



SGT. JOSHUA CHACON

Sgt. Aijalon J. Langston and Sgt. Adrian Scott, Section Chiefs, with Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division prepare the M77 Howitzer during Integrated Training Exercise 2-18 at the Combat Center, Jan. 23. The purpose of ITX is to create a challenging, realistic training environment that produces combat-ready forces capable of operating as an integrated MAGTF.

# 1/12 artillery provides steel rain during FSCEX

STORY BY LANCE CPL. MARGARET GALE

1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, bravo battery, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, HI, arrived at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Jan. 11, 2018, for Integrated Training Exercise 2-18. One training exercise during ITX is a Fire Support Coordination Exercise, which units use to enhance the lethality and co-operability between the four elements of a Marine Air Ground Task Force.

FSCEX is a training exercise lasting up to 46 days during ITX that supports maneuver elements down range. Throughout the exercise, Marines are placed in a realistic combat zone and practice calling in support fire to suppress and eliminate the enemy.

“This training is beneficial to the Marine Corps



SGT. JOSHUA CHACON

Sgt. Aijalon J. Langston, section chief, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division gives orders during Integrated Training Exercise 2-18 at the Combat Center, Jan. 23.

See **Steel Rain** A4

# The Tax Center opens its doors

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. RACHEL PORTER

The Tax Center aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., opened its doors Jan. 29, 2018, and is welcoming customers on a walk-in and appointment basis.

Captain Adam LoCascio, officer in charge of the Tax



Col. Ricardo Martinez, chief of staff, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, speaks to Marines with the Fleet Assistance Program at the opening of the Tax Center aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 29. The Tax Center offers free assistance to Marines during Tax season.

Center, Legal Services Support Team, Headquarters Battalion, connected with the online community via the MCAGCC Facebook group, “Make the Stumps Better.” He spoke of the services offered as well as hours and contact information the moment the doors opened.

“At the end of the day, we’re here to help Marines and Sailors avoid spending \$100 for H&R Block to do something that we can do for free at the tax center,” said LoCascio.

The Tax Center is now open on week days, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., but offers after-hours appointments. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the Tax Center at (760) 830-4829 or visiting building 1525.

You can visit their website at 29palms.marines.mil/Offices/Legal-Services-Support-Team/Tax-Center and find directions to their office. The Tax Center website informs the visitor of a list of items to bring in for an appointment, such as a W-2 Form, proper identification and a void check for where the tax refund should go.

Col. Ricardo Martinez, chief of staff, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, MCAGCC, visited the opening of the Tax Center to tour and made sure that all was in order. Martinez followed

See **Tax Center** A4

## Inside the Observation Post

Volume 62, Issue 4

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- A3 ..... What I’ve Learned
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- B1..... Fallen Marine awarded
- B2 ..... Recycle



**Marines prepare for the wild blue yonder**

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 Ricky S. Gomez.



Lance Cpl. Benton Allen exits a tunnel during the endurance course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center in Okinawa, Japan, Jan. 15. JWTC prepares Marines for operations in a jungle environment. Allen, a Bowling Green, Kentucky native, is a team leader with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division. The mission of 3/3 Marines is to train and conduct theater security cooperation across the Pacific command area of responsibility in order to ensure access, deter threats, and build capacity with allies in the region, as well as being prepared to conduct crisis response and combat operations.





Reprinted from the Observation Post  
February 1, 1980

# Combat Center — 23 years old today

BY LCPL. B. TURGEON

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center came into existence 23 years ago today. The base was originally constructed early in World War II for use by the Army Air Corps as a glider training station and later used by the Army as a bombing range. In 1945, the Navy took over this establishment as an auxiliary airfield, but released the base and land

to the county of San Bernardino the following year. On February 1, 1957, Marine Corps Base, 29 Palms, was 'born' and over the past 20 years has blossomed into the largest Marine Corps Base in the world. Home to over 8,000 Marines and dependents, the Combat Center is the largest single community in the Hi-Desert. The Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, relocat-

ed from Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, in 1971, is the largest formal school in the Marine Corps, with over 5,000 students annually attending the Corps' most modern instructional facilities. You, as members of the Combat Center team, have become a part of its history and it's up to you to maintain the fine reputation the Center has developed over the past 23 years.

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Rhylee Dean Gifford**  
Born Jan. 4, 2018  
Born to Ryan and Raven Gifford

**Michael William James Eberhardt**  
Born Jan. 4, 2018  
Born to Drew and Kayla Eberhardt

**Mia Estela Ramirez**  
Born Jan. 4, 2018  
Born to Dominique and Maria Ramirez

**Aria Reign Arroyo**  
Born Jan. 14, 2018  
Born to Jazmin Molina and Malik Bunton

## SUDOKU

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Difficult

Last week's answers

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## CROSSWORD

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68						69				70		

- Across**

1. To beat or whip potatoes.  
5. Small frozen square cubes of water.  
8. Unidentified Flying Objects.  
12. \_ Fitzgerald, a U.S. jazz singer.  
13. Synonym for home.  
15. Abbreviation for sophomore.  
16. A disembodied spirit.  
17. The language or speech of a particular field or group of people.  
18. Length x width.  
19. Antonym of frivolousness.  
22. A former administrative county in eastern England; now part of Cambridgeshire.  
23. \_ Conway, of "Carol Burnett" fame.  
24. Villain in Shakespeare's "Othello."  
26. A yellowish-brown color.  
29. Acronym for the Indiana Technical Education Reporting System.  
31. Acronym for revolutions per minute.  
32. Sister of Richard Carpenter.  
34. To assume.  
36. Acronym for the Program for Early Parent Support.  
38. Not full.  
40. The luminous stream extending from the head of a comet.  
41. John \_, a U.S. painter and etcher.  
43. \_ Grebe, a small, stocky bird with a short, thin bill.  
45. A fluid used for writing or printing.  
46. To fill again.  
48. Rowing.
50. A thick slice of concrete.  
51. To free someone of something.  
52. Abbreviation for museum.  
54. Afterward in this document.  
61. Heroic; majestic.  
63. \_ Haute, a city in western Indiana.  
64. An opera by Giuseppe Verdi.  
65. A combining form meaning "very small."  
66. \_ with: supported one party in a debate.  
67. Form of the male name Leo.  
68. Acronym for the United States Geological Survey.  
69. Hyrax.  
70. Certain.
- Down**

1. A dirty, untidy, disorderly condition.  
2. \_ vera, used to treat burns.  
3. Blot or stain upon a reputation.  
4. Rock salt.  
5. Any of certain similar birds belonging to the stork family.  
6. Abbreviation for Connecticut.  
7. Guitarist in the rock group U2.  
8. Acronym for United States of America.  
9. To appoint beforehand.  
10. One of the world's largest European producers of automobiles.  
11. A chaise.  
13. A group of women graduates.  
14. Chemical used to dye silk rose red.
20. Sound a pig makes.  
21. To satisfy.  
25. Flemish name of Ghent.  
26. A sprout or shoot of a plant.  
27. Influencing in opinion.  
28. Loaded with weapons.  
29. Abbreviation for introduction.  
30. Bringing civil action against.  
31. Acronym for revolutions per minute.  
33. Acronym for the Environmental Protection Agency.  
35. A large North American deer.  
37. A ledge beneath a window.  
39. Wanted; longed for.  
42. \_ Webster, a U.S. lexicographer and essayist.  
44. A small or minute quality.  
47. Helps or aids.  
49. Standards of perfection.  
52. List of foods available at a restaurant.  
53. The milky sap of a large tree of the mulberry family used to make arrows poisonous.  
55. Daphne Maxwell \_, played Micki Dennis on the TV show, Snoops.  
56. Acronym for the Electrical Research and Development Association.  
57. Acronym for the Insurance Regulatory Examiners Society.  
58. Place; stead.  
59. Smell or scent.  
60. To decrease in intensity.  
62. Short for cosine in trigonometry.

## OBSERVATION POST

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- MCIWest off-limits establishments guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations. This order applies to all military personnel.

**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

Robert

Park View, Ohio    Corporal, rifleman, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment

FRANK

FRANK WAS HOME SCHOOLED FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL WITH HIS 10 SIBLINGS BY HIS PARENTS.

>**Home to me** is Fairview Park, OH. I grew up in a modest home with eight bedrooms, two bathrooms with 10 brothers and sisters in the suburbs of Cleveland.

> **All but one of my siblings** is adopted, including me. The age gap between the children ranges between 16 years. Growing up with so many siblings, I always had a best friend or someone to play sports with me.

> **I was with my family** since I was 3 days old, but I was officially adopted at the age of 5 due to a custody battle. My parents never kept it a secret from me that I was adopted and eventually I would like to try to meet my parents.

>**My father is an accountant** while my mother lived her dream of being a stay at home mom and a teacher, homeschooling all of her children from kindergarten through high school.

> **Although I was home schooled**, I still got a great education. My parents believed in hands-on learning so most of our studying wasn't out of a book, but going out and talking to people and vendors in town to learn about their jobs and how things work.

>**My education was better** than most people I know had. I have been able to experience a lot and make a lot of connections. My mom would work everyday things into our education, such as having us take her grocery list to the store to learn how to budget.

> **I always wish I went** to public school so I could have more opportunities with sports. Since I was a kid, I have always been athletic. I think I would be somewhere else if I wasn't home schooled and got to play sports

in high school.

> **I played a lot of sports**, but my favorite was football. Playing college football has always been a dream of mine, and I want to make that happen when I get out of the Marine Corps.

> **After I finished my** high school education, I knew school wasn't for me. I always did just enough to get by. Then, three of my sisters joined the Army and their experiences influenced my decision on joining the Marines. The stories they told made the Army not seem challenging enough for me.

>**I chose to enlist** in the Marine Corps to have more discipline, take orders and be high speed. I have always prided myself on making hard decisions, which is why I joined around the time of the Benghazi attack.

> **My first two years** as a Marine were a wakeup call for me, especially after being home schooled my entire life. It showed me what the real world was like and, in the process, made me lose some innocence.

>**After the Marine Corps**, I plan on finding a job doing something I love. I want to enjoy what I do so I won't really have to work a day in my life. I was raised to be an individual and to live life to be happy.

> **A saying I live by** is "something to do, someone to love, someone to believe in, something to hope for. You're either growing or dying." There should be no stagnancy in life, you're either growing and becoming smarter, faster and better, or you're degenerating. I realized that quote closely resembles how I want to live my life. All four of these things are things everyone should strive for in their lives.



Interviewed and photographed by Lance Cpl. Margaret Gale

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# Steel Rain

From A1

because it allows all elements of the MAGTF to come together,” said GySgt. Joshua Barber, company first sergeant, 1/12, bravo battery, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, HI. “Every element has an important role, but when you don’t have them, you always have artillery.”

Artillery is an indirect fire support asset to ground elements that are comprised of mortars, tanks and communications. Their primary mission is to eliminate and destroy the target. One of the weapons that are utilized by artillery units is the M777 Howitzer, which is capable of demolishing targets up to 23 miles away.

“My experience throughout the training has been outstanding,” said Lance Cpl. Dontraviou Terrell, A gunner, 1/12, bravo battery, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, HI. “It has allowed for many new learning and leadership opportunities for me and has helped me get into a combat mindset.”



Marines with Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division prepare to unload ammunition during Integrated Training Exercise 2-18 at the Combat Center, Jan. 23.



A Marine with Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division waits for a drill during Integrated Training Exercise 2-18 at the Combat Center, Jan. 23.



A Marine with Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division prepares the M77 Howitzer during Integrated Training Exercise 2-18 at the Combat Center, Jan. 23.

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**Tax Center**

From A1

the tour with a speech to the fleet assistance program Marines working at the center, commending them for the hard work being put in each day.

“The work you’re doing here is important,” said Martinez. “What you’re learning here will be of help to you in the future.”

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# WeekINPhotos



SGT. WESLEY TIMM

A French soldier with the 5th Regiment de Cuirassiers, shoots the FN Mitrailleuse during unknown distance training in support of exercise Alligator Lightning. The bilateral amphibious U.S.-led exercise with the French is designed to improve cooperation with ground, naval and air units in amphibious warfare, maintain proficiency in expeditionary operations and enhance interoperability in a bilateral environment.



PFC. HEATHER ATHERTON

Lance Cpl. Erin Thomas, a Marine with 2nd Law Enforcement Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group, fires her weapon during a field exercise at Camp Geiger, N.C., Jan. 25. The training allowed Marines to practice company-level operations such as patrolling and detainee handling along with other skills vital to the battalion's mission.



LANCE CPL. LUKAS KALINAUSKAS

Camp Pendleton Marines conduct night-time K9 training Jan. 24. The training on Gold Beach built cohesion and helped maintain mission readiness.



SGT. JOSELYN JIMENEZ

A UH-1Y Venom assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 167 takes off from Fort McCoy, Wis. during Ullr Shield, Jan. 24. Ullr Shield is a training exercise designed to improve 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing's capabilities in extreme cold weather environments.



SGT. CHRIS GARCIA

Marines with Landing Support Company, 2nd Transportation Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group watch an MV-22 as it prepares to lift and transport a 400 gallon M-149 water tank trailer during sling load operations at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 25. The Marines conducted sling load operations to improve their proficiency with loading equipment onto aircraft for transportation.

The Rotary Club of Yucca Valley proudly presents

# 2018 Miss Yucca Valley Scholarship Pageant

February 3, 2018  
6:00 pm  
Joshua Springs Thunderdome

*Save the Date and Join us !*

Maggie Nelson was crowned 2017 Miss Yucca Valley while Hailey Green was crowned first princess, Emily Sheckler was crowned second princess and Kaylee Pope third princess.

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# Ready For Takeoff

Photos by Pfc. William Chockey



Marines with Marine fight Attack Squadron All-Weather 225 does a pre-flight check of a F-18 at the Air Combat Element landing strip at the Combat Center, Jan. 26, as a part of Integrated Training Exercise 2-18. The purpose of ITX is to create a challenging, realistic training environment that produces combat-ready forces capable of operating as an integrated MAGTF.



A Marine with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron All-Weather 225 does a pre-flight check of a F-18 at the Air Combat Element landing strip aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 26, as a part of Integrated Training Exercise 2-18.



A Marine with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron All-Weather 225 does a pre-flight check of a F-18 at the Air Combat Element landing strip aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 26, as a part of Integrated Training Exercise 2-18.



Marines with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron All-Weather 225 does a pre-flight check of a F-18 at the Air Combat Element landing strip aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 26, as a part of Integrated Training Exercise 2-18.



# RECYCLE



# do your part

## 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.

### 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](http://www.green29.org).

#### 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.

#### 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.



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

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

### Sunset Cinema

Friday — Feb. 2	Sunday — Feb. 4	Wednesday — Feb. 7
5 p.m. — Ferdinand PG	12:00 p.m. — Star Wars: The Last Jedi PG 13	5:00 p.m. — Ferdinand PG
7:30 p.m. — Downsizing R	3:30 p.m. — Insidious: The Last Key PG 13	7:20 p.m. — Pitch Perfect 3 PG 13
10:30 p.m. — Insidious: The Last Key PG 13	6:00 p.m. — Downsizing R	Thursday — Feb. 8
Saturday — Feb. 3	Monday — Feb. 5	6:30 p.m. — Star Wars: The Last Jedi PG 13
12:00 p.m. — Ferdinand (3-D) PG	6:30 p.m. — All The Money In The World R	Friday — Feb. 9
2:30 p.m. — Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle PG 13	Tuesday — Feb. 6	5:00 p.m. — Paddington 2 PG
5:30 p.m. — Star Wars: The Last Jedi PG 13	6:30 p.m. — Downsizing R	7:30 p.m. — Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle PG 13
		10:00 p.m. — The Post PG 13

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1/1/2018

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**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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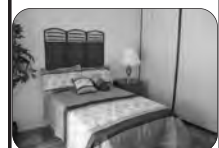
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**FURNITURE** 330

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**ESTATE SALE**

**ESTATE SALE**

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**SATURDAY 7:30AM - 2PM Feb. 3rd**  
**SUNDAY 8AM - NOON Feb. 4th**  
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FURNITURE - (CHINA CABINET)  
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Closing Date: Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

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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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