



Capt. David Murray, officer in charge, Fabrication Lab, launches the OPTERRA Unmanned Aerial System aboard the Combat Center, March 15. The Fabrication Lab is a facility for Marines and authorized civilians to innovate and experiment to overcome the common obstacles the Marine Corps provides.

Primed for the Future

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. DEVIN ANDREWS

The Fabrication Laboratory (FABLAB) conducted a proof of concept experiment aboard the Combat Center, March 15. The FABLAB, along with personnel from Tactical Training Exercise Control Group's Small Unidentified Aerial Systems (sUAS) cell, tested disruption of another drone through kinetic means.

"Drones will be prevalent on the next battlefield and we have already started to see it," said Capt. David Murray, officer in charge, FABLAB. "There is currently no universal defeat to drones, which is similar to fighting against an Improved Explosive Device (IED)."

According to Murray, the battlefield is constantly changing. As Marines we must adapt and overcome with unorthodox methods to accomplish the mission. From operations like Desert Shield and Desert Storm, to the current fight, constant development in all technological facets is required in order to stay ahead of the enemy. The FABLAB is currently following this trend by furthering progress on drones.

The FABLAB is open to all Marines, including Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School students, in order to expose them to some of the technology offered. Most of the Marines who partake in the FABLAB are from a generation



Capt. Brian Walpole, Aircraft Taxi Instructor, VMFA 232, fixes an Unmanned Aerial System aboard the Combat Center, March 15. The Fabrication Lab is a facility for Marines and authorized civilians to innovate and experiment to overcome the common obstacles the Marine Corps provides.

More photos: Page A6

that is exposed to more technology than the Marines who preceded them which leads to a faster understanding.

With the older generations providing operational experience from previous wars and the younger generations cultivating new ideas, more viable options are created for the battlefield. Whether those options are presented in the form of a new product or a refinement to a specific Technique, Tactic, or Procedure (TTP), they will benefit the Corps' chance for success.

The FABLAB identifies their

strong and weak points for each platform in order to understand the critical requirements needed to facilitate their mission. They have made it user friendly so any Marine can pick up a controller and go.

"As a whole, we need to understand that drones are not an isolated problem and they won't just affect the front lines," Murray said. "It's a universal thing that everyone will encounter in the battlefield of the future and programs like the FABLAB help ensure that we remain ready."



A Contra Costa County Sheriff shows Marines the Sheriff's Department tattoo regulations during the Education & Career Fair aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday. The Education & Career Fair is a tool for Marines looking to further their education, develop new skills and explore new career fields.

Career Fair held aboard the Combat Center

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. RACHEL K. PORTER

Marine Corps Community Services hosted the Education & Career Fair aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday.

The event was open to Marines seeking new opportunities, employment and various courses. U.S. park rangers, sheriffs and educational course representatives were among the entities present to provide attendees with knowledge and resources for life after the Marine Corps. The booths noted that education would bring the job-seeking Marines further with hiring opportunities, though it wasn't required.

"Marines are a notch above the rest," said Steve Markland, police recruiter, Recruiting Unit, San Diego Police Department. "The largest portion of the unit is Marines, and often times Marines become team leads

See **Career Fair** A6



Jessica C. Calhoun, assistant director of student veteran and military admissions, Office of Admissions, Syracuse University, shows a Marine a catalog of courses that Syracuse offers during the Education & Career Fair aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday.

Inside the Observation Post

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- B2 Movie Schedule



Mountain Marines compete in France

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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. Cody Ohira.



Marines view the Northern Lights during exercise Arctic Edge on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Mar. 10. Arctic Edge 2018 is a biennial, large-scale, joint-training exercise that prepares and tests the U.S. military's ability to operate tactically in the extreme cold-weather conditions found in arctic environments.



Reprinted from the Observation Post
March 25, 1958

Observation Post One Year Old

One anniversary candle and 47 issues ago, the Twenty-nine Palms Marine Corps Base newspaper became a reality. Its name, the Observation Post, was selected through a “Name Your Base Paper” contest, and the first issue went to press on Thursday, March 21, 1957 as a four-page bi-weekly. As stated in the first issue, the primary functions of this newspaper will be to supplement the broad news-coverage of the American press and radio by giving military personnel detailed coverage on service matters of particular interest to them.

Went Weekly

When only six issues old, the Observation Post went weekly on June 6. On July 18, the paper became eligible to compete for the Marine Corps’ Annual Journalism Award.

The privilege to compete was extended to the Base Paper on the basis of its growth and development, news coverage, journalistic excellence and general contribution to the welfare and morale of the command.

The Palms publication has been putting out a six page paper since February 4, 1958, which has

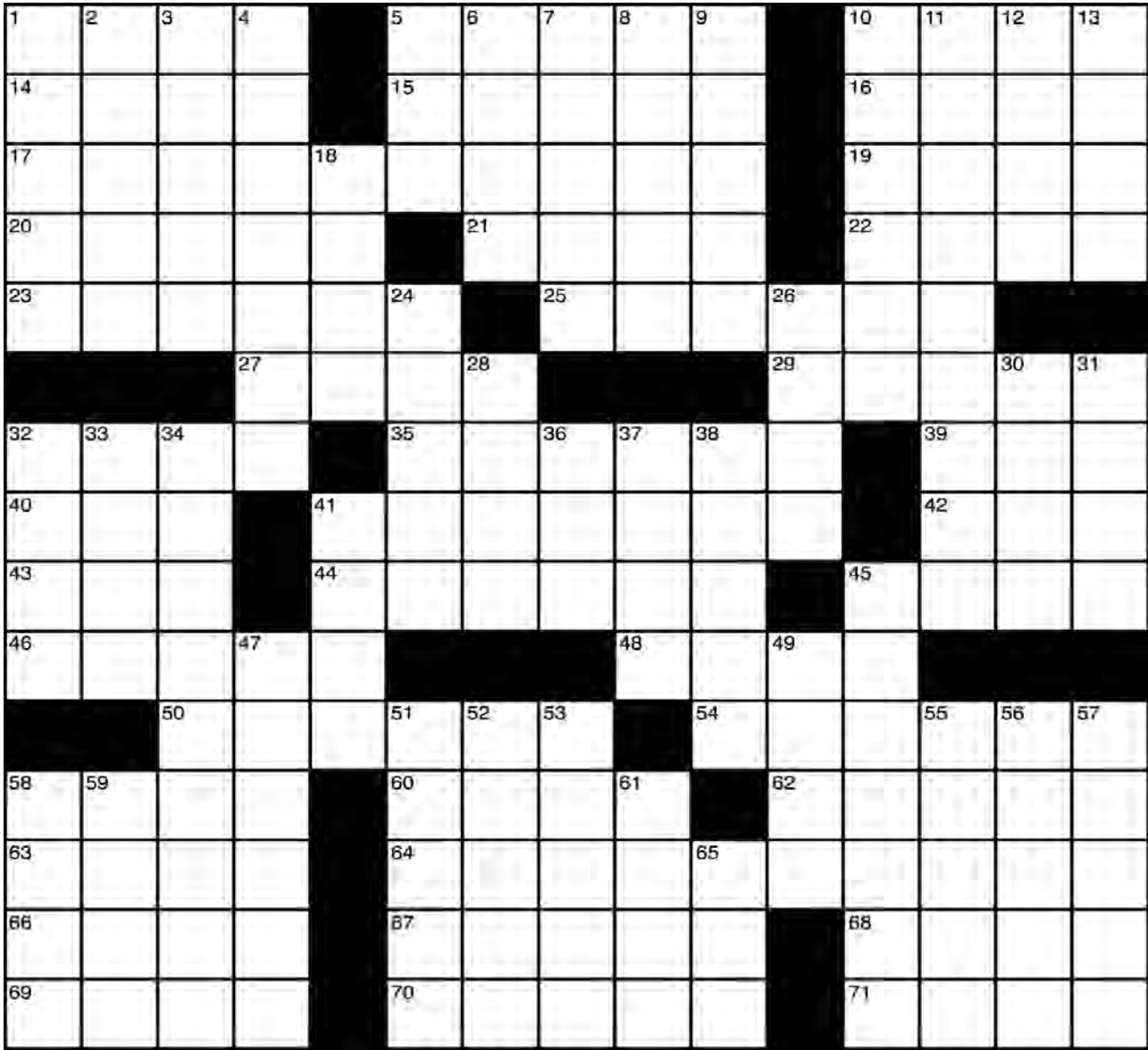
enabled wider coverage on service matters of particular interest to members of this base.

Birthday Celebration

In honor of its first birthday, the staff of the Informational Services Office had a birthday party. A cake, baked and decorated by Mess Hall No. 6, and other refreshments were served.

Guests of honor for the occasion were Brigadier General R. M. Victory, Commanding General Marine Corps Base, Colonel C. W. McCoy, Assistant Base Commander and Base Sgt. Maj. L. C. Delozier.

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1. Small drinks of.
- 5. Fishing vessel.
- 10. Beguile.
- 14. Venetian traveler Marco _.
- 15. Was consumed.
- 16. Moved fast.
- 17. White crystalline alicyclic hydrocarbon.
- 19. Objective case of “thou.”
- 20. Vertical pipe.
- 21. Other than.
- 22. To a smaller degree.
- 23. Repeated.
- 25. Magicians Penn & _.
- 27. Object-centered representation language.
- 29. Ascend.
- 32. Storage cellar.
- 35. Medical.
- 39. Hut.
- 40. Elaborate lyric poem.
- 41. So soon.
- 42. High mountain.
- 43. Wild animal shelter.
- 44. Blues-influenced Cajun dance music.
- 45. Dramatic composition.
- 46. Greek personification of peace.

- 48. L-shaped extensions.
- 50. Replenishes.
- 54. Secluded.
- 58. Become less reserved.
- 60. To such an extent.
- 62. Fissile rock.
- 63. Array.
- 64. Homopterous insect.
- 66. Hostilities.
- 67. Leave without permission.
- 68. Butterfly catchers.
- 69. Encounter in opposition.
- 70. Replanted plant.
- 71. Oak or pine.

Down

- 1. Save from embarrassment.
- 2. Containing iodine.
- 3. Pool or puddle.
- 4. Some person.
- 5. 100th part of a yen.
- 6. Buddy.
- 7. With inclination.
- 8. Burn incense near.
- 9. Rest on knee.
- 10. Hostler.
- 11. Globular.
- 12. Dregs.
- 13. Hellenic National Democratic army.

- 18. Combining form meaning “the planet Mars.”
- 24. Ornamental mat.
- 26. Male given name.
- 28. Reddish-brown chalcedony.
- 30. Alone.
- 31. Abbreviation for ethyl pyruvate.
- 32. Acronym for Certificate of Deposit Index.
- 33. French engineer Clemente _.
- 34. Impressive.
- 36. Starting place in golf.
- 37. Ginger root.
- 38. Figments of the mind.
- 41. Islam call to prayer.
- 45. Ancient Egyptian kings’ double crown.
- 47. Most recent.
- 49. For fear that.
- 51. The heavens.
- 52. Undivided.
- 53. Greek island in the east Aegean.
- 55. More uncommon.
- 56. Make happy.
- 57. Stretched tight.
- 58. Pursue neutrality.
- 59. Gap.
- 61. Small shark.
- 65. Favorite.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Troy Maddox Hachez

Born Feb. 2, 2018
Born to Ryan Hachez and Giana Scimo-Hachez

Carmen Rose Garcia

Born Feb. 7, 2018
Born to Destiny and Mayo Garcia

Kaylyn Savahn Drayton

Born Feb. 14, 2018
Born to Antwoine Drayton and Elisabeth Epperson-Drayton

William Mason Escobedo

Born Feb. 17, 2018
Born to Christopher Escobedo and Maritza Perez-Escobedo

Charlee Sue Gore

Born Feb. 22, 2018
Born to Matthew and Keilah Gore

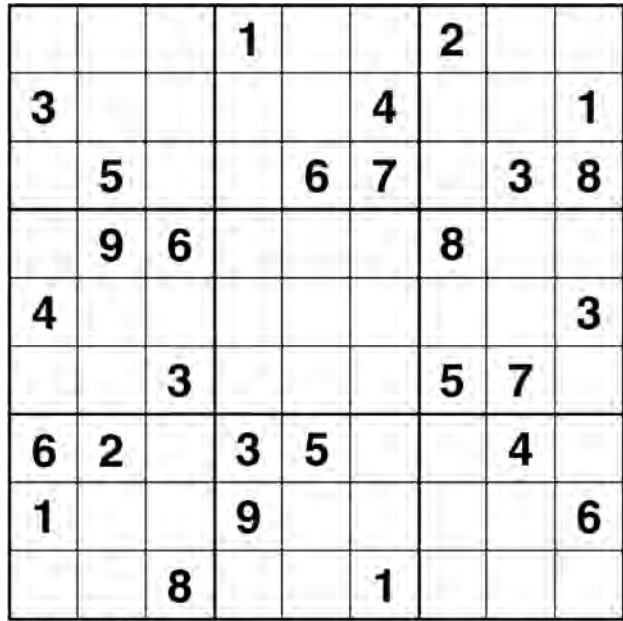
Gabriel Conrado

Born Feb. 23, 2018
Born to Alberto and Kathryn Conrado

Jayde Avery Head

Born Feb. 26, 2018
Born to Zachary and Paige Head

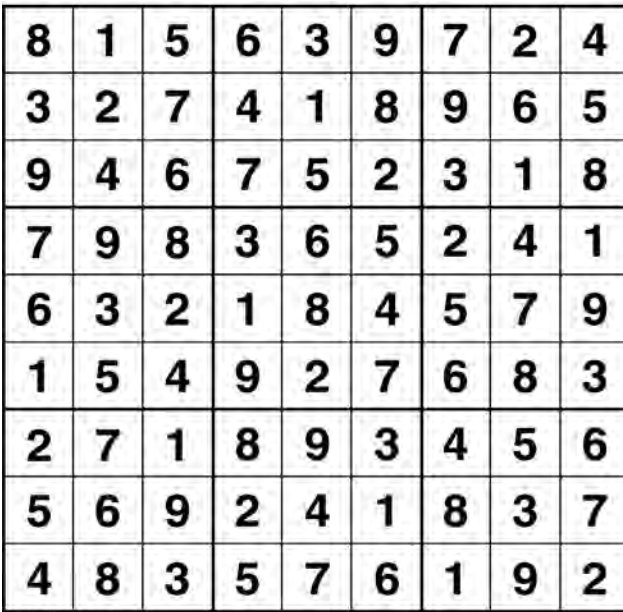
SUDOKU



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Difficult

Last week’s answers



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OFF-LIMITS ESTABLISHMENTS

MCWest 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

Mark GELETKO

Pittsburgh, Penn. Retired Marine Corps Sergeant Major

> **I was born and raised** in Pittsburgh, Penn., where I lived in a housing project in a large family setting. I had more than 50 cousins and other extended family members as my neighbors. I enjoyed having family around all the time because there was always something to do, or someone to play sports with.

> **It was normal for us** to play sports, so that's what we all did. I played football, ice hockey and baseball throughout high school.

> **After high school**, I started boxing and working at a steel mill, where I worked for three and a half years. I got laid off so I decided to go to college at Allegheny Junior College in Pennsylvania. I went to college for almost two years and played baseball and drove a truck part time.

> **In 1983 I realized** my life wasn't really going anywhere so I told my family I was thinking about the service. They automatically wanted me to join the Marine Corps. I decided to enlist into the United States Marine Corps when I was 23 as an 0311.

> **My first duty station** was in Okinawa, Japan. In those 2 years, I went on deployments in Korea, Guam and the Philippines. It was mind bending to be so far away from home and in an exotic environment. Around this time, I began training in other martial arts forms, like kick boxing and Muay Thai, and continued to box at an amateur level. I also became heavily involved in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program in its various forms.

> **My second duty station** was [Marine Corps Base] Camp Lejeune, N.C., at 2nd Marines Battalion. During my time there, I went on a Mediterranean/Marine Expeditionary Unit float through the Middle East and Europe in 1986. I met my wife, Anita, while we were both stationed in North Carolina. We got married in 1989 and a year later had my first son, Joseph.



> **After being in Camp Lejeune**, I was promoted to sergeant. I got orders to be a Primary Marksmanship Instructor on [Marine Corps Recruit Depot] Parris Island, S.C., where I coached Marines at the rifle range.

> **During my time** at Parris Island, I made a lot of friends who convinced me to get my B billet out of the way and get on the drill field. Being a drill instructor is a lot of hard work, both physically and mentally. I did really well on the drill field and was meritoriously promoted to staff sergeant.

> **After serving** my 2 year tour as a drill instructor, I got orders to [Marine Corps Base] Camp Pendleton, Calif., where

I deployed with a Marine Expeditionary Unit to the Western Pacific, Korea, Guam, Indonesia, the Philippines and Okinawa. I spent my last two years working at the Camp Pendleton brig as the Duty Warden. It was interesting because I got to see the underbelly of the Marine Corps.

> **In 1993 my second son**, Daniel, was born. Soon after, I was promoted to gunnery sergeant and got orders to [Marine Corps Base] Quantico, Virginia. I spent the beginning of my tour in Virginia working at the Security Battalion as a training chief. I later got the opportunity to be a senior drill instructor for the Officer Candidate School in the summer. I was retained at OCS as

permanent party and became the Company gunnery sergeant for Charlie Company.

> **After being there** for three years, I got promoted to first sergeant and got orders to Twentynine Palms, Calif. I arrived in the fall of 2001 and started off as 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, Fox Company's First Sergeant. I went on a Unit Deployment Program to Okinawa with them and two deployments to Iraq.

> **I was almost sent** out to Iraq again, but instead I was sent over to be the first sergeant at Marines Corps Communication-Electronics School for six months before I picked up Sergeant Major. It was very different going from grunt life to working with students, but my background as a drill instructor came in handy.

> **In 2004, I was moved** over to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 7th Marine Regiment, as their sergeant major, where I deployed to Iraq for 10 months. This deployment was interesting because our battalion covered a large area of Western Iraq, and had a lot of contact with insurgent forces. Our Marines patrolled frequently, and worked harder than any unit I had been stationed with in the past. They were the best young men I have ever had the pleasure of serving with.

> **When I got back** to Twentynine Palms, Headquarters Marine Corps attempted to give me orders to recruiting duty, but I opted to stay and move to Headquarters Battalion as the sergeant major. During this time, I was able to finish my degree in Organizational Management from Ashford University.

> **After 27 years** in the Marine Corps, I decided to retire. My family was doing well here so we stayed and I got a job on base with the Advisor Training Group in Camp Wilson, where I helped train teams to go to Afghanistan and train Afghan Police. I worked there for 3 years until the program was shut down. I've now been working as

a contractor out of 7th Marine Regiment as a PreDeployment coordinator for the past 4 years.

> **In 2007, after the last** Iraq deployment, I was able to help start Fight Club 29/Marine Mixed Martial Arts Team here at the Combat Center. My active duty fighters compete in boxing, kick-boxing, Muay Thai, Brazilian Ju Jitsu, submission grappling and mixed martial arts competitions all over the southwest United States.

> **Our team has multiple** championships and has placed two fighters in the UFC and one in Bellator, after their service in the Corps. Our team also trains women in boxing and Muay Thai for self defense, and regularly gives self defense classes to spouses and dependents here at the Combat Center. The team has been my passion the last ten years and as a life time martial artist, I am blessed to be able to give back to the installation's community.


> **I've been blessed** in my career, with little injuries and having the opportunity to see all aspects of the Marine Corps. It has helped me get where I am today. I enjoy what I do now and I am looking to start my Masters Degree program in Organizational Leadership at Azusa Pacific University this July. I hope someday to be able to teach at the University level.

> **Some of the wisdom** that has inspired me throughout my career is from Hebrews 12:11, which says "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

> **Another quote** that I live by is from Ghengis Khan 1207: "There's two types of pain, the temporary pain of discipline or the permanent pain of regret."

> **These quotes** speak to me because you have to be disciplined in your life and training to reap the rewards.

Interviewed and photographed by Lance Cpl. Jennessa Davey



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WeekINPhotos

3rd Recon conducts raid training with British Royal Marines



U.S. Marines with Force Reconnaissance Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force; British Royal Marines with J Company, 42 Commando and sailors with Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 conduct raids training with a section of MH-60Ss from Helicopter Sea Combat 25 on Tuesday in Guam. The units are conducting joint, combined training in order to develop shared standard-of-procedures in a visit, board, search and seizure environment so they can provide a more flexible and mission-ready capability to geographic combatant commanders in the Pacific.



U.S. Marines with Force Reconnaissance Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force; British Royal Marines with J Company, 42 Commando and sailors with Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 conduct special insertion and raids training with a section of MH-60Ss from Helicopter Sea Combat 25 on Monday in Guam.



U.S. Marines with Force Reconnaissance Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force; British Royal Marines with J Company, 42 Commando and sailors with Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 conduct raids training with a section of MH-60Ss from Helicopter Sea Combat 25 on Tuesday in Guam.

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U.S. Marines with Force Reconnaissance Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force; British Royal Marines with J Company, 42 Commando and sailors with Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 conduct raids training with a section of MH-60Ss from Helicopter Sea Combat 25 on Tuesday in Guam.

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Integrated Animal Management Information Sheet

This document provides general guidance for control of common animals found in the Mojave Desert and it is intended to be used as a basis for animal management action

Aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) animal management is a joint effort between the Public Works Department (PWD), Environmental Affairs (EA), Provost Marshal Office (PMO), Conservation Law Enforcement Program (CLEP) and Naval Hospital Twenty-nine Palms (NHTP) Preventive Medicine Department. Each entity has distinct responsibilities:

Animal	Primary Contact	Phone 760-830-	After Hours
Bats	EA	5728, 5719, 5720	EA 5200
Bees	PWD Pest Control	6271	PWD 6271
Birds¹	PWD Pest Control	6650	PWD 6271
Birds²	EA	5728, 5719, 5720	EA 5200
Coyotes	CLEP	3293, 3042	PMO 6800
Domestics³	PMO	6800	N/A
Insects/Household	PWD Pest Control	6271	PWD 6271
Road-Kill	PMO	6800	N/A
Rodents	PWD Pest Control	6271	PWD 6271
Snakes	EA	5728, 5719, 5720	EA 5200
Tortoises⁴	EA	5728, 5719, 5720	EA 5200

¹ Pest bird species: **Pigeon (Rock Dove), European Starling, English House Sparrow.**

² All others include Prey & Non-Pest species: **Owls, Raptors, Eagles, Ravens, Non-Pest bird species**

³ Domestic animal species are commonly tamed and kept by humans as pets, food sources and work animals; they include but are not limited to species such as dogs, cats, and hamsters.

⁴ Tortoises: **Mainside:** Call EA, after hours call PMO, PMO will have call back numbers 24 hours, 7 Days. **Training Areas:** BEARMAT (Range Control)

Managing Animals/Pests

Animal and/or pest control begins with good housekeeping. While maintaining your facilities operational status and cleanliness, look for signs of pest activity such as staining from urine, fecal droppings and unpleasant smells.

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Career Fair From A1

from the start because of the plethora of knowledge they provide to their civilian counterparts.”

Gunnery Sgt. Edward Hernandez, company 1st Sergeant, Company D, Communication Training Battalion, said that he was preparing to leave the Corps and transition into civilian life after retiring. His focal point of attending the fair was to seek out law enforcement or federal jobs because of the security, benefits and similarity to the Marine Corps.

Former Marines attended the fair as well to speak about their experiences once they got out of the Corps.

“I want other veterans to know that it’s not sunshine and rainbows when you get out of the military,” said Manadou “Baly” Coulibaly, sales manager, Defend Guard Protect. “It’s important to plan for life outside, and events like this assist with that.”



A Marine speaks to Steve Markland, police recruiter, Recruiting Unit, San Diego Police Department, about job opportunities with the department during the Education & Career Fair aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday.



A Marine speaks to a California Highway Patrol officer about job opportunities during the Education & Career Fair aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday.

Primed for the Future



Capt. Brian Walpole, Aircraft Taxi Instructor, VMFA 232, observes the OPTERRA Unmanned Aerial System aboard the Combat Center, March 15.

Capt. Brian Walpole, Aircraft Taxi Instructor, VMFA 232, observes the OPTERRA Unmanned Aerial System aboard the Combat Center, March 15.

More information
See story
Page A1




The Bloody Wonder (modified), an agile Unmanned Aerial System, was created at the Fabrication Lab aboard the Combat Center, March 15.

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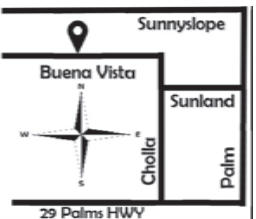
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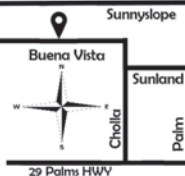
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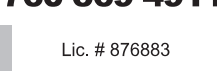
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IN THE ALPS

Mountain Marines compete in France



Marines from the Mountain Leaders Section, Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., summit during the main touring event at the Mountain Troops Winter Challenge 2018, Chamrousse, France, March 14. "Team America" is one of six international teams participating in the competition of mountain infantry skills and tactics.

CHAMROUSSE, France — After competing the week prior in Germany, the Mountain Leaders Section, Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., traveled to the French Alps to compete in the Mountain Troops Winter Challenge 2018, a competition that tests mountain warfare skills and tactics, hosted by the French Army. This marked the first time that U.S. Marines competed in MTWC-18.

Located at the renowned Chamrousse ski resort high above the city of Grenoble, the event provided some challenging Olympic-tier courses and incredibly difficult scenarios. In addition to the French hosts, teams from Germany, Italy, Lebanon, Georgia and the United Kingdom took part in the event.

The first of two days consisted of a welcoming introduction by the French leadership, the international teams familiarizing themselves with the French FAMAS service rifle, and later into the evening, the main touring ski event up to the top of the summit at Chamrousse. The event posed significant challenges due to the steep incline on certain portions of the track and incredibly high winds. While the first competitors reached the top around 8:30 p.m., the Marines summited around 9:15 p.m., in front of the Lebanese and Georgian teams and several French teams.



Marines from the Mountain Leaders Section, Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., point out their course before the main touring event at the Mountain Troops Winter Challenge 2018, Chamrousse, France, March 14.

After every team had summited, they were given torches to carry down the mountain in ceremonial fashion per French tradition. At the bottom of the mountain a small celebration was held to commemorate the completion of the first day, with a light show and hot food.

The second day of the competition consisted of another touring ski event up the mountain, with a casualty evacuation with a snow litter on the way back down. The shooting portion was cancelled due to hazardous weather conditions at the summit where shooting

would have taken place. The competition concluded with a final award ceremony. Overall, the Marines placed fourth internationally among the six nations that participated in the competition.

"It has been a pleasure to have the U.S. Marines compete

here this year," said the French Major who was the primary organizer and requested to remain anonymous. "We hope that you enjoyed yourself and enjoyed the challenge, and we hope to see you again next year."



Marines from the Mountain Leaders Section, Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., begin their ascent for the main touring event at the Mountain Troops Winter Challenge 2018, Chamrousse, France, March 14.



Marines from the Mountain Leaders Section, Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., approach the summit during the touring event at the Mountain Troops Winter Challenge 2018, Chamrousse, France, March 14.



Competitors, including Marines from the Mountain Leaders Section, Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., move from the start of the main touring event at the Mountain Troops Winter Challenge 2018, Chamrousse, France, March 14.



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