

Combat Engineers bid farewell

Cpl. Lauren A. Kurkimilis
 Combat Correspondent

Combat Center patrons stood silent and still as they paid witness to the closing of an historic era. Crimson and gold colors gently ruffled in the mild morning air, waving for the last time before being retired and cased. This marked the official deactivation of 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, a unit that's participation in foreign wars since World War II has been integral to the Marine Corps' mission.

3rd CEB was officially deactivated during a ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Tuesday.

"This is the third time we've rolled these colors and deactivated this battalion," said Maj. Gen. Lawrence D. Nicholson, commanding general, 1st Marine Division. "This battalion formed in 1942, during one

"When things are really rough, you look for engineers. They are guys who solve problems and they are guys that prevent problems."

—Maj. Gen. Lawrence D. Nicholson

of the most dangerous periods in this countries' history. So, when things are really rough, you look for engineers. They are guys who solve problems and they are guys that prevent problems."

The battalion was first formed in 1942 in support of the Bougainville, Guam, and Iwo Jima campaigns, and deactivated at the end of World War II.

The unit reactivated in 1952, later deploying to the Republic of Vietnam from 1965 to 1969. Deploying in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm between 1990 and 1991, 3rd CEB later deactivated in 1995.

In 2007, the unit was reactivated at the Combat Center and deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"The performance of this command is outstanding and it is testament to that history and that legacy

See **ENGINEERS** page A7

Marine Corps' Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans vote for the best photograph, posted on the Corps' facebook page.

This week's top shot comes from Marine Special Operations Officers' Individual Training Course



LANCE CPL. THOMAS W. PROVOST

Marine Special Operations Officers graduating MARSOC's ITC will be assigned a new Primary Military Occupational Specialty, clearing the way for retention and promotion in a professional career path. Previously, only enlisted Marines designated as Critical Skills Operators were awarded a PMOS of 0372, while SOOs were awarded an Additional Military Occupational Specialty of 0370. The decision now allows SOOs to hold 0370 as a PMOS, and be managed with a development strategy that facilitates talent management of Special Operations Forces skills, standardized training, retention, promotions, command, professional military education and career progression, according to Maj. Gen. Clark, the MARSOC commander. "Approval of the PMOS allows the Marine Corps the ability to develop Marine Special Operations Officers, over a course of a career, as both fully proficient special operations professionals and well-rounded Marine Corps Air-Ground Task Force officers," said Clark.



Capt. Daniel De Lara, Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, explains how the RQ-7B long-wing unmanned aircraft vehicle during a Combat Center tour for retired generals and the Defense Science Study Group at Camp Wilson during a Combat Center Tour, July 5.

Professors, retired generals visit Combat Center

Cpl. Charles Santamaria
 Combat Correspondent

Retired generals alongside professors of mathematics and science from universities across the country came together for the Defense Science Study Group for a visit to the Combat Center hosted by G-3 operations office and members of the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, July 5.

Some of the participants in attendance included retired Air Force General Michael P. C. Carns, who retired in 1994 after serving as vice chief of staff, United States Air Force, for three years; retired Marine Corps General Carlton W. Fulford, Jr., who retired in 2003 after serving as deputy commander of U.S. European Command and retired Air Force General Larry D. Welch, who retired in 1990 and is a former chief of staff for the Air Force.

The tour took participants to several

locations and included a welcome from Maj. Gen. Lewis Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, and commentary throughout the tour from Col. Andrew Kennedy, assistant chief of staff, G-3 Operations. The group of visitors also saw the beginning of a Battalion Assault Course and static displays of unmanned aerial vehicles, tanks and light armored vehicles used by the Marine Corps today.

"We take the training we have here and we use the terrain to create scenarios and challenge the staff and unit in ways they haven't been, challenged before."

—Col. Andrew Kennedy

research is dealing with materials that can be used for new types of thin, durable armor. This visit on base gives me an opportunity to see how those things may be used by the armed forces."

The tour focuses on how the Marine

See **DSSG** page A7

CLB-7 REDEPLOYS TO COMBAT CENTER



Lt. Col. Joon H. Um, right, commanding officer, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, and Sgt. Maj. Mark W. Upp, sergeant major, CLB-1, uncase the unit's battle colors during a transfer of authority ceremony held aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Aug. 1,

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. JESSICA OSTROSKA

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 7 handed over responsibilities as the logistics combat element for Regional Command (Southwest) to Combat Logistics Battalion 1 during a transfer of authority ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Aug. 1.

This was the third deployment to Afghanistan for the unit based in Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California, and the casing of CLB-7's colors signifies their Operation Enduring Freedom mission is now complete.

Combat Logistics Battalion 7's deployment to Afghanistan began during January 2014. Throughout their time deployed, the unit completed more than 20 combat logistics patrols and provided transportation support to 95 helicopter support team missions and 1,074 general support missions aboard the Camps Bastion and Leatherneck complex. They conducted 58 engineering missions and assisted in teaching warehousing operations and the reorganization of the Afghan National Army's 215th Corps Forward Supply Depot located on Camp Shorabak. Combat Logistics Battalion 7 also provided maintenance training and heavy equipment maintenance training courses to the Afghan National Army.

The Marines and sailors of the CLB-7 services companies completed

See **CLB-7** page A7

This Week in Combat Center History



Reprinted from the
Observation Post
Vol. 17, Issue 29
Aug. 3, 1973

Ceremony honors six Marines

Courtesy Story

One officer and five enlisted Marines were honored in formal award and retirement ceremonies held July 31 in front of the Headquarters building here.

During the ceremony, Lance Corporal Robert R. James of 4th Battalion, 11th Marines, received the Navy Achievement Medal for his performance of duty while serving as an analyst with the Combat Readiness Center, 3rd Marine Division, on Okinawa from March 19 to April 2, 1973.

Major Donald E. Williams of Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, who was Base Communications Officer, completed more than 26 years of active duty. He has served in Korea and South Vietnam.

Maj. Williams is married to the former Connie Williams from Alhambra, California. They have two children and plan to live in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Patrick J. Woods, HQ Co., Force Troops, who was Operations Chief, G-3, has completed more than 28 years of active duty, serving in China, Korea and Vietnam. He has earned the Combat Action Ribbon.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Woods, his wife, Shirley and their four children plan to live in 29 Palms after retirement.

Master Sgt. Furney T. Lambert, Communications Chief, 1st Field Artillery Group has completed over 20 years service on active duty, serving in Korea, Thailand and Laos. His personal decorations include the Combat Action Ribbon and the South Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star.

Master Sgt. Lambert and his family plan to live in San Diego.

Master Sgt. Dewey E. Jones, Marine corps Communications and Electronics School was the Logistics Chief at S-4 there. He has completed 20 years of active duty, serving in Korea and Vietnam. He has earned the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Master Sgt. Jones has three Children. The family plans to live in 29 palms.

Gunnery Sgt. Horace E. Bell of Headquarters Company, Force Troops completed more than 20 years of active service. He served in South Vietnam and has the Bronze Star with combat V, the Cross of Gallantry Medal with Bronze Star.

Gunnery Sgt. Bell and his wife plan to live in Oceanside, Calif.

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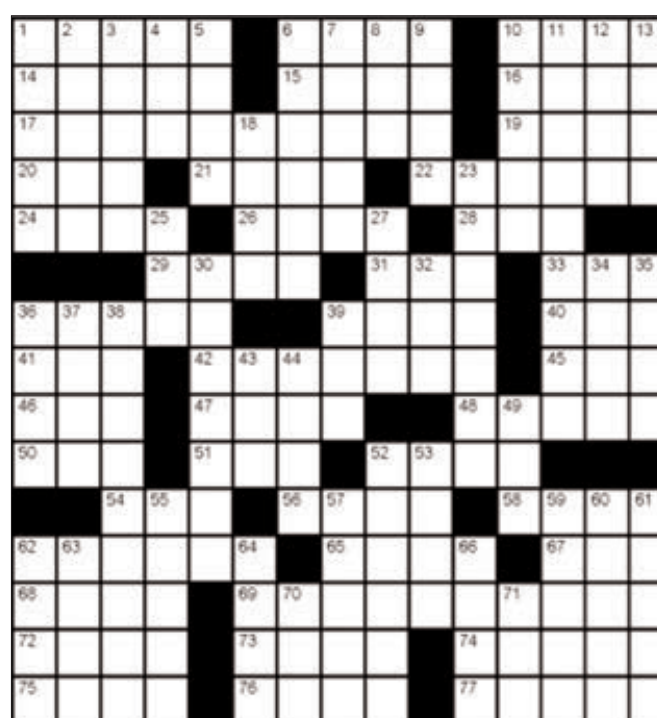
The Combat Center has its own YouTube channel. Find it at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO>

The Combat Center has its own Flickr photo and video streams. Find them at <http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter>

“ROYAL FLUSH”

See answers on page A6

- Across**
- 1 Soft drinks
 - 6 A long, long time
 - 10 Light blue color
 - 14 Come up
 - 15 Man or boy
 - 16 Do a household chore
 - 17 Animal with big ears
 - 19 Judge
 - 20 Devoured
 - 21 ___ in the blank
 - 22 Goes too fast
 - 24 Sneakers brand
 - 26 Hazard for a ship
 - 28 Big coffee holder
 - 29 Angry cat's sound
 - 31 Parking place
 - 33 Take a chair
 - 36 Rouse
 - 39 Small
 - 40 Nest egg shelter, for short
 - 41 Boxing great
 - 42 Certain bill, in slang
 - 45 Zig and ___
 - 46 Actor Chaney
 - 47 Kitchen fixture
 - 48 Unwraps
 - 50 Cost an arm and a ___
 - 51 Earl Grey or chamomile
 - 52 Not crazy
 - 54 Tax expert, for short
 - 56 Former senator Trent
 - 58 Low-___ diet
- Down**
- 1 Pat of “Wheel of Fortune”
 - 2 Give a speech
 - 3 Cut into small cubes
 - 4 Inquire
 - 5 Medieval worker
 - 6 Walks slowly
 - 7 Clark of “Gone With the Wind”
 - 8 Quarterback Manning
 - 9 Goes down, as the Sun
 - 10 Black ___ (scary snake)
 - 11 Like some beds
 - 12 Not new
 - 13 Bank conveniences
 - 18 Puts on TV
 - 23 Clothing store clerk’s



- 62 Mythical creatures
- 65 Hard to find
- 67 ___ Aviv
- 68 It has a sash
- 69 Wound cover
- 72 Surrounding glow
- 73 Trick
- 74 Actress Day
- 75 School orgs.
- 76 “What ___ is new?”
- 77 Cheese with holes
- urge
- 25 Not he
- 27 Toss (a coin)
- 30 Counting every thing
- 32 Lennon's lady
- 34 Its capital is Tehran
- 35 They tell you an item's price
- 36 One of four in most rooms
- 37 Soothing plant
- 38 Snake with a hood
- 39 Bill Gates's portal
- 43 Christmas ___
- 44 Actress Patricia ___
- 49 Chest muscle, for short
- 52 Home to a horse
- 53 Razor brand
- 55 “Guilty” and “not guilty”
- 57 Two-color cookies
- 59 Video game company
- 60 TV star Philbin
- 61 “___ you!” (words to a sneezer)
- 62 Snare
- 63 Easy victory
- 64 Place to keep valuables
- 66 Finishes
- 70 Rank below gen.
- 71 ___ Jones

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



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 - Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar St.
- In National City:**
 - Dream Crystal, 15366 Highland Ave.
 - Sports Auto Sales, 1112 National City Blvd.

- 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

Ali Los Angeles, combat correspondent, Headquarters Battalion, 22

AZIMI



> **It didn't take me** long to figure out what kind of person I am. When you know, you know.

> **I don't mean** my career or anything like that. To me it's all about where I live and who I am. As long as I'm happy, I don't mind if I'm poor.

> **My personal motto is**, "I'm good at everything, but great at nothing."

> **So yeah sure**, I can make a half-court hook shot, but I'll never make three-point shots consistently because that takes more than luck or natural ability. It takes practice and "ain't nobody got time for that."

> **I have a sixth sense**. It's not like the movie; I can't speak to dead people, however, I can tell when squirrels are afraid.

> **I hope my sixth sense becomes** useful one day, but I'm not sure when that day might come.

> **My thoughts usually dwell** on the zombie apocalypse. I know what to look for and where to go. I even have a meet-up spot with my brother.

> **I'd use my sixth sense** as a radar system. Squirrels are all over Los Angeles, so if I smell their fear, I'll know which directions to avoid.

> **Not many people know** I write poetry. "My name is chuck. I have the luck of a conquistador. But when I fray to save the day, I am struck by heaven's door."

> **I just made that up** on the spot. See, good, but not great.

> **I believe**, day dreaming is one of the best things you can do with those few extra minutes you have in your day, standing in line or waiting for someone.

> **It really frees your mind** and you start to come up with ideas you would never come across otherwise.

> **I have a lot of** strange theories about the world.

> **The moon isn't just** up there in the sky. It's following me. Judging me. I don't like the moon very much.

> **"Life" cereal can** actually kill you. It's ironic really.

> **When you blink** the world turns off and back on when you open your eyes.

> **Those are just a few** but you get the point. I don't believe in any of them but it's crazy to think about; the possible realities that may be all around us.

> **To admit you know nothing** is true knowledge. Someone famous said that, but I'm not sure who. I take it as, anything is possible. I live for possibility.

> **I might possibly be** an alien with amnesia. That's actually an idea I have for a sitcom. It's copyright, don't steal it.

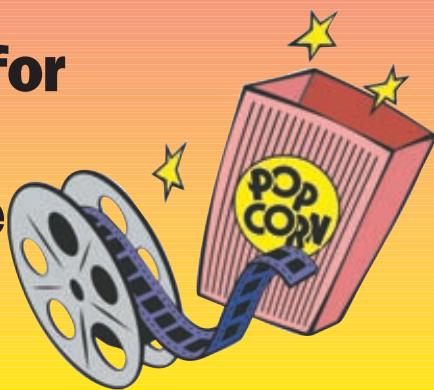
> **My GoPro is one of my** prized possessions. It lets me show things from my perspective. Skewed, odd and endlessly random.

> **I want to go** into a psychological field. I tell people it's because I want to understand the human mind, but really I just want to prove I'm the only normal person on Earth.

> **The most important thing to know about me** and what is all-encompassing of my character is I like to make sure the people around me are happy, smiling and laughing. If people read this and smile just once then I've done my job, because if you make a person smile, you've improved a moment of their life. That's what I want to do with my life. Despite what career path I choose I'm going to make the world smile.

Story and photo by Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya, Aug. 4, 2014.

See page B2 for
Sunset
Cinema movie
schedule



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1/7

TIP OF THE SPEAR

Lance Cpl. Andrew Witte, motor transportation mechanic, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, performs maintenance on a Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, July 22.



Marine mechanics ensure success during combat operations

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. JOSEPH SCANLAN

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan -- The ground assault force is a crucial element during combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. To ensure the force's vehicles can move to and from objectives, which can entail a life or death situation, motor transportation mechanics are relied on to keep each vehicle properly functioning at all times.

From sunrise until sunset, the clicks of ratchets and whines of power drills can be heard every day as the mechanics of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, continuously work on vehicles to ensure mission success.

Finishing each day covered in motor oil, transmission fluid, dirt and sweat, five lance corporal mechanics are the only individuals responsible for all vehicle maintenance. They arrived at the battalion just a few months before the deployment and currently fill billets typically slated for non-commissioned officers.

"There is a lot of responsibility that rests on their shoulders," said Gunnery Sgt. Michael Shuman, the motor transportation chief, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. "They have a work ethic that I can't even describe; it's just phenomenal. They continue to push nonstop."

Corrective and preventative maintenance keep the Marines busy on a daily basis. Basic preventative maintenance consists of replacing oil filters, primary fuel filters, fuel water separa-

tors, air dryer filters, transmission filters and transfer case filters.

"Most of the filters are pretty easy to get to, but some of them require us to drop the 1,500-pound belly armor to access," said Lance Cpl. Andrew Witte, motor transportation mechanic, 1/7, and a native of Phoenix.

The mechanics also stay busy by replacing broken windows on each vehicle. After years of patrolling, nearly all of the vehicles had spider-web-shaped cracks on every window as a result of gunfire, shrapnel and rocks. Some of the bullet-proof windows weigh up to 400 pounds and can take hours to replace.

The lance corporals are also employed on every mission the battalion conducts that includes vehicles. Mine rollers and vehicles often malfunction or break down during missions due to maneuvering over rough and uneven terrain or from improvised explosive device explosions. Whether it is 1 p.m. in the searing heat or 2 a.m. in the darkness of the night, the mechanics are immediately on the scene to fix any problem.

"Sometimes I have to sit in the sun all day when I'm trying to get a vehicle to work," Witte said. "Sometimes things just don't go my way and it takes a lot longer than it should to fix a problem, but it's one of the greatest feelings when I get a vehicle fixed. I love being a mechanic because it's a very rewarding (military occupation-

al specialty)."

While many Marines catch up on rest after missions, the mechanics have dozens of hours of work awaiting them immediately upon their return. From annual and preventative maintenance to fixing broken parts, they have to ensure every vehicle is ready to go for the very next mission as soon as possible. There is no such thing as a rest day for the mechanics of 1/7.

It can be easy for an individual's motivation and work ethic to burn out after several months of backbreaking work every single day, but the mechanics expressed that they love what they do. Their hard work and long hours clearly show through the success of the ground assault force each mission.

"I couldn't be happier with the work they have done out here," said Schuman, a native of Bloomsburg, Penn. "Not one time have they ever missed a mission due to broken vehicles. If there is a specific number of functioning vehicles we need for a mission, they not only meet the requirement, they exceed it, and have continued to this entire deployment."

"It's been an absolute privilege to work with such a group of professionals," Shuman added. The mechanics of 1/7, are nearly finished with their hard work in Helmand province. The battalion is slated to return to the United States this fall.

See page B2 for Sunset Cinema movie schedule

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Sgt. Eduardo Ayala, food service specialist, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, prepares miniature pizzas for the dinner rush aboard Camp Dwyer, Helmand province, Afghanistan, July 21.



Sgt. Eduardo Ayala, food service specialist, 1/7, prepares miniature pizzas aboard Camp Dwyer, Helmand province, Afghanistan, July 21.

FOOD SERVICE MARINES OFFER HOMEMADE MEALS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BY CPL. CODY HAAS

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan — Culinary excellence is not the first thing to come to mind for most people when thinking about deployed service members in Afghanistan. However, food service specialists at Camp Dwyer strive to serve Marines and sailors a delicious meal three times a day at the Harvest Falcon Dining Facility.

Sgt. Anthony Zappone, food service specialist, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, and Sgt. Eduardo Ayala, food service specialist, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, worked together to improve the dining facility, incorporating new standards and teamwork for troops and civilian contractors.

Zappone was selected to be a mess chief for the Harvest Falcon because of his culinary efforts aboard Forward Operating Base Delaram II in Helmand province.

“At FOB Delaram II, I added a hot lunch, a brunch every Monday that consisted of steak and eggs and made every effort to make the best food I possibly could for the three months. I was there during January through April,” Zappone said. “A lot of it has to do with my pride and because I care how people are treated. If I can make a person’s day better by something as simple as adding peaches to oatmeal, I am going to make that happen. It is a simple way to keep things different and keep smiles on troops’ faces.”

Upon arriving at Camp Dwyer, Zappone acquired three new refrigerators and added an office for handling shipments of food and necessities. Ayala reinforced the basics such as cleaning before and after dining hours to ensure all of the tables were clean and presentable, the cooking area

was sanitary and all of the refrigerators and condiments were full.

“Sgt. Ayala is a great Marine and leader,” said Zappone. “To have him be on board with what I wanted to accomplish, was a blessing. Two heads are always better than one. We made a great team because of the respect we had for one another. We challenged each other in every way which helped us become better leaders ourselves. Sgt. Ayala and I created 21-day menu with themes for our meals such as spaghetti night, Taco Tuesday, Soul Food Thursday and All You Can Eat Monday.”

The food service Marines are in charge of making sure meals are served at the correct temperature, the facility is cleaned daily and food is cooked properly.

“Sgt. Zappone and Ayala worked together to create their own menus, which gave service members more choices at every meal,” said Gunnery Sgt. Carlos Moreira, mess chief, CLB-7 and a native of Bronx, New York. “They made the dining facility cleaner and more presentable. Instead of one or two choices of drinks, now we get monthly shipments of different sodas, juice and milk for service members to choose from. They raised the standards of the overall cleanliness of the facility as well. They see the bigger picture. This is a place for troops to relax and enjoy a quality meal and environment. I always hear Marines talk about coming here for the home-cooked-tasting meal.”

Although it was not easy, Zappone and Ayala never quit or said, “It’s good enough.”

“Accomplishing the mission is what our Marine Corps’ heritage is built on, and my mission was to

offer the best service my Marines and I possibly could.”

Today the Harvest Falcon offers three hot meals a day with multiple main entrees for service members to choose from because of Ayala and Zappone.

“I knew I had something better to offer,” said Ayala, a native of Richmond, California. “I wanted to make a difference that would affect the service members and civilians at Camp Dwyer in a positive way.”

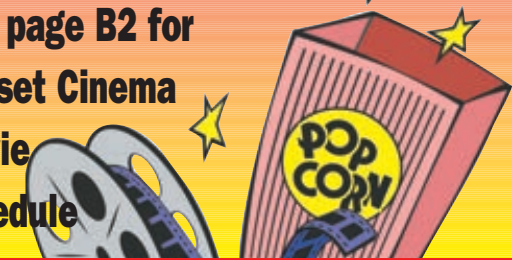
The Marines constantly enforce correct procedures despite their different cooking and operating styles. A heavy significance is placed on cleanliness and thoroughness in the preparation of food.

Continuous mentoring basic knowledge to improve and proficiency is a goal, too. They not only focus on learning new things from each other, but they reinforce standard procedures.

“I recognize the importance of the basics, and I am confident the Harvest Falcon is one of the best dining facilities in a combat environment run by Marines,” Zappone said. “From the storeroom to the galley, the management to the workers, I know it is the best I have ever been in that is located in a field environment from the four times I have been deployed during my eight-year career. The Marines are very important to me. I put in the hours with my Marines because I care and I will never stop. The feeling of seeing change for the better keeps me going.”

Zappone redeployed in July after completing a seven-month tour in Afghanistan.

See page B2 for
Sunset Cinema
movie
schedule



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WHY THE LONG FACE?



Jasmine Steele, 16, walks a horse around the pen during a visit to the Blue Barn Ranch as part of the Youth Leadership Series Aug. 1. 18 kids with the program stepped into the pen to take control of the horses.

Leadership program gives hands-on training

YUCCA VALLEY, Calif. – The horse galloped around the inside of the pen, kicking up dirt from the ground and the excitement of the 12-year-old boy at the center rose. As he calmed himself, the horse took notice and calmed down to a trot and then a slow walk. The boy approached the horse and put his hand out. The horse trusted him and moved his head in to be petted.

This was the scene at the Blue Barn Ranch, where 18 Combat Center kids visited to learn leadership skills, as a part of the Youth

Leadership Series, Aug. 1.

The series is a partnership between the School Liaison Program and the L.I.N.K.S. Program to develop leadership skills in military children along or through the course of eight weeks of classes, activities and field trips.

The group's trip to the ranch gave the children hands-on training as they stepped into the ring and took charge of a horse.

The class was led by Susan Lilly, marriage and family therapist, and Angie Sheer, equine special-

ist, beginning with leadership and its relations to the 1,000-pound animals.

Lilly and Sheer work for Equus Medendi, an equine assisted learning and therapy group and certified charity.

The instructors taught the students that horses are herd animals, whom work together and follow one leader. When a person confronts a horse, the horse feeds off the energy and can tell the difference between confidence and anxiety.

"What matters to the horse is your intention and you're honesty," said Lilly. "You have to be real and genuine."

After their instructional period, the students took turns gaining the trust of a horse and establishing themselves as the leader. They followed the direction of Sheer and Lilly, first calming the horse down, proving themselves as a friend, and finally leading the animal around the ring.

"When you first get in there and see the horse staring at you, it's a little nerve racking," said Jaden Rosamilia, 12. "If you warm up to it, it will warm up to you."

Their last exercise was focused on team work. The group worked together during a game of horse billiards, where the group had to work together to lead the animal into all three pockets at the corner of the ring. The challenge required them to coordinate with each other and think outside the box in order to complete the task.

The leadership event at the ranch was just a taste of a six-day course provided by Equus Medendi for service members and their families. The free course utilizes horse therapy to help with confidence, relationship issues and mental disorder.



Jaden Rosamilia, 12, earns the trust of the horse during a visit to the Blue Barn Ranch as part of the Youth Leadership Series Aug. 1.

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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



I am an early riser and I start the day, seven days a week, reading three daily newspapers.

I always begin by reading the comics. I don't read every strip or cartoon but I read all the funny ones. My favorites include Blondie, Peanuts, Beetle Bailey, Family Circus, Dennis the Menace, and Ziggy. I also enjoy the clever cartoons in our two local weeklies.

This is not only a delightful habit but it also increases a person's life span. Serious studies from the University of Wisconsin reveals that people who read the comics before the obituaries have markedly longer life spans. It makes sense to me!

A sense of humor is a powerful attribute that can do much to improve the health and well-being of any person who makes the concerted effort to develop this inherent gift from the Creator.

That's one of the reasons I never miss the weekly newscasts on radio Z 107.7 FM. Gary Daigneault and Pat Michaels always provide a joke for the morning and other light-hearted banter that gets my day off to a good start.

No less an authority than the renowned theologian Reinhold Niebuhr led me to believe that humor and laughter are both basic to the development of a truly satisfying religious life. It was Dr. Niebuhr who wrote, "Humor is a prelude to faith and laughter is the beginning of prayer. Pass it on!" Well, I have spent a lifetime living the advice of my brilliant contemporary and passing it on. I have always kept humor and genuine laughter at the heart of all I say and do.

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See page B2 for Sunset Cinema movie schedule



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ENGINEERS, from A1

of such a fine battalion," said Lt. Col. Brian Dwyer, commanding officer, 3rd CEB. "These are the Marines that performed rout clearance ... to ensure and assure the safe passage of any unit that needed to get somewhere. Day in and day out, they got on the road and said, 'It will not be the Marine behind me. I will find that IED or I will take it myself.' That is the caliber of Marine that is standing behind me."

At the ceremony, portraits of every Marine who lost their lives in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom were on display to be honored and recognized.

"We have eight Marines and sailors that lost their lives serving with this battalion just during this rotation," Nicholson said. "Can we please have a round of applause for our gold star families? Thank you for being here with us today."

The final review was performed by the Marines of 3rd CEB as they marched past the reviewing area and the 3rd CEB colors were then respectfully lowered during the National Anthem one last time before being put away. It was assured to the audience though that this would only be until the unit would once again be called upon.

"Today we are going to roll these colors, but we're not saying, 'Goodbye,'" Nicholson said. "We are saying, 'See you later.' We are going to roll these colors knowing that when the nation needs them the most, when the wolf is at the door, we will once again unfurl these colors and we will fill the ranks with great and talented young combat engineers that will carry the load and protect all of us."

DSSG, from A1

Corps operates and trains and how those methods are incorporated into the Combat Center for Integrated Training Exercises. One example was a diagram of the Combat Center, presented by Kennedy during the welcome brief, which depicted the area of Marine Corps bases such as Camp Pendleton Calif., Camp Lejeune N.C. and Quantico VA. inside of the Combat Center training area. The picture gave a perspective of the size of the Combat Center.

"This base is one of a kind," Kennedy said. "We take the training we have here and we use the terrain to create scenarios and challenge the staff and unit in ways they haven't been challenged before. One of the unique things about this base is that we maneuver across impact areas and targets just as a unit would in combat."

The participants visited several units including 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 and 1st Tank Battalion. Marines from their respective units gave the retired generals and professors a hands-on experience with the vehicles including a close look at the UAV RQ-7B long wing unmanned aerial vehicle, tours inside of tanks, and a ride on a LAV wearing flak jackets and kevlar helmets. The crews of the vehicles were also present to answer questions pertaining to the design and operation of their machines.

"Most of what we look for and ask about is science and technology so we can use our science to eventually help service members on the battlefield and close technological gaps that may be present in the military," Strano said. "I am thankful for all the military personnel here and grateful for their service."

CLB-7, from A1

38 Warrior Express Service missions by distributing more than 3,636 tri-walls of mail, and providing over 172,000 meals to Forward Operating Bases Delaram II and Dwyer. The supply and maintenance Marines and sailors provided recovery support for 14 operations and seven immediate response team missions, and conducted 196 maintenance support team missions throughout RC(SW) area of operations. Medical Company treated 3,770 patients on Camp Leatherneck and FOB Dwyer, and provided environmental health site assessments to outlying forward operating bases within RC(SW).

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company responded to 1,402 incident reports and destroyed materials totaling 15,125 pounds of net explosive weight. They also supported 239 route clearance missions and the support for 53 named operations. Combat Logistics Battalion 7 also supported numerous operations in support of RC(SW) to completely close or transfer four bases in northern Helmand Province, including the historic liftoff from Sangin district.

The CLB-7 Marines and sailors were responsible for maintaining more than \$231 million worth of equipment and closing out four coalition accounts in accordance with retrograde efforts. Of the coalition accounts, none of the gear was Marine Corps gear, and Marines had to learn and understand the process for accounting, requisitioning, retrograding and closing the accounts of theater provided equipment and coalition provided equipment. The gear combined from the accounts was worth more than \$23 million. The unit also facilitated the turn-in of more than 600 containers, totaling more than \$42 million, in just two days.

Combat Logistics Battalion 7 was very fortunate enough to not have lost any lives during their missions and operations during their time in Afghanistan.

"I think the Marines and sailors performed very well, and I am really proud of them," said Lt. Col. Sid R. Welch, commanding officer, CLB-7, and native of Bellville, Texas. "Our motto here has been 'Enable the March.' We tell the Marines to be professional, be polite, find a way to say yes, and a way to support a unit because that is how we win. They accomplished the mission, and they did it proficiently and safely."

The ceremony marks the start of CLB-1's third deployment to Afghanistan. The unit, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, is scheduled to be here to help close down Camps Bastion and Leatherneck. They will be the last unit to aid RC(SW) with tactical-level logistical support, and will close out another chapter in Marine Corps history as the last unit to serve as the LCE for RC(SW).

Combat Logistics Battalion 1 has a unique role and responsibility as the LCE for RC(SW). They are set up to maintain and sustain all units with ground and transportation support, explosive ordnance disposal, medical, disbursing and exchange services as well as postal, engineering, supply and maintenance services.

With retrograde and redeployment efforts underway, the mission of CLB-1 versus that of CLB-7 has changed a bit to focus more on the troops preparing to close down the Bastion-Leatherneck Complex as more responsibility is turned over to the Afghans.

"My goal is to ensure that we meet the commanding general's intent of achieving retrograde and redeployment with minimal risk, so I am going to finish what Lt. Col. Welch and his team started," said Lt. Col. Joon H. Um, commanding officer, CLB-1, and native of Harrington Park, New Jersey. "He talks about 'Enabling the March,' and (CLB-1) needs to finish the march. It is a privilege to be here, and to be finishing things during these last few months, it is truly an honor. This isn't a CLB-7 or CLB-1 fight, it is a joint fight because we are interchangeable, under the same regiment. They started it, and we are going to finish it. We have some big shoes to fill that CLB-7 has left for us. And we will finish the march."

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

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See page B2 for Sunset Cinema movie schedule

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I know this is a tall order, but is anyone looking for casual fellowship over coffee who is a 5-point Calvinist? Amillennial? Doesn't believe in literal Sabbath-keeping, mandatory tithing, paedobaptism, or the health/wealth gospel? Believes Mat. 24 is fulfilled? Believes we are not the Romans 7 man or part old man and part new man? If so, call me at 760-365-6901.

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Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 PM
Call 760-367-4185 for more information

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38

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WeekINPhotos

Marine Corps Martial Arts Center of Excellence



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. JONATHAN BOYNES

[Top, right] Master Sgt. Ronald Jacobs and Staff Sgt. Jeffery Bentley, instructors, Marine Corps Martial Arts Center of Excellence, Quantico, Va., conduct a martial arts demonstration during Marine Week Seattle at Genesee Park, Aug. 2.

[Top, left] Sgt. Steven Burrell, Marine Corps Martial Arts instructor, Marine Corps Martial Arts Center of Excellence in Quantico, Va., conducts a martial arts demonstration during Marine Week Seattle at Genesee Park, Aug. 2.

[Right] Burrell, conducts a martial arts demonstration during Marine Week Seattle at Genesee Park, Aug. 2. Marine Week Seattle showcases Marine Corps equipment, aircraft and technological capabilities to the general public. More than 700 Marines participated in Marine Week Seattle to give Seattleites the opportunity to meet the individual Marine and celebrate community, country and Corps.



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LSE



CPL. RICARDO HURTADO

Lance Cpl. Jevon Hudson, left, and Jose A. Jimenez, digital multi-channel wideband transmission equipment operators, 9th Communication Battalion, Brigade Headquarters Group, raise an AN/MRC-142c digital wideband transmission system 50-foot antenna, during Large Scale Exercise 2014 aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 5.

1st MEB ready to kick off Large Scale Exercise 14

Cpl. Ricardo Hurtado
Combat Correspondent

Marines with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade are equipped and arranged to begin Large Scale Exercise 2014 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

LSE-14, which will run from Aug. 8-14, is a bilateral training exercise conducted by 1st MEB to build U.S., British and Canadian forces' joint capabilities through live, simulated, and constructive military training activities.

Brig. Gen. Carl E. Mundy III, commanding general, MEB, leads the force. The MEB is designed to respond to crises around the world in the same manner as a Marine Expeditionary Unit or a Special Marine Air Ground Task Force with further sustainability.

One of the MEB's capabilities is to provide boots on the ground within 24-to-72 hours including setting up a command and control post. Through LSE-14, 1st MEB looks to develop its command element's expeditionary capabilities.

LSE-14 revolves around a notional scenario in which the fictitious land of

Acadia, a U.S. ally, has been invaded by their neighbor to the North, Dakota, in what seems to be an aggressive step in a larger plot to seize control over a great swath of land currently governed by Fredonia, another fictional ally.

"We're in the fictitious land of Acadia which is represented by Southern California," said Lt. Col. Doug "Lucky" Luccio, G-3 current operations officer with 1st MEB. The Dakotians have moved into Acadia and have occupied the land, so we have to fight to push [them] out.

The exercise will serve as a way to experiment different fighting techniques at the command element level.

Luccio said the event takes Marines from the garrison environment and places them in a tactical setting. Once in the field, Marines are forced to run into the same type of logistical challenges they would face in a forward-deployed scenario, having to overcome them while accomplishing the mission.

The exercise will also sharpen the MEB's effectiveness when coordinating strategies in a joint environment.

"We expect that the exercise will chal-

lenge us to deal with things such as displaced personnel, the management of logistics, coordination of fire support, and cross-boundary coordination with adjacent units," said Luccio. "We [have] the 5 Canadian Mechanized Brigade out here, which is our adjacent organization."

A MEB is a force scalable to a particular mission, and can include vast numbers of Marines working in tandem under a single commander toward a common goal. To save time, manpower and money, 1st MEB will simulate some of the scenarios encountered during LSE-14.

"There are about 4,000 people participating in this exercise. If you look at the big picture, in order to deploy the entire MEB you're looking at closer to 20,000 people total," said Luccio. "You're saving the manpower of about 16,000 people to do this exercise by simulating some of the training."

1st MEB will employ a convoy simulator constituted by five Humvees and a logistics truck, each represented by a room with a Marine in it, and the computer-based simulation replicates the sights and sounds of a real convoy while providing tactile feedback to the operator. That

simulated convoy—and every other simulated aspect of the exercise, from close air support to enemy actions—will be reflected in the real-time data fed to the MEB Combat Operations Center.

"We'll have aviators get in a flight simulator; they will fly a mission we've tasked them, look for the enemy, engage the enemy, provide reconnaissance and give us some feedback on what they see," said Luccio. "Everything the pilots see in the flight simulator, whatever the logistics guys see in the convoy simulator will all get fed into the operations center."

Luccio added that even though parts of the exercise will be simulated, thanks to the technological capabilities of 1st MEB, it will feel real to the command element at all times.

"The primary training [during LSE-14] is for the command element of the [1st MEB]," said Luccio.

1st MEB will continue to stand ready for future operations around the globe, preparing for future exercises in support of the I Marine Expeditionary Force and maintaining the high levels of proficiency and standards that makes the Marine Corps America's force in readiness.



LANCE CPL. CAITLIN BEVEL

Marines with Brigade Headquarters Group, 1st MEB, refuel a generator at Camp Francis during Large Scale Exercise 2014 aboard the Combat Center, Aug. 2.

BHG supports life during Combat Center Training

Lance Cpl. Caitlin Bevel
Combat Correspondent

The Brigade Headquarters Group of 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade embarked July 22 to begin setup for Large Scale Exercise 2014 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

LSE-14 is a bilateral training exercise between the U.S. and Canada which includes live, simulated, and constructive operations to enhance both countries' ability to activate and deploy a Marine Air Ground Task Force with speed and effective-

ness in support of the full range of military operations as required by combatant commanders.

"The purpose of BHG is to provide services to the command element to allow them to do their jobs," said Maj. Phillip Estrella, the executive officer of BHG.

Marines from BHG were among the first on site for the exercise. After a full month of planning, they arrived about two weeks before the official start of the exercise, Aug. 8, to begin setting up tents, medical facilities, and restrooms.

"Everything that is day to day or common sense, there is someone behind that who has to

coordinate it and make it happen," said 1st Lt. Abigail Blank, camp commandant. Camp Francis, which houses the Command Operations Center for LSE-14.

The BHG provides resources that make the desert environment of the Combat Center survivable and help the Marines be more productive by providing a wide range of services from external security to food for the Marines.

"We make sure everything is seamless," Blank said.

Portions of the exercise depend completely on computers within the COC. The BHG ensures that the generators powering those essential systems always have fuel, explained Blank.

BHG is also responsible for implementing new insulation in some of the tents at LSE-14. Estrella explained the new insulation is being observed and tested by Headquarters Marine Corps.

"We get to test out the (Expeditionary Energy Office) radiant barriers that help make the air conditioning more efficient," said Blank.

Blank added that one of the greatest challenges the BHG faced while setting up for the exercise was the heat.

"One of the first things we did was establish medical," said Blank. "We didn't want to push the Marines too hard so we had multiple measures to make sure they didn't go down."

Medical personnel were embedded with the Marines as they worked and high priority was placed on making sure everyone had access to water, ice, and cooling tents.

The BHG established a system that will allow their support to continue even if portions of the staff were removed to simulate combat casualties. They arranged schedules for food, restroom maintenance, fueling and other essential tasks.

"We made sure that everyone knows at the lowest level what we need to do," said Blank.

The services provided by BHG and the experiences its Marines gain by participating in LSE-14 prepare them to have boots on the ground with the efficiency that makes the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade America's premier crisis response force.

Liberty Call



Combat Center Events

Sesame Street Tour

USO and the Sesame Street Workshop are bringing the Sesame Street/USO Experience for military families.
 When: Aug. 8, 2 p.m. & 6 p.m. and Aug. 9, 1p.m. & 5 p.m.
 Where: Sunset Cinema
 For more information, call 830-5086

Back to School Week

Back to school week offers a week of activities including the Education Fair, Pool Party, Fashion Show and Back to School Brigade.
 When: Aug. 12 to Aug. 15
 Where: Community Center
 For more information, call 830-5086

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Aug. 8

2 p.m. – Sesame Street Tour

6 p.m. – Sesame Street Tour

Saturday, Aug. 9

1p.m. – Sesame Street Tour

5 p.m. – Sesame Street Tour

Sunday, Aug. 10

12 p.m. – How to Train Your Dragon 2 3-D, PG

2:30 p.m. – Panes: Fire and Rescue 3-D, PG

5 p.m. – Transformers: Age of Extinction 3-D, PG-13

8:30 p.m. – Purge: Anarchy, R

Monday, Aug. 11

6:30 p.m. – Deliver us from Evil, R

Tuesday, Aug. 12

6 p.m. – Transformers: Age of Extinction 3-D, PG-13

Wednesday, Aug. 13

5 p.m. – Earth to Echo, PG

7:30 p.m. – Tammy, R

Thursday, Aug. 14

5 p.m. – How to Train Your Dragon 2 3-D, PG

7:30 p.m. – Think Like a Man Too



‘Apes’ sequel further muddies the line between monkey and man

NEIL POND

“Dawn of the Planet of the Apes”

Starring Andy Serkis, Gary Oldman, Keri Russell & Jason Clark
 Directed by Ben Falcone
 R, 96 min.

Whose side are you on when battle lines are drawn between people and other primates? The answer may not be as clear-cut as you think, especially in this terrific second installment of the latest Planet of the Apes series, which muddies the moral ground — as well as other things — between monkey and man.

As Dawn begins, we’re reminded that some ten years ago (in 2011’s Rise of the Planet of the Apes), scientific experimentation — and exploitation — resulted in a proliferation of genetically modified apes and began a widespread viral wipeout of the world’s human population.

Now, in a decimated, post-ape-ocalyptic world, a tribe of hunting, gathering apes — who have learned to communicate through sign language, rudimentary writing and grunted spoken language — rule the densely forested hills outside the city that once was the metropolis of San Francisco.

When a small group of humans are discovered deep inside ape territory, it begins an uneasy truce — until dissenting factions on both sides stoke tensions to something much more aggressive.

Director Matt Reeves, whose resume includes the monster movie Cloverfield, the moody vampire saga Let Me In and several episodes of TV’s 1998-2002 series Felicity, draws from all those projects for his talent pool and technique. Felicity star Keri Russell is

the movie’s female lead, Kodi Smit-McPhee played the bullied young teen in Let Me In, and several of Reeves’s bravura sequences — like the one of apes on horseback, firing machine guns — are as tense and scari-fying as almost anything you’ll see in any monster movie.

But Reeves and his team of FX wizards also create something above and beyond any of those movies — and most other movies, period — when it comes to blending live-action with digital effects. The apes, created through a process of “motion capture” photography where live actors are first filmed then digitally “overlaid” with their personalized primate characteristics, are nothing short of spectacular. You won’t be to separate pulse from pixels, no matter how closely you look.

And even though the “human” cast also includes Gary Oldman and Jason Clark (from Zero Dark Thirty), top billing goes to someone you’ll never see, at least out of his digital ape-draping: Andy Serkis, who plays Caesar, the chief of the apes, is the true star of this show. Serkis, who’s also portrayed Gollum in The Lord of the Rings and the biggest ape of them all in King Kong, is a marvel, humanizing Caesar as a diplomat, a father, a husband and a leader who knows that leading can sometimes mean making difficult, unpopular, dangerous and even life-or-death decisions.

With a story that connects to contemporary (as well as ancient) issues and themes — trust, family, betrayal, racism, war, survival — this smart, muscular, action-packed blockbuster is easily one of the summer’s most rousing sci-fi crowd-pleasers. It’s some seriously strong, exceptionally well-made monkey business.

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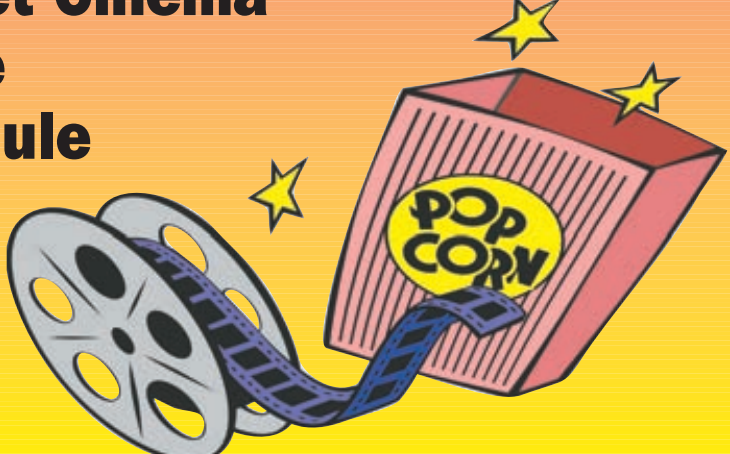
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See page B2 for Sunset Cinema movie schedule



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| JULY 26 Pacific Rose (Country) | AUGUST 16 New Sensations (80's to today) |

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