

January 26, 2018

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Vol. 62 Issue 3



LANCE CPL. PRESTON MORRIS

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# Junior Marines given opportunity to prove themselves in ITX 2-18

#### STORY BY PFC. RACHEL K. PORTER

The most recent training operation being conducted aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center is integrated training exercise 2-18, and the Marines of the Air Combat Element are a testament to the exercise's ability to transform junior Marines into leaders. Marine Wing Communication Squadron 38 is attending in support of Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, providing services that range from keeping internet up and running, to digging trenches for power lines.

"We are the digital backbone for the tactical network," said Staff Sgt. Nathan Rohl, site staff non-commissioned officer in charge, MWCS-38, Alpha Detachment. As one of the first units to set up during ITX, MWCS 38 focuses on monitoring equipment at all hours, job proficiency and leadership traits. Cpl. Benjamin J. Terrell, data assistance administrator, MWCS-38, Alpha Detachment, is a Marine who has experienced first-hand the importance of the ITX and what it has brought to his

See Junior Marines A6



PHOTOS BY SGT. JOSHUA CHACON



LCpl. Kenneth Hunt, cannonner 1, with Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division activates the M77 Howitzer during Integrated Training Exercise 2-18 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., January 23, 2018.



A Marine with Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division prepare the M77 Howitzer during Integrated Training Exercise 2-18 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., January 23, 2018.





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A Marine with Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division waits for a drill during Integrated Training Exercise 2-18 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., January 23, 2018.

See Gun-line A6

## Inside the Observation Post

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Commanding General Awards Fallen Marine 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 Pfc. Cody Rowe.



Lance Cpl. Kwan Walker, a networking administrator assigned to Marine Wing Communication Squadron 28, braces in the cold during a conditioning hike during exercise Ullr Shield at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, Jan. 13. Ullr Shield is a training exercise designed to improve the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing's capabilities in extreme cold weather environments.



**Reprinted from the Observation Post** January 31, 1969

## Skunk Gets Gassed At Staff NCO Club

#### EDITED BY SSGT J.A. HOLSOMBACK

It was a real gas at the Las Pulgas Enlisted Men's Club after the Base Pest Control Unit slugged it out nose-tonose with a skunk that strayed and sprayed.

CROSSWORD

When D.C. GySgt Copeland, Club NCOIC, sat down to work Tuesday morning, he noticed a new addition to the files in his desk... listed under "S". Before the Gunny could act, the little critter made its escape through a hole in the wall.

Wednesday, GySgt Copeland again entered his office to begin the day's work and found the same desk drawer open. He immediately diagnosed the problem. There it was in black and white. The only skunk presently on file in the Marine Corps. This time,

however, the Gunny was a little too fast for the pungent Polecat and trapped him in the drawer before calling Base Pest Control for reinforcements.

Arriving on the scene prepared to handle the dissection, the Pest Control Unit immediately set about eliminating

SUDOKU

the varmint. The exterminators pulled a trick out of the skunk's own bag and gassed him.

GySgt Copeland is once again the sole and uncontested owner of his desk. The skunk is gone, but his memory lingers on... and on.

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5. Present for public presentation. 49. Medical patients

- 10. Meaningless.
- 14. Square pillar.
- 15. Temporary suspension of breathing during sleep.
- 16. Secluded corner.
- 17. High-speed centrifuge.
- 20. Color material.
- 21. Greek philosopher.
- 22. First asteroid discovered.
- 23. Magistrate (British slang).
- 24. Burn slightly.
- 26. Curved violin head.
- 29. South African of Dutch extraction.
- 30. The woman.
- 33. Requited.
- 34. Tall, coniferous New Zealand tree.
- 35. Fox foot.
- 36. Unwilling to express emotion.
- 40. Wooden peg.
- 41. Form of belief involving sorcery.
- 42. Warning.
- 43. Low island.
- 44. Monetary unit of Cambodia.
- 45. Principal ore of lead.
- 47. Minor prophet of postexilic

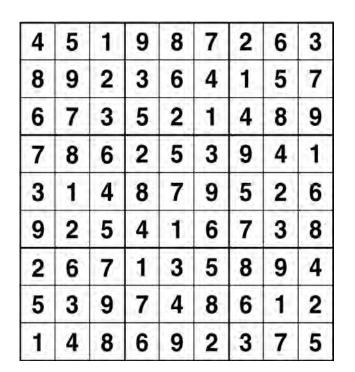
- 52. Sharp in spirit.
- 53. Tom \_, U.S. western film actor.
- 56. Devotion to church.
- 60. Former Scottish gold coin.
- 61. Less than 90 degrees.
- 62. Stew.
- 63. Whirlpool.
- 64. Apostle and reputed author of two Epistles.
- 65. Poems meant to be sung.

#### Down

- 1. Short pipe
- 2. Unctuous.
- 3. Network of fibers.
- 4. Make a mistake.
- 5. Characteristic of race.
- 6. More or less vertical.
- 7. Taverns.
- 8. Osiris' murderer.
- 9. Cereal fruit-bearing part.
- 10. Conclude from evidence.
- 11. Stern.
- 12. Small enclosure.
- 13. Stretches.
- 18. I. W. \_, U.S. labor leader.
- 19. Greek island in Aegean Sea.

- German term of address
- 26. Torchwood, tinder or punk.
- 27. Small, primitive, light boat.
- 28. Rising in ridges.
- 29. Fundamental.
- 30. Grudge.
- 31. Harbor or port.
- 32. Plant swelling.
- 34. Rest on knees.
- 37. Sullenly ill-humored.
- 38. Off-Broadway award.
- 39. Pipe for draining land.
- 45. Sock holder.
- 46. Person opposed.
- 47. Boiled fruit juice.
- 48. Rigid system of social distinctions.
- 49. Fleshy covering on base of bird's upper mandible.
- 50. Sharp; biting.
- 51. Great quantity.
- 52. Tidy; neat.
- 53. Moderate in force.
- 54. Small island.
- 55. Abbreviation for Christmas.
- 57. Vital body fluid.
- 58. Reserve; formality.
- 59. Talk fondly.

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• Sports Auto Sales, 1111 National City

• Get It On Shoppe, San Diego

### WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Trevor Long Island, NY

Pfc. Trevor Rowett, Combat Videographer, 3rd Marine Regiment

ROWETT

PFC. TREVOR ROWETT IS A COMBAT VIDEOGRAPHER WITH 3RD MARINE REGIMENT, AND IS AN ONLY CHILD. HIS GREATEST INSPIRATIONS IN THE MARINE CORPS WERE HIS FIRST NCOS, AND GOT HIS COMPETI-TIVE PERSONALITY FROM PLAYING SPORTS GROWING UP.

> I didn't know that I was going the join the Marine Corps until the end of high school. I joined because it's the hardest branch, it has the highest standards—I've always been competitive because I played sports when I was younger which instilled that drive in me.

**> I'm an only child**—I didn't grow up in the richest family, but it was nice to be the center of attention. I wouldn't have changed it, and I don't think my parents would have changed it either.

> The stress that the Marine Corps has given me has made me stronger and more adept to handle more in the future, whether I reenlist or go into the civilian world.

> Dealing with challenging situations on the spot has made me more capable than before I joined the Corps. I'm not sure what I would want to do if I went back into the civilian world, though.

> I joined to be in the infantry, but when they switched my contract I was pretty lucky with what they gave me. Recently I heard about a reconnaissance indoctrination that I could possibly jump on, but if I don't then I wouldn't mind staying in this field. I don't necessarily have a passion for it, but it's a good skillset to take with me.

**> My favorite part of videography** is after all the work of editing and shooting, having a final product for people to look at to critique or praise.

> I know it's cheesy, but I look up to a lot of the NCOs that I had when I first came in. I took into consideration their ways and the traits that made them the inspiration to me as they were, but then I also decided that I needed to take my own route. They definitely never caved under pressure; they knew exactly how to react to a variety of situations and had a steadfast attitude. That is something that I will take with me through my career, in or out of the Marine Corps. I understand, too, that paving my own path comes with time and experience, I won't let my mistakes inhibit me from reaching my full potential, and reaching a potential beyond what my NCOs initially inspired me to be.

> I love that I'm in a division unit and that I get to go on field operations as often as I do—they provide a lot of character-building experiences because of all the stress and hardship that they provide, and its something that not a lot of other people in the Marine Corps get to experience, and no one's experience is as diverse in terms of the different situations and procedures I witness while working. I think that you have to go through something tough to have modesty about it.



Interviewed and photographed by Pfc. Rachel K. Porter





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> Game Scores AFC Patriots in BLUE - NFC Eagles in GREEN



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## Fallen Marines From B1

Captain Christopher Silva, inspector instructor, Delta Company, 4th Tank Battalion for six months.

"If he were still around, he would say "keep helping others," said Silva, "I know that's what he stood for. I think that's what he would say if he were still around."

Rojo's family said that they saw him as an inspiration. Sgt. Krystal A. Rojo, avionic technician instructor, Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training, sister of Enrico Rojo and mother of a newborn baby, attested to his presence being a drive in her life.

"Anything he wanted to do and everything he accomplished, I wanted to do, too," Rojo said with a smile on her face, "We were always competing with one another. I think he would be a proud uncle, and he would try to have a kid too."

Rojo was not only an inspiration and drive for those in his life, but was declared by his mother and father to be inspirational.

"He was determined, that was one of his major attributes," Miguel A. Rojo, Enrico Rojo's father said, "He went from a kid who wanted to quit in high school to someone who earned his pilots license."



Attendants of a memorial held for Staff Sgt. Enrico Antonio Rojo reminisce on the memory of Staff Sgt. Rojo's life aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 21.



Major General William F. Mullen III, Commanding General, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, shakes hands with Staff Sgt. Enrico Antonio Rojo's family at a memorial aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 21.





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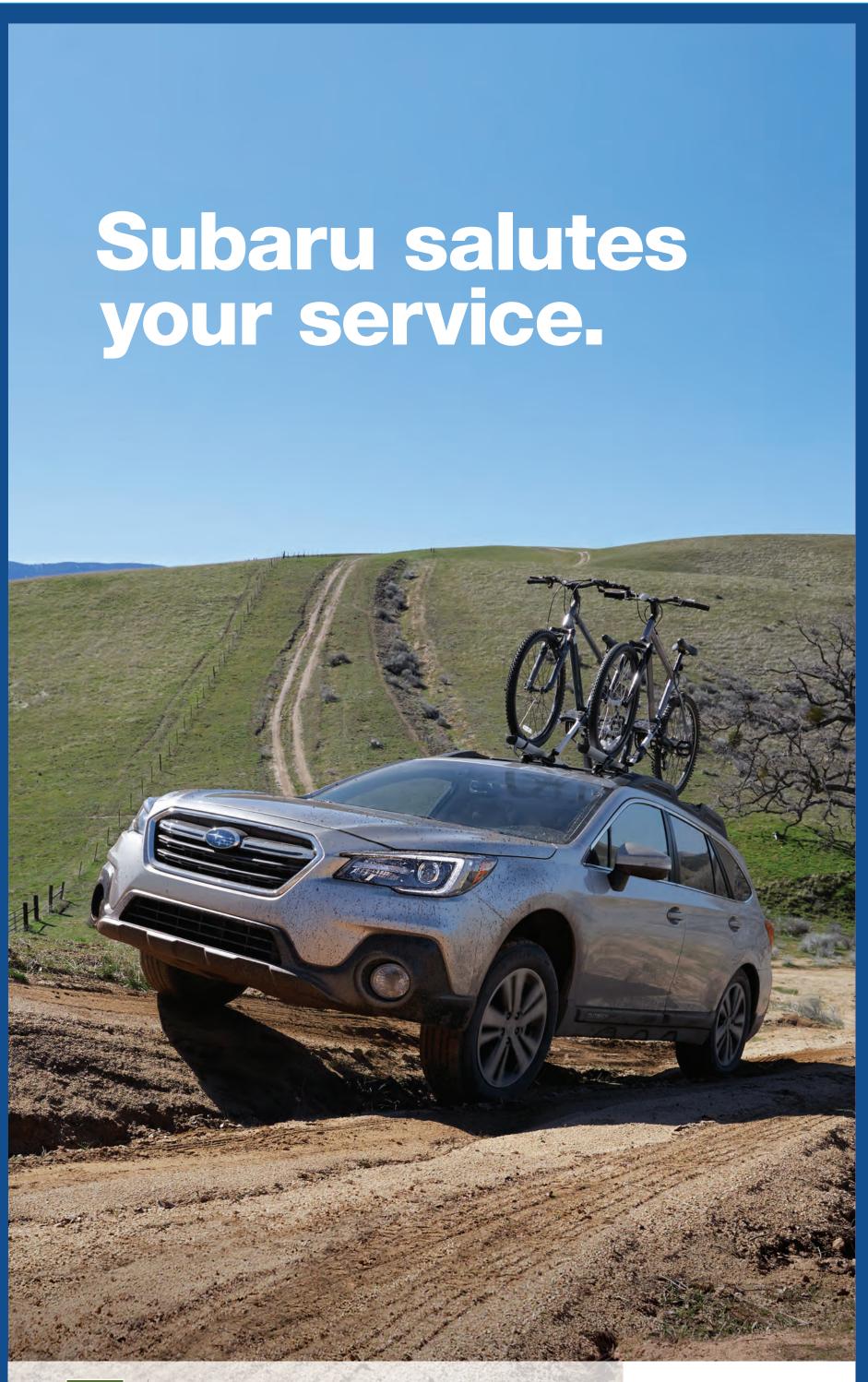
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**OBSERVATION POST** 

JANUARY 26, 2018 B5







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M-F: 7:30 - 8 p.m. Sat.: 10:00 - 6 p.m. Sun: 11:00 - 5 p.m.

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