

TRAINING *in the* DESERT

TRAINING AT THE COMBAT CENTER GOES ON FROM THE FIELD TO THE WARRIOR CULTURE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS

GOLD EAGLE

Marines, Aussies connect with tanks

Cpl. D.J. Wu
 Combat Correspondent

Marines with Company B, 1st Tank Battalion and Australian Army soldiers with B Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment teamed up for bilateral training during exercise Gold Eagle at the Combat Center, June 25.

Gold Eagle 2013 focuses on bilateral tank training between the Marine Corps and the Australian Army. The allied forces started their one-month training evolution June 1 with the squadron's arrival at the Combat Center. The unit made their way to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, where they practiced amphibious maneuvers. They returned to the Combat Center to continue working



An M1A1 Abrams Tank, manned by Australian Army soldiers and scouts with 1st Tank Battalion patrol through the streets of Range 200, June 25.

together on tactics, techniques and procedures.

"It's a fantastic opportunity to come across and train with a force with very similar requirements and challenges," said Australian Army Maj. Tim Tiller, officer commanding, B Squadron, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance. "The key objectives of Gold Eagle are to cement (our) bilateral relationship in terms of the tank community, cross level of best practice in a number of mission profiles and to conduct a number of activities that are not easily done in Australia."

On the 25th the two units worked on their tank-infantry integration skills, rear passage of lines and breaching. Platoons from the units cycled through the operations to gain proficiency in each aspect. It is also a unique opportunity for the Marines of Co. B, 1 Tanks, to learn from their international partners.

See **EAGLE** page A6



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment debark an MV-22 Osprey at Range 400, June 21.

'The Professionals' assault Combat Center by air

Cpl. D.J. Wu
 Combat Correspondent

Marines with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment stormed the Combat Center's Range 400 in 35 CH-53E Super Stallions and MV-22 Ospreys in a helicopterborne raid part of 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigades Exercise Dawn Blitz, June 21.

Dawn Blitz 2013 is a multinational exercise that the Navy and Marine Corps use to enhance their amphibious expeditionary tactics, techniques and procedures. The bilateral exercise represents the Navy and Marine Corps' ongoing efforts to meet the challenges of future conflicts, overseas contingency operations, humanitarian assistance, disaster response and homeland defense. Canada, Japan and New Zealand are also participating in the exercise.

Hundreds of Marines based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., crammed into aircraft that

would perform one of the largest air assaults in recent history. More than 35 aircraft transported 300 Marines from MCB Camp Pendleton to the Combat Center.

"I think this is the first time a battalion helo lift or air assault has happened since about 2004," said Lt. Col. Cory Moran, 2/1 commanding officer. "This is something that I have been looking forward to since it's been on the radar screen. It's a great capability to do. Not that many people can say that they've been able to accomplish a battalion air assault."

Assaults like this give the ground combat element a surge of manpower that can turn the tide in a battle. It gives the Marine Air Ground Task Force the ability to touch anything in the battlefield with an infantry battalion. The infantry combines with the air combat element to make this kind of attack possible.

See **BLITZ** page A6

3rd LAR conducts live-fire maneuver

Lance Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya
 Combat Correspondent

Marines and sailors with 2nd platoon, Company A., 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion participated in a live-fire training exercise in the Black Top training area June 19. They were supported by 4th LAR and conducted fire and maneuver exercises.

"Having four land assault vehicles

is like having a big fire team," said 1st Lt. William Yarborough, platoon commander, 2nd platoon, Co. A. "Fire and movement with an LAV is almost the same as a buddy rush. One is putting rounds down range with the main gun while the other is moving forward."

LAVs are eight-wheeled, armored vehicles fitted with a main gun, which

See **LAR** page A7



Marines with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion conduct a platoon live-fire exercise at Black Top training area June 20.

Warrior Culture



What makes a warrior? Is it his ability to fight or his ability to know when to step down? Discover three forms of being a warrior.

For full story see B1

Sexual Assault: Assessment and Investigation

From the office of the Commandant of the Marine Corps

Editor's note: This is the fourth installment in a series about sexual assault prevention.

Assessment

The Marine Corps is developing ways to monitor victim care and services more closely through SARC engagement in an effort to improve and better utilize all resources available to victims and to help keep victims engaged in the process. A victim survey is being developed to accomplish that task and will assess all levels of services provided.

I have just recently approved and directed new Command Climate surveys. These surveys are mandatory within 30 days of a Commanding Officer taking command and also at the Commanding Officer's twelve-month mark in command. Giving Commanding Officers this tool and holding them accountable for the overall health and well-being of their command will help us mitigate the high-risk behaviors that tear at the fabric of the Corps. The results of the Command Climate surveys will be forwarded to the next higher headquarters in the

chain of command. It is important to keep in mind however that the command climate surveys are just one assessment tool.

The Investigation

Before the Commanding Officer is confronted with a decision about what to do with an allegation, the Commanding Officer will receive significant advice and information from three different sources. By current Marine Corps practice, once NCIS is notified of a sexual assault, there is coordination between a prosecutor and the investigating agent(s). This practice enables unity between the investigative and prosecutorial functions of the military justice system. It also ensures that the Commanding Officer's evaluation of the alleged crime is fed by two distinct and independent professional entities – NCIS and the military prosecutor. Additionally, the Commanding Officer is advised by his Staff

See **SAPR** page A7

POST & RELIEF

VMU-3 welcomes new sergeant major

Story and photos by:
Lance Cpl. Lauren Kurkimilis



Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3 welcomed their new sergeant major during a post and relief ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray field June 25, bidding fare well to Sgt. Maj. James L. Johnson.

"I consider myself to be a truly blessed man," said Sgt. Maj. Christopher W. Nagle. "I am honored to serve here with every Marine, sailor and civilian in this squadron."

It was 85 degrees, a mild summer morning, at the parade deck when the non-commissioned officer's sword was handed to Nagle, signifying the transition in responsibility. Johnson, Nagle and the unit's commander, Lt. Col. John D. Thurman, addressed the crowd during the ceremony.

"It's been amazing working with you all," Johnson said. "You can achieve nothing but greatness and you all have proven that by being the 2012 Commandant of the Marine Corps' Aviation Squadron of the year, which is no

small feat for a squadron that doesn't actually put a pilot in the airplane."

Thurman commended Johnson for his and his wife's dedication to the unit over the past 30 months and extended a warm and appreciative welcome to Nagle.

"Sgt. Maj. Nagle, I want to say, 'Thank you very much for coming out here and choosing this duty post in Twentynine Palms,'" Thurman said. "In the past two weeks, Sgt. Maj. Nagle has shown a level of energy that can hardly be matched by most Marines. He is absolutely enthusiastic and if you can keep that energy level up over the next couple of years, I think we're going to do some great things."

Before being appointed to VMU-3, Nagle served at The Basic School since May of 2012 as the Instructor Battalion sergeant major. Before that, then 1st Sgt. Nagle was assigned to Marine Corps Communication-

Electronics School.

"I walked in the door, not really knowing what to expect," Nagle said. "What I was immediately impressed with was the respect and dignity that each Marine shows each other. When I look at the morale, esprit de corps and discipline in this unit, I attribute it to one man and that's Sgt. Maj. Johnson."

Before serving as VMU-3 sergeant major, then 1st Sgt. Johnson, was assigned to Marine Corps Embassy Security Group as the Region-3 first sergeant in Bangkok, Thailand, and was deployed from September 2007 to April 2008 with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, serving as Company C first sergeant.

Johnson said it was an honor to serve as a leader of VMU-3, and he's leaving with a sense of pride in knowing the unit will continue to succeed in all it does.



Col. George Aucoin, chief of staff, presented Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certifications to Ryan Palmer, Exercise Support Division, Erick Baalrud, ESD, and Jo Rosbough, G-8, and a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification to Tina Miller, deputy director, Business Performance Office. Each Green Belt completed 80 hours of training and two projects and Miller completed 200 hours, two Black Belt projects and mentored those undergoing Green Belt training.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRACE ELIZABETH FOSTER
Born on: June 16, 2013
Born to: Michael and Amy Foster

CHANCY RYAN-TROY GORDON
Born on: June 13, 2013
Born to: Kyle and Joshua Gordon

AKAIDIAN LAWLER
Born on: June 16, 2013
Born to: Arthur and Natasha Lawler

BRYNLEE MAE WURTH
Born on: June 13, 2013
Born to: Joshua and Lauren Wurth

XANDER ELIAS MUJICA
Born on: June 14, 2013
Born to: Leobardo and Lizette Mujica

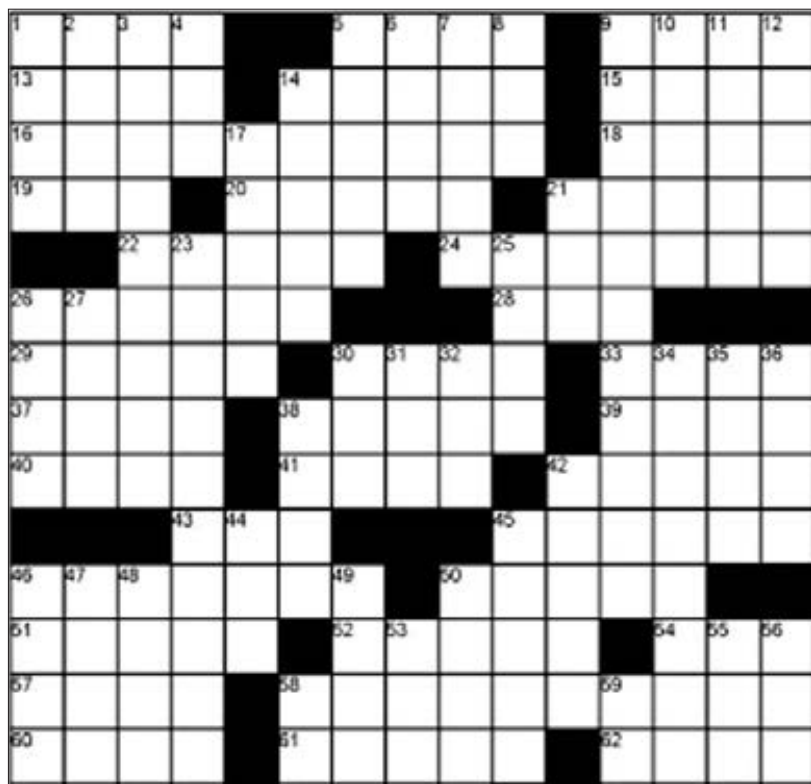
BRAELYNN SKYE BOURASSA
Born on: June 11, 2013
Born to: Daniel and Marsha Bourassa

ZAIRYK DENI-JAMES PARSONS
Born on: June 14, 2013
Born to: Jose and Chandler Parsons

GABRIEL JOSE MARTINEZ
Born on: June 10, 2013
Born to: Chris and Auolia Martinez

"SO CLUMSY OF ME!"

- ACROSS**
- Cooperstown charter member Ty
 - Contracts, as an illness
 - Porke's meal
 - Baltic Sea feeder
 - Jazzman Chick
 - Transport by truck
 - Soldiers who drop into battle areas
 - Grid great Graham
 - "Atlas Shrugged" author Rand
 - Martini's partner
 - Cast a ballot
 - Maine politico Olympia
 - "The Biggest Loser" contestants
 - Whodunit plot element
 - Phone listing abbr.
 - Castle of the ballroom
 - Goya's "Naked ___"
 - Thirty minutes of football
 - Not of the clergy
 - Googol's hundred
 - ___Day (vitamin brand)
 - Cornerstone word
 - Off-ramp
 - ___ a million years!"
 - Prefix with lead or fire
 - Earth tones
 - Road to conflict
- DOWN**
- Barry Manilow song locale
 - Anita who sang with Krupa
 - "West Side Story" composer
 - Playtex product
 - Christmas bird
 - Cupid, to Plato
 - Not so hot
 - Carrier to Oslo
 - Plays b-ball
 - ___Day (vitamin brand)
 - External
 - Walks wearily
 - Russell of "Les Misérables"
 - Treasure store
 - Neckline type
 - Knuckleheads



- S&L offerings
- Uris's "___ 18"
- Seaport of Algeria
- Tex-___ cuisine
- Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
- Scribble down
- Gasoline additive
- "Star Wars" princess
- Autograph seekers
- Tabasco quality
- Noel who played Lois Lane
- Fleming who created 007
- Locks up
- "An Ideal Husband" playwright
- "Star Trek" extra
- Rubbed the wrong way
- Mute Marx
- "___ Bully" (1965 hit)
- Stable babe
- C&W mecca, with "the"
- Words of understanding
- Stylish dresser
- Intl. group since

See answers on page A8

SUDOKU 2948-D

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

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OFF-LIMITS ESTABLISHMENTS

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

In Oceanside:
 - Angelo's Kars, 222 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054
 - Angelo's Kars, 226 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054

In San Diego:
 - Club Mustang, 2200 University Ave.
 - Club San Diego, 3955 Fourth St.
 - Get It On Shoppe, 3219 Mission Blvd.
 - Main Street Motel, 3494 Main St.
 - Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar St.

In National City:
 - Dream Crystal, 15366 Highland Ave.
 - Sports Auto Sales, 1112 National City Blvd.

Local off-limits guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations.

In Twentynine Palms:
 - Adobe Smoke Shop, 6441 Adobe Rd.
 - STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Rd.
 - K Smoke Shop, 5865A Adobe Rd.

In Yucca Valley:
 - Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Hwy.
 - Puff's Tobacco Mart, 57063 29 Palms Hwy.

In Palm Springs:
 - Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr.
 - Whispering Palms Apts., 449 E. Arenas Road
 - NYPD Pizza, 260-262 N. Palm Canyon Drive

For the complete orders, but not off-limits, check out the Combat Center's official website at <http://www.29palms.marines.mil>

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Damien SNELL

Philadelphia, food service specialist, 29



> **I like to cook** so why not be a cook in the military. It's something I would do on the regular but now I'm getting paid for it. You can't beat all of the perks of the military on top of doing something that you love.

> **Before the Marine Corps**, I was a workaholic. I would work anywhere between two to four part time jobs at a time to help raise my daughter.

> **The jobs weren't necessarily cooking** jobs. I worked

at fast food restaurants but I wasn't cooking for the most part. After the fast food restaurants I moved on to work in a health care office working with patients who have special needs and I worked at a cable installation company on the weekends.

> **My daughter** is turning 7 years old in October. She is my world and I would do anything for her.

> **My family** is what sparked my love for cooking. Every male in my family knows how to cook and is good at it so I didn't really have a choice. I want to keep it going almost like a family tradition.

LANCE CPL. DAMIEN SNELL WAS ONE OF THE WINNERS OF THE CHEF OF THE QUARTER COMPETITION, A QUARTERLY COMPETITION BETWEEN COMBAT CENTER CHEFS.

> **My family's mentality**

I want to keep it going almost like a family tradition.

> **After learning the basics from my aunts** and uncles I started to watch different television shows and would try to make the food on there or use the tips they had to offer. I would try to put my own twist on the things I was trying to copy. For example, if they were making a simple grilled cheese, I would throw garlic on it to add my own twist.

> **I kind of expected to win** the competition. I'm not trying to be cocky but since we put so much hard work and passion into our food, it had to turn out good.

> **I don't really have a favorite thing to cook.** I am more of a theme cooker. I always like to switch it up.

> **I'll try to do a different theme every week** while I am cooking at my house. Right now, I am doing an Asian theme since that's what we did in the competition. If I had to name a favorite theme to cook I would have to say Italian. I try to make all of my foods from scratch. For example, when I am making Italian food, I will try to make all of my sauces completely from scratch.

> **When I go out to restaurants** it is hard not to criticize the food I am eating. Sometimes I just want to get up out of my seat and go back in the kitchen and show the chef how it is supposed to be made. There are also times when I go to a restaurant and a chef will give me a new idea or a new way to create a meal. I guess it could go either way.

> **I think most chefs will agree**, one of the main reasons people decide to become chefs are to please their customer or whoever the person is eating the food we prepared. There is nothing like serving a worn out Marine a nice hot meal.

> **I always wanted to learn to cook** while I was growing up. I never really got the chance to cook anything but I would always see my mom put my pop-tarts in the toaster so one day I thought I would try. I got everything out and started up the toaster and don't ask me what happened but the wall and half of the refrigerator were burnt. Let's just say it took me even longer to get the chance to cook.

> **I try to be the best at anything** I do, especially my job. What is the point of doing something for a living unless you enjoy it or want to be the best at it?

> **I wouldn't try to persuade someone to come to this field.** It is a very unique job and a very tough job but I think people should want to do this job and already have their mind made up. You shouldn't be stuck between a decision, you should want something or not. If someone doesn't want to do a job then they won't provide a as good of a product. You only get as much as you put into something.



Interviewed by Lance Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya

June 13, 2013



RECIPE FOR A QUICK QUICHE

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups of milk
- 4 eggs
- 3/4 cup of biscuit baking mix
- 1/4 cup of butter, softened
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 10 ounces of chopped broccoli
- 1 cup of cubed cooked ham
- 8 ounces shredded cheddar cheese

- STEP 1 :**
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly grease a 10-inch quiche dish.
- STEP 2 :**
In a large bowl, beat together milk, eggs, baking mix, butter and parmesan cheese. Batter will be lumpy. Stir in broccoli, ham and cheddar cheese. Then, pour into prepared quiche dish.
- STEP 3 :**
Bake in preheated oven for 50 minutes, until eggs are set and top is golden brown.

3RD LAR HOSTS FAMILY COOKING 101



PHOTOS BY CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

[Top] Chris Ryan, sous-chef, Officers' Club, cuts meat apart after showing 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion spouses a recipe June 18.
[Left] Jillian King, family readiness officer, 3rd LAR, and Sharon Altemoos, Marine Corps Family Team Building, pull apart beef during the first MCFTB-sponsored Cooking 101 Class.
[Right] Heather Hofer, wife of Master Sgt. Jerel Hofer, Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd LAR, and Fallon Figueroa, wife of Sgt. Mario Figueroa, electrical engineer, H&S Co., 3rd LAR, took part in the first MCFTB sponsored Cooking 101 Class, June 18.

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The Combat Center has its own YouTube channel
 Find it at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO>.

Helmand 2013

Courtesy Story



CPL. ALEJANDRO PENA

Twentynine Palms regiment leads during time of transition

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Regimental Combat Team 7 has been the driving force in Afghanistan since the departure of 1st Marine Division (Forward). The Regiment, which is based out of the Marine Air Ground Combat Center, has now assumed full responsibility as the Ground Combat Element for Regional Command Southwest.

RCT-7 is currently working with Afghan forces to allow them to take a more positive role in the security of Helmand province.

“Taking over the division’s area of operations as a regiment was an exciting challenge,” said Lt. Col. James McArthur, the RCT-7 operations officer. “Being able to support Marines throughout such a large battle space is an opportunity not very many regiments get to experience.”

RCT-7’s 3,000 Marines and sailors have played a vital role in building the warfighting capability and capacity of the Afghan army and police. Central to RCT-7’s mission is support to Security Forces Assistance Advisor Teams of Regional Command Southwest. The advisor teams are comprised of 20-30 Marines who live and serve alongside Afghan soldiers and policemen.

As a result of the SFAATs and RCT-7 working together, the ANSF has become a more capable force that has demonstrated recent operational success

against the insurgency, said Col. A. E. “Sparky” Renforth, RCT-7 commanding officer.

“The Afghan forces have really stepped up to take the lead in combat operations throughout the province,” said Renforth. “A great example is in Sangin, where the enemy recently launched an offensive. With minimal coalition aid, Afghan forces in the region quickly launched a counter offensive and secured the area.”

While the Afghan forces are consistently showing signs of being capable of independent operations, RCT-7 still provides vital support in a few critical areas, such as persistent surveillance and casualty evacuation for seriously wounded Afghans.

Marines in the RCT are pleased with the progress that has been made while supporting the advisor teams.

“Working with the (advisor teams) at the regimental level has been very rewarding,” said Capt. Adam Andress, the deputy director of the regiment’s Afghan National Security Forces liaison cell. “The relationships we have developed with the Marines and sailors have given us direct access to key ANSF leaders at every level and in every district throughout Regional Command Southwest.”

With Afghans in the lead, personnel and equipment requirements for the Marines have been

reduced. RCT-7 has implemented a force realignment plan that provides the required support to ANSF, while setting the conditions for Coalition Forces in Helmand Province after 2014.

This means the retrograde of significant numbers of personnel and equipment from Afghanistan back to the U.S. so the Marine Corps can reconstitute and be ready to support future crises and contingencies.

The regiment has played a critical role in the retrograde of more than 59,000 pieces of gear, totaling over \$328 million, while simultaneously providing combat operational support to over 20 security force assistance advisor teams, four infantry battalions, two Georgian liaison teams, one tank company and one engineer company, said 1st Lt. William McAloon, the assistant regimental logistics officer.

After eight months on the ground in Afghanistan, the regiment remains focused on a successful transition of lead security responsibility to the Afghans.

“Watching the Afghan forces become more self-reliant and protect their people from the enemies of Afghanistan has been one of the most rewarding aspects of this deployment,” said Renforth. “I’m proud of the work RCT-7 has done to advance security and stability in Helmand province.”

[Above] Cpl. Brady Fore, left, and Cpl. Jared Bailey, both assigned to Afghan National Civil Order Police Kandak 1 Advisor Team, Regimental Combat Team 7, maneuver between stations while conducting small-arms live-fire training at Camp Leatherneck.

**For local entertainment
see our LIBERTY CALL section on page B2**

BLITZ, from A1

“MAG-16’s participation in Dawn Blitz 2013 is significant on multiple levels,” said Col. Patrick A. Gramuglia, MAG-16 commanding officer. “This type of mission is the foundation of Marine Corps aviation and provides realistic and relevant training necessary for effective global crisis response.”

The landings were conducted by a continuous stream of aircraft, delivering a battalion helicopterborne assault force to the point of friction in just one wave.

The battalion traveled to the Combat Center to work on their offensive operation skills. The unit landed in the Range 400 series of the Combat Center’s training area. There, they worked their way up from live-fire platoon-sized attacks all the way to

company-sized attacks. “One of our essential tasks is to be able to execute supported company attacks and this is a great opportunity to do that,” Moran said. “It allows us to project a battalion’s worth of firepower anywhere within the (I Marine Expeditionary Force) area of influence. This will get us into a good point when we go to (the Integrated Training Exercise) in a couple of months.”

The integration of the GCE and ACE is integral in the performance of a MAGTF and air assault of this caliber.

“MAG-16 and all their squadrons that supported us, did a great job,” Moran said. “Every one of those guys are professional, capable and they happen to fly aircraft.”



CPL. ALI AZIMI

Marines with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment are dropped off by a MV-22 Osprey at the Combat Center’s Range 400, June 21.

EAGLE, from A1

“Their overall importance is the strengthening with our allies,” said 1st Lt. Louis Carrano, commanding officer, Co. B, 1st Tanks. “We’re learning the different ways to do things. They have strong traditions in their armored regiment and the same with 1st Tanks. We’re working toward the same goal, but we have different ways of getting there. They teach us how they do things and we teach them how we do things.”

Gold Eagle covers many aspects of tank warfare. The units involved practiced amphibious movements and tank and infantry integration as well as breaching and other tank engineering procedures. The units are set to continue these operations with a tactical assault including a large scale breach

using a Mine Clearing Line Charge during the assault.

“It’s been great for my Marines,” Carrano said. “They get to interact with these guys and hang out. They get to see some different faces”

It’s been a learning experience for both sides. Alongside learning TTPs, both units share a military culture, but they are also learning about each other’s geographical and national culture and heritage. It is something that can go past day to day training exercises and make a mark on how they interact with others in the future.

“I think the importance of bilateral exchanges, such as this one, is understated, not just what we can achieve in the field, but in cementing those relationships (of the two units),” Tiller said.



CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

A Marine with Company B, 1st Tank Battalion moves alongside tanks manned by Australian Army soldiers at Range 200, June 25.

For more Combat Center photos, visit the official MCAGCC facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>

SAPR, from A1

Judge Advocate (SJA) during this stage. The SJA is an experienced judge advocate, well versed in the military justice system, and able to advise the Commanding Officer on what actions to direct during the investigation, such as search authorizations.

As a critical component of our Campaign Plan, I directed that our legal community completely reorganize into a regional model, which gives us the flexibility to better utilize the skills of our more experienced litigators. Practically speaking, our new regional model, which became fully operational late last year, allows us to place the right prosecutor, with the appropriate training, expertise, supervision, and support staff, on the right case, regardless of location. These prosecutors not only represent the government at the Court-Martial, but they work with NCIS to develop the case and advise the Commanding Officer and his or her SJA about the status of the case.

I directed this reorganization because an internal self-assessment of our military justice docket uncovered an increase in complex and contested cases as a percentage of our total trial docket. We realized that our historical model of providing trial services needed

to be revised to better handle these complex cases, many of which involved sexual assault. More specifically, within the alleged sexual assault cases, we noticed a significant number of alcohol associated sexual assaults, which are difficult cases to prosecute, thus I wanted our more seasoned trial attorneys available for use by our Commanding Officers.

The legal reorganization greatly increases the legal expertise (based on experience, education, and innate ability) available for prosecuting complex cases. The reorganization divided the legal community into four geographic regions — National Capital Region, East, West, and Pacific. These regions are designated Legal Service Support Areas (LSSA) and are aligned with the structure of our regional installation commands. Each LSSA contains a Legal Services Support Section (LSSS) that is supervised by a Colonel Judge Advocate Officer-in-Charge. Each LSSS contains a Regional Trial Counsel (RTC) office that is led by an experienced Lieutenant Colonel litigator whose extensive experience provides effective regional supervision over the prosecution of Courts-Martial cases. This new construct provides for improved allocation of resources throughout the legal community and ensures that complex cases, such as sexual assaults,

are assigned to experienced counsel who are better suited to handle them. After our reorganization, we have increased the experience level in our trial bar by over 20% from the previous year.

The Marine Corp’s “Special Victim Capability” resides in the RTC offices through the use of Complex Trial Teams (CTT). The CTT is assembled for a specific case and may contain any or all of the following: a civilian Highly Qualified Expert (HQE), experienced military prosecutors, military criminal investigators, a legal administrative officer, and a paralegal. The civilian HQE is an experienced civilian sexual assault prosecutor who has an additional role training and mentoring all prosecutors in the region. The HQEs are assigned to the RTCs and work directly with prosecutors, where they will have the most impact. HQEs report directly to the RTC and provide expertise on criminal justice litigation with a focus on the prosecution of complex cases. In addition to their principal functions, the HQEs also consult on the prosecution of complex cases, develop and implement training, and create standard operating procedures for the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault and other complex cases. The criminal investigators and the legal administrative officer in the RTC office provide a key

support role in complex prosecutions. Historically, a prosecutor was individually burdened with the coordination of witnesses and experts, the gathering of evidence, background investigations, and finding additional evidence for rebuttal, sentencing, or other aspects of the trial. These logistical elements of a trial are even more demanding in a complex trial; the presence of criminal investigators and the legal administrative officer allow Marine Corps prosecutors to focus on preparing their case.

Our Reserve Judge Advocates, who are experienced criminal prosecutors, are brought on active duty and made available to mentor our active duty Judge Advocates either during training or on specific cases. To ensure an adequate level of experience and supervision not only at the headquarters level, but also in each LSSS, we more than doubled the number of field grade prosecutors we are authorized to have on our rolls from 11 to 25. We also specifically classified certain key supervisory military justice billets to require a Master of Laws degree in Criminal Law.

Editor’s note: This is the fourth installment of a series about sexual assault prevention and reporting. See next week’s edition of the Observation Post for the next part.

LAR, from A1

rotates 360 degrees. The standard LAVs are equipped with a 25mm chain gun, two 7.62mm machine guns and two four-barrel, smoke grenade launchers. The LAVs are also amphibious, meaning they have the ability to ‘swim’ but are limited to non-surf bodies of water.

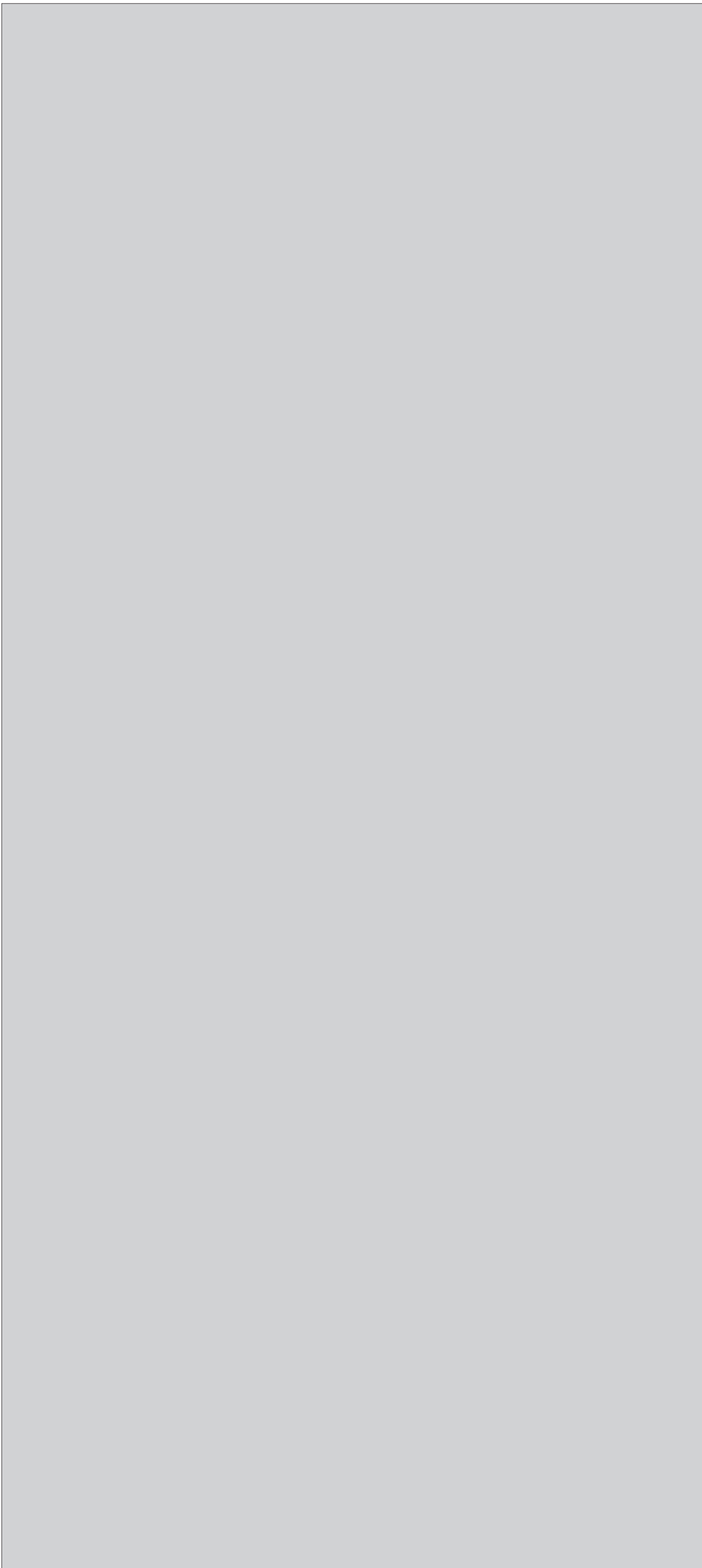
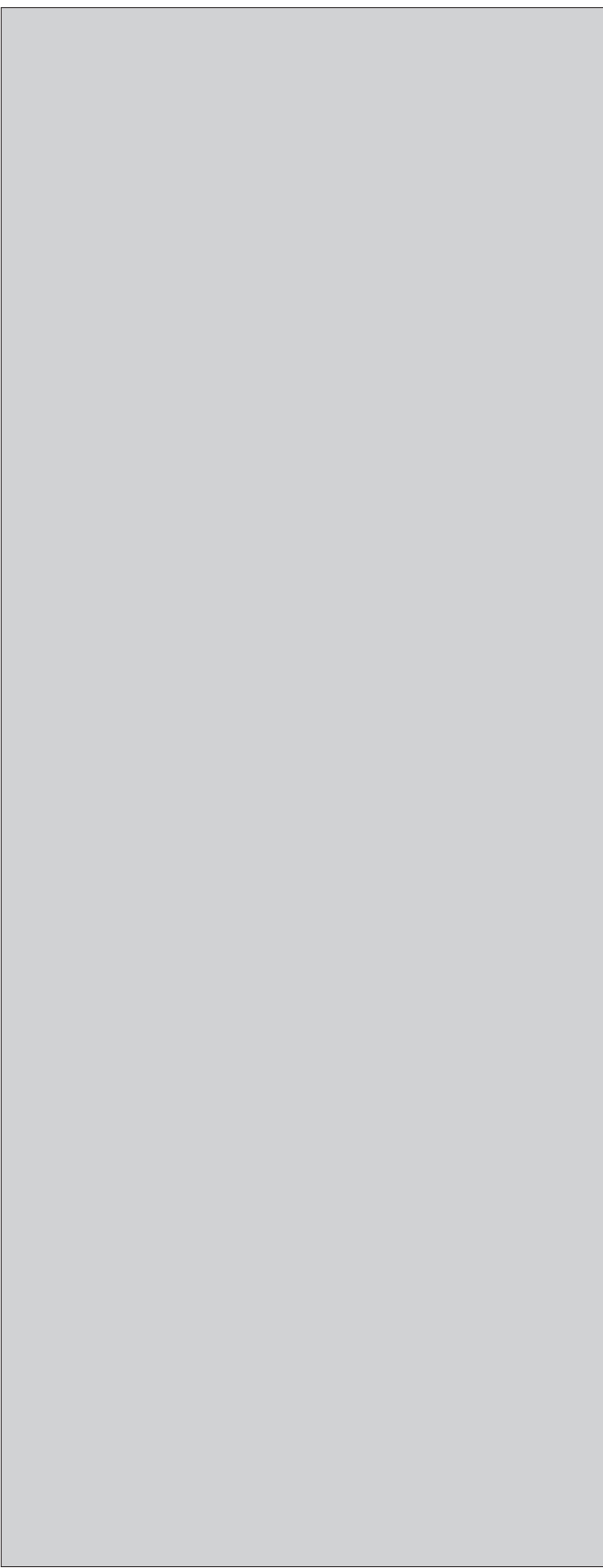
These vehicles are used in a variety of different environments.

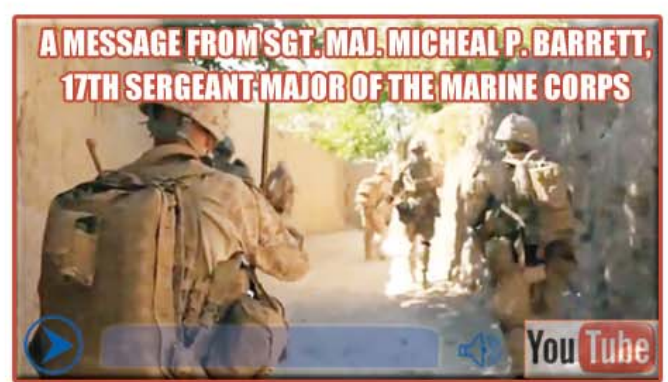
Light armored reconnaissance battalions are mobilized units that conduct reconnaissance missions ahead of battalion landing teams or infantry forces. They gather intelligence about the size, location, strengths or any other requested information about enemy forces. They are infantry-based units and are equipped with light armored vehicles.

There are four vehicles in a platoon of LAVs. The platoon is separated into Alpha section and Bravo Section. The sections are used for organization in the buddy rush or for other exercises.

There are three crewmen aboard LAVs and anywhere from two to four scouts. The crewmen are mainly in charge of operating the LAV while scouts dismount the vehicle to do further reconnaissance.

“It is important for us to get out here and do different types of live-fire training,” Yarborough said. “These Marines need to know what it feels and sounds like when actual rounds are going off so that they are not caught by surprise when it comes time to actually use all of this hard work they are doing.”





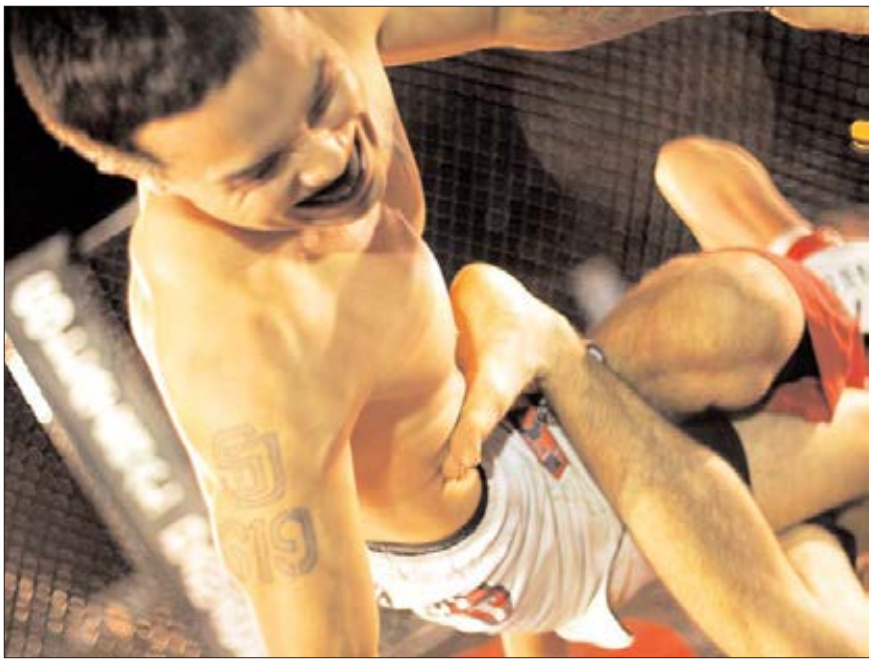
WARRIOR CULTURE

We won't tell you what is one. We won't tell you how to be one. Probably because we don't know. There are guesses, ideas and theories. But it's not for us to tell you what one is, or how to be one. What's important is knowing you are one. Knowing what it takes to be one. Ask yourself. Are you a warrior?

Story by:

Lance Cpl. Lauren Kurkibilis

WE WORK



GUNNERY SGT. LEO SALINAS

If there is one word ingrained into the minds of every recruit that goes through a Marine Corps boot camp, it is discipline. It's what brings them together as individuals to a fully functioning team. The many avenues they take, whether "enhanced" physical training or asphalt etiquette by marching, drives the transition to a complete warrior.

Within the ranks of the thousands of Marines, there are some that choose to focus on the bare bones aspects of fighting – hand to hand combat.

The Marine Corps has used a martial arts program that takes not only techniques from other fighting styles to incorporate a dynamic military combat style. Aside from the punches, the kicking, and the throws, the Corps also looked at the cultures that provided these techniques. They found that these cultures nurtured certain warrior qualities. The Marines took qualities as well.

"To be at any level of MMA or martial arts, there's a certain level of discipline you have to have to go day-in and day-out," said Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Kessler, a black belt Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructor. "We have a different type of discipline; to train when we're tired, train when we're hungry or when it's hot or cold

outside. You have to do what it takes."

The brotherhood through bond is created by trust. Trust in their training, trust in each other, trust in their leadership. Marines incorporate the mind, body, and spirit to overcome.

"There is a definite bond created between two fighters in that setting," Kessler said. "There's a psychological aspect of fighting that is unique. You'll see it a lot where they punch the crap out of each other and, at the end, they respect each other even more."

These men fight, whether in an octagon or on the battlefield, not for bragging rights or to see who's the bigger man, but for the ones they love, for their little girls, their admiring sons and their loving wives. They fight for their mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and best friends.

Flipping the switch off is the honorable part of being a true warrior. They must know to practice self-control and to leave their aggression and intensity on the battlefield whether it is on the battlefield or in the octagon.

We Fight

"It's a lifestyle," said Cpl. Arthur Powell, a fighter with Fight Club 29. "You completely commit. When you commit yourself to the Marine Corps, you abide by the training and the lifestyle and if you want to be proficient at MMA, it's the same thing."

Powell has been training for and fighting MMA for nearly six years and even though martial arts has been a passion of his for most his life, he proudly admits that he is always seeking improvement.

Countless hours in the gym and in training are what it takes to get the edge on an opponent and for Marines like Powell, which often means back to back slay sessions.

"I've got to do double the work a lot of the time," Powell said. "I'll go to my unit (physical training) and run three miles, just to go train with the fight team and do the same three miles again. The only difference is I'm not in green on green, I'm in fight shorts. At training, from PT and MCMAP to (MMA) fighting, I've still got to give it 100 percent."

This level of dedication is what makes MMA fighters and Marines reach a higher set of standards. They don't fear their body's limits; they seek out those limits and then push it further.

Even up to the very last moments before a fight, the fighters rigorously warm up, running grappling and striking drills with piercing determination. They are hungry for the win and will fight through pain and discomfort until they get it.

"It's all about accepting not being comfortable," Powell said. "When you're in the cage,

whether you're standing up, throwing punches or on the ground taking them, you're not going to be comfortable. And when you're in Afghanistan sweating your ass off and missing your family, you're going to be uncomfortable too. It sucks, but you're always going to be proud of what you are and what you're doing."

When the fight finally presents itself, it might be expected for the two fighters to look at each other with hatred, envisioning total obliteration for the other, but instead, despite their determination and intent of what's to come, they humble themselves to perform an act that distinguishes them as warriors instead of savages.

"They respect each other by shaking hands," Powell said. "It's not personal, it's sport fighting and you show each other that respect. Most MMA fighters act that way no matter what their background. They act honorably."

These warriors have trained for months to prepare for one fight, three rounds and 15 minutes of brutality and athletic prowess. For approximately six months, they train for strength, endurance, power, speed, agility, mobil-

ity and aerobic and anaerobic conditioning, so they can defeat their opponent and come out at the end of those three rounds victoriously. They train not only physically but mentally as well.

When the first round begins, the respect is still present but the fighters flip the switch and wage war. In a rumble of sweat and blood but never tears, two men revert to the most primal forms of conflict resolution, beating the crap out of each other. When the adrenaline is pumping, both fighters must remain intense yet focused, unpredictable yet controlled.

At the beginning, two fighters will shake hands like gentlemen and then somewhere along the way, after causing immense amounts of physical harm to one another, they end up hugging like brothers.

"Both fighters know what the other went through to prepare for that," Powell said. "It's a kindred bond, almost like they're siblings."

Once the decision is made and the winner declared, there is no more fight and no more disputing. All a fighter can do is prepare for the next war but before he can do that, he must first go home and get his nails done.

"It's a lifestyle. You completely commit. When you commit yourself to the Marine Corps, you abide by the training and the lifestyle and if you want to be proficient at MMA, it's the same thing."

- Cpl. Arthur Powell

We go home

She is on the front lines. A gatekeeper on what is a warrior. If anyone knows or can tell you, she can. She lives with a warrior, she raises little warriors. She even sometimes has to don the armor of a warrior to protect and raise her family when her husband is away.

And she wears flower dresses. She wears perfume. She paints her nails. She stands incognito.

"Military families stay at home and they protect the homeland so that when a Marine or sailor comes back, it's there for them," said Andrea Tatayon, family readiness officer, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. "Military family members protect the way of life."

She doesn't get the glory, the badges and a welcome home party. Tatayon may think it's difficult, but she, and others like her who support their Marines, will never let it show. They don't have to because they too are warriors.

"There is such a small population of people who actually stand up to protect the rights that everyone gets to enjoy," Tatayon said. "I think that every single one who joins (the military) is a warrior because they wanted to step up and serve something greater than themselves."

Being a warrior isn't just about vio-

lence and brutality. It is about the willingness to sacrifice for the benefit of others, the desire to defend.

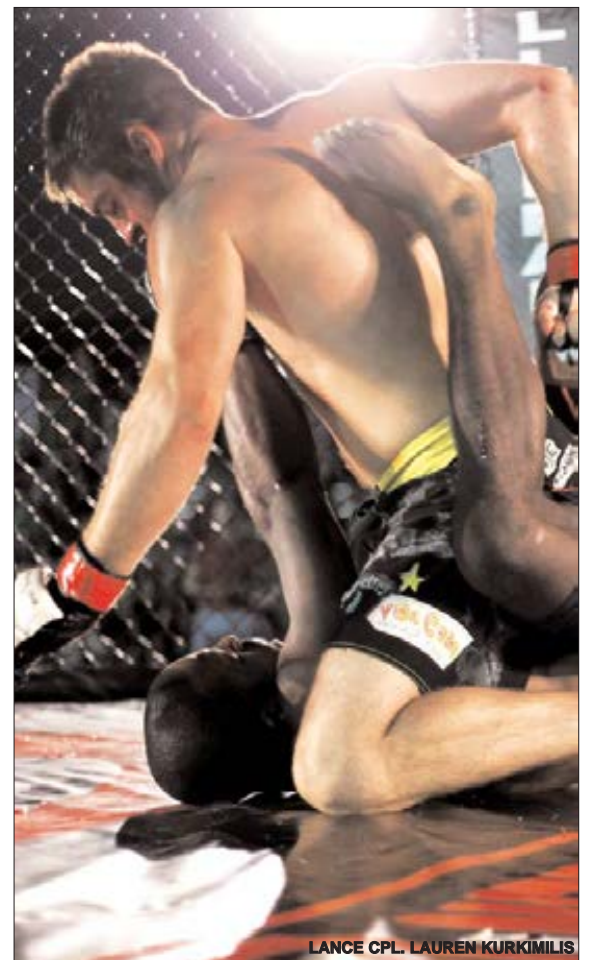
In turn, family members become an integral part of the warrior culture, the keepers of the warriors' hearts and well-being.

"When they come back (from deployment) they've spent so much time around each other and in the mission that we will remind them that, when they're around their family or their friends, it's OK to put that warrior Marine aside, to just be you," Tatayon said.

In this time, they can repair and they are reminded of what they are fighting for, why they sacrifice so much.

"The guy who will never crack a smile at work or soften his voice, is the guy who will go home and paint his daughter's nails or lets her paint his," Tatayon said. "They have to be a certain way, but they can't be that way in their home life. They have to walk this very fine line."

To be complete, a warrior walks that razor's edge and on one side is war and the other is love. Without that balance they are not warriors. They are animals on the hunt and not men in the fight. In the wake of brutality, a true warrior must be humbled by humanity.



LANCE CPL. LAUREN KURKIBILIS

[Top] Patrick Tenalioi taps out as his opponent, Tim Tlan, performs an ankle lock during Summer Fight Night IV held at the Combat Center's Del Valle Field June 21, 2013.

[Right] Ryan Dean pins his opponent, Geoff Ross, during Summer Fight Night IV held at the Combat Center's Del Valle Field June 21, 2013.



Liberty Call

Left-behind actors meet the apocalypse in riotous, raunchy comedy



COURTESY PHOTO

NEIL POND

"This Is The End"

Starring: Seth Rogen, James Franco, Jonah Hill & Craig Robinson
 Directed by Evan Goldberg & Seth Rogan
 R, 107 min.

Relentlessly raunchy but riotously funny, here's the movie that answers a question you probably never asked: What would happen if the apocalypse came and a bunch of egotistical pothead Hollywood actors were left behind to stew and chew and on their fate?

That's the premise of "This Is The End," in which Seth Rogen, James Franco, Jonah Hill, Danny McBride, Craig Robinson and Jay Baruchel portray hyper-fictionalized versions of themselves, caught in the aftermath of Armageddon and holed up in Franco's fortress-like mansion.

There, as the madness rages outside, they squabble about their dwindling provisions, consume massive quantities of

hallucinogenic drugs, discuss their movies, carve up their petty professional and personal differences, and eventually get around to confronting the larger situation they may be facing, like if they're going to heaven or hell and how the Father, Son and Holy Spirit can be three things at once, like Neapolitan ice cream.

But do not be mistaken: This is no Sunday school picnic. It's adults-only, stoner comedy at its most extreme, straining hard to make sure every icky, grody, envelope-pushing "ewww" of its R rating is covered.

Everything about it is over-the-top, almost off-the-charts profane. But it's also funny as...well, hell, especially for anyone who's enjoyed any of the actors' other comedic collaborations, in their various combinations, including "Pineapple Express," "Superbad," "Tropic Thunder" and "Knocked Up."

Rogen co-wrote and directed, and he's packed his movie with cameos by a host of his buddies, including Michael Cera, Jason Segel, Paul Rudd, Mindy Kaling, Channing Tatum and Aziz Ansari. There's an appearance by pop singer Rihanna, and Emma Watson crops up as another survivor who bashes her way with an ax into the casa de Franco.

There are nutso, jack-in-the-box surprises around every corner, and Rogen takes his metaphysical meltdown all the way up to the pearly gates and beyond, where his vision of the afterlife includes even more craziness.

As the cast runs from demons and makes cracks after cracks in the Earth have swallowed up their friends, they pause to ponder their lives--and why they haven't been beamed up in the shafts of blue light that have taken the "faithful" to their reward.

"Maybe He made a mistake and left us behind by accident?" Robinson says. "We're actors!" adds Franco defensively. "We bring joy to people's lives!"

The joy of "This Is The End" is in watching the frantic antics of actors who can't possibly be as shallow, spoiled or warped in real life as the versions of themselves they're playing on screen--and in knowing that the only real danger in this devilishly degenerated doomsday is that you might die laughing.

Relax with the paper

**Hi-Desert Star
The Desert Trail
The Observation Post**

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Combat Center Clubs

Excursions Enlisted Club
 Thursday: Karaoke, 8:30 - 10 p.m.
 Friday: DJ Gjettblaque, 8 - 11 p.m.
 Saturday: DJ Gjettblaque, 8 - 11 p.m.

Bloodstripes NCO Club
 Thursday: Warrior Night, 4:30 - 9 p.m.
 Friday: Karaoke Night, 6 - 9 p.m.

Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club
 Monday: Steak night, 4:30 - 8 p.m.
 Wednesday: Wing Special Wednesday, 4:30 - 9 p.m.
 Thursday: Free Happy Hour Food, 5 - 7 p.m.
 Friday: Steak Night, 4:30 - 8 p.m.
 Friday: DJ Gixxa, 8 - 11 p.m.

Combat Center Officers' Club
 Thursday: Free Happy Hour Food, 5 - 7 p.m.
 Thursday: Taco Night, 5 - 7 p.m.

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

Local Events

Free Line-Dance Lessons
 Learn to dance the night away
 When: 5 to 9 p.m., every Sunday
 Where: Willie Boy's Saloon and Dance Hall
 50048 29 Palms Hwy, Morongo Valley, Calif.
 For more information, call 363-3343.

The Perils of Goldilocks
 When: 7 p.m., Fridays & Saturdays, June 28 - July 27
 Where: Theatre 29
 73637 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms, Calif.
 For more information, call 316-4151
 or visit <http://www.theatre29.org>

Lower Desert

The Band Europa
 Dynamic Trio perform old German Polkas
 When: 10:30 p.m., Friday, June 28
 Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon, Calif.
 For more information, call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinosresort.com>.

Michael Jackson History Show II
 Tribute featuring Kenny Wizz
 When: 8 p.m., Sat., June 29
 Where: Agua Caliente Casino, Resort and Spa
 32-250 Bob Hope Dr., Rancho Mirage, Calif.
 For more information, call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>

KC and the Sunshine Band with the Village People
 Two iconic bands perform
 When: 8 p.m., Saturday, July 6
 Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio, Calif.
 For more information, call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Lonestar
 American country group perform
 When: 9:00 p.m., Friday, July 19
 Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon, Calif.
 For more information, call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinosresort.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, June 28
 6 p.m. - Tyler Perry's: Peeples, PG-13
 8:30 p.m. - Star Trek: Into Darkness 3-D, PG-13
 11: 50 p.m. - Fast and Furious 6, PG-13

Saturday, June 29
 12:30 p.m. - Despicable Me 3-D, PG
 2:30 p.m. - Fast and Furious 6, PG-13
 5:30 p.m. - Star Trek: Into Darkness, PG-13
 8:30 p.m. - The Great Gatsby, PG-13
 11:50 p.m. - Hangover Part III, R

Sunday, June 30
 3 p.m. - **Advanced Screening**, The Lone Ranger, PG-13
 7:30 p.m. - Now You See Me, PG-13

Monday, July 1
 7 p.m. - After Earth, PG-13

Tuesday, July 2
 6 p.m. - The Great Gatsby 3-D, PG-13

Wednesday, July 3
 5:30 p.m. - Star Trek: Into Darkness 3-D, PG-13
 8:30 p.m. - Big Wedding, Rated R

Thursday, July 4
 5:30 p.m. - Oblivion, Rated R
 8:30 p.m. - Scary Movie 5, Rated PG-13

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