maj. Abel Leal, former Headquarters Battalion Sergeant Major. “We are warfighters and the way we operate is very unlike the other branches. I’d like to think every Marine has some of our values instilled in them.”

Since the Marine Corps’ inception it has been known as the nation’s force in readiness. Marines are recognized by the way they train, the customs they uphold, and the morals that are instilled in them. Although the organization continues to grow, many of the customs have remained the same. The Marine Corps’ birthday is one of the many traditions that Marines take great pride in celebrating annually.

“The ball is a tradition that we celebrate every year,” Leal said. “I bring a family member to the birthday ball because they don’t understand it in the same way [Marines] do. But when they see all the ceremonial events in it; the moment of silence for our fallen brothers, the reading of Gen. John A. Lejeune’s birthday message and the passing of the cake

from the oldest Marine to the youngest, they get to share in the pride that we feel.”

Although tradition is something Marines hold dear, there was a time when the birthday wasn’t always widely celebrated. In 1921, Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune declared November 10, an official Marine Corps holiday. Since then, whether it was a small celebration between fellow comrades while deployed or a grand affair while in garrison, Marines have taken the time to honor the Corps’ illustrious history.

“I love the Marine Corps Birthday,” said Sgt. Maj. Ray Wilburn (ret.), veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. “It doesn’t matter where you are or how many Marines you’re with. Two Marines can celebrate it with a cup of water while deployed and it will still have the same meaning.”

The Marine Corps Ball has been regarded as a time-honored tradition that celebrates the birth of the Corps. It is a night that provides Marines from all generations with a chance to come together, recognize the sacrifices made by those who came before



SGT. OLIVIA ORTIZ

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert B. Neller speaks to Marines and guests attending the Commandant’s Birthday Ball at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, Oxon Hill, Md., Saturday. Each year the Commandant hosts a ball in honor of the Marine Corps’ birthday.

them, and celebrate a proud heritage.

“It’s nice to celebrate the birthday in fancy venues, but we shouldn’t get wrapped up in that,” Leal said. “We should focus on

celebrating our birthday for the heritage and tradition that comes with it.”

The birthday is a day that does more than celebrate a beginning. For Marines it signifies much

more. The birthday stands for a day when those from all generations, who swore an oath to protect and serve, can join as one to share in the pride of being a United States Marine.



CPL. AARON PATTERSON

Marines with Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, fire the M777 Lightweight 155mm howitzer during Integrated Training Exercise 2-17, aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 11. ITX is a combined-arms exercise which gives all elements of the Marine Air Ground Task Force an opportunity to utilize capabilities during large scale missions to become a more ready fighting force. 3/11 is currently participating as part of the ground combat element for this exercise.



LANCE CPL. TOJYEA MATALLY

Marines with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit help stock food for the community at a local Salvation Army as part of relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Maria in Fajardo, Puerto Rico, Oct. 3. The 26th MEU, along with local authorities and other Department of Defense services, is supporting the lead federal agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, in providing humanitarian aid efforts for Puerto Rico.



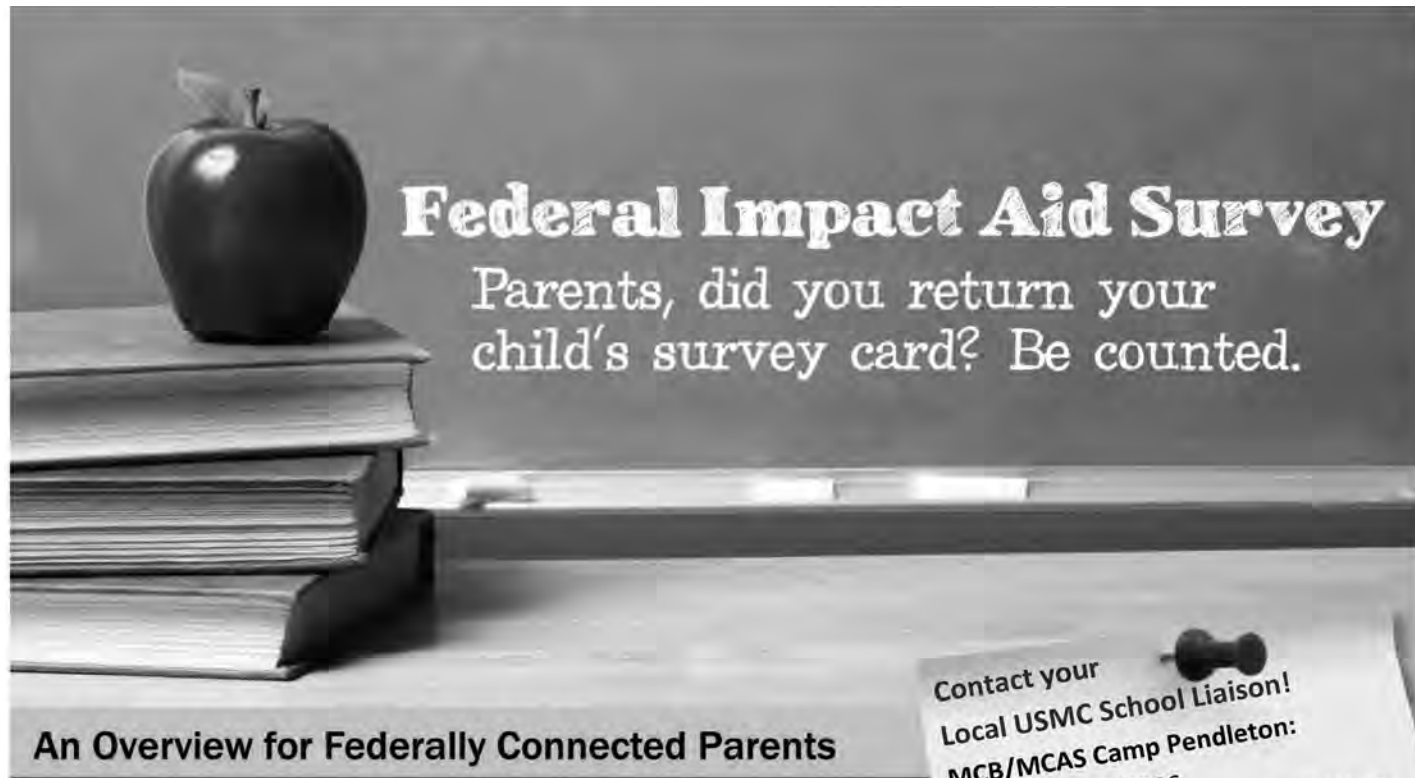
CPL. CHRISTIAN VARNEY

Marines with the U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon perform during a sunset parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial, Arlington, Va., June 6. Sunset parades are held as a means of honoring senior officials, distinguished citizens and supporters of the Marine Corps.



CPL. BENJAMIN McDONALD

Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting conducted a controlled burn training exercise aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Oct. 20. The live fire gave experienced Marines training they need to stay proficient and gave the new Marines a chance to train with a live fire. The training simulates extinguishing a jet fire.



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- Friday - Nov. 10
- 2:00 p.m. — Blade Runner 2049 (3-D), R
 - 5:30 p.m. — Flatliners (2017), PG-13
 - 8:10 p.m. — The Foreigner, R
 - 10:40 p.m. — Kingsman: The Golden Circle, R
- Saturday - Nov. 11
- 12:00 p.m. — The Lego Ninjago Movie, PG
 - 2:30 p.m. — Flatliners (2017), PG-13
 - 5:00 p.m. — The Mountain Between Us, PG-13
 - 7:40 p.m. — Happy Death Day, PG-13
 - 9:40 p.m. — American Made, R
- Sunday - Nov. 12
- 12:00 p.m. — The Mountain Between Us, PG-13
 - 2:30 p.m. — Blade Runner 2049 (3-D), R
 - 6:00 p.m. — Happy Death Day, PG-13
 - 8:10 p.m. — The Foreigner, R
- Monday - Nov. 13
- 6:30 p.m. — American Made, R
- Tuesday - Nov. 14
- 6:30 p.m. — Flatliners (2017), PG-13
- Wednesday - Nov. 15
- 6:30 p.m. — The Lego Ninjago Movie (Last Showing), PG
- Thursday - Nov. 16
- 6:30 p.m. — Kingsman: The Golden Circle, (Last Showing), R
- Friday - Nov. 17
- 5:30 p.m. — Happy Death Day, PG-13
 - 7:50 p.m. — Tyler Perry's Boo 2! A Madea Halloween, PG-13
 - 10:00 p.m. — Flatliners (2017), PG-13

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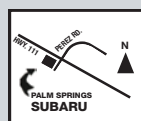
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