



2017 Year in Review

❑ A recap of the highlights that defined 2017

A LOOK BACK AT 2017

A2..... Changes in the Corps

A3..... Best of What
I've Learned

A4/5..... 2017 Training

A6..... Fostering community
relationships

B1..... Entertainment
for Combat
Center patrons

B2..... Movie Schedule



Combat Center variety

See page B1

The Corps' Top Shots

Welcome Home Marines

A Marine with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa is welcomed home by his family as he returns to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Jan. 17, 2017.

Photo by
Cpl. Alexander Mitchell ● ● ● ● ●



Marines Know The Drill

Gunnery Sgt. Mayra Garcia, senior drill instructor for Platoon 4011, returns her sword to her scabbard during a final drill evaluation at Peatross parade deck on Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, March 22, 2017.

Photo by
Lance Cpl. Sarah Stegall ● ● ● ● ●



Jumping Over The Rainbow

A Reconnaissance Marine jumps out of a CH-47 Chinook during helo-casting training operations, part of the Reconnaissance Team Leader Course held at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. This course emphasizes planning, briefing and leading teams in patrolling, ground reconnaissance, and amphibious operations.

Photo by
Gunnery Sgt Ezekiel R. Kitandwe ● ● ● ● ●

Splat!
Marines with Pacific Marines fire a M252A2 81mm mortar system at Range 106 during Integrated Training Exercise 2-17 aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 13, 2017.

Photo by
Sgt. Aaron Patterson ● ● ● ● ●



Paw-rade Rest

Staff Sgt. Caesar visits the K9 training facility to boost moral of the volunteers during the K9 upgrade project at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. June 7, 2017.

Photo by
Sgt. Hector de Jesus ● ● ● ● ●



CHANGES IN THE CORPS

In 2017 the Marine Corps experienced various changes. Some of these changes, such as the latest uniform recommendations, were small. Others, such as the implementation of the Battle Skills Test and the service-wide introduction of the blended retire-

ment system have been far more impacting. These changes were applied for the betterment of the Corps and its Marines and will only serve to uphold the level of professionalism and proficiency the nation expects and deserves from its force in readiness.



Battle Skills Test: the future of well-trained Marines

BY CPL. TIMOTHY SMITHERS


Several Marines from Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia participated in a mock Battle Skills Test Nov. 21, 2017. The test, which is still under development by Marine Corps Training and Education Command, will be an annual requirement for Marines to “get back to basics.”

“The BST is a program that consists of 30 tasks. Those tasks are derived from entry level training such as boot camp, Marine Combat Training or Infantry Training Battalion. Those tasks are common to all Marines so we expect all Marines to be able to perform these basic skills,” said Lt. Col. Stuart Glenn, Ground Combat Element Standards Branch head at Training and Education Command at MCB Quantico, Virginia.

First, the test requires the Marines to work together in a fire team, conduct patrolling and buddy rushes. Second, the Marines are evaluated on various topics including: land navigation, weapons handling, first aid and radio usage.

Each section has specific time requirements and parameters that will determine if the Marine has passed or failed the evaluation. It will be up to the discretion of the small unit leader on how the tests are administered.

Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Ronald L. Green was in attendance to see the first iteration of the new test. Green explained to the participants that these skills were perishable and need to be reinforced to maintain overall combat readiness.



The U.S. Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System

At a Glance

Saving with the New Blended Retirement System

The Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act provides our military force with a modernized retirement plan built for retirement savings. Beginning in 2018, our service members can get **automatic and matching Thrift Savings Plan contributions** as well as mid-career **compensation incentives** in addition to monthly **annuities for life**. All service members under the current system are grandfathered into today's retirement system.

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2 Continuation Pay

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3 Full Retired Pay Annuity


Received after completing 20 years of service

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1%	1%	1%	3%
2%	1%	2%	5%
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4%	1%	3.5%	8.5%
5%	1%	4%	10%


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Reserve Component

Full retired pay annuity beginning at age 60*

or



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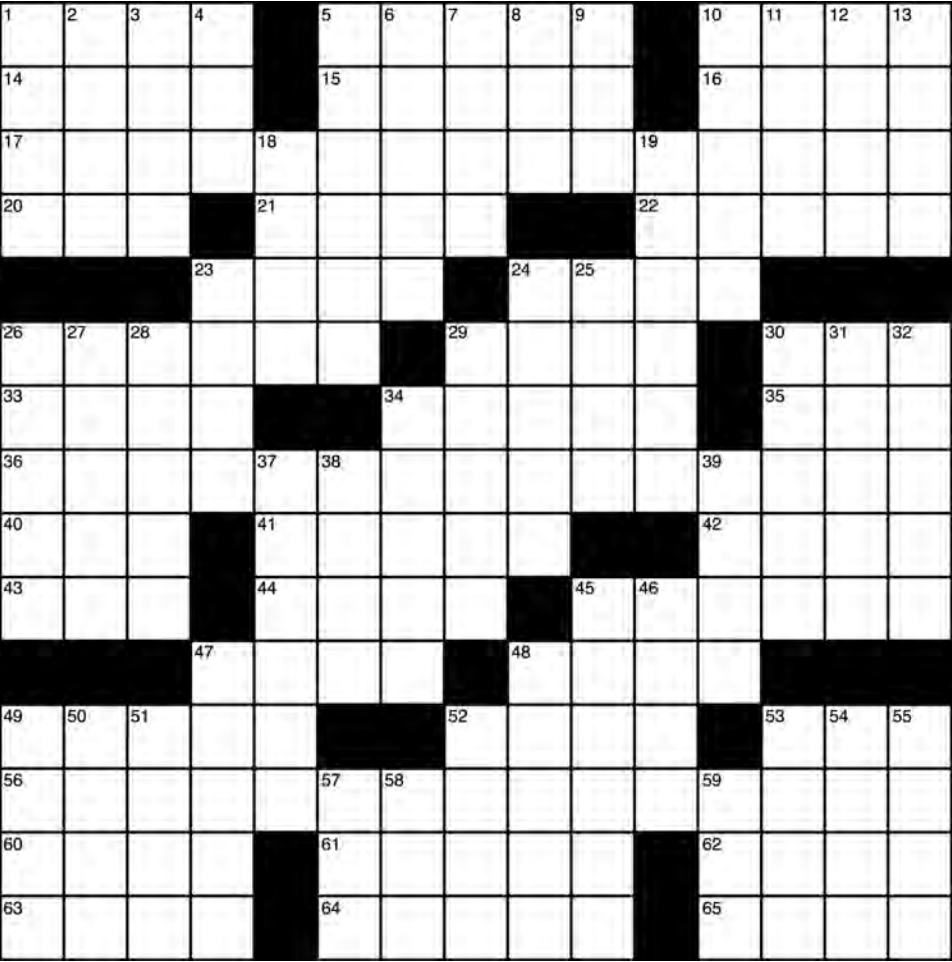
*Could be earlier based on credited active service

Additional information coming soon.

Sources: Sections 631, 632, 633, 634, and 635 of the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act.

Created: 12/2015

CROSSWORD



- Across**
1. Run away quickly.
5. Treated with an application.
10. Stare of amazement.
14. Pertaining to aeronautics.
15. Strong, pleasant smell.
16. _ McHone, character in TV series, Christy.
17. Mountain range in south-western Iran.
20. Acronym for Emergency Landing Site.
21. Adverb meaning “at that time”
22. Having wing-like extensions.
23. Person with equal standing.
24. Monetary penance.
26. Branch of philosophy dealing with morality.
29. At the top.
30. Humus layer formed by slow decomposition in acidic soil.
33. Something that plays over and over.
34. Not taken into account.
35. Anger.
36. Common form of arterio-sclerosis.
40. 19th letter of the Greek alphabet.
41. Senseless person.
42. Ruled as part of British India until 1937.
43. Tree of the genus Bulmus.
44. Acronym for Transistor Electroabsorption Transceiver.
45. Put a new sole on.
47. Alfred __, English theatrical manager.
48. Time that has elapsed.
49. Character in Kipling's Mowgli stories.
52. Largest member of the dolphin family.
53. _ C. Jemison, first African-American woman in space.
56. Study of paralinguage.
60. Platform for stacking books.
61. Time of life between 12 and 20.

62. _ Netrebko, Russian soprano.
63. Turn slightly away from the wind.
64. Trade term to describe coffee free from harshness of Rio flavor.
65. Turn sharply.
- Down**
1. Disturb composure of.
2. Law-abiding.
3. Work equal to the work done by a force of one dyne acting over a distance of one centimeter.
4. Ancient, royal city of the Canaanites.
5. Punctuation marks used between parts of a compound word.
6. Abalone found near the Channel Islands.
7. In the near future.
8. Flightless, Australian bird.
9. _ Simmons, author.
10. Purposes toward which endeavors are directed.
11. Western Samoa seaport.
12. Breathe in a labored manner.
13. Other than what is under consideration.
18. Acronym for Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion.
19. Engage secretly in something.
23. Old English unit of wine casks.
24. Being caused to depart from the true vertical or horizontal.
25. Vein-like deposit.
26. Fill with joy.
27. Without limitations.
28. Not interesting.
29. English automobile manufactured between 1928 and 1930.
30. Do wrongly.
31. Projection from a building's upper story.
32. City in the republic of Macedonia.
34. Inhabitant of Asia.
37. Prescribed procedure for conducting religious ceremonies.
38. Popular Japanese hot pot.
39. Kiln for drying hops.
45. Based on racial intolerance.
46. Acronym for Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme.
47. Wide, flat end of a paddle.
48. Dried plum.
49. Vaulted extension.
50. New Zealand parrot.
51. Sister of Ares.
52. Section of molding in the form of an S.
53. Type of bomb planted below the ground.
54. Pustular affection of the skin.
55. Acronym for Enhanced Synthetic Aperture Radar.
57. It is.
58. Of a kind not seen before.
59. 23rd letter of Hebrew alphabet.

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- 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
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- 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 THEY'VE LEARNED

Rick SHAFER



Lt. Rick Shaffer, command chaplain. Headquarters Battalion, decided to become a Navy chaplain to help the men and women who serve our nation. Whether it is helping through faith or not, he is always willing to extend a helping hand.

>I appreciate the simple life I had more now than I did when I was a child.

>My father sold insurance to large companies, and kept that career his whole life. He had a hard work ethic that he instilled in me from a young age.

Rapheal TRAMMELL



Cpl. Rapheal Trammell, food service specialist, Headquarters Battalion, is currently on a board for Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for all food service specialists across the Marine Corps. Trammell is also teaching himself Japanese by watching anime and beginner-level Japanese language videos on YouTube.

>My mom is better now, but she's been on drugs all her life. It was really hard for me growing up not having certain things you need in school because I never had the money for it. It was either I was going to go out and do something bad to get the money or I was going to fail the class. But I did everything I could possibly think of just to graduate.

Briana UPRIGHT



Lance Cpl. Briana Upright, combat videographer, Communication Strategy and Operations Office, Headquarters Battalion, plans to go home to be an administrative assistant and work toward building her own horse facility to train and work with horses.

>Growing up, I lived with my dad in a small town in Michigan. In Battle Creek everyone knew each other on a personal level.

>My parents divorced when I was three years old and shortly thereafter they met their significant others who I consider family.

>My dad was always a fisherman and hunter, so at a young age I picked up an interest in those activities. I have always had a competitive side to me and these sports only fueled that energy.

Diana RUDOLF



HM1 Diana Rudolf, preventive medicine technician, has served in the Navy for 15 years. At the end of her active service, she hopes to pursue a career in education.

>For the first four years of my life I was raised in Colima, Mexico. It's a tiny little town that actually resembles the towns in those old Western movies, except its tropical. Colima is known for its agriculture so there were a lot of coconuts, mangoes and guavas. I had a great childhood, a lot of climbing trees and roaming around.

>My siblings and I went to Mexico to be taken care of by my grandparents while my parents were working here in the states. My grandparents had 10 children, my dad being the eldest. So we grew up with aunts and uncles around us at all times.

>Climbing trees is the first memory I have. I think of Colima as the fresh air, the openness, the groves and just being care free.

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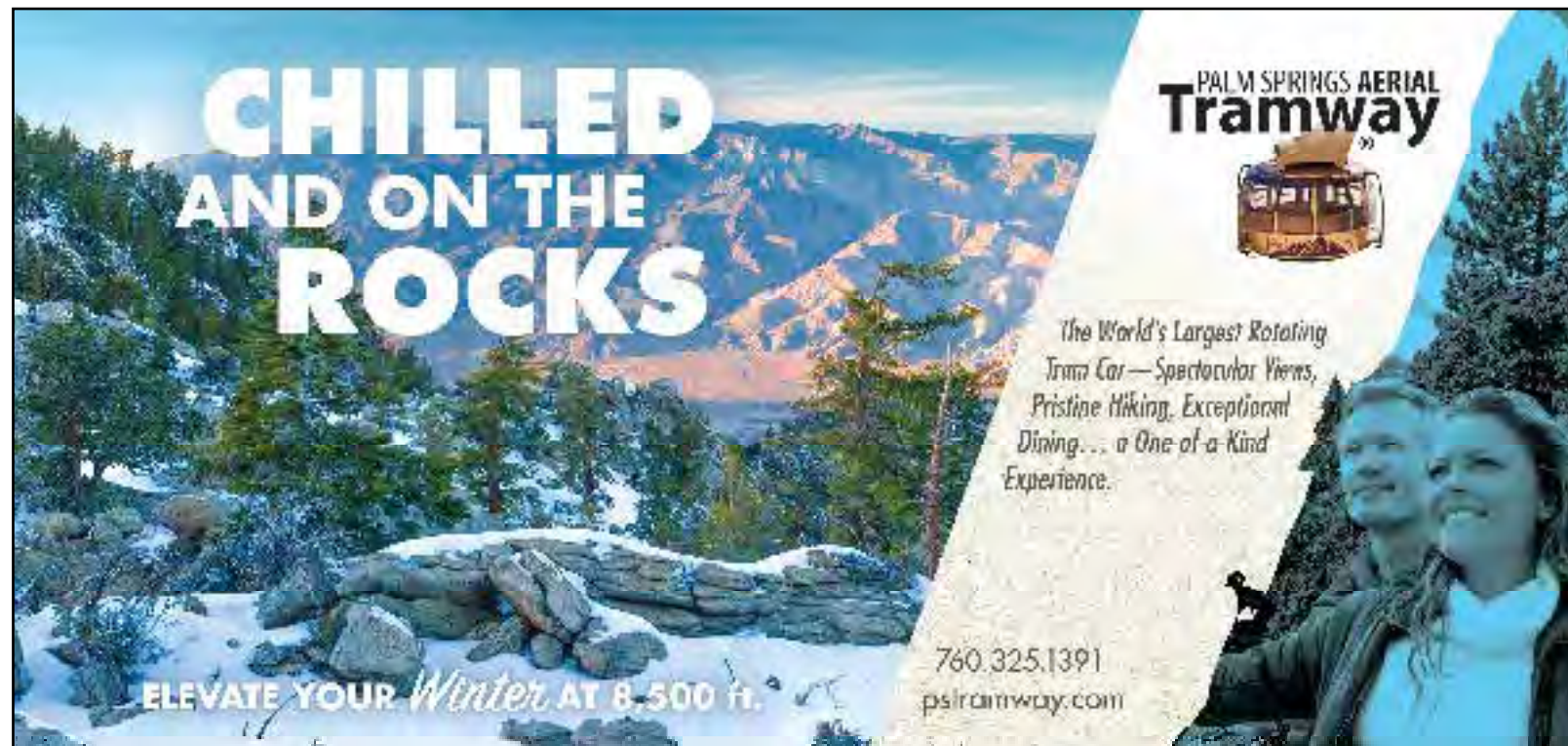
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2017 Training



CPL. THOMAS MUDD

M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tanks with 1st Tank Battalion cross into the Combat Center, during Exercise Desert March, March 27, 2017. The exercise was made to test the battalion's capabilities in handling a long distance movement as well as test the battalion's capabilities of logistically supporting the battalion throughout the exercise.



CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Marines with the Expeditionary Firefighting and Rescue team for Marine Wing Support Squadron 272, put out a simulated fire as part of a drill aboard the Combat Center during Integrated Training Exercise 5-17, July 29, 2017. MWSS-272 is supporting the Aviation Combat Element of the ITX. The ACE conducts offensive, defensive, and all other air operations to support the MAGTF mission.



LANCE CPL. MARGARET GALE

Marines from 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, observe the mountain they are about to scale during Mountain Training Exercise 4-17 aboard Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., Aug. 1, 2017.



LANCE CPL. ISAAC CANTRELL

A MV-22 Osprey prepares to land on Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 13, 2017. The landing was conducted as part of a non-combatant evacuation operation exercise in order to prepare Marines for the evacuation of non-essential U.S. citizens and Department of Defense personnel from dangerous situations overseas.

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Highlights



LANCE CPL. CHRISTIAN LOPEZ

An Amphibious Assault Vehicle fires a Mine Clearing Line Charge from the Mark-154 Mod 1 Launcher at Range 114 aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 26, 2017. Unlike current amphibious breaching systems, the MICLIC will allow a breach lane that provides maneuverability for assault forces as they push forward to provide fire and maneuver on enemy defended beaches that are manned with explosives.



LANCE CPL. MARGARET GALE

Lance Cpl. Aidan Blansfield, machine gunner, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, sets up security during Mountain Training Exercise 4-17 aboard Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., Aug. 2, 2017.



LANCE CPL. MARGARET GALE

Lance Cpl. Kyle Hollenback, mortarman, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, loads a while Pfc. Sean Carlson, mortarman, 1/1, stabilizes the stand during an individual training exercise at Range 410A aboard the Combat Center, July 25, 2017. 1/1 is based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, and is serving as part of the GCE during ITX 5-17.



CPL. DAVE FLORES

A Mark-154 Line Charge Kit is loaded with a MICLIC at Range 114 aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 26, 2017.

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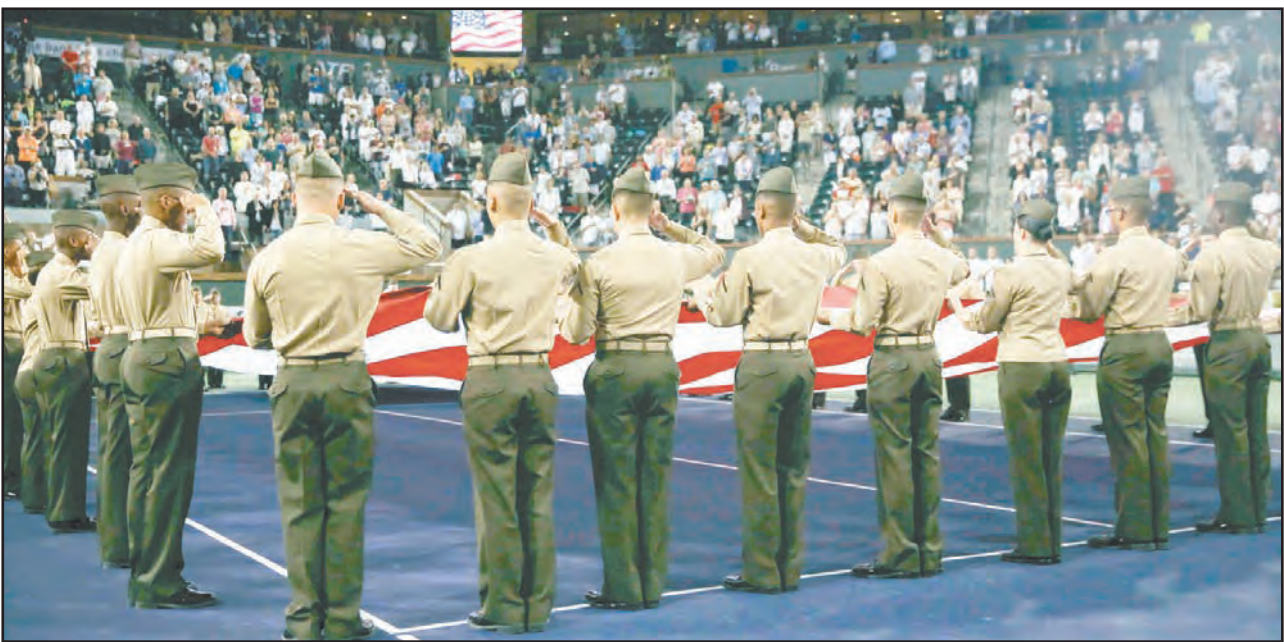
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Marine events foster community relationships

Throughout 2017, Combat Center Marines worked tirelessly to support local events and organizations around the Morongo Basin. The relationships fostered through these events provide the installation with the ability to give back to the community, which in turn supports the installation and the mission of its service members. Throughout the year, the Combat Center coordinated various visits and community relations events, on and off base, including the annual Pioneer Days Parade, a local car show, the BNP Paribas Open and K-9 demonstrations.



CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO
Marines with Bravo Co., Communication Training Battalion, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, present the national colors during the 15th Banque Nationale de Paris Paribas Open's "Salute to Heroes," in Indian Wells, Calif., March 10, 2017. This event began in 2002 after Sept. 11, and is meant to celebrate, recognize and honor all service men and women as well as first responders.



PG. RACHEL K. PORTER
Families wave at the Marines passing by during the annual Pioneer Days Parade in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Oct. 21, 2017. Pioneer Days recognizes those who settled in the area and developed the community as it is today.

A local member of the community takes time to discuss features of his car with Marines from the Provost Marshal's Office during the first car show at Luckie Park, in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Sept. 23, 2017. Marines from motor transportation, military police and explosive ordnance disposal came out to help the continuing effort to foster a positive relationship with the community by showing what resources the military has to offer.



LANCE CPL. MARGARET GALE



LANCE CPL. MARGARET GALE

Officer Nadeem Seirafi, military working dog handler, Provost Marshal's Office, gives orders to Cortez, MWD, PMO, while he bites Lance Cpl. Julian Norris, MWD handler, during a demonstration for the summer reading program at the Twentynine Palms Public Library, July 13, 2017. Cortez demonstrated his strength and discipline for the reading program to not only show what their MWD's are capable of, but to foster a positive relationship with the community.

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BINGO

Sportsman's Sunday has changed to Afternoon Bingo
Doors open at 1:30pm
Bingo starts at 2:30pm and ends by 7:30pm
Come earlier - Get home earlier
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Good food, craft beer and FUN

Trivia Night
Every Thursday at 7:30pm
Food, craft beer and prizes

Sportsman's Club of Joshua Tree
750-366-2915 Sunburst Ave Joshua Tree, CA
All proceeds are donated locally to youth & community organizations
facebook jtsportsmans.club

Headquarters Battalion's defense tries to recover possession of the ball from 1st Tank Battalion during the intramural soccer championship game at Felix Field aboard the Combat Center, June 12, 2017. Marine Corps Community Services, Semper Fit, hosts an intramural soccer league for units aboard the installation. Tanks came out victorious with a score of 2-1.



CPL. CHRISTIAN LOPEZ



LANCE CPL. PRESTON L. MORRIS

A player from 1st Tank Battalion's team makes a catch in the endzone during the Best in the West Game at Felix Field aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 2, 2017. The Best in the West Game consisted of Camp Pendleton's Headquarters and Service Battalion team and the Combat Center's 1st Tank Battalion team.

Athletics, entertainment for Combat Center patrons

Marines and sailors aboard the Combat Center are always looking for new and exciting ways to enjoy their off duty hours and improve their physical fitness. The Single Marine Program, Marine Corps Community Services, Semper Fit and various organizations give back to service members and their loved ones by helping them find entertainment and providing them with opportunities to showcase their athletic abilities here on base.



CPL. CHRISTIAN LOPEZ

Garret Hill, professional skater and X Games athlete, performs a no comply backside boardslide during the X Games Action Sports Show at the Marine Corps Exchange parking lot aboard the Combat Center, Sept. 9, 2017. Professional skaters and BMX riders provided entertainment for Marines, sailors and their families.



CPL. DAVE FLORES

A Fight Night competitor prepares for his fight in the octagon at Victory Field, aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 13, 2017.



LANCE CPL. ISAAC CANTRELL

Cpl. Xavier Vines, a fighter with Fight Club 29, gets ready to enter the octagon during Fight Night at Victory Field, aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 13, 2017.



CPL. NATALIA CUEVAS

Three riders race against each other in the second race during the Motocross Jam Fest at 13th and Dunham aboard the Combat Center, March 11, 2017.



CPL. CHRISTIAN LOPEZ

Five Finger Death Punch performs for Combat Center patrons during the We Salute You Celebration at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center, May 19, 2017.



CPL. CHRISTIAN LOPEZ

Five Finger Death Punch performs for Combat Center patrons during the We Salute You Celebration at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center, May 19, 2017.

RECYCLE



do your part

What Can Be Recycled At MCAGCC

Preparation

Please do not bag your recyclables; put the below items straight into your designated recycling bin for curbside pickup.



No. 1 Plastics

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)

PREP: empty and rinse out food and beverage residue

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

You Can Minimize Household Waste

To improve our environment, not only can you recycle but you can also reduce the amount of waste generated from your household. This can ultimately save you time and money, and nearly eliminate your household's waste stream from the landfill. This is the goal of MCAGCC's Waste Minimization Program.



PURCHASE

• **PURCHASE** food and other household items in bulk. This will save you money and eliminate unnecessary packaging from ending up in the landfill.



ELIMINATE

• **ELIMINATE** unwanted bulk mail by contacting the post office. This will save you time each day by not having to sift through the extra mail and throw it in the trash.



CHOOSE

• **CHOOSE** reusable items, such as substituting cloth towels and sponges for paper towels; glass/ceramic dishes for paper/plastic plates and cups; and reusable storage containers for disposable plastic bags.



Here are some ways you can minimize waste generated from your household:

REPURPOSE

• **REPURPOSE** old items, such as converting plastic containers into a bird feeder or piggy bank; aluminum cans into a planter or vase; and t-shirts into a tote bag or quilt.

DONATE

• **DONATE** unwanted clothing, appliances, furniture, electronics, and toys to charitable organizations, or give them to a friend or neighbor.

USE

• **USE** recycled products whenever possible. When purchasing items, check the package for recycling symbols. You will be completing a recycling cycle and initiating a new one.

You can find more information about minimizing household waste at: www.calrecycle.ca.gov/ReduceWaste or contact Base Recycling at 760.830.5666 or visit www.green29.org.

Sunset Cinema

Friday — Jan. 12

5:00 p.m. — Star Wars: Episode I- The Phantom Menace (Free Showing)

7:50 p.m. — Star Wars: Episode II- Attack of the Clones (Free Showing)

10:50 p.m. — Star Wars: Episode III- Revenge of the Sith (Free Showing)

Saturday — Jan. 13

11:00 a.m. — Star Wars: Episode IV- A New Hope (Free Showing)

1:30 p.m. — Star Wars: Episode V- The Empire Strikes Back (Free Showing)

4:00 p.m. — Star Wars Episode VI- Return of the Jedi (Free Showing)

6:30 p.m. — Star Wars: The Force Awakens (Free Showing)

10:00 p.m. — Star Wars: The Last Jedi (3-D), PG-13

Sunday — Jan. 14

12:00 p.m. — Ferdinand (3-D), PG-13

2:30 p.m. — Coco, PG

4:50 p.m. — Wonder, PG

7:20 p.m. — Roman J. Israel, PG-13

Monday — Jan. 15

6:30 p.m. — Star Wars: The Last Jedi (3-D), PG-13

Tuesday — Jan. 16

6:30 p.m. — Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri, R

Wednesday — Jan. 17

6:30 p.m. — Coco (Last Showing), PG

Thursday — Jan. 18

6:30 p.m. — Wonder (Last Showing), PG

Friday- Jan. 19

5:30 p.m. — Just Getting Started, PG-13

7:30 p.m. — Roman J. Israel, PG-13

10:00 p.m. — Pitch Perfect 3, PG-13

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Children intends to apply for a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant from the California Department of Education in partnership with Morongo Unified School District to support a summer program beginning the 2018-19 School Year. Any interested person in the community who would like to discuss this application, please contact Rafayna Naquib, Grant Writer, with Save the Children at rnaquib@savechildren.org. The deadline for application submission is January 26. The application will be available for review after submission upon request.

HELP WANTED

Avalon Pharmacy is looking for a Full-time Licensed Pharmacy Tech. w/ experience. E-mail resume: amitabkakar@yahoo.com



Registered Veterinary Technician wanted for busy 2-doctor practice. Duties will include, but not limited to, surgical prep, general nursing, assisting, radiography, and triage. Email resume to cacdocpm@gmail.com.

ESCROW OFFICER. Experienced 3-5 yrs. Email Resume only to monica@desertescrowinc.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP WANTED

Executive Director, Joshua Tree National Park Association. \$50-60,000 DOE. Send resume before February 15 to Marian@joshua-tree.org

Combined Technical Services will host a job fair 8-10 Jan 2018, from 0800-1700. Location: San Bernardino County, Third District Supervisor - Joshua Tree Offices, 63665 Twentynine Palms Hwy, Joshua Tree, CA. Positions needed: General Clerks, Computer Operators, Mechanics, Supply Technicians Dates of employments: 17 Jan to 22 April. Will work overtime & weekends. Candidates are required to bring the following: resume, driver's license, social security card, voided check or a letter from the bank with the account number & routing number. Walkins are welcomed.

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Car Ramp FREE 760-552-9634

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Please refer questions to Contractors State License Board, 1250 East Cooley Drive, Suite 200, Colton, CA 92324

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