



The Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Color Guard serves as the color guard for a Veterans Day ceremony at Big Bear Lake, Calif., Saturday. Military color guards are an integral part to traditional military ceremonies.

Big Bear Lake honors service members on Veterans Day

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
 LANCE CPL. PRESTON L. MORRIS

BIG BEAR LAKE, Calif. – On June 1, 1954, the United States Congress declared that the 11 of November would be known as Veterans Day, a federal holiday for Americans to pay homage to those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. On Saturday the residents of Big Bear Lake did just that, in a ceremony that included numerous veterans from past and present conflicts.

The ceremony commenced with an invocation given by Russell Lewis, the chaplain for American Legion Post 583. Following Lewis, Maj. Gen. William F. Mullen III, Combat Center Commanding General, Bill Jahn, Mayor of Big Bear Lake and a retired U.S. Navy Commander, and U.S. Representative Paul Cook, a retired Marine Corps colonel all shared their sentiments on the holiday. The three speakers' themes were very common; their talks focused on the importance of the holiday and the veterans who have fought for our country.

"The year this holiday becomes about barbecues and parties, then we will no longer exist as Americans," Mullen said. "We need to take the time to appreciate what these remarkable men and women have done for our country."

During the event, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow provided a color guard for the ceremony, the national anthem was sung by the local Big Bear High School choir, and members from local veterans' organizations including the American Legion and the Marine Corps League were

See **Veterans Day A6**



R.B. Funk, a resident of Big Bear Lake and a U.S. Army Air Force veteran, stands at Veterans Park in Big Bear Lake, Calif., Saturday.

Combat Center Marines, civilians honor Corps' 242nd birthday

STORY BY DON TOLBERT

On November 9, base swimmers formed six teams to participate in the 5th annual Combat Center Marine Corps Birthday swim completing the equivalent of 242 laps per team, or roughly 7.6 miles.

The athletes began their swim celebration, which was hosted by aquatics director Sherry Powell at 5 a.m. with a mist coming off the Combat Center Training Tank's pool. Six teams competed in a relay format to complete 7.6 miles each with over 25 swimmers participating.

The first time this event was held was on Nov. 25, 2013 when two active duty Marines, Staff Sgt. Michael Baker and Lance Cpl. Ethan Skeim and two retired Marines, Warrick "Rick" Yeager and Don Tolbert, all from the 29 Palms Endurance Team, gathered at the Training Tank to celebrate the 238th Marine Corps Birthday by swimming over 7 miles each. They got their inspiration after reading an article about Lance Cpl. Cpl Dustin Kropinack who swam that distance solo on November 18, 2013 at Marine Corps Air Station New River as a tribute for the 238th Marine Corps Birthday. According to Tolbert, we told ourselves "we can do that too" - and "we did".

The longest distance was covered by Rick Yeager of the 29 Palms Endurance Team who swam 50 laps which is equivalent to 3 miles. His prize was a set of swim goggles. The 29 Palms Endurance Team was also the first team with four swimmers to complete the entire distance finishing in 3:55:57.

Kristen Denny formed a team with her husband, retired Marine Matt Denney and they called themselves the Mullen's Minnows with Combat Center Commanding General Maj. Gen. William F. Mullen III swimming the anchor 2.5 miles. The fastest mile timed overall was garnered by Kristen Denny in 25 minutes. The other teams participating included the 29 Palms Endurance Team, Combat Center Aquatics, Get Wet Scuba, 3rd Battalion 4th Marines, and Electronic Logistics Communication Center.

The youngest swimmer was 4 year old Kaydence Sterling, niece of TJ Tiarajune. Sterling swam 100 meters for the lifeguard team Combat Center Aquatics.

The podium for the fastest 1,000 meter contest was won by Zac Noren, from team Get Wet Scuba, in a time of 00:18:09 second place went to TJ Tiarajune, from team Combat Center Aquatics, in 00:18:41 and third place went to Andrea Shelly, from the Combat Center Aquatics team in 00:19:40. Team ELCC with two swimmers accumulated the most laps when swimmers from other teams jumped in to lend them some strokes. When the distances. When the distances swum by all of the teams was calculated, it was discovered that a grand total of nearly 60 miles was covered.

No Marine Corps birthday goes without a meal so swimmers were treated to breakfast tacos courtesy of Rick Yeager and cupcakes baked by Tammy Tolbert.

Inside the Observation Post

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Marines hold birthday pageant

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. Aaron Patterson.



Lance Cpl. Luis Arana fires the Carl Gustav rocket system during live fire training at Range 7 aboard Camp Hansen, Oct. 25. The Carl Gustav rocket system is being introduced to the Marine Corps to eventually replace the MK153 Shoulder-Launched Multipurpose Assault Weapon. Arana, a Ukiah, Oregon native, is an assaultman assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. The Hawaii-based battalion is forward deployed to Okinawa, Japan as part of the Unit Deployment Program.



Reprinted from the Observation Post
Nov. 17, 1978

New cobra now equipped with TOW

Shortly before noon on Nov. 1 another chapter in Marine Corps aviation history was begun with the delivery of the Corps' first TOW-equipped AH-1T Cobra attack helicopter to New River.

After almost 2 and a half years

of testing by Bell Helicopter Textron, it only seemed fitting the newly equipped Cobra be delivered here by Lt. Gen. Thomas H. Miller, deputy chief of staff for aviation at HQMC, and Lt. Col. K.H. Johnson, squadron commander

for Marine Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMA)-269.

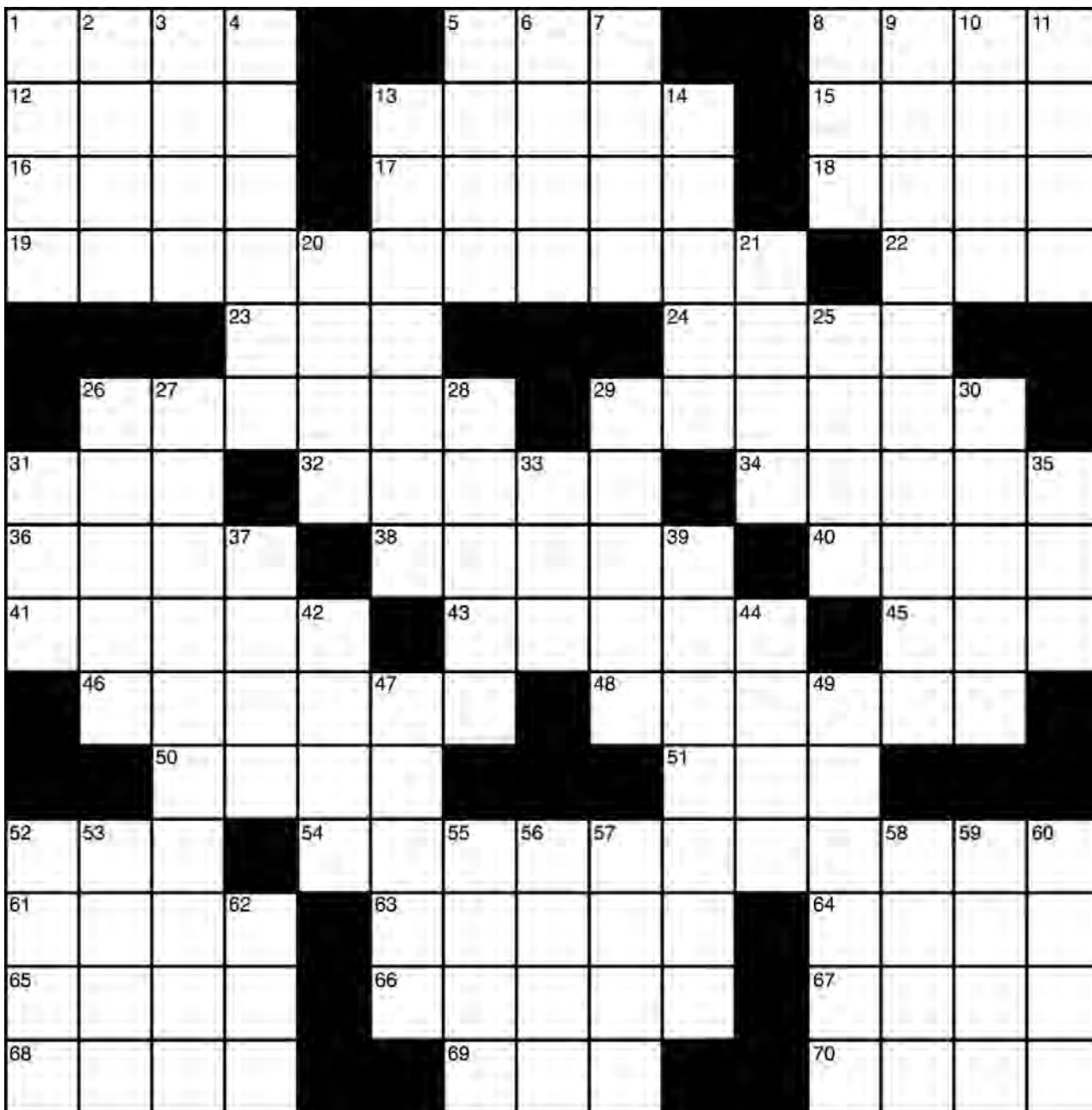
The latest innovation in helicopter support will provide FMF with the capability of destroying hard-point targets, such as tanks, while continuing to provide escort support in

helicopter-borne assaults.

Fully armed, the AH-1T "TOW" Cobra can carry more than 13,900 pounds of ordnance, to include eight TOW missiles; 750, 20mm cannon rounds and 14 folding fin aerial rockets.

Also new for pilots flying the "TOW" Cobra are a telescopic sight unit and helmet sight system used by the gunner and or pilot to, among others, acquire and track targets and guide the TOW missile; and permit rapid target acquisition.

CROSSWORD



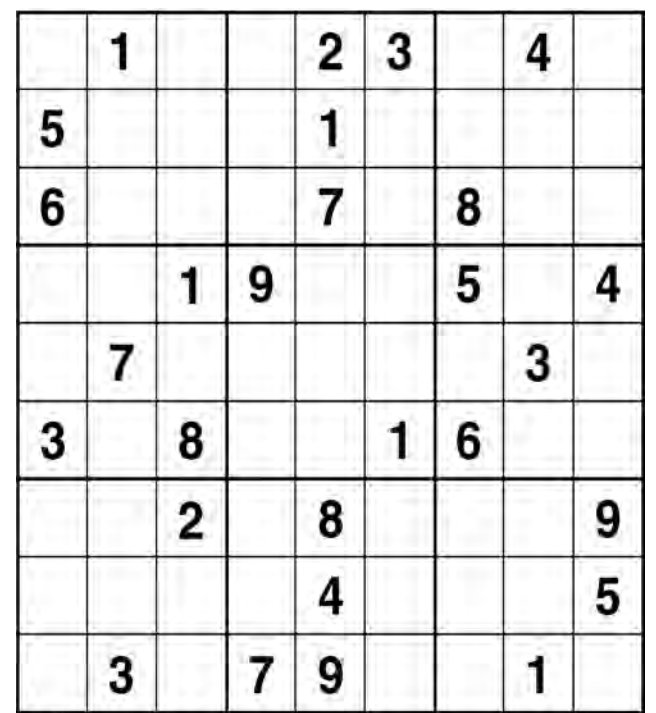
- Across**
- Sinks in.
 - Brassiere.
 - Sleeveless garment with buttons down the front.
 - Short for obituary.
 - Bean, Connery and Lennon.
 - Member of the Indian groups who formed an empire in Peru before the Spanish conquest.
 - Plural of serum.
 - _ L. Gransky, author of A Treasure Deep.
 - To fill by packing.
 - Seaplanes.
 - Acronym for Educational Testing Service.
 - Mountaintop.
 - Alternative spelling of emir.
 - Plain-woven cotton fabric used for sheets.
 - Stingy.
 - _ in the City, TV show starring Sarah Jessica Parker.
 - Muddled situation.
 - Tubers cultivated from the stemless plant of the arum family.
 - On the top of.
 - Metric units equal to

- 432 grains.
- Robert Reed's role on The Brady Bunch.
- Pre-Roman goddess of agriculture.
- Slight opening.
- Abbreviation for senior.
- Fingers or toes.
- Serious wrongdoings.
- Capital of Norway.
- Daryl "Chill" Mitchell's character on Ed.
- _ Dhabi, a sheikdom in northern United Arab Emirates.
- Children who tell on others.
- Not found.
- Drew back from.
- Rock making up the upper layer of the earth's crust.
- Marco _, Venetian traveler.
- Two or more kinds of the fishes of the family Scombridae.
- Land formation in arid areas with steep walls and a relatively flat top.
- Lone _, Diane Court in Say Anything.
- Break or opening.
- Once more.

- Down**
- Absurd or foolish talk.
 - To do as instructed.
 - To jeer.
 - Darts suddenly from a position.
 - Saved by the _, TV show starring Mark-Paul Gosselaar.
 - Northern _, one of New Zealand's tallest flowering trees.
 - In a short time.
 - Latin for "strength."
 - Fifth chapter of the Star Trek saga.
 - Native or inhabitant of Scotland.
 - Prepares for further manipulation.
 - Weakening or destroying insidiously.
 - To act in an underhanded way.
 - Makes unctuous.
 - To have been attacked with deadly effect.
 - Officiating priest of a mosque.
 - Doled out.
 - With affectionate submission.
 - Slang for government officials who enforce narcotics laws.

- Waxy solid used in the manufacture of candles.
- Unites or joins.
- Acronym for Strategic Air Command.
- _ Country, movie starring James Stewart.
- Abbreviation for senator.
- Square _, TV show starring Sarah Jessica Parker.
- Diatribes.
- Soil carried by moving water and deposited as sediment.
- Short, pleated skirt worn by Scottish Highlanders.
- To heat thoroughly by a fire.
- Foreboding influence.
- High mountains.
- The Bible.
- Cruel or vicious robber.
- _ Yothers, Jennifer Keaton on Family Ties.
- To spring through the air.
- Another name for the spleen.
- Freedom from difficulty.
- Salad made of raw cabbage with a mayonnaise dressing.
- Digit on the human foot.

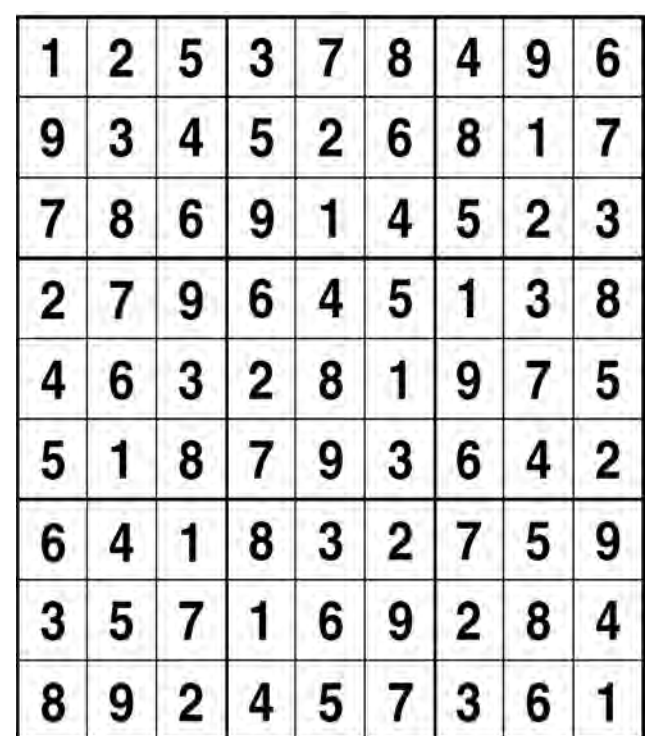
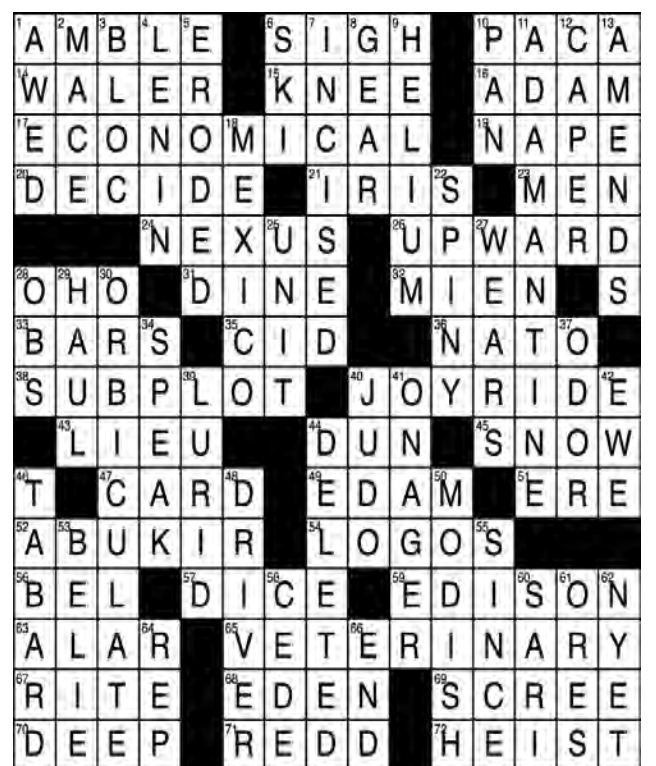
SUDOKU



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Difficult

Last week's answers



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Off Limit Establishments as of Oct 25, 2016

- Adobe Smoke Shop, 6441 Adobe Road, Twentynine Palms
- STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Road, Twentynine Palms
- Puff's Tobacco, 57063 29 Palms Highway, Yucca Valley
- 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

Aaron

Boca Raton, Fla. Corporal, due and status file clerk, Exercise Support Division, Headquarters Battalion

PERRY

PERRY ENJOYS PRACTICING DIFFERENT FORMS OF MARTIAL ARTS; HE FINDS IT TO BE A MENTAL AND PHYSICAL CHESS GAME AGAINST HIS OPPONENT.

> **I was born and raised in South Florida;** Boca Raton, Florida to be more specific. It was an interesting place with a lot of culture.

> **My parents provided a lot for me** while I was growing up. Not just for me, but for my brothers and sisters as well.

> **I would have to say** that my grandparents were my biggest role models growing up. They really turned their lives around from when they were younger. They went from doing drugs to providing for not only themselves but for other people in need. It's a really humbling experience talking to them about their success story.

> **From the time I was young,** I have always been into the more physical fighting sports like wrestling and jiu jitsu. They are both mentally and physically demanding. For me fighting is like a chess game, it teaches you to always be a few moves ahead of your opponent even while they are trying to do the same thing.

> **After I graduated high school,** I started working with my family in the daycare business. Sometimes it was awkward working with my mother because if she was mad at work, there was a chance she would be mad at home. I decided to quit after a while and work at a sports bar with a few of my friends.

> **I was living life up** for a little while but I decided that I wanted more structure and challenge in my life. No matter where he went I would always see my uncle, who is a retired master gunnery sergeant, exude the most confidence whenever he walked into the room and I wanted that.

> **I decided to join the armed services** and I thought, if I am going



to try any branch, it's going to be the Corps.

> **Once I hit the fleet,** I realized that I wanted to be the best in my shop. I saw early on that some people weren't the best leaders and I wanted to do better than them. I wanted to become the leader that I always imagined for myself.

> **I feel like I have become** that better leader. I hope the Marines under me have a lot of respect for me and are willing to approach me with any problems they may have.

> **My time here has definitely been enjoyable** and enlightening

at the same time. Working with all the units that come in and out of training cycles has helped increase my job proficiency.

> **I'm headed to my next duty station** in Camp Pendleton, Calif. My unit will be right on the beach which I am excited for. As much as I like the sandy terrain here, I'm excited to finally have an ocean in view with it.

> **My senior drill instructor always told me,** "You don't always have to be great in the Marine Corps, you just have to be better than the person to your left and your right." I have used that to put myself above and

beyond my average peer, from doing more pull ups, to being more effective at my job.

> **If I could go back** to when I was on the yellow footprints and tell myself something, it would be to always keep your head up, no matter how hard it can get.

> **I plan on staying in the Corps** a bit longer and just see where things end up. If I decide to get out, I would love to be a real estate investor or a Federal Bureau of Investigations Officer. I know they are two totally different worlds, but they both spark my interests equally.

Interviewed and photographed by Lance Cpl. Isaac Cantrell



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Combat Center wraps up planned power outages

STORY BY CPL. DAVE FLORES

The Combat Center will continue with the last of three non-consecutive planned base-wide power outages on Nov. 18-19. The installation's Public Works Division will work on substation repairs, installation of lightning protection systems and micro-grid expansion to improve the base's energy resiliency.

"The improvements being made across the installation are to better prepare the base against power outages and lightning strikes," said Ensign Alvin Rudolph, facilities engineering and acquisition division construction manager, PWD. "There are a lot of out dated systems and back-ups across the base. With these new improvements, we are putting preventative systems in place to ensure that we keep the base's power running."

PWD recognizes the inconvenience these outages will present to Combat Center patrons and has worked diligently to minimize the amount of time these essential updates will take to occur. As a result, the scheduled outages were cut down from 14 to four then ultimately reduced to three.

According to Gary Morrissett, utilities manager, PWD, these improvements will help keep damage made to the systems in the event of things such as lightning strikes to a minimum.

"I have been here for over 30 years and improvements have been made in leaps and bounds," Morrissett said. "From high winds to equipment failures, there used to be outages almost every week. There have been so many

improvements over the last 10-15 years and we plan on making it better."

The outages are scheduled during the day on the weekend to assist PWD employees with visibility of wires and systems and ensure their safety while working. The schedule for the outages are as follows:

OUTAGE 3: Nov. 18-19, 2017
- Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017 - 5 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (between 1st and 8th Street)

- Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017 - 5 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (between 1st Street & Condor Gate & along Del Valle to Berkeley)

HOUSING (All Housing between Adobe & Condor Gate, to include RV Park)

-Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017 - 0500-1830

While the outages are occurring, PWD will work with various quality of life and mission essential assets aboard the installation to ensure their power stays up. Facilities such as Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, the Commissary, the Marine Corps Exchange, the mess hall and critical facilities at Camp Wilson will remain electrically sound.

"We are going to move as fast as we can with this project," Rudolph said. "We know that people who live on base like to live comfortably. These outages may seem long now but they will make things better in the long run."

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES
9 & 11 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
7 PM



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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Around the Corps ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MAG-24 gives CH-53E helicopter a bird bath

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. JESUS SEPULVEDA TORRES

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII -- Walking across the flight line, Marines don their Mission Oriented Protective Posture suits and carefully make their way toward a grounded CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter. There they begin cleaning the aircraft through a rigorous process of power washing and scrubbing while in full MOPP suits.

Marines with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, also known as "Pegasus," Marine Aircraft Group 24, conducted a detailed aircraft decontamination exercise, aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Nov. 8.

Staff Sgt. Patrick Adolphin, the operations chief with HMH-463, said the exercise simulated a chemical nerve agent contaminating an aircraft and its crew members. He also said the purpose of the training was to put Marines in a CBRN environment and to teach them how to conduct proper procedures for DECON.

"The Marines received refresher classes from CBRN specialists which included testing for specific contaminants with special equipment and how to properly equip their suit," Adolphin said. "The situation was that a helicopter was notionally contaminated by a nerve agent and the Marines suited up in MOPP suits to prepare for its arrival."

He stated that every Marine in the squadron is expected to learn how to conduct proper decontamination procedures and safety measures. Adolphin added that the most important reward the Marines receive from this training is confidence.

"Much like the gas chamber, confidence and muscle memory are the biggest things I want the Marines to get from this exercise because they will be mentally prepared without hesitation in a real emergency," Adolphin said. "Everyone that goes through this training, not just 'Pegasus,' will be a more vital part to completing the mission."

Cpl. Daniel Gettle, a CBRN specialist with MAG-24 Headquarters, helped instruct the Marines throughout the day's exercise.

"There were stations for each type of DECON from decontaminant inspec-



Marines with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, also known as "Pegasus," Marine Aircraft Group 24, power spray a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter during a detailed aircraft decontamination exercise, aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Nov. 8. The DECON exercise instructed Marines on proper techniques and procedures with responding to a C chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear contamination on a static helicopter.

tion and rinse down to safely removing the MOPP suit in stages," Gettle said. "CBRN training in general is important because there may come an emergency situation in our area of operations that will require the proper response to that call. Whether it be nerve agent, toxic chemicals or radiation exposure Marines, must be trained and prepared."

Gettle said that this training is a new experience for a lot of the Marines and that it's the appropriate time to make mistakes and ask questions.

"Today was a crawl, walk, run approach and its encouraged to ask questions and to make mistakes, because in the real world you can't risk a minor error or else it will cost someone's life," Gettle said. "For a majority of the first timers, they did very well and hopefully they get a better understanding for DECON."



Marines with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, also known as "Pegasus," Marine Aircraft Group 24, assist each other in donning their mission oriented protective posture suits prior to a detailed aircraft decontamination (DECON) exercise, aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Nov. 8.



A CH-53E Super Stallion assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, also known as "Pegasus," Marine Aircraft Group 24, is flanked by pumps and cleaning equipment prior to a detailed aircraft decontamination (DECON) exercise, aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Nov. 8.



Marines with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, also known as "Pegasus," Marine Aircraft Group 24, use a step ladder to power wash rotors from a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter during a detailed aircraft decontamination exercise, aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Nov. 8.



Cpl. Jonathon Davis, a flight line mechanic with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 conducts a detailed aircraft decontamination exercise wearing his mission oriented protective posture suit and M50 gas mask.

BINGO

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Veterans Day From A1

recognized.

"It's a great privilege to be here among so many who have served, and it's awesome to see these young men and women volunteer their time to serve our community and our veterans," said Edward Ryan, a U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam.

The ceremony concluded with the dedication of a Gold Star Family memorial at Veterans Park.

"It's the sacrifices that their loved ones have made that makes this country truly remarkable," Cook said. "Unlike all of us here, they paid the ultimate sacrifice and gave their life for our country. We are grateful for their self-sacrifice and courage, and it's our duty today to pay homage to those who gave all for America."



Congressman Paul Cook, Representative for California's 8th Congressional District and a Marine Corps veteran, embrace prior to the Veterans Day ceremony at Big Bear Lake, Calif., Saturday.



Mayor Bill Jahn of Big Bear Lake, U.S. Representative Paul Cook, Maj. Gen. William F. Mullen III, Commanding General, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center and Russell Lewis, chaplain, American Legion Post 583, stand as the distinguished guests at a Veterans Day event at Big Bear Lake, Calif., Saturday.

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WeekINPhotos

Wreath Laying Ceremony

Photos by Sgt. Olivia Ortiz



Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert B. Neller speaks to guests at the Marine Corps Birthday Wreath Laying Ceremony, Arlington, Va., Nov. 10. The ceremony is an annual event held at the Marine Corps War Memorial to honor the Corps' birthday.



Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert B. Neller, right, lays wreath at the grave of Gen. Alexander Archer Vandegrift, 18th commandant of the Marine Corps at the Marine Corps Birthday Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va., Nov. 10.



29th Commandant of the Marine Corps retired Gen. Alfred M. Gray Jr. lays a wreath at the Marine Corps War Memorial at a ceremony, Arlington, Va., Nov. 10.



Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert B. Neller, left, and Col. Tyler J. Zagurski, commanding officer of Marine Barracks Washington, salute during the presentation of colors at the Marine Corps Birthday Wreath Laying Ceremony, Arlington, Va., Nov. 10.



Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert B. Neller, left, and Col. Tyler J. Zagurski, commanding officer of Marine Barracks Washington, salute during the presentation of colors at the Marine Corps Birthday Wreath Laying Ceremony, Arlington, Va., Nov. 10.

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Combat Center hosts 2017 Marine Corps Birthday Pageant

PHOTOS BY PFC. WILLIAM J. CHOCKEY III



The historically uniformed Marines stand at parade rest during the Marine Corps Birthday Pageant, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center, Nov. 8. The event included a historical uniform pageant and the traditional cake cutting ceremony in honor of the Marine Corps birthday.

For 242 years Marines have served as the nation's force in readiness, always prepared to defend our country and Constitution from America's adversaries. Over the years, Marines have donned many different uniforms to meet the needs of the time and to remain ever-ready to answer the call of duty.

Combat Center Marines celebrated their rich history and the Marine Corps' 242nd birthday with the annual Marine Corps Birthday Uniform Pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Nov. 8.

During the event, Marines dressed in uniforms from different time periods, dating as far back as 1775, and took turns speaking lines detailing the history and battles that their garb associated with. Navy Corpsmen also received recognition for their years of service alongside Marines throughout history.



Retired Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Ray V. Wilburn, stands in recognition of all those who fought in the Korean-War during the Marine Corps Birthday Pageant, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center, Nov. 8.



Maj. Gen. William F. Mullen III, Commanding General, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, stands in front of the formation at attention during the Marine Corps Birthday Pageant, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center, Nov. 8.



A Marine stands at attention at the end of the Marine Corps Birthday Pageant, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center, Nov. 8.



1st Lt. Margo Smutnick, adjutant, Headquarters Battalion, orders the Headquarters Battalion Color Guard to present arms before the National Anthem is played during the Marine Corps Birthday Pageant, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center, Nov. 8.

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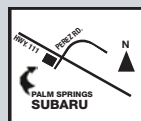


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