

Scouts take aim

Platoon takes part in ITX-1-15

BY LANCE CPL. TONY SIMMONS

Marines from Scout Platoon, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, participated in a training and readiness exercise aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 22-24.

Scouts prepared for upcoming combined-arms exercises and potential combat operations abroad through training meant to sharpen their skills. As a vital component of the ground combat element

See **AIM** page A6



LANCE CPL. TONY SIMMONS

Marines from Scout Platoon, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, participated in a training and readiness exercise to true their rifles aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 22-24. The three-day training event helped prepare Marines for upcoming combined-arms exercises and potential combat operations abroad.



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Marines from Scout Platoon, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, participated in a training and readiness exercise to true their rifles aboard the Combat Center Oct. 22-24. The three-day training event helped prepare Marines for upcoming combined-arms exercises and potential combat operations abroad.

New artifacts displayed at curation center

BY LANCE CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Amidst a brand new temperature and humidity-controlled building, new exhibits displayed artifacts found aboard the Combat Center dating from more than a thousand years ago to present times. From a native American pot to a World War II-era machine gun found buried under a pile of bottles, the Combat Centers Archeological and Paleontological Curation Center unveiled its newly developed exhibits Oct. 29, 2014.

"We built a new facility behind the center to store more artifacts that we have found which made a couple of rooms available for us to display more of what

we have," said Dr. John P. Hale, historian and archeologist, Archeological and Paleontological Curation Center. The new facility will allow the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division to explore and store more artifacts found aboard the Combat Center.

"It's unique seeing all these artifacts," said Lt. Col. Christopher Page, comptroller, G-8. "It shows all the people that have migrated to this unique area and all of these artifacts reflect that."

Each artifact in the exhibit had a story all its own, like a pot that was dropped in the desert and left the way it was dropped for close

See **NEW** page A6



LANCE CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Nora Hotch, biologist, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs division, passes Thelma, desert tortoise, to Col. David Rowe, assistant chief of staff, communications and informations systems office, during the exhibit unveiling at the Archeological and Paleontological Curation Center, Oct. 29. The center has gardens outside the facility that show the different types of vegetation that grow in the area along with a sanctuary for the two desert tortoises, Thelma and Louise.

Retirees Celebrate Marine Corps' 239th birthday

LANCE CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Old stories and good times were shared at each table with sporadic laughter of remembrance from veterans that served as far back as World War II. Commissioned and enlisted Marines, sailors and soldiers celebrated the 239th Marine Corps birthday, Saturday. At the Mameluke Officers' Club, a Marine Corps Retiree Ball was held for veterans that live in the area. Among those attending were Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Com-

bat Center Commanding General, and Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, Combat Center sergeant major.

"It's wonderful to see a group of retired [service members] come together in one room," said retired Force Master Chief Petty Officer Louis Green who was a guest at the retiree ball. "The base has been very welcoming to me since my retirement in 1987, and I think it has been for all the retirees in this room."

Sgt. Maj. Ray Wilburn, a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam,

who joined the Marine Corps in 1939, sat alongside various other commissioned and enlisted retirees from the Marine Corps, Navy and Army also in attendance. The event is held annually for retirees to celebrate the festivities of the Marine Corps birthday as they did while on active duty.

"I have been coming to this ceremony for the past 10 years," said retired Maj. Jerry Fabricus, guest, retiree ball. "It's a grand time to see all of

See **CORPS** page A6



LANCE CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, and his wife Laurie Craparotta speak with retired Col. Philip Cisneros and his wife Ginny Cisneros about their time aboard the Combat Center during the 10th Annual Marine Corps Retiree Ball at the Mameluke Officers' Club, Nov. 1. Cisneros served as the Combat Center chief of staff before his retirement in 1993.

The whole evening was fantastic, but my favorite part was the playing of the Marine Hymn"

— Retired Sgt. Maj. Ray Wilburn



LANCE CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Retired Lt. Col. Charles Sherry Jr. and retired Lt. Col. Val Simon tell stories about their time in the Marine Corps with her husband, retired Nevada Highway Patrol Officer Scott Simon during the 10th Annual Marine Corps Retiree Ball at the Mameluke Officers' Club, Nov. 1. The retiree ball has been done annually for the past 10 years.

Marine Corps' Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans vote for the week on the best photograph, posted on the Corps' Facebook page. This weeks top shot comes from Cpl. Owen Kimbrel.



You voted and this month's Corps Top Shot comes from Cpl. Owen Kimbrel. He captured the photo as flames exploded behind U.S. Navy F/A-18 Hornets during the night portion of the 2014 Miramar Air Show aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Oct. 4.

CORPS, from A1

our old time friends and re-live our old stories and get pumped up by them again.”

As the Marines Hymn was played, pride and nostalgia could be seen among the retirees.

“The whole evening was fantastic, but my favorite part was the playing of the Marines Hymn,” said retired Sgt. Maj. Ray Wilburn, guest, retiree ball. “It brought me back to 1939 when it was the first song that I heard when I had just gotten out of boot camp.”

The retiree birthday ball has been hosted aboard the Combat Center for the past 10 years with the average amount of attendees being approximately 120 guests. The ball is open to all hands that have retired from any branch of the military and live around the Combat Center.

Many of the service members have been out of the Marine Corps or their respective branch of service for many years, but the saying ‘Once a Marine, Always a Marine’ was ever present with the welcoming nature of the birthday ball.



Retired Col. Owen Gillick and his wife Audrey Gillick talk to Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, and his wife Laurie Craparotta about what they enjoyed at the ceremony during the 10th Annual Marine Corps Retiree Ball at the Mameluke Officers' Club, Nov. 1.



Ginny Cisneros talks with Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, Combat Center sergeant major, at the 10th Annual Marine Corps Retiree Ball in the dining hall of the Mameluke Officers' Club, Nov. 1. The ball is held every year for retirees in the area.



Marines from Scout Platoon, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, participated in a training and readiness exercise to true their rifles aboard the Combat Center Oct. 22-24. The three-day training event helped prepare Marines for upcoming combined arms exercises and potential combat operations abroad.

AIM, from A1

of a Marine Air-Ground Task Force, scout platoon Marines provide reconnaissance, target designation and long-range precision fires to their commander.

The exercise included firing at targets ranging from 200-600 meters from the prone position.

“We are out here preparing for our next training deployment,” said Lance Cpl. Daniel Lemus, a point man

for Scout Platoon, Weapons Company, 3/2. “We are truing our rifles in order to hit the point of aim, point of impact and adjusting our holds at unknown distances.”

The exercise allowed the Marine Corps base Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based scouts to become more familiar with their rifles and scouting equipment in an unfamiliar environment.

“This training is great for us because we get to practice out of our normal element,” Lemus said. “We have the opportunity to fire in a different climate than we have back in Camp Lejeune.”

After completing sniper training, the Scout Platoon moved on to integrate into more complex exercises involving other units from the ground combat and

air-combat elements of the MAGTF.

“This is the first time, as a platoon, we have shot a target (only) 12 inches in diameter,” said Lance Cpl. Jonathan Jules, a radio operator with Scout Platoon., Weapons Co., 3/2. “This prepares our unit for minimum exposure targets during urban combat situations, helping us achieve mission accomplishment.”

NEW, from A1

to a thousand years, to a World War II-era Browning M2 .50 caliber machine gun unearthed during a base housing build.

“We archive everything found in the Combat Center, along with artifacts from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, and Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow,” Hale said.

Hale explained that a place like the Curation Center helps explain to Marines and sailors why there are certain rules that are enforced by the NREA throughout the training areas and the rest of the Com-

bat Center.

The Curation Center also has gardens outside which house two desert tortises named Thelma and Louise, who are present during events and exhibits and a garden with different vegetation that grows in the high desert.

To see the new exhibits and the gardens, you can visit the Curation Center Monday through Thursday during regular business hours.

For more information on exhibits and hours of operation call (760) 830-1196



Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, Combat Center sergeant major, discusses one of the displays at the Archeological and Paleontological Curation Center during their exhibit unveiling, Oct. 29. The curation center stores artifacts from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, and Marine Logistics Base Barstow.



Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, Combat Center sergeant major, talks to Lt. Col. Timothy Pochop, director, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs division, about the thousand-year-old reconstructed pot during the exhibit unveiling at the Archeological and Paleontological Curation Center, Oct. 29. The pot was found the way it was dropped a thousand years ago aboard the Combat Center training area.



The Combat Center Archeological and Paleontological Curation Center unveiled its new exhibits displaying artifacts like arrowheads made of different stones found aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 29. Among the artifacts displayed was a thousand-year-old pot and a World War II-era Browning .50 caliber machine gun.

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Reprinted from the Observation Post
November 10, 1983

For many Hollywood stars the Corps was a way of life

STORY BY SGT. BURT CAREY

From the sands of Iwo Jima to the jeeps of Rat Patrol, through the history books of Hollywood, if one must know.

For the true Marine Corps trivia buffs, this could be a fitting task. Names like Wayne, Scott, Peppard and Ford have filled television and movie screens during the Twentieth Century in roles depicting Marines. But who was actually put through the strains of United States Marine Corps boot camp?

It's not fiction to most Marines to know that while "The Duke," John Wayne, made many appearances on movie screens as the ever-inspiring Sgt. Stryker, that's as far as the legendary actors Marine Corps career took him, because he was never a real Marine.

The history books do point out several movie and television stars who wore the uniform of the 'world's finest.' Take, for instance, Lee Marvin, the World War II USMC veteran who went on to participate in various movies including the "Dirty Dozen" and "The Professionals." Marvin received an Oscar as best actor for his starring role in "Cat Ballou."

What about a most prominent television star-announcer? From "The Tonight Show," on NBC comes Ed McMahon, a retired brigadier general from the Marine Corps' reserve ranks.

And who can forget the Academy Award winning portrayal of General George Patton in the 1970 movie "Patton," performed by one of the movie industry's best, George C. Scott. Could his selection to play the role of Patton have came from his Marine Corps background from 1945 to 1949?

Few people may recognize the name Gwyllyn Samuel Newton Ford, but he starred in numerous movie houses following a three-year stint in the Marine Corps Reserve 1942 to 1945. He is known to most as Glenn Ford.

A 1958 Swedish immigrant by the name of Bo Svenson joined the Marine Corps in 1959, and stayed for six years. He later went on to star as Buford Pusser in the box office hit "Walking Tall."

Another of the Corps' veterans who went on to national acclaim was James Whitmore, who served as a Marine reservist from 1942 to 1946, for his role as Harry Truman in "Give 'em Hell Harry."

For younger Marines, a star on the current hit television series "Chips" attained

the rank of sergeant while fighting in Vietnam, from 1967 to 1970. Larry Wilcox, a Navy Commendation Medal recipient, plays the character of Officer John Baker with co-star Erik Estrada.

Wilcox may be one of the easier USMC vets to remember since he was awarded his Good Conduct Medal 12 years late, receiving wide media coverage in 1982. He has also been very active in the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program.

"Lincoln Conspiracy" watchers may remember Bradford Dillman, but few probably know he was a first lieutenant when he was discharged from the Marine Corps in 1953.

Brian Keith, one of Hollywood's mainstay veterans, may not have had a starring role in World War II, but he is a Navy Air Medal winner and a 1941 to 1945 veteran. He currently stars as a retired judge on television's "Hardcastle and McCormick" and has various other successful TV shows under his belt, such as "Family Affair" (late 1960s) and the "Brian Keith Show" (early 1970s).

No matter how serious they may be, a couple of Hollywood's funny men got their start in the Marine Corps.

Who? Try "Get Smart's" Don Adams, a World War II veteran who is probably best known for his role as the wacky double agent 86, Maxwell Smart from 1965 to 1970. Would you believe, Jonathan Winters, a well-known comedian, was a not so well known Marine from 1943 to 1946.

Time for the mid-afternoon man, one who's been on "Days of Our Lives" since 1965. McDonald Carey, while undertaking a full-time acting career now, served from 1942 to 1945 in the Corps and departing the service with a silver bar on his collar.

Here are some more names for the, "Gee, I didn't know he was a Marine" file: Gene Hackman (The French Connection), Bob Keethcum (Captain Kangaroo and Clairabell on the Howdy Doody Show), Hugh O'Brien (Wyatt Earp), James Franciscus (Doc Elliot, Good Guys Wear Black), Christopher George (Rat Patrol), John Russell (Gunfight at Apache Wells), George Peppard (The A Team), Martin Milner (Adam-12), Robert Ryan (Dirty Dozen, Flying Leathernecks), Robert Wagner (Hart to Hart, It Takes a Thief), Pat Paulsen (The Smother's Brothers), Peter Lupus (Mission Impossible), Jock Mahoney (Tarzan) and Red West (Baa Baa Black Sheep).

While names like Robert Duvall, Robert Conrad and Lou Gossett Jr., come to the minds of Americans for their roles as Leathernecks, nothing but history books can tell the true story of who filled the ranks as a United States Marines.

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Sheets you write on
6 Church seats
10 Dull pain
14 Stadium
15 "___ I knew that!"
16 Art class stuff
17 City named for a Roman general
19 Prefix with phone or commute
20 Computer key
21 Give for a little while
22 Shows to be true
24 Like the diving board end of a swimming pool
26 Future flower
28 Before, in poems
29 Suitable
31 Retirement fund
33 Scientist's workplace
36 Aunt's fellow
39 Accumulated money
41 Pie ___ mode
42 "I don't think so"
43 City on Lake Michigan
45 Neither here ___ there
46 "This ___ joke, right?"
47 Windy day fun
48 Beneath
50 ___ and feather
51 O.J. Trial judge
52 Train stop: abbr.
53 Mr. Chaney
55 Part of the face
58 High school dance
62 Kitchen sink item
65 Not sir
67 "Much ___ About Nothing"
68 Cherry centers
69 South Carolina city not far from Savannah
72 Money before a poker hand

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- 73 "That's very funny!"
74 Unlike NBA players
75 Get together with
76 Mideast country
77 Get the feeling

Down

- 1 Walked back and forth
2 Come up in conversation
3 Parts of an English pound sterling
4 Reference book: abbr.
5 Pool table part
6 Pasta that often has ridges
7 Keep away from
8 Soaked
9 Use scissors
10 Brad Pitt or Kirk Douglas

- 11 City where the Cavaliers play
12 ___ and hearty
13 Peeping pair
18 Home to robins
23 Speak aloud, as a text
25 Buddy
27 Opera stars
30 ___ order
32 Medium: abbr.
34 Soothing plant
35 Comic Roseanne
36 Foot or inch
37 Space shuttle letters
38 North Carolina city known as a banking center
39 Use, as a cushion
40 High card

- 44 Single, double, or home run
49 Snooze
52 Circus animal
54 Beginning
56 Nebraska city (not a C-city!)
57 ___ Wrap
59 Run to Mom about, maybe
60 Scents
61 ___ Carlo
62 Meat in a can
63 Tree with needles
64 Reverberating sound
66 Untidy space
70 ___ and cheese
71 That woman

SUDOKU

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Last week's solutions

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- Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr.
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- NYPD Pizza, 260-262 N. Palm Canyon Drive

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WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Anthony

La Puente, Ca. Administrative specialist, IPAC. Age: 21

ALEXANDER

- > **I like to play** football, sing, and write poetry.
- > **John Legend and Bruno Mars** are my favorite singers.
- > **When I was little**, I used to read a lot of my aunt's books. I didn't understand them but I still tried to read them.
- > **Mia Angelo is a poet** I've been interested with lately so I'm trying to learn as much as I can about her.
- > **My aunt raised me** while my mother worked two jobs as a single parent, she also taught me the basics of poetry and the format of writing.
- > **I learned how to sing** in church. We did a lot of singing and I believe that as long as you have a cheerful sound, God will hear it.
- > **I started at around five or six** years old with flag football and when I got older, I joined the tackle league at around seven years old.
- > **I loved it from the start.** I wanted to play soccer but my aunt told me I had to play a man's sport so I chose football.
- > **I love that you** can hit someone as hard as possible and not get in trouble no matter how hard you hit them.
- > **I also enjoyed** the competitive nature of the sport and the want to be better than the other person.
- > **I played in middle school**, high school and a little bit in college at Mount San Antonio College. I made the practice squad. I played in 2012 for the Headquarters Battalion team and a semi-professional team in Yucca Valley, Calif.
- > **My main positions** were running back, strong safety and various positions on special teams. I try to get a few jersey numbers every season; 3, 21, 32, and 5.
- > **I got the nickname Superman** in high school because when I went to tackle people I used to throw my entire body and it looked like I was flying so my teammates started calling me Superman. Now I try to get the number 5 because it looks like the 'S' on Superman's chest.
- > **Football helped me prepare** for the Marine Corps because you develop a sense of discipline and team work. In both things you have to work together toward a common goal like winning the game. The Marine Corps keeping the country safe is basically winning the game, so both are really similar.
- > **Football has always been there** for me. Growing up, I was always really timid and football gave me the courage and confidence to do more than what was expected of me.
- > **I had some anger in me** as well, so I used football to release it. It would make my day a lot better so much so that I felt like I could accomplish anything.
- > **My favorite game was the first** game my grandfather saw me play; he was always in the hospital. It was the game I got hurt, but it was a blast seeing him watch me and get to see me play. He passed away later that year and him being there supporting me made me feel good and I will always remember that.
- > **My aunt raised me** with the mentality of throwing me into the pool and telling me to swim and learn; now I appreciate it but back then I didn't. I was like a 'tail' to my aunt; everywhere she went, I was right there behind her.
- > **My mother is a big factor.** She is always by my side no matter what and I have a lot of respect for my mom doing what she did as a single parent, like having two jobs, to raise me.
- > **I joined the Marine Corps** for my mom and people like her to show them that single parents can raise some one as successful as me.
- > **After this season**, I like playing defense. Giving hits is a lot better than getting hit, but I like playing the ball both ways.
- > **My favorite players** are Reggie Bush, Drew Brees and my friend Keith Smith, I played against him in high school and one day he just blew up and now he plays for the Dallas Cowboys.
- > **There have been a lot of Marines** in my family; uncles, aunts, great grandparents; I thought it was right to continue the legacy in my family.
- > **I feel confident in my job**, I love being able to help people, especially through administration with things that they didn't know.
- > **I want to go back to college** and study my general education and also keep playing football in college.
- > **I'm never going to quit playing**, it keeps me motivated and keeps me grounded, letting me know that I can do anything.

Interviewed by Lance Cpl. Julio McGraw

ANTHONY ALEXANDER HAS BEEN PLAYING FOOTBALL SINCE THE AGE OF FIVE AND WAS RAISED BY HIS MOM AND AUNT, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE PLAYED A HUGE ROLE THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE.



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15th MEU Marines participate in security element course

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. ANNA ALBRECHT

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines with Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Combat Logistics Battalion 15 and the Force Reconnaissance Detachment all with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, began a security element course aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Oct. 20.

This three-week course is designed to improve the speed and accuracy of the Marines that will make up the maritime raid force’s security element when the 15th MEU deploys in the spring.

During the first week, Marines practiced shooting fundamentals, as well as shooting on the move, shooting from various positions and multiple target engagements.

The course consists of Marines with BLT 3/1, military policemen and intelligence Marines with CLB-15 and Marines with the Force Reconnaissance Detachment. Having this diverse group allows the Marines to learn not only from the instructors but from each other.

This shooting package ensures all of the Marines are on the same page and are confident in each other’s abilities.

The Marines in the course understand that the MEU relies heavily on its augments and attachments. Since the infantry and support elements are learning the same things, there’s no confusion should the Marines have to fight somewhere or train with another organization.

The course also helps the Marines to be better prepared if they end up down range.

“Whenever we get [down range], the Marines will know what to do and won’t get stuck in a situation that they don’t know how to handle,” said Lance Cpl. Brandon Campbell, 23, a squad leader with BLT 3/1. “They’re not second-guessing themselves or tripping over their feet. It’s more muscle memory than having to think about it. Then we’re that much quicker to get on the target instead of the target getting on us.”

Marines are seeing improvements just in the first week of training.

“Across the line, in my squad and in other squads, all of our groups have tightened up and our accuracy has improved a lot from just a week ago,” said Campbell. “I’m surprised at how much we’ve improved in just a week and I’m excited what will happen in the next two.”

Most importantly, the shooters are more confident in their own abilities to engage targets and support the MEU.

Marines from the course said that this course is preparing them for their deployment with the 15th MEU. They feel as though they will have more confidence to complete the mission.



Pfc. Zachary Dorothy shoots at a target during a security element course aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 23. Dorothy is an assistant gunner with Battalion Landing Team, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Marines in this course were preparing for the 15th MEU’s deployment in the spring.



Sgt. Jonathan Overland clears a malfunction while blindfolded during a security element course aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 23. Overland is a military working dog handler with Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Marines in this course were preparing for the 15th MEU’s deployment in the spring.



Cpl. Matthew Miller clears a malfunction while blindfolded during a security element course aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 23. Miller is a radio operator with Force Reconnaissance Detachment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Marines in this course were preparing for the 15th MEU’s deployment in the spring.

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Combat Center PWD works toward water, energy conservation



Several 1.2 megawatt, photovoltaic arrays are located in several areas aboard the Combat Center. These solar panels collect energy which is stored in a battery storage system.

The Operators Work Station is located in Co-Generation Plant Two and allows operators to observe how energy is being used and collected aboard the Combat Center. This station allows constant control over the plants generators.



The Public Works Division changed the lights to energy saving bulbs, which saves the Combat Center about \$300,000 in power.

The Public Works Division retrofitted nearly all the buildings on base with low-flow faucets, which are capable of getting the same tasks done with less water wasted.



STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

From solar panels to utilizing non-potable, recycled water, the Publics Works Division has done many things to increase the Combat Center’s water and energy efficiency. The PWD has been finding ways to use water as efficiently as possible and recycle the water used on base. “Water conservation is an important topic,” said Gary Morrissett, utilities and energy management supervisor, PWD. “California is currently going through a drought.”

The water aboard the Combat Center comes from 11 wells located throughout the base. Albeit these wells only contain a certain amount of water, the PWD uses techniques and technology to make water use more efficient, and are developing new methods to recycle the water being used. “The base is naturally fed off of wells,” Morrissett said. “This is a limited source of water for the base. We try to limit the amount of grass on base to the common areas like the fields, along with the service members being water wise ... We end up saving 30 percent of the water on base.”

Water conserving fixtures have been put into the buildings. These items further help the Combat Center conserve water by using less water to complete the same tasks as the normal fixtures. “We have installed low-flow toilets and faucets into the new buildings,” Morrissett said. “We have also tried to retrofit the old buildings to low-flow, so every building is saving

water.” In the next few years the division has plans to fix the water treatment system to stop the odor it gives off and increase efficiency. “We have a re-design for the water treatment plan that will take place in the next few years,” Morrissett said. “The base is aware of the problem and is going to try an enclosed system to eliminate the odor and utilize more water.”

The Combat Center utilizes undrinkable water, during construction to save the water for places such as, housing and barracks, and plans to use non-potable water in other places on main side in the future. “The construction sites around base use non-potable water,” Morrissett said. “In a few years we will be able to water most of main side with non-potable water.”

The PWD has not only been working on the water system, but is also finding ways to be more energy efficient. “We have the largest micro-grid in the DOD,” Morrissett said. “We can generate two megawatts of power on base. In cases of power outages we can pick up the main side loads. We generate about 90 percent of our own electricity.”

We also save money through other power-friendly changes the PWD has put into place. The division has added the automated systems to nearly all buildings to

help reduce the amount of energy used on base. “We replaced almost all the outside orange lights with white lights,” Morrissett said. “We save around \$300,000 alone, just with those lights. These allow people to see better at night and use less energy than the old ones. We also gave most of the buildings automated heating and air systems and motion sensors for the lights. The Combat Center is able to do this through the two co-generation plants that generate power through solar panels located around the base.” The co-generation plants receive a portion of their power from the solar panels located on different parts of the base. “We have 44 different systems of [solar] panels, of different sizes, on different parts of the base,” Morrissett said. “We have over 25,000 panels overall at this point.” The energy and water conservation plan not only saves the Combat Center’s resources, but also saves money. “With all the different types of water and energy conservation the base saves about \$10 million to \$11 million per year,” Morrissett said.

The PWD is continuing to work on better ways to efficiently use and save water and energy on base. The projects they will be starting will make the Combat Center more eco-friendly.

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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt



I want to re-introduce you to a tremendous lady who is the epitome of what it is to be a positive thinker. In other words, a tough minded optimist.

Her name is Frieda Burdette and I have had the joy of knowing her almost 18 years. She is a wonderful person who has a genuine concern for the welfare of others and is a generous supporter of many worthy causes that really make a practical and pragmatic difference for the good in many lives.

Frieda is truly an amazing person. She is 75 years old and has earned a well deserved reputation for her leadership in sharing the beauties of our incredible world with her well publicized and documented group titled "Frieda's Happy Hoofers."

"Frieda's Happy Hoofers" have been hiking together since 2008 and they have visited many areas of great interest.

Frieda invites anyone and everyone of any age, Ethnicity, sexual orientation, church membership, political affiliation, etc. to join the group and simply enjoy. No pledge of regular participation is required. Why not give it a try.

The next event is Monday, November 10. The group will hike the easy trail, Oasis of Mara at Joshua Tree National Park. There are benches along the way. Lunch will be at the 29 Palms Inn in Twentynine Palms. Meet at the Oasis Visitor Center, corner of Utah Trail and National Park Drive in Twentynine Palms at 10:00 AM.

Frieda's telephone number is 1-760-364-2872. Join the fun!

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Integrated Task Force Artillery Marines send first rounds downrange

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. ALICIA R. LEADERS

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – As the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force Marines pave the way forward, live-fire training serves as a vital aspect of weaponry familiarization. Marines of Battery A, GCEITF, sent the first rounds down range during a live-fire artillery shoot with the M777A2 Lightweight Howitzer at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 28-30.

“In artillery, the only real way to grasp what it is you’re doing is by being in the field and shooting live rounds,” said Sgt. James R. Nero, Gun 3 section chief, Battery A, GCEITF. “We can sit at the gun park and talk about it all day long and read straight from the training manual, but the Marines are not going to grasp how hard the job is, or how demanding the job is until we are shooting in the field.”

During the live-fire shoot, cannoneers received various calls for fire, some requiring them to fire a certain number of rounds while others required precision shooting involving each gun in the battery. Both guns on the firing line were presented with a number of scenarios to better understand the conditions and possibilities that could result when conducting support-maneuver tactics.

Although artillery’s purpose is to support infantry troops on the ground, Battery A Marines were not supporting infantry Marines during this live-fire, field training.

“Not having to support anyone else gives us the time we need to train these Marines,” Nero said. “It is a good thing, because we have the time to properly train them and we aren’t rushing anything. We’re trying to make sure everybody knows their job and knows it well, and the new (artillery Marines) are well acquainted with the weapon systems.”

There are seven field-artillery cannoneer positions and one section chief. Nero’s job as the section chief is to stand back and observe everything that is happening and what everyone is doing. Nero ensured every cannoneer position was running smoothly, and accurate information was provided to the section team. The section chief oversees all positions.

Cpl. Myha D. Shipp, Battery A cannoneer, GCEITF, performed the duties of cannoneer one. Her job was to open the loading tray for a round to be loaded into the howitzer. When given the command, she pulled the lanyard, which fired the cannon.

“Being cannoneer number one gives you a better opportunity to be up close and personal with the weapon, and you have a better angle to see what the other cannoneers are doing,” Shipp said. “My job is important because I oversee if the round is being loaded onto the loading tray properly before dropping the round.”

During a fire mission, cannoneers keep accurate and timely artillery fire on target, and if they miss the target, they make quick adjustments. The fire missions are quick and the Marines move at a rapid pace, but once they end the mission they have time to relax and learn about each other, finding common interests, which helps bring them together.

“Getting to know each other’s likes and dislikes, I think helps when it comes to performance and actually doing the job because you know the person next to you that you’re working with,” Shipp said. “If I am working with someone I know, I know that person will have my back as opposed to a stranger who knows nothing about me.”



Artillery Marines with Battery A, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, prepare to send a round down range during a fire mission at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Oct. 29. Marines of Battery A conducted a live-fire artillery exercise, Oct. 28-30.



Artillery Marines of Battery A, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, fire a round down range from an M777A2 Lightweight Howitzer during a fire mission at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Oct. 29.



Lance Cpl. Vicki A. Harris, cannoneer, Battery A, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, carries an M777A2 Lightweight Howitzer round to the Gun 3 ammo pit prior to conducting live-fire artillery missions at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Oct. 30.



Cpl. Tatiana A. Rodriguez, a cannoneer with Battery A, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, waits to place the powder onto the loading tray of the M777A2 Lightweight Howitzer during a fire mission at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 29.



Artillery Marines with Battery A, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, send rounds down range during a live-fire artillery shoot at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Oct. 29. From October 2014 to July 2015, the GCEITF will conduct individual and collective level skills training in designated ground combat arms occupational specialties in order to facilitate the standards based assessment of the physical performance of Marines in a simulated operating environment performing specific ground combat arms tasks.



Combat Center Events

MCCS is scheduled to host the first Military Kids Birthday Bash at Bldg. 1004, Nov. 19. The event is designed to give children a glimpse of the traditions of the Marine Corps Ball. For more information call 760-830-3818

The Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center is hosting turkey bowling on Nov. 22. Registration is open until Nov. 21. For more information call 760-830-3910.

The Mameluke’s Pub is hosting the Battle of the Units Competition from October through December. With every drink purchased a chip is put into the jar of the buyer’s respective unit. For more information call 760-830-6922.

A ‘Coping with work and family stress’ workshop is scheduled to be held in Bldg. 1530 every Tuesday from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and Thursdays, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. For more information call 760-830-6345.

The Semper Fit home school physical education program is scheduled every Tuesday and Thursday in November at Felix Field and the wood hobby shop. Archery will be conducted at the field and wood working at the hobby shop. Children aged 5 to 9 are scheduled from 1 to 2 p.m. and ages 10-17 are scheduled 2 to 3 p.m. All home school children are welcome. For more information call 760-830-8421.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Nov.7
4:30 p.m. – The Boxtrolls, PG
7:00 p.m. – The Equalizer, PG
9:20 p.m. – Black Hawk Down, R
11:30 p.m. – U-571, PG-13

Saturday, Nov. 8
10:00 a.m. – Planes Fire and Rescue, PG
12:30 p.m. – The Boxtrolls, PG
2:30 p.m. – The Good Lie, PG-13
5:00 p.m. – This Is Where I Leave You, R
7:30 p.m. – The Maze Runner, PG-13
10:00 p.m. – Annabelle, R
11:50 p.m. – Hamburger Hill, R

Sunday, Nov. 9
12:00 p.m. – Platoon, R
2:30 p.m. – This Is Where I Leave You, R
5:00 p.m. – A Walk Among the Tombstones, R
7:30 p.m. – Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good Very Bad Day, R
9:30 p.m. – Dracula Untold, PG-13

Monday, Nov. 10
3:00 p.m. – Saints & Soldiers Airborne Creed, PG-13
3:00 p.m. – Full Metal Jacket, R
7:00 p.m. – Saving Private Ryan, R

Tuesday, Nov. 11
2:00 p.m. – Act of Valor, R
4:00 p.m. – Flags of Our Fathers, R
6:30 p.m. – Lone Survivor, R

Wed./Thurs.
No movie showings

Friday, Nov. 14
6:00 p.m. – Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good Very Bad Day, PG
8:00 p.m. – The Judge, R
11:30 p.m. – Annabelle, R



Slam-bang revenge thriller puts Keanu Reeves back in action

NEIL POND

“John Wick”
Starring Keanu Reeves
Rated R

He became a star in Bill and Ted’s Excellent Adventure, Speed and The Matrix. But as the years clicked by and Hollywood kept churning out newer stars, Reeves—and his best movies—came to feel more and more like relics of a bygone era.

But not anymore, as the 50-year-old actor stages one of the year’s most robust comebacks in a movie that defies many of Hollywood’s most basic conventions while covering some of its most familiar ground. In the action-packed John Wick, he plays a retired assassin drawn back into the underworld, where his lethal skills once struck fear into everyone unwise—or unfortunate—enough to cross his path.

After Wick, recovering from the death of his wife, is assailed by a group of young Russian mobsters, it reawakens his dormant killer instincts. What the thugs do to his adorable new puppy and his ’69 Mustang has a lot to do with it, too.

Although the revenge/assassin plotline is a very familiar one, what makes John Wick feel so refreshingly original is how directors Chad Stahelski and David Leitch, and writer Derek Kolsatad, handle it. Stahelski, making his directorial debut after serving as Reeve’s stunt double on all the Matrix movies, funnels all his rough-and-tumble experience into a powerful, sometimes astonishing display of artfully orchestrated, staccato violence—close-range shooting, grappling, kickboxing, punching, biting, bashing and stabbing. (Kudos as well to cinematographer Jonathan Sela, a veteran of Law Abiding Citizen, Die

Hard, Max Payne and other adrenaline-fueled flicks.) It’s an all-out action junkie’s buffet, served up with the finessed intensity of a master chef. You’d never guess the director had never been “behind” a camera before.

Writer Kolstad’s story, although following a somewhat traditional trajectory, reveals some colorful original flourishes, especially the “world” of the movie: a teeming contemporary metropolis populated entirely by crooks, mobsters, hit men and those who provide them goods and services—a pulpy Sin City of hip nightclubs, elegant hotels and dens of iniquity fronting as churches, all of them stylishly, slavishly corrupt, although operating within a “code of honor.” It’s a place that the movie brings vividly, originally to life, with a supporting cast of Willem Dafoe, Alfie Allen (from Game of Thrones), Dean Winters, Ian McShane, Adrienne Palicki and Michael Nyqvist.

And Reeves—wow. For a man squarely at the mid-century mark, he’s amazingly athletic, and he absolutely “sells” every punch, blow, thud, slam, stab, wham and bam. He’s never been the most expressive of actors, but this role suits just him fine—mysterious, brooding, silent, sullen and super-cool, but capable of releasing an unstoppable torrent of deadly force in an instant.

At one point, Wick is warned about continuing his spree of vengeance, one that takes him deeper into his former life with at every turn. “You dip so much as a pinkie back into this pond,” he’s cautioned, “you might find something reaches out to drag you back down into the depths.”

But in he goes, and it’s quite a dive. Like a lot of action movies these days, this one ends in a way that suggests another might follow. That’s OK: I’d gladly return to John Wick’s (under)world for another adventure with an actor who’s obviously so ready, rejuvenated and rarin’ to go. It was a blast!

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