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Osprey pilots train at mountain resort town

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN
EDITOR / PRESS CHIEF

Pilots of the MV-22B Osprey from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 365, out of Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., are ready for the mountains of Afghanistan, thanks to a local skiing hot spot.

Several Ospreys invaded the Big Bear Airport, in Big Bear, Calif., July 25 and 26, for some high altitude training unmatched by even the expansive Combat Center training areas. The area's surface elevation hits above 6,700 feet, more than 4,500 feet higher than any landing zone the Combat Center can offer.

It is vital for pilots to train for the higher altitudes because they offer a different set of challenges than the pilots regularly encounter, said Capt. Aaron Huffman, one of the MV-22B Osprey pilots who took advantage of the exercise.

"[The Ospreys] handle a lot differently," added Capt. Neil Saaiman, one of the

VMM-365 pilots who flew with Huffman. "At high altitudes, the air is a lot thinner. And it's still relatively hot at Big Bear, so we get the benefit of learning how to fly the aircraft under hot and high conditions, which are very similar to the conditions we will encounter in Afghanistan."

For pilots like Huffman and Saaiman, who have already deployed with the Ospreys, this was merely a refresher. But for the newer, less-experienced pilots, this was their first glimpse at what to expect when the unit deploys.

"It's good training for when we go to Afghanistan here in the upcoming months," Huffman said. "We'll be operating in high altitude, higher [density altitude]. It's a good time to teach them how the aircraft will perform."

The pilots spent the rest of the afternoon landing and taking off on the small air strip, drawing a crowd of both local pilots and vacationing families to the fence lines. This gave the more than 30 VMM-365 Marines



An MV-22B Osprey with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 365, out of New River, N.C., soars over the California landscape July 25. Two birds and their crews flew to Big Bear, Calif., to practice high-altitude flying.

who tagged along for the exercise a rare chance to mingle with the public.

The Marines were on-

hand to answer questions about the Ospreys. They even took a few photos with those who asked, much to

the amusement of children who had never seen Marines up close and a handful of combat veteran pilots who

fly only for pleasure now.

"It gives us the opportunity

See OSPREY, A8



Marines with VMM-365, check out the view from an MV-22 Osprey July 25.



Ospreys with VMM-365, prepare to take off July 25.



An MV-22 Osprey with VMM-365, takes off from the Big Bear Airport July 25.

Javelin Thrust Marines hold helo heavy lifting exercise

CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. - When Marines

head into battle, they move in fast and hard against the enemy, and sometimes the quickest way to receive supplies is by a quick drop-off from a CH-53E Super Stallion.

The Marines and sailors of

Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 44, and a CH-53E Super Stallion, with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772, polished their skills in both day and night exercises utilizing the exterior rigging in the mountainous terrain of Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center July 19.

Instead of using real equipment for the training, the Marines used a concrete block to practice hooking up and lifting equipment.

Since they were lifting concrete, they could focus on the basics and not have to worry about the straps getting caught on parts of the equipment. But there are still dangers with this training, said Capt. Sean M. Tremblay, the landing support officer with Support Co., CLB-44 and a native of Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

"The two biggest worries we have is electrocution from the buildup of static electricity and being hit in the head by the wheels or the tires," said Cpl. Walter Broadhurst, the non-commissioned officer in charge of Support Co., CLB-44 and a native of Charlotte, N.C.

As the training began, the Marines stayed focused and intent on using the training to the fullest extent.

"There may be a lot of us here for this training, but we are all learning how to work

See HELO, A7



LANCE CPL. BRENNAN O'LOWNEY

U.S. Marines with Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, dig holes to place M252 81mm mortar systems in support of Exercise Talisman Sabre 2011.

Mortarmen rock Townshend Island

LANCE CPL. GARRY J. WELCH
31ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

TOWNSHEND ISLAND, Australia - About 80 Marines and sailors with 81mm Mortars Platoon, Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, participated in a four-day exercise with Australian service members, July 10-14.

During the exercise, Marines and Australian forces coordinated mortar fire, naval gun fire and airstrikes. As Marines fired mortars suppressing one target, air strikes and naval gun fire destroyed others simultaneously in the joint live fire exercise.

"This exercise is really good training for both the Australian forces and

Marines," said Staff Sgt. Robert L. Gallup, a section leader with 81mm Mortar Platoon, Weapons Co., BLT 2/7, 31st MEU. "Aircraft coming in can't fly under our rounds like they can with artillery, so the timing has to be exact, accounting for the time it takes for a fired round to hit the target, the time the aircraft has to drop its ordinance, and for us to cease our fires."

Gallup went on to say coordination is crucial; the timing has to be perfect for every fire mission so the Australian aircraft are not in any danger.

"We can't let one go out too late or too early," said Gallup. "We also make sure we are suppressing whatever mock targets are out there that could potentially hurt

See MORTAR, A6



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Marines with Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 44, hook up a 4,800 pound concrete block to a CH-53E Super Stallion, with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772, during Operation Javelin Thrust at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center July 19.

How TRICARE works with other health insurance

SHARON FOSTER

TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

The coordination of benefits between TRICARE and other health insurance (OHI) can be confusing. If a beneficiary has health care coverage through an employer, public or private insurance program, including government programs such as Medicare, he or she is considered to have OHI.

If a beneficiary has OHI, he or she should tell his or her provider and regional health care contractor.

Beneficiaries should also fill out the OHI form located on their regional health care contractor's website at <http://www.tricare.mil/contactus>. Keeping the regional health care contractor informed about the OHI will allow TRICARE to better coordinate benefits and will help ensure that there is no delay in payment of claims.

TRICARE is the secondary payer when a beneficiary has OHI. Before TRICARE considers the claim, the beneficiary's OHI must pay first. The exceptions are Medicaid and TRICARE supplemental plans. Please go to TRICARE's website to learn more at <http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/Medical/OHI>.

After the other insurer pays, TRICARE will pay what is left up to the TRICARE allowable charge, which is the maximum amount TRICARE will authorize for medical and other services furnished in an inpatient or outpatient setting. There is no change in benefit limits when TRICARE is the secondary payer.

Beneficiaries need to be sure to submit all claims to TRICARE because deductibles may be applied to their annual catastrophic cap. The beneficiary's provider may submit secondary claims as well.

To reduce pharmacy costs, a beneficiary's best option is to use a TRICARE retail network pharmacy that is also covered by their OHI. After the OHI pays, TRICARE may reimburse the beneficiary for part or all of their out-of-pocket costs, including copayments. Beneficiaries are not eligible to fill prescriptions via home delivery if they have OHI with a prescription plan, including a Medicare Part D prescription program, unless they meet one of the following requirements:

- The medication they need is not covered by their OHI.
- They have met their OHI's benefit cap.

If the OHI provides only medical coverage, not pharmacy coverage, he or she still may be eligible to use home delivery (<http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery>) as their prescription benefit. Beneficiaries can go to <http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/Prescriptions/OHI> for pharmacy questions or contact Express Scripts, Inc. at 877-363-1303.

Active duty service members, including activated National Guard and Reserve members, cannot use OHI. TRICARE is their primary payer.

Centerspeak

Which celebrity would you like to invite to be your date to the Marine Corps Ball?

Opinions expressed in Centerspeak are not necessarily those of the OBSERVATION POST, the Marine Corps or the Department of Defense.



PFC. JULIO RODRIGUEZ

COMPANY B, MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

"Jessica Alba. I've always thought that she was beautiful and a very good actress."



LANCE CPL. ANDREW BRYANT

COMPANY G, 2ND BATTALION, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT

"That's a tough question! I'd probably take Zoe Kravitz, from the new X-Men movie. She's beautiful and outgoing, and she's unique. Uniqueness is a big thing for me."



CPL. JAKE ALEXANDER

COMPANY C, 3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE

"Id take Jennifer Aniston. She's been a long-time crush."

Hot Topics

ONLINE SHOE SURVEY

Completing an online survey about athletic shoes for the Exchange could be worth \$250. Complete the survey by July 31, and your name will be automatically entered into a drawing to win one of two gift certificates good for \$250 worth of athletic shoes. Winners will be posted on the survey's website by Aug. 10. Check it out at <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/mcxsurvey>.

INTRAMURAL FOOTBALL COMPETITION

The Commanding General's Intramural Football League season begins Aug. 29, and ends Dec. 10. Entry deadline for teams will be Aug. 5. There is a mandatory coaches Aug. 10 at 10 a.m. in building 1341. All active duty members and their families, DOD employees and civilian contractors of at least 18 years of age are eligible to play. Team sizes are limited to 40 players and two coaches. Games will be Mondays and Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m. at Felix Field. For more information, call 830-4092.

Marine Corps History

July 28, 1918

Brigadier Gen. John A. Lejeune assumed command of the Army's 2nd Division in France, and remained in that capacity until August 1919, when the unit was demobilized. He was the first Marine officer to hold an Army divisional command. Following the Armistice, he led his division in the march into Germany.



Immediately report any suspicious activity which may be a sign of terrorism, including:

1. Surveillance
2. Suspicious questioning
3. Tests of security
4. Acquiring supplies
5. Suspicious persons
6. Trial runs
7. Deploying assets

830-3937



SEMPERTOONS: CREATED BY GUNNERY SGT. CHARLES WOLF, USMC/RET.

SUDOKU #2249

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2011 HOMETOWN CONTENT

FROM A TO B

[Puzzle solutions on A4]

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ACROSS

1. Disinclined
2. Toxins phased out by 1970s
3. Rookie socialites
4. Nebraska's largest city
5. Border on
6. Leap for Lipinski
7. Hit the cushion, in pool
8. McEntire of the country
9. Enticement to a trout
10. Pasta-and-potatoes-loving singer?
11. Mooch
12. Unappetizing fare
13. Most in need of a breakdown
14. One of two drawn in "Hangman"
15. Cupcake topper
16. Shakespearean prince
17. Reference citer, in a manuscript
18. Leaning to the right
19. ___ IRA
20. Maple's yield
21. War time harbor
22. Hazard
23. Catchall category
24. Whales the tar out of
25. Web site address part
26. Poi source
27. Several reps, in the weight room
28. Fit to consume
29. Trillion: Prefix
30. Iraqis and Qataris
31. Worker for the Belgrade Red Cross?
32. Comic Rudner
33. "Peek-__!"
34. Cosmetics' Lauder
35. Autocrat until 1917
36. Penny-pinching
37. Pave over
38. Mint or chive
39. Says further
40. Word after running or flying

DOWN

1. Centers of activity
2. Epps of "House"
3. Bern's river
4. Revealing swimsuit
5. Town that rid rats
6. Great Wall of China features
7. Radio "good buddy"
8. Good ol' boy's nickname
9. Penn or Grand Central: Abbr.
10. Mild-mannered religious leader?
11. Radiate, as charm
12. Arctic floaters
13. Wintry forecast
14. Designer Chanel
15. Cyberspace "room" activity
16. Ho ___ Minh
17. Bushy hairdo
18. Chant with the cheerleaders
19. The first "computer bug" in fact
20. Change chemically
21. Caustic-witted star of silent movies?
22. Many campaign promises, it's suspected
23. Legalese memo phrase
24. Porter's "___ Magnifique"
25. Shares the regular starting job, in baseball
26. Holds up
27. Musial's cap monogram
28. Classic Nabisco treat
29. Sites for skirmishes
30. You are there
31. Greet the day
32. Mongol invader
33. Dwindled
34. Black-ink entry
35. Dryer batch
36. Singer James or Jones
37. Bring up the ___ (follow behind)
38. Convy or Parks
39. Physicians' org.

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Margie Trandem
Hometown: Twentynine Palms, Calif.
Unit: Resident Officer in Charge of Construction, Naval Facilities Engineering Command.
Job title: Engineering Technician.
Job duties: Provides oversight of quality control and safety on the government's construction contracts. Ensures the general contractor is fulfilling the government's guidelines.
What is your favorite aspect of your job?: "That every day is different. I like successfully solving problems, creating win/win situations for everyone."
What is your least favorite aspect of your job?: "In a word, paperwork."
How did you get started in this field?: "I started as a receptionist for a residential builder 19 years ago. I moved into customer care/service for residents, then into landscaping plans, eventually evolving into what I do now."
Hobbies: "I like line dancing and would like to do more hiking."
Time at Combat Center: "With this job, since October 2009."
What is an interesting fact about yourself that most people don't know?: "I was actually born on this base, when the hospital was where the DEERS office is now. My dad retired from this base. As a Marine, I was stationed here. Now I work here as a civilian."



DIANE DURDEN

OBSERVATION POST

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Schoolhouse welcomes new principal

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
DIANE DURDEN

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

The Corps' largest military occupational specialty school welcomed their new commander, Col. Gregory Breazile, during a change of command ceremony held at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field July 22.

Breazile accepted the command of the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School from Col. David Terando, who is being reassigned as the chief of staff for Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"This unit impacts every other unit in the Marine Corps," said Breazile, speaking on the school's importance. "There is not one unit out there that doesn't have communicators. They all rely on that piece to connect it together."

During 2010, the average student population at MCCES was approximately 1,600. With more than 500 scheduled classes and 238 training days, the school graduates nearly 18,500 Marines and international students annually.

"I understand the great responsibility I have," Breazile said. "I will do my best to take care of these Marines, and train them so they are combat ready when they leave here."

When students leave the school, many of them can expect to go to deploying units.

"They have to be ready on day one," Breazile added.

Understanding the far-reaching impact the school has on the Marine Corps is a

common denominator for its commanders.

"Our success on the battlefield today and the capabilities that we have are due to the new equipment we're fielding and how good and technical it is," said Terando. "None of that would work without the Marines."

"Other services man the equipment," he added. "In the Marine Corps, we equip the Marine. It's about the Marine; it's not about the equipment. None of that equipment would work without the Marines that have trained here today, that are trained in this school."

The transition from one commander to another began almost a year ago when Breazile was selected.

"[Terando] reached out to me because he wanted to set this place up for success," said Breazile.

Terando continued to include Breazile in meetings throughout the year.

"It's not about us," Breazile said. "It's about the institution, and [Terando] realizes that. That's why he was such a great commander. I hope to be half as good as him, and then [the Marines] will be in great hands."

Empowering Marines to get their job done is the new commander's leadership philosophy.

"I want to keep it simple for the Marines," Breazile said. "They know they have authority to get their mission accomplished, to do what they need to in order to teach these Marines."



Col. Gregory Breazile [left], incoming commander, and Col. David Terando, outgoing commander, listen to the Combat Center's band play the Marines' Hymn as the last element of the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field July 22.



Col. Gregory Breazile, the new commander of Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School said he was honored to be the school's new commander.



Col. Gregory Breazile [left] accepts the school's colors from Col. David Terando during the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field July 22. The exchange of the unit's colors signifies the shift in command from one Marine to the other.

CLB-31 supports BLT 2/7 during Talisman Sabre 2011

LANCE CPL.
GARRY J. WELCH

31ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

SHOALWATER BAY TRAINING AREA, QUEENSLAND, Australia – Behind every combat unit, there is logistic support. For the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, there is Combat Logistics Battalion 31.

CLB-31 has been supporting Company G, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 31st MEU during ongoing scenario-based operations tak-

ing place as part of exercise Talisman Sabre 2011.

"Our mission is to support the BLT with logistics," Maj. Calvin M. Gadsden, the executive officer of CLB-31, 31st MEU. "Right now we are providing them specifically with fuel, water, and chow. We are also providing a maintenance capability for the vehicles that break down, as well as medical care."

Throughout CLB-31's participation in the field exercise, Marines and sailors have gotten a chance to learn a different aspect of their jobs

than would in garrison.

"My Marines learned a great deal about conducting operations in an austere environment," said Gadsden. "For many of the Marines, they are used to operating out of a base camp or a built-up environment. In this particular exercise we had to support the operations and be very mobile so we did not use a lot of things that we would normally use."

Gadsden went on to say they also had to provide their own security so they got a chance to utilize some

of the basic skills that every Marine learns.

"I had to create a security detail for my Marines," he said. "They had an opportunity to man defensive positions and do some patrols which are a great opportunity for them."

The ability to utilize those basic skills, and advance their knowledge within their job, helps prepare the Marines for a deployment into a combat zone.

"It helps them because we have seen that we can face a myriad of tasks and missions," said Gadsden. "My Marines have had an opportunity to participate in an environment with a vast array of requirements, which is very realistic to what they may encounter in Afghanistan."

In addition to Marines building on their skills, Navy corpsmen attached to the unit have utilized their skills in the scenario-based operation as well.

"We're here to support CLB-31 and the BLT with medical capabilities," said Petty Officer 1st Class Anthony D. Diaz, a corpsman with CLB-31. "During the beach landing we had simulated casualties that we treated, and when we moved forward to Sam Hill we continued to provide these Marines with that first line of medical coverage."

Overall, the Marines and sailors expressed they were enjoying their time spent in Australia, learning with the Australians and hope to be able to participate in the joint

exercise again.

TS11 is the largest joint military exercise undertaken by the Australian Defence Force. Around 14,000 U.S. and 9,000 Australian personnel will participate. TS11 provides an opportunity to conduct operations in a combined and joint environment that will increase both countries' bilateral war-fighting capabilities to respond to crisis and to provide humanitarian assistance.

The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and remains the nation's force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.



LANCE CPL. GARRY J. WELCH

Navy Corpsmen with Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, treat a simulated casualty July 23. The 31st MEU is participating in a scenario-based operation during exercise Talisman Sabre 2011. TS11 is the largest joint military exercise undertaken by the Australian Defence Force. Around 14,000 U.S. and 9,000 Australian personnel will participate. TS11 provides an opportunity to conduct operations in a combined and joint environment that will increase both countries' bilateral war-fighting capabilities to respond to crisis and to provide humanitarian assistance. The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and remains the nation's force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.

Food specialists keep Javelin Thrust moving

CPL. ANDREW THORBURN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. – As the old saying goes, an army marches on its stomach. To keep Marines and sailors “marching” during Operation Javelin Thrust, food specialists from participating units gather together to provide a hot meal every day.

To prepare thousands of rations for Marines in dispersed training areas, the day begins early in the morning said, Gunnery Sgt. David Anderson, a field mess chief with 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

After everything is organized, the cooks can begin actually preparing the tons of food required to feed the Marines for one meal.

“The hardest part is keeping the quality up with the quantity of food we are cooking every day,” said Sgt. Timothy Lisenko, a platoon sergeant with 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, and a native of Chicago.

Once the food is cooked and the Marines finish eating, the cooks have to clean everything up before they can call it a day.

Food service is another example of active duty and reserve Marines working alongside each other to



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Marines and sailors enjoy their evening meal provided by reserve and active duty food specialists July 20. The service members are participating in Operation Javelin Thrust at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif.

accomplish their mission during Javelin Thrust.

“The active duty Marines have been teaching us some of their tricks and we have been teaching them some of ours,” Lisenko said. “This has been a great experience with everyone learning a lot and gaining a lot of experience with our job field.”

All the work improving the quality of food produced by the cooks is for their brothers and sisters to keep on training.

“The evening chow is a time for the Marines to come sit down together, and it acts like a morale boost after a long day’s hard work,” Lisenko said.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Lance Cpl. Yessenia Pena, a food specialist with 6th Communications Battalion, from New York, and Lance Cpl. Johny Contreras, a food specialist with Rations Co., Supply Bn., from Washington, chop tomatoes for dinner during Operation Javelin Thrust July 20.

SJA CORNER

Political activities: Service members’ rights, obligations

CAPT. SHANNON MAWSON
LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICER

The election season is approaching, and as Americans and service members, we all enjoy representing the candidate who we feel is best fit for the job.

Some of us are a little more zealous than others in how we express our support. It is important to know as service members what our rights and obligations are when it comes to supporting our “team” in the upcoming elections.

MARADMIN 414-11 provides guidance for Marines and civilian employees on regulations and policies prohibiting official involvement or the appearance of official involvement in partisan political activities. Additionally, all active duty service members are subject to the restrictions of DOD Directive 1344.10, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces.

In general, a service member may:

- Register to vote;
- Vote;
- Encourage others to vote;
- Make a financial contribution to a political party or candidate;
- Participate fully in the federal voting assistance program;
- Express a personal opinion on political candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the Armed Forces;
- Join a partisan or nonpartisan political club and attend its meetings when not in uniform;
- Display a bumper sticker on a privately owned vehicle and place a yard sign on their property so long as that property is not located on a military installation; and
- Attend partisan and nonpartisan political fundraising activities, meetings, rallies, debates, conventions, or activities as a spectator when not in uniform and when no interference or appearance of official sponsorship, approval or endorsement can reasonably be drawn.

A service member may not:

- Participate in partisan political fundraising activities, rallies, conventions, management of campaigns to include basic clerical duties, or debates;
- Serve in any official capacity with, or be listed as a sponsor of, a partisan political club;
- Speak before a partisan political gathering, including any gathering that promotes a partisan political party, candidate or cause;
- Participate in any radio, television, or other program or group discussion as an advocate for or against a partisan political party, candidate or cause;
- Display a political sign larger than a bumper sticker

See SJA, A7

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

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| ROTH | SAP | MINE |
| OTHERS | CLOBBERS | |
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| EATABLE | TERA | |
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SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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Reconnaissance Marines join air wing to perform fast-roping maneuver

**STORY AND PHOTOS
BY LANCE CPL.
CHELSEA FLOWERS**

MARINE FORCES RESERVE

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz. – Marines with Medium Helicopter Squadron-764 joined forces with 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company Marines in a tactical insertion exercise as part of Operation Javelin Thrust 2011, a reserve training exercise.

HMM-764 Marines geared up the two CH-46E Sea Knights for the operation. The mission involved a tactical insertion maneuver, which enables troops to be dropped in precise locations too small for traditional airplane landings.

“It’s a huge benefit,” said

Sgt. Cedric V. Ruffin, HMM-764 crew chief. “It’s the difference between someone getting dropped off and getting right into a fight and having to walk 15 miles and then get into a fight.”

The CH-46, a medium-lift cargo helicopter, possesses the ability to hover while dropping Marines onto areas as small as buildings and from heights up to 90 feet. This is done through a technique called fast-roping.

In a fast-roping maneuver, a hatch is opened under the aircraft and a rope attached to the helicopter is dropped. Amidst a shower of rocks and sand kicked up by the Sea Knight, reconnaissance Marines then slide down the rope to the ground and engage enemy combatants.

“It’s the fastest way to get guys on the ground without having to actually land,” said Cpl. Stephen M. Conroy, a 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company Marine.

The CH-46 is additionally valuable because it can carry more cargo than traditional helicopters, but can land in tighter spaces with quicker stops and takeoffs than airplanes, said Sgt. Anthony M. King, HMM-764 crew chief. The aircraft can carry up to 5,000 pounds of troops and equipment, allowing for larger numbers of troops to be dropped in a particular area.

Once on the ground, the reconnaissance Marines searched enemy locations for more information using intelligence already obtained.

“You can only get so much intelligence from the air,” said Sgt. Daniel A. Franklin, a 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company team leader. “On the ground it’s a whole different perspective. You can see how people are acting. Actually having humans out there gathering intelligence gives you a better perspective of what’s actually happening on the ground.”

Both 3rd Force Reconnaissance Marines and HMM-764 Marines will be engaging in multiple exercises as part of Javelin Thrust. The goal of the exercise is to develop unity among dispersed units toward a common goal: supporting the Marine Corps mission in a deployed environment.

“This exercise helps other units to utilize helicopters into their (Military Occupational Specialty) field,” said King. “That way they know how to use us and they know how to coordinate with us and interact with us. That’s very important.”



The 3rd Reconnaissance Company Marines fast-roped out of a CH-46 and provide cover during a tactical insertion exercise at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., July 20. The fast-roping exercise was one of many training exercises taking place during Operation Javelin Thrust 2011.



Sgt. Cedric V. Ruffin, HMM-764 crew chief, looks out the side of a CH-46 during a tactical insertion training exercise at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., July 20. The exercise was one of many performed during Operation Javelin Thrust 2011 to prepare Reserve Marines for deployment.



A CH-46 Sea Knight flies alongside another CH-46 in a tactical insertion exercise at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., July 20. In the training exercise, reconnaissance Marines fast-roped out of the CH-46 to simulate the small area insertions the helicopter can perform.

MORTAR, from A1

that aircraft so it's not shot down."

Although this was only an exercise, the Marines gained valuable experience that they could use during a combat deployment.

"Constantly being in the field and working with the weapon system creates good muscle memory that makes you that much more efficient with it," said Cpl. Michael Hanna, a squad leader and Mortarmen with a combat deployment to both Iraq and Afghanistan. "So when we are in a combat environment and a fire mission gets called in, we can respond quickly and get our rounds out accurately."

Marines were not the only service members that benefited from the exercise.

"Bilateral training like this is always mutually beneficial for both sides. You always learn from each other," said Australian Maj. Stuart Seabrook, the senior exercise controller for exercise Talisman Sabre on Townsend Island. "I have certainly learned more since I've been here, and to me, this proves bilateral training does work, and we learn lessons as we go."

Seabrook, who has worked with Marines in both Iraq and Afghanistan, went on to say he was surprised by how quickly the Australian forces and U.S. Marine Corps integrated, and they produced some amazing results coordinating all the assets that were present for the exercise.

For most of the Marines present, exercise Talisman Sabre 2011 was the first time they had set foot in Australia.

"This is the first time I have been here, and it has been a blast," said Robinson. "Getting to know and work with Australians is really cool, and I hope I get a chance to come back here



LANCE CPL. GARRY J. WELCH

Lance Cpl. Kyle J. Palmer [left], an assistant gunner, and Lance Cpl. Samuel E. Robertson [right], also a gunner, both with 81mm Mortars Platoon, Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, fire a mortar during a joint live fire exercise July 12. Marines and sailors of the 31st MEU were in Australia participating in exercise Talisman Sabre 2011.

and do it again."

Good weather added to the positive experience that many of the Marines had.

"It was ideal weather for training," said Gallop. "It remained sunny pretty much the entire time, but even if it would have been raining, we'd still be able to fire and still would have. It is something that can happen in combat, so if it had happened here, we would have kept training. It's better to work out any kinks here

then work them out in a combat situation."

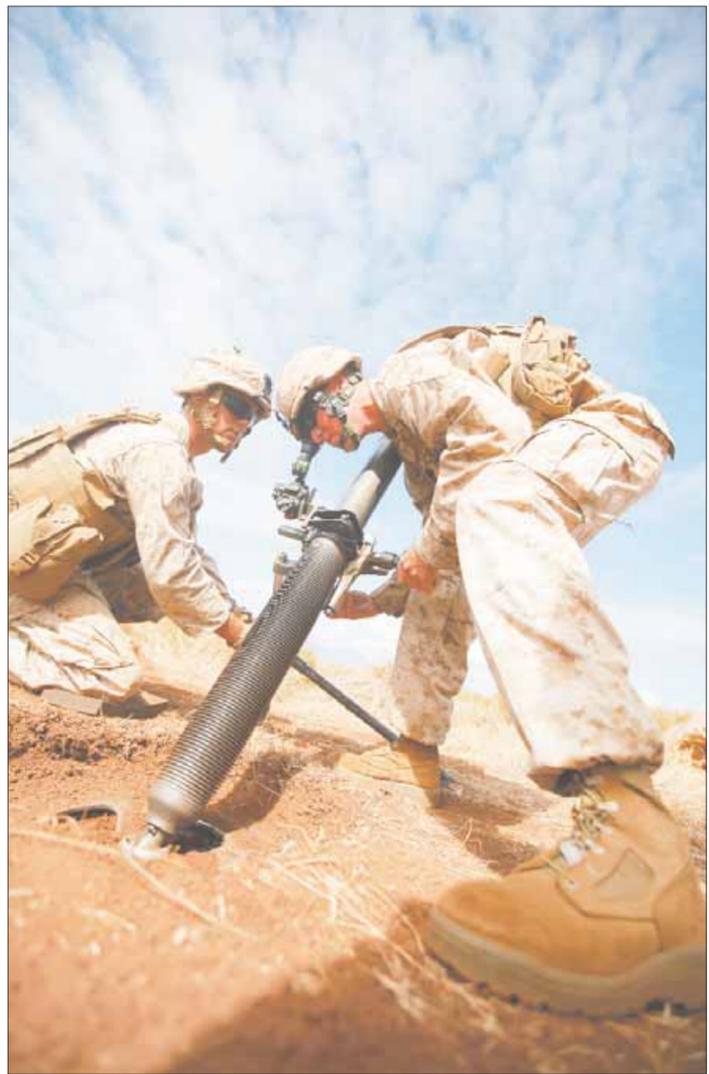
The Townshend Island training area provided the 81's platoon and Australian forces a controlled environment to continue to build upon their current skills, and more importantly develop their combined joint air, land and sea fire support capabilities.

"The U.S. Marines benefited greatly from training alongside the Australians," said 1st Lt. Rory H. Smith, the 81mm Mortars Platoon commander.

"The training event was a positive and worthwhile venture that strengthened the bond between the U.S. and our Australian allies."

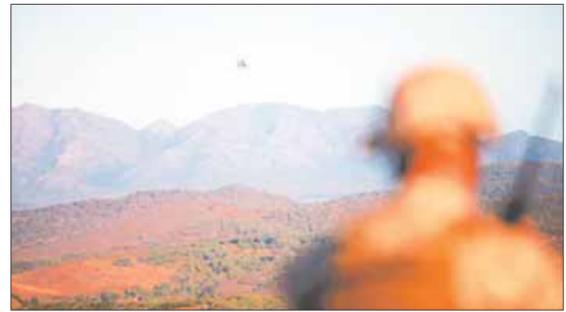
This exercise is a major undertaking which reflects the closeness of the Australian and U.S. alliance and the strength of the military-military relationship.

The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and remains the nation's force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.



SGT. PETE THIBODEAU

U.S. Marines with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's battalion landing team, prepare to fire an M252 81mm Mortar System during Talisman Sabre 2011 on Townsend Island, Australia, July 13.



LANCE CPL. GARRY J. WELCH

A Marine with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit watches an Australian attack helicopter strafe a mock target during a joint live fire exercise July 12.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

A CH-53E Super Stallion with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772, drops off Marines with Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 44, before completing a joint training of loading equipment onto the external cable exercise during Operation Javelin Thrust at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center July 19.

HELO, from A1

everything because when we are deployed, we might not have this many Marines

to help us," said Lance Cpl. Jaimie Rosa, a landing support specialist with Support Co., CLB-44 and a native of Augusta, Ga. "So

we have to be familiar enough with the equipment and protocols so we could perform this short-staffed," Rosa added.

After the day exercises were completed, the Marines immediately grabbed chemical lights and started marking the landing pad for night training.

During night training, the Marines usually attach the chem lights to stakes and shove them into the ground. But because of where they were training, they had to get a little creative to secure the

lights onto the ground, Tremblay said.

Despite most of the Marines having never trained in a mountainous environment, and a few Marines that were cross-training from another occupational field, the training went off better than expected.

"The Marines have been performing amazingly, above what I have ever seen before, and we have some cross-training Marines under the helicopter with us," Broadhurst said. "This is as close to a perfect exercise as you could get."



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Marines with Support Co., CLB-44, prepare chemical lights to mark the pickup zone of a CH-53E Super Stallion, with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772 July 19 at the MWTC training area.

SJA, from A4

in a privately owned vehicle;

- Use official authority to influence or interfere with an election; and
- Display a partisan political sign, poster, banner or similar device visible to the public at one's residence on a military installation, even if that residence is part of a privatized housing development.

If a service member has any questions concerning the scope of permissible political activities, they should consult with their supporting judge advocate or make an appointment with a legal assistance officer at 830-6111.



Whatever you're looking for, you can find it in the **Observation Post Classified section**

COMBAT CENTER RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Sunday

Immaculate Heart of Mary
8:45 a.m. - Confessions+
9 a.m. - Rosary
9:30 a.m. - Catholic Mass*
9:30 a.m. - Children's Liturgy of the Word
4 p.m. - Choir Practice
4:15 p.m. - Confessions+
4:30 p.m. - Rosary
5 p.m. - Catholic Mass

Christ Chapel

9 a.m. - Calvary Fellowship (Contemporary Worship*)
9 a.m. - Children's Church
10:30 a.m. - Redemption (A blend of traditional and contemporary worship)
10:45 a.m. - Children's Church*)

Weekday Events

Immaculate Heart of Mary

M-F 11:45 a.m.-Catholic Mass

Christ Chapel

Mon. - Fri., noon - Prayer

Tuesday

Christ Chapel

9 a.m. - Christian Women's Fellowship* (Sept.-May)

Immaculate Heart of Mary

3:30-5:30 p.m. - Military Council of Catholic Women

Wednesday

Immaculate Heart of Mary

First Wednesday, 6 p.m. - Baptism preparation class and 7 p.m. - Knights of Columbus

Thursday

Immaculate Heart of Mary

9 a.m. - Adult Class
6 p.m. - Children RCIA
6:30 p.m. - RCIA (Sept.-April)
7 p.m. - Gr. 7 and Confirmation

Friday

Immaculate Heart of Mary

First Friday each month,
12:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m. - Exposition/ Adoration
Most Blessed Sacrament

Legend

* Indicates child care is provided
+ Call 830-6456/6482 for confession appointments



Muslim prayer space is available in the Village Center, room 87. Jewish prayer space is available in the Village Center, room 93. For more information call 830-5430.

ADVERTISEMENT



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Combat Center Trader Ads

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2008 TOYOTA YARIS. \$10,000 OBO. Approximately 58K miles. Good condition. Consistent maintenance. Call 622-4562.

2001 BOMBARDIER DS650. Immaculate. Can be seen at lemon lot. \$3,000 OBO. 819-9353.

CLASSIC 1957 CHEVY PICKUP. 350 engine, 3 speed automatic, \$6,900 OBO. 361-3509.

2007 SUZUKI BOULEVARD. Black and chrome, 1600 CC, \$3,000 in extras included. Asking \$12,500. 401-3739.

2007 CR85R HONDA. \$1,500 OBO. 366-7626

2002 XR80R HONDA. \$800 OBO. 366-7626

MISC.

GOLF CLUBS. Ping Eye 2 Irons I-SW \$225. Slazenger forged blades 2-PW \$200. Assorted putters and wedges. Call 413-4015.

BABY ITEMS: Solid wood baby crib, walker, stroller, wooden horse and more. All in excellent condition. Call 217-3310.

BUNK BED WITH MATTRESSES. White metal, \$200. 366-7626

NORDICTRACK CX1000: Elliptical workout \$300 OBO. 361-3509

COLLECTIBLE SPORTS, SCI-FI CARDS: Baseball, football from mid 80's to 90's. Star Trek and Star Wars collectible cards too. Individual heroes, team sets or make an offer on the whole collection. Call Stephen at 567-7921.

The deadline for submitting Trader Ads is noon Wednesday, for the upcoming Friday's newspaper.

Trader Ad forms are available at the Public Affairs Office and may be filled out during normal working hours at Bldg. 1417. Ads

may also be submitted through e-mail, but will only be accepted from those with an @usmc.mil address. If you are active duty, retired military or a family member and do not have an @usmc.mil address you can go to the PAO page of the base Web site at: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/pao/>

and complete a request to publish an ad.

The limitations for ads are: 15-word limit, limit of two ads per household and the Trader may be used only for noncommercial classified ads containing items of personal property offered by and for individuals authorized to use this service. Such ads must

represent incidental exchanged not of sustained business nature.

Ads for housing rentals will not be considered for the Combat Center Trader.

To have a "House For Sale" ad run in the Observation Post, applicants must provide

Permanent Change of Station orders and have the ad approved by Base Housing. This ensures the Combat Center Trader is not used for commercial real estate endeavors.

Ads are run on a first-come, first-serve, space available basis. If you have questions please call 830-6213.



SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN

An MV-22 Osprey crewman watches out of the window of his aircraft while it makes its descent to the Combat Center's flightline Monday. The Ospreys are from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 365, out of Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C.

OSPREY, from A1

to show the aircraft to civilians, some of which had never seen it," Saaiman said. "Taking some of our air crew with us allows them to explain the aircraft to [the spectators] as they're watching us fly it.

"It's an aircraft that is in the news, but [one] nobody knows much about," Saaiman noted. "Anytime we can take it somewhere and introduce it to an audience that doesn't know much about it, it's a good opportunity for us."

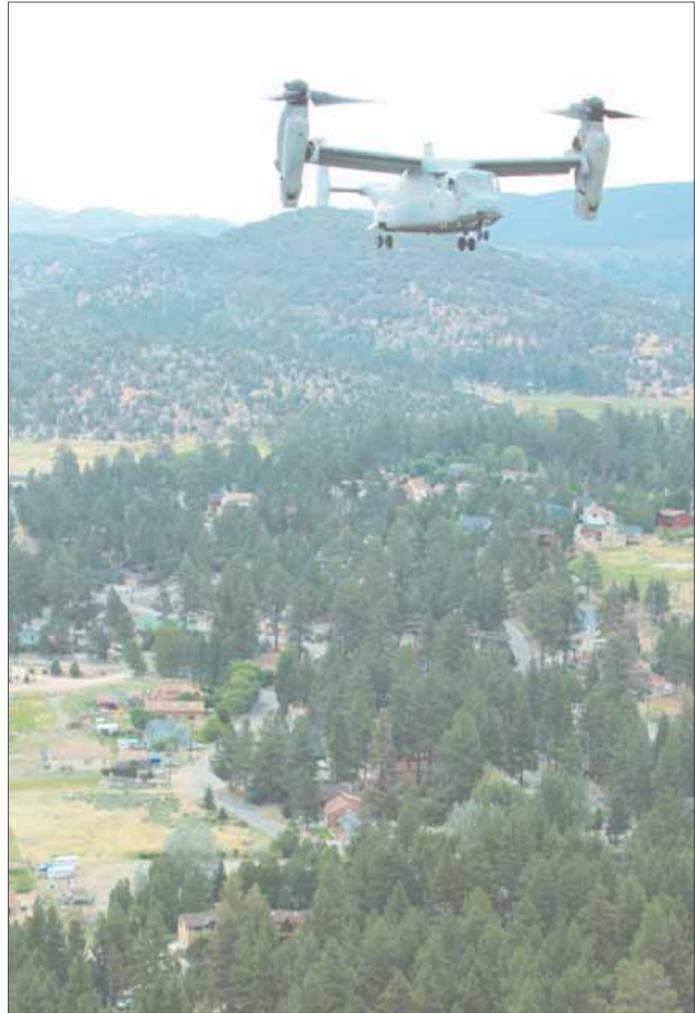
The Ospreys are often the unsung heroes of military aircraft, providing the vertical take-off and landing versatility of a helicopter, but the speed and range of an airplane.

"Flying the Osprey is amazing," Huffman said. "It's extremely capable, reliable. It allows us as an assault support community to get out and support Marines on the ground, taking them anywhere they need to go and supplying them with anything they need in a timely fashion."

Exercises held in the public eye also give the Marine Corps a chance to build up the aircraft's image in the eyes of those who only remember the Osprey's somewhat tainted past.

"We have already deployed this aircraft as a squadron to Afghanistan once," Saaiman added. "I've flown it there under any condition you can possibly imagine, never had any problems.

"The Osprey community so far has exceeded over 100,000 mishap-free flight hours," he said. "If you look at it, that is a pretty significant amount of hours without anything significant happening. This aircraft is, as far as I'm concerned, probably the safest aircraft flying around Afghanistan right now transporting our troops, and I would take it anywhere."



SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN

An MV-22 Osprey with VMM-365, out of New River, N.C., soars over Big Bear, Calif., Monday.



'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows II' wraps up boy wizard saga, page B2

July 29, 2011

Since 1957

Vol. 54 B SECTION

Pool party big hit with Marines, sailors

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
 EMILY ANDERSON**
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS INTERN

Service members from around the installation were invited to the Marine Pool Party July 22 at the Training Tank.

The pool party was designed specifically for active duty military to enjoy a night of relaxation and fun activities.

"It's really fun hanging out with friends," said Lance Cpl. Brittany Alexander, an administrative clerk with Headquarters Battalion who was at the pool party. "We don't get to do it often, and it's fun. I hope to see this a lot in the future."

In keeping with the event's tropical theme, party-goers were given sunglasses, leis and refreshments to enjoy while



A Marine at the Marine Corps Community Services Marine Pool Party enjoyed a giant water slide donated by the Single Marines Program July 22.

See POOL, B4



A party-goer attempts to handle as many beach balls as possible during the pool party.



Marines and sailors filled the Training Tank.



Lance Cpl. Brittany Alexander prepares to throw a beach ball July 22.



A pool party launches out of the inflatable slip 'n' slide.



Two Marines at the Marine Pool Party battle for possession of a beach ball.

Fight Club 29 wins gold at Best of the West



[From left, wearing medals] Tom Eaton, Dahlen Wilson, Michael Resendez and Zak Kahelin won a gold medal in the cruiser-weight division, a bronze medal in middleweight division and gold medals in light-heavy and heavyweight divisions, respectively, during the Best of the West Grappling Championship at the Long Beach Convention Center July 23. Their coach, Mark Geletko, stands in the middle, beaming with pride. The members of Fight Club 29 practice hard and like to put their skills to the test in tournaments whenever they can.

LANCE CPL. D. J. WU



Liberty Call

Combat Center Clubs

Excursions Enlisted Club

Friday: Social Hour with food, 5 to 7 p.m. followed by DJ Gjettblaque, 8 to 11 p.m., Ladies Night
Saturday: Variety Night, DJ Gjettblaque 8-11 p.m.

Bloodstripes NCO Club

Fridays: Social Hour with food, 5 to 7 p.m.
Monday: Free gourmet bar food, 5 to 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Free gourmet bar food, 5 to 7 p.m.
Thursday: Social Hour, 7 to 9 p.m.

Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club

Fridays: Dinner, full menu, 4:30 to 10:30 p.m., Social Hour, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Monday: Steak night and full dinner menu 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday: All-Hands lunch, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Thursday: Social Hour, 5 to 7 p.m.

Combat Center Officers' Club

Monday-Friday: All-hands lunch, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Monday: Steak night, 5 to 8 p.m.
Thursday: Taco Night, 5 to 7 p.m.

For complete calendars visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.

Local Events

Pappy and Harriet's Weekend Line-Up:

The Paul Chesne Band

The Americana soul singer/songwriter performs
When: 8 p.m., Friday, July 29

The Buffalo Killers and the Strangers Family Band

Performing a mix of hard rock and early heavy metal
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, July 30
Where: 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Willie Boy's Weekend Line-Up:

Ghost Train followed by Club Willie's

The rock/country group are now Willie's regular band
When: 7 to 10 p.m., Friday, July 29

?????????

The ??????????

When: 9 p.m., Saturday, July 30

Where: Willie Boy's Saloon and Dance Hall, 50048 Twentynine Palms Highway, Morongo Valley
For more information, call 363-3343 or visit <http://www.willieboys.com>.

Yucca Valley Summer Music Fest, California Celts

The popular local celt/rock band performs
When: 7 p.m., Saturday, July 30
Where: Yucca Valley Community Center ball field, 57090 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley
For more information call 369-7211 or visit www.yucca-valley.org.

Lower Desert

Creedence Clearwater Revisited

Two original band members join others in a CCR tribute
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, July 30
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa, 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

George Thorogood and the Destroyers

The country music star performs
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, July 30
Where: Agua Caliente, 32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Weezer

Alternative rock with a hint of punk
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 27
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino, 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Miranda Lambert

The country music star performs
When: 7 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 21
Where: Agua Caliente, 32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, July 29

6 p.m. – Judy Moody, Rated PG
9 p.m. – The Conspirator, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Hangover 2, Rated R

Saturday, July 30

11 a.m. – **Free Matinee.** The Legend of the Guardians, Rated PG
2 p.m. – Kung Fu Panda 2, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Mr. Popper's Penguins, Rated PG
9 p.m. – Super 8, Rated PG-13
Midnight – X-Men: First Class, Rated PG-13

Sunday, July 31

2 p.m. – Cars 2, Rated G
6 p.m. – Green Lantern, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Bad Teacher, Rated R

Monday, Aug. 1

7 p.m. – The Conspirator, Rated PG-13

Tuesday, Aug. 2

7 p.m. – X-Men: First Class, Rated PG-13

Wednesday, Aug. 3

7 p.m. – Hangover 2, Rated R

Thursday, Aug. 4

7 p.m. – Kung Fu Panda 2, Rated PG

Saga of boy wizard reaches epic conclusion

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part II
Starring Daniel Radcliffe and Ralph Fiennes
Rated PG-13

The blockbuster saga of the world-famous boy wizard comes to an end in the eighth and final movie of the most lucrative film franchise in Hollywood history.

If you haven't read the J.K. Rowling books and seen the previous films, well, it's a tad late to hop on the Harry Potter train. At this point of the endgame, a pretty good base of knowledge is essential to making heads or tails of the dense, wrap-it-up details in "Deathly Hallows: Part II." Latecomers, who might buy a ticket just to see what all the fuss has been about over the past 10 years, will be hopelessly lost in a maze of hocus-pocus horcruxes, chambers of secrets and a magical, make-believe world where any wizard is only as good (or bad) as his wand.

But the Potter faithful won't have any trouble latching onto the plot as the pieces finally come together for the final, epic showdown between Voldemort, played by Ralph Fiennes, and Harry, played by Daniel Radcliffe, the only obstacle impeding the hissably evil lord on his relentless quest for immortality.

Most of the characters from previous HP movies make appearances, if only for a moment or two – with spe-



COURTESY PHOTO

Harry Potter and a group of "good" wizards defend their school against an army of dark wizards led by his life-long enemy, Voldemort.

cial "afterlife" sequences for those killed off in earlier installments, including Professor Dumbledore, played by Michael Gambon, and Harry's murdered parents, James and Lily.

Harry's childhood friends, bosom buds and Hogwarts soulmates, Ron, played by

Rupert Grint, and Hermione, played by Emma Watson, are also, of course, along for this final ride. But Harry has so much to juggle, and there's so much going on, that his chums are often relegated to the sidelines – but they do, finally, link up and lock lips for the passionate kiss fans have been pinning for years to see.

The movie is packed with visual delights, with spectacular sets, eye-popping special effects and a world teeming with fearsome giants, devilous goblins, fire-breathing dragons, fluttering pixies and one particularly monstrous, murderous, nightmare-inducing snake.

Harry Potter fans have known the end was coming. And now it's here. Watching the movie's sweet, "19 years later" epilogue will be an emotional, have-a-hanky-handy experience for many viewers as characters they've come to know, love and care about make their collective exit – and transition to a new phase of their now-adult lives.

When the credits roll on this operatically sweeping, emotionally rewarding send-off, it's hard to imagine any HP lovers leaving disappointed. After all, Harry may be gone, but the magic he brought to the screen and the page will be around forever.



COURTESY PHOTO

Harry Potter uses his wand to throw a bolt of energy against Voldemort, the enemy who murdered his parents and attempted to kill him while he was still in his crib.



COURTESY PHOTO

Harry's childhood friends, Ron, played by Rupert Grint, and Hermione, played by Emma Watson, help Harry defend their school and provide him the tools he needs to weaken the power of his enemy.

Did you know?

If you are active duty, retired military or a family member you can place a FREE ad in our Combat Center Trader Ads

See page A7 for details and limitations

1st MarDiv kids volunteer for Monarchs for Marines

PFC. SARAH WOLFF

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Camp Pendleton hosted the 5th annual Monarchs for Marines Football and Dance Camp at the base's Paige Fieldhouse, July 23.

The Monarchs for Marines service organization was developed in 2006 to support the families of 1st Marine Division's deployable Marines and sailors.

Student athletes from the Mater Dei High School's athletic program volunteered to teach children football and dance skills in an effort to promote youth fitness.

"It gives him big boys to look up to," said Suzette Sumang, who brought her seven-year-old son to participate in the activities. "This is the second year we have taken advantage of Monarchs for Marines. It's a great program."

The student volunteers with the Mater Dei Athletics group receive community service hours for working hard and acting as mentors for the all-day event.

Boys ages 4 to 18 participated in multiple football



PFC. SARAH J. WOLFF

A group of girls run onto Camp Pendleton's 11 Area football field during the 5th annual Monarchs for Marines Football and Dance Camp at the base's Paige Fieldhouse, July 23. The girls were divided into separate age groups and each performed a different routine for the attending family members.

training drills, while the girls learned dance routines that their groups performed at the end of the

day for family members.

"The younger kids look up to us," said Chase Forrest, a student volunteer who helped out with the football activities. "I like knowing I can inspire these kids to be involved in sports."

Jan Hirota, a mother of a student volunteer, couldn't wait to be a part of the program.

"It's an opportunity to try something new and fun," said Hirota. "It's nice to see kids doing something that doesn't involve them spending countless hours in front of the TV."

During the camp, student athletes also stressed the importance of staying active over the summer and provided information regarding nutrition and fitness.

"It was an experience to remember," said Forrest. "It's very important that we pass down this information to the children; it's everyone's responsibility to influence the youth of the nation and point them in the right direction."

For more information on Monarchs for Marines, contact the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Community Services at 763-5519, or visit their website at <http://www.materdei.org/football/html/m4m.html>.



PFC. SARAH J. WOLFF

A child hugs a football while running over obstacles on Camp Pendleton's 11-Area football field during the 5th annual Monarchs for Marines Football and Dance Camp at the base's Paige Fieldhouse, July 23.

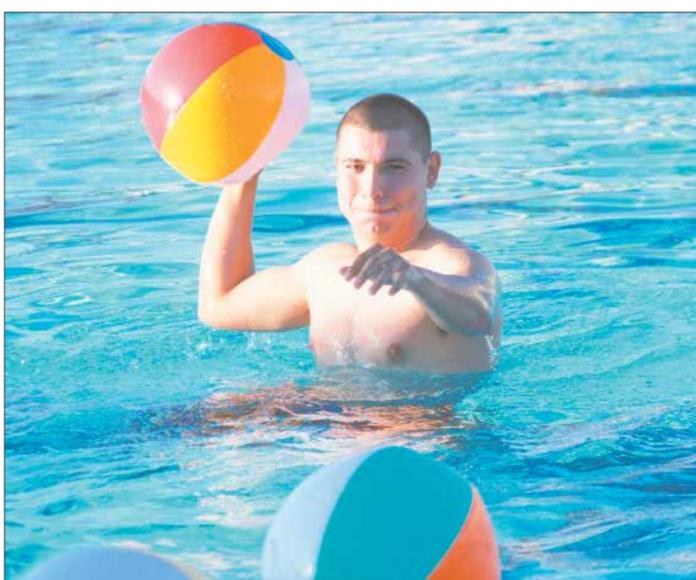


PFC. SARAH J. WOLFF

A child prepares to tackle a football pad during the 5th annual Monarchs for Marines Football and Dance Camp at the base's Paige Fieldhouse July 23.

PostScriptPicture

(110431 Freedom Motorcycle 2x2 .eps)



EMILY ANDERSON

A pool party participant prepares to throw a beach ball during the Marine Corps Community Services Marine Pool Party at the Training Tank July 22.

POOL, from B1

lounging by the pool.

A slip 'n slide, a hula hoop contest and a raffle were among the competitions and activities that dotted the night's schedule.

The evening was not complete without the traditional belly-flop contest, accompanied by the tell-tale

smack of skin breaking the water's surface, the resulting red patch and, of course, raucous laughter from those in the audience.

"It's been a very successful event," said Kelly Coe, the special events manager for Marine Corps Community Services. "It's one of the few events geared toward active duty military."



EMILY ANDERSON

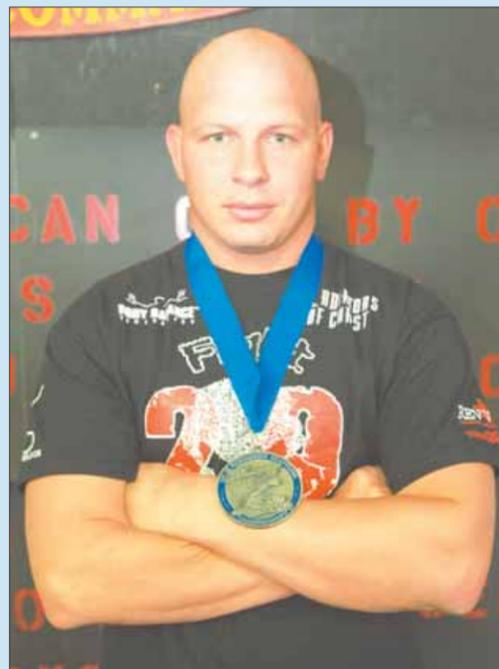
Marines and sailors participate in a pool-wide beach ball battle during the MCCS Marine Pool Party at the Training Tank July 22.



EMILY ANDERSON

A Marine rolls off the end of a giant slip 'n' slide donated by the Single Marines Program.

Athlete of the Week



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

Name: Zak Kahelin
Hometown: Auburndale, Fla.
Team: Fight Club 29
Recognition: Won the gold medal in the beginner's heavyweight division of the Best of the West Grappling Championship.
What made you want to compete in the sport?: "I've always been a wrestler and [grappling] is pretty close. I've always loved to compete."
How did you get started?: I saw a poster for the fight team, and I thought it was cool, so I gave Coach a call. I got into wrestling because it was a good way to stay fit for the football season. It just turned into its own thing from there.
Advice for aspiring athletes?: "Go out and give it all you got. You don't win it in the tournament, you win it in practice."