

# ‘First Team’ welcomes new battalion commander

BY LANCE CPL.  
MEDINA AYALA-LO

A light breeze blows across Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field. Marines and their families greet one another as they enter the bleachers. Across the field, the band plays in preparation for the battalion to march. Soft rays of sunshine beam down on them, illuminating their instruments.

Lt. Col. Seth E. Yost, battalion commander, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment relinquished command to Lt. Col. David J. Hart during a change of command ceremony, Dec. 4.

“It was a privilege to command such a tremendous battalion whose legacy is built around phenomenal Marines like Chesty Puller and John Basilone,” Yost, a native of Wellsboro, Penn. said. “To stand in the ranks where those men stood and with the warriors that we have today it’s just been an incredible honor and a tremendous experience.”

The change of command began with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band conducting a ceremonial performance. Following their performance, the Marines and sailors of the battalion marched onto the field in honor of Yost.

“He’s been great,” said Gunnery Sgt. Justin E. Kinner, Headquarters and Service company gunnery sergeant, a native of Lexington, Mass. “We did a deployment to Afghanistan,



Lt. Col. Seth E. Yost, a native of Wellsboro, Pa., relinquishes the battalion colors to Lt. Col. David J. Hart, a native of Unity, N.H., during the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment's change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Dec. 4. ‘First Team’ has a reputation of great Marines and mission readiness.

For more photos see page A6.

and the whole work up for that was the battalion commander.”

Yost reported to the 7th Marine Regiment and served as the executive officer for 7th Marines Remain Behind Element. He took command of 1/7 Jan. 31, 2013.

“I think the men is what made it special and the fact that everybody worked together as a team with a unity and purpose to ac-

complish the mission,” Yost said. “It was just a special place because of the Marines.”

Prior to taking command of 1/7, Hart was assigned to 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division. Hart is looking forward to leading 1/7 into a bright future.

“I’m just going to carry on the great work that Lt. Col. Yost did,” Hart, a native of Unity, New Hampshire said. “He’s

got the battalion in great shape and I just want to try and take it to the next level.”

Yost will be reporting to the Naval War College for Top Level School upon relinquishing his command.

“It’s always sad to leave a place like 1/7 and the first team family,” Yost said. “But we’re excited to go experience a new place that the Marine Corps is sending us.”

## How to safely conduct online shopping during the holiday season

BY LANCE CPL  
THOMAS MUDD

The season for giving is here. Online shopping is a great and easy way to buy holiday gifts without battling long lines. However, there are some important things to remember when shopping online to ensure that you keep your money and personal information stays safe.

Not all websites are what they appear. Some have been set up for extortion.

Although it is easy to be tricked on the internet, there are easy steps to ensure that the site you are using is safe.

According to [www.stay-safeonline.org/stay-safe-online](http://www.stay-safeonline.org/stay-safe-online), you should conduct independent research before you buy from an online distributor you have never done business with.

Some attackers try to trick you by creating malicious websites that appear legitimate, so you should verify the site before supplying any information.

Also make sure to locate and note phone numbers and physical addresses of vendors in case there is a problem with your transaction or your bill.

It is always a good idea to search for merchant reviews to find out what other people think of the site.

Be sure to use the business’ official web page. Checking a few simple details can make a difference in what happens with your money. Also make sure you are in a safe place when

you shop online and not connected to an unsecure network.

According to [www.stay-safeonline.org/stay-safe-online](http://www.stay-safeonline.org/stay-safe-online), Before you enter your personal and financial information to make an online transaction, look for signs that the site is secure.

This includes a closed padlock on your web browser’s address bar or a URL address that begins with [shttp](http://shttp) or [https](http://https). This indicates that the purchase is encrypted or secured. Never use unsecured wireless networks to make an online purchase.

Keep an eye on the item value before, during and after checkout to make sure you are paying the right amount for your items. Sometimes you are shown one price but are actually paying more than what was originally shown.

The website [www.safeshopping.org/tips.shtml](http://www.safeshopping.org/tips.shtml) says that you should consider carefully whether you may be paying too much for an item, particularly if you’re bidding through an auction site. You may want to comparison shop, online or offline, before you buy.

Make sure there are no extra shipping or handling costs.

The privacy policy is important. This document prevents identity theft by telling you how your purchasing information will be used and stored.

The website [www.safeshopping.org/tips.shtml](http://www.safeshopping.org/tips.shtml)

See **SAFE** page A6

## Integrated Task Force Marines drive home M27 IAR 101

BY SGT. ALICIA R.  
LEADERS

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Marines with Company A, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, embarked onto amphibious assault vehicles from Company B, GCEITF, and splashed across the New River en route to the Verona Loop training area, Dec. 2.

As the Marines reached land and disembarked from the AAVs, they continued on foot to their intended range, where they conducted extensive M27 Infantry Automatic Rifle training during a three-day field exercise, Dec. 2-4.

Before Marines transitioned to automatic fire, they were required to zero the IAR with both back up iron sights (BUIS) and with the squad day optic (SDO) in order to ensure they could accurately engage targets at known distances. Additionally, special emphasis was made to ensure that the Marines understood that 90 percent of the time in combat, the automatic-rifleman functions as a regular rifleman until circumstances dictate that he must transition to the AR role, i.e. full automatic fire in support of the squad’s tactical movement.

“For the majority of the Marines, this is probably their first time shooting the IAR,” said Cpl. Joshua T. Long, rifleman, 2nd Platoon, Company A, GCEITF. “Everything is coming really quickly at you, so you want to make sure that you’re tight in, you have a good stable platform, and that you’re applying all the fundamentals and using them properly.”

Once the Marines transitioned to the field firing training tasks, they engaged targets at known distances

from the standing, kneeling and prone positions. Long said this IAR course of fire better allowed the Marines to get comfortable with the unique role of the weapon system.

“In the standing if you’re just transitioning, you’re just aiming at the other target, same with the kneeling – it is much easier,” said Long. “But when you’re in the prone, you need to shift your body so you’re still getting that good, stable platform behind you once your body is fully lined up. The weapon is an extension of your body, so you’re just going to be shifting your whole body instead of just throwing the weapon around.”

Conducting live-fire training with the IAR helps Marines familiarize themselves with not only the mechanical skills needed to properly employ the weapon system, but it drives home the unique way the IAR helps set the conditions for team and squad tactical movement against the enemy. In between courses of fire, Marines conducted relevant concurrent training to ensure they were exposed to all functional and doctrinal aspects of the IAR and the unique role it serves in the 13-man rifle squad.

“In order to get my Marines to the level they need to be at, they need to not only know how to operate the weapon mechanically, but also the doctrinal, conceptual application of the weapon system and how it fits into a fire team, and how we use it and employ it in order to locate, close with and destroy the enemy,” said Sgt. Christopher J. Leonard, squad leader with 3rd Platoon, Company A, GCEITF.

The purpose of the IAR live-fire event and past training exercises is to not

See **HOME** page A6



Lance Cpl. Anthony A. Ayr, rifleman with 2nd Platoon, Company A, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, confirms his 100-meter zero with the M27 Infantry Automatic Rifle during a three-day field exercise at the Verona Loop training area on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Dec. 3.

## Marines Conduct Bilateral Training



U.S. Marines with Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, train role-players to provide cover fire while participating in realistic urban training aboard Fort Hunter Liggett, Monday. The Marines were simulating bi-lateral training exercises they could be tasked with while deployed. RUT prepares the 15th MEU's Marines for their upcoming deployment, enhancing their combat skills in environments similar to those they may find in future missions.



Reprinted from the Observation Post  
December 12, 1986

# Cats, dogs saddle up for PCS

BY LCPL SARAH JOHNSON

Marines and their family members aren't the only passengers on Military Airlift Command flights anymore— dogs and cats may be on the flights now. A recent policy change allows service members with Permanent Change of Station orders to Guam, the Philippines and Hawaii to have their pets shipped with them.

Personnel with PCS orders, who wish to bring their pets with them, must request reservations from Transportation Management Office. They need to present a rabies vaccination certificate to TMO as proof of ownership.

The three destinations in the Pacific that service members can ship their pets to are Hickham Air Force Base, Hawaii, Guam and Clark Air Base, Philippine's.

Passengers must pay a shipment fee for the pet at the time of check in; the fee is based off the destination of the pet. It costs \$150 per animal to ship pets to Guam or the Philippines. To fly dogs or cats to Hawaii it costs \$80.

Personnel with pets must arrive at the airport

two hours prior to departure. They should be carrying documents of immunization and border clearance requirements with them.

Each destination point has different clearance requirements, including animal quarantines at two of them. Hawaii and Guam require all dogs and cats to be quarantined for 120 days upon arrival, at the owner's expense.

Pet owners should have pet containers that are large enough for the animals to stand up, turn around and lie down. Several layers of newspaper should be placed in the bottom of the container.

Passengers should feed their pets very lightly and provide some water before turning them in for shipment. Exercising your animal is also a good idea since passengers in transit may not exercise their pets during transit.

Anyone with PCS orders to a mid-Pacific command interested in bringing their dog or cat with them should contact TMO for further information.

## CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 1 Pueblo builder
  - 5 Dirt collector
  - 8 "\_\_\_ looking at you, kid!"
  - 13 Blessings
  - 15 Muhammad \_\_\_
  - 16 Do more than regret
  - 17 Problem linked to CFC's
  - 19 Model Evangelista
  - 20 N.H.L. Hall-of-Famer Stan
  - 21 Word with "slide" or "golden"
  - 23 Pinsk pancake
  - 24 Attack the lawn
  - 27 Get stronger
  - 31 Cracksman
  - 33 Anno Domini alternative
  - 35 Stand by
  - 37 Quod \_\_\_ demonstrandum
  - 38 Fed. air-quality watchdog
  - 41 Striped antelope
  - 42 Psychic "gift"
  - 44 Bravo's cousin
  - 45 What one little pig had
  - 47 Varmint
  - 50 NYC power co.
  - 52 Torso muscles
  - 55 Film critic Gene
  - 56 Thespian's org.
  - 58 "Give it \_\_\_!" ("Try!")
  - 60 Explorer Hedin
  - 62 One's external world
  - 64 Summon
  - 67 One is part of a part
  - 70 Circle lines
  - 71 Wide-eyed wonder
  - 72 LePew et al.
  - 73 Astronaut John
  - 74 Sidekick of Stimp
  - 75 Chromosome choice

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- Down**
- 1 Nuclear blockbuster, briefly
  - 2 How mud might move
  - 3 Snookums
  - 4 Scoreboard divisions
  - 5 Long March leader
  - 6 Every one of
  - 7 Top \_\_\_ (the best)
  - 8 Hunting cry
  - 9 Aigner of fashion
  - 10 Swanson of "Parks and Recreation"
  - 11 Final word, often
  - 12 Big body of water
  - 14 Band performance
  - 18 Denver omelet ingredient
  - 22 Greatest

- 25 Takes place
- 26 Stir-fry fryer
- 28 Designer Saarinen
- 29 Mountain range in Kazakhstan
- 30 Meat paste
- 32 "I'm leaving," in chatrooms
- 34 Highest point in Sicily
- 36 Stimulate
- 38 SASEs, perhaps
- 39 Pal of Owl and Rabbit
- 40 Actress Kendrick
- 43 Ginger
- 46 Leather from the sea
- 48 Legendary burial isle of Homer
- 49 Take again

- 51 Enter quickly, as a pool
- 53 Scuzzball
- 54 Petition supporter
- 57 U.S. economic measure
- 59 Sidewalk game
- 61 Asheville's st.
- 63 Alley-\_\_\_ (court play)
- 64 Work unit
- 65 Actor Kilmer
- 66 Dedicated flowery lines
- 68 Have a mortgage
- 69 R&B's Boyz II \_\_\_

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HUDSON RANDAL TUCHER**  
Born on: Oct. 18, 2014  
Born to: Michael and Daisy Tucker

**SEAN MICHAEL RIVAS**  
Born to: Oct.15, 2014  
Born to: Ryan and Jacqueline Rivas

**BENJAMIN BARRY BENSON**  
Born on: Oct. 31, 2014  
Born to: Bryce and Samantha Benson

**KYLIE ELAINE MILLER**  
Born on: Oct. 31, 2014  
Born to: Amber and Kyle Miller

**JACKSON CONNOR NAVES**  
Born on: Nov. 1, 2014  
Born to: Adam and Rebecca Naves

**MAHKIAN ANDREW ROBBINS**  
Born on: Oct. 29, 2014  
Born to: Isiah and Addie Robbins

**AVA ROSE UPTON**  
Born on: Nov. 27, 2014  
Born to: Nathan and Chandra Upton

**LIAM ALEX MCKAY**  
Born on: Nov. 28, 2014  
Born to: Anthony and Danielle McKay

**IAN MICHEAL KNIGHT**  
**LIAM ALEXANDER KNIGHT**  
Born on: Nov. 25, 2014  
Born to: Amanda and Benjamin Knight

**VALYN EVA BOEHM**  
Born on: Nov. 26, 2014  
Born to: Lauren and Daniel Boehm

**LEVI MICHAEL MORENO**  
Born on: Nov. 25, 2014  
Born to: Alejandro and Dorianne Moreno

**COLEMAN BEAU HARRIS**  
Born on: Nov. 19, 2014  
Born to: Jeff and Rebecca Harris

**ALEC JOEL ANTUNEZ**  
Born on: Nov. 16, 2014  
Born to: Grace Miller and Hugo Antunez

**ELAYNA NICOLE SWAN**  
Born on: Nov. 18, 2014  
Born to: Carissa and Matthew Swan

**RYAN JACOB SANDERS**  
Born on: Nov. 7, 2014  
Born to: Michael and Susan Sanders

**VINCENT AURELIO GUZMAN**  
Born on: Nov. 8, 2014  
Born to: Sebastian and Vanessa Guzman

**OLIVIA LILLYANNE GUTEIRREZ**  
Born on: Nov. 5, 2014  
Born to: Amy Gutierrez and Charles Sandoval

**MARCUS LINCOLN SELESKY**  
Born on: Nov. 5, 2014  
Born to: Steven and Angela Selesky

**LONDON LEE SHIFLET**  
Born on: Nov. 6, 2014  
Born to: Amanda and Justin Snifflet

## SUDOKU

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Last week's answers

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  - Angelo's Kars, 226 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054
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  - Club San Diego, 3955 Fourth St.
  - Get It On Shoppe, 3219 Mission Blvd.
  - Main Street Motel, 3494 Main St.
  - Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar St.
- In National City:**
- Dream Crystal, 15366 Highland Ave.
  - Sports Auto Sales, 1112 National City Blvd.

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- 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
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WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Lauren

Cape Coral, Fl.Communication specialist, G-5, 27

KURKIMILIS

Kurkimilis was the first female born into her last name after 48 years of 19 boys. She has also been swimming since she was two years old.

>**I joined the Marine Corps** in 2010 and I reached my end of active service last month.

>**I was 23 years old** and working full time, going to school full time, trying to make ends meet.

>**My uncle and grandfather were Marines**, so for me it was something that I sort of always wanted to do, even from the time I was in high school. I realized I was in a position where I was spinning my wheels and thought if I'm going to join, I need to do it now.

>**I was a** combat correspondent.

>**I spent about eight months** at the Defense Information School, then I got stationed in Twentynine Palms, [Calif.] and spent all of my enlistment here. I got the opportunity to do a lot of public speaking events and create some great media product.

>**Being in public affairs, I got to** meet a multitude of people and I think that was the best part of my job.

>**I went to a center for the arts high school.** Freshman year, I was a theater major. Growing up, I did a lot of singing and acting and only a little bit of dance. So I auditioned for the dance department my sophomore year and I was [accepted] and then my last three years I was a dance major.

>**The arts, in general,** are a passion in my life.

>**I never thought I would** fall in love with photography like I did, but it's something that I'm going to keep with me no matter what. I can thank the Marine Corps for that.

>**I enjoy portraiture photography** and I also enjoy taking scenic photos.

>**There have been profound moments** in my life where I'd sit in a place and be in awe of what's around me. To be able to take a camera and capture exactly how you see something in that moment is an asset.

>**I can tell someone how much I love** the sunsets in southwest Florida, but to show them a picture of that is worth far more than a thousand words. If I can show it to you, you might just be as impacted as I was.

>**It's all about perspective.** The best photos are when you take it from a perspective that no one gets to see.

>**I like the sound when I swim.** You can still vaguely hear what's going on around you but for the most part I hear myself breathing and I hear the water around me, it's very calming.

>**I would say the biggest passion in my life is** my family. I have three brothers, one older and two younger.

>**My brother, Bryan, is a musician** who has been featured in Time magazine and has had high-end designers request the rights to his music to be played at their fashion shows.

>**I have a 19-year-old brother named Patrick,** he has autism and a photographic memory. I could tell him any date, for instance someone's birthday, and in an instant he can tell you what day of the week it was. He is truly amazing. We have such a special bond.

>**Kieran is my eight-year-old brother** and I would say he is the one who is probably the most like me. He reminds me that I shouldn't be so serious in life and that I should enjoy the little things.

>**When my mom passed away,** when I was a kid. And in the wake of that loss, I learned some of my most valuable life lessons. I learned the importance of grace through adversity and really understood what loss was.

>**I think as I grew older,** I grew to be more and more like her. Or at least I tried to be. After she passed, I was told, 'live your life as she would, and she will always be alive, in you.' I really do believe that.

>**My dad was very much forced to be** like my mother and my father all wrapped into one. He and I have a very close relationship because of that. He raised me like he did his sons, but still with a certain tenderness. He's like my best friend.



>**Family is important to me** and it's hard being so detached. Sometimes I really need them. I'm lucky though to have my boyfriend with his family so close in Burbank, [Calif.] For the past three years I've been sort of taken in by them. Now they're my family too.

>**The Marine Corps was an interesting journey.** I learned to respect myself and to expect more for my life. I changed a lot while I was in and I figured out what was really important to me.

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# Integrated Task Force Engineer Platoon

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Marines with Engineer Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, conducted an assault breaching exercise at Engineer Training Area 2 at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Dec. 3.

The platoon began their exercise by hiking more than 10 kilometers to the training area, carrying demolitions equipment such as M1A2 Bangalore torpedoes, the Anti-personnel Obstacle Breaching System and C4 satchel charges.

The next day, the platoon constructed obstacles at various distances using concertina wire. After preparing the demolition equipment, they were ready to go to work. Their objective: to assault and reduce obstacles by means of controlled detonation.

“(This) training was based on assault breaching, an engineer task that is very similar to what we will be doing out in Twentynine

Palms,” said 1st Lt. Stephanie Damren, platoon commander, Engineer Platoon, H&S Company, GCEITF.

She referenced the coming Task Force deployment to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California, where Marines will be assessed on their ability to perform tasks out of the individual Military Occupational Specialty Training and Readiness manuals.

“We wanted to focus on the basics of what assault breaching is, which consists of building charges, setting up security and proofing and marking the lane after we reduce the obstacle,” Damren said. “The Marines were intense. They got out there and applied what they knew and did great at it.”

The Marines worked in squads to determine what demolitions were appropriate and effective for their obstacles, utilizing M1A2 Bangalore torpedoes first before bringing out the expedient line charges of C4 and detonation cord.



Position safety officers observe the detonation of an M1A2 Bangalore torpedo by Marines with Engineer Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, during an assault breaching exercise at Engineer Training Area 2 at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 3.

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Marines maintained a security perimeter while teams of two set up the charges. After charges were confirmed by position safety officers, the Marines retreated to a safe distance before detonating the charges and with them, the obstacles.

GCEITF leaders, including Col. Matthew G. St. Clair, commanding officer, GCEITF, and Sgt. Maj. Robin C. Fortner, sergeant major, GCEITF, were present to observe the engineers' training. The Marines also employed the Anti-personnel Obstacle Breaching System, which is an explosive line charge that utilizes a rocket and fragmentation grenades to clear obstacles. The platoon concluded their exercise once all obstacles were neutralized

“The Marines gained (proficiency) on how to successfully conduct an assault breach,” said Sgt. Eric T. Johansen, squad leader, Engineer Platoon, GCEITF. “They did extremely well from what I saw, and understand (assault breaching) a lot better than they would in a classroom setting.”

From October 2014 to July 2015, the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force will conduct individual and collective skills training in designated 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.

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# blows away assault breaching exercise



Cpl. Kyle Wyeroski, left, heavy equipment mechanic with Engineer Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, tosses an expedient line charge onto an obstacle during an assault breaching exercise at Engineer Training Area 2 at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 3.



Lance Cpl. Amadu Kanu, combat engineer with Engineer Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, advances to an objective with an M1A2 Bangalore torpedo during an assault breaching exercise at Engineer Training Area 2 at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 3.



Marines with Engineer Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, provide security during an assault breaching exercise at Engineer Training Area 2 at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 3.



A range position safety officer confirms charges set by Marines with Engineer Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, during an assault breaching exercise at Engineer Training Area 2 at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 2.

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# What recycling can do to help

BY LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

A Marine finishes a bottle of water and in front of him is a decision. He can choose to throw his bottle in the trash can and leave, or he could throw his bottle into the recycle bin. He chose to recycle his bottle, here is why.

The Qualified Recycling Program has been working to improve the recycling habits of the Marines and sailors and their families aboard the Combat Center.

“Our overall hope is to inform our customers about what they can be recycling and what it can do to help the base,” said Palani Paahana, internal administrator supervisor for the commercial recycling yard, National Resources and Environmental Affairs Division. “Every base recycles differently, and I believe a lot of our customers are trying to recycle but don’t know how to properly recycle.”

There are several items thrown away that can actually be recycled. Any form of cardboard, plastic bottles milk cartons and aluminum cans are a few examples.

“Almost 75 percent of the things that are thrown away can actually be recycled, and we go through it by hand and separate most of it,” said Lea Brown QRP management assistance, NREA Division.

There are times items that could be recycled but become trash. Some of

these problems lead to hazards for the workers.

“We don’t have the facility to take in everything. When people don’t close their spit bottles and it becomes a

of the items. It is dangerous to our workers and we can’t recycle anything contaminated like that.”

The QRP makes money by selling the recyclable materials. The money

collect.

“We recycle about 45,000 lbs. of cardboard a week,” Brown said. “If we had people recycling cardboard correctly, we could send out almost 200,000 lbs. a week. That is about four or five truck loads. We make about \$4,200 to \$4,300 per truck right now.”

When Marines and sailors recycle the items go back to the companies in bulk which saves money. When the companies save money they can sell their products for less, which saves the buyers money. Also, the amount of energy that is used to make a new item can be greatly reduced by recycling. By lowering the amount of energy needed to make an item, the company making the item spends less money.

“The amount of energy that is used to make one aluminum can power a T.V. for three hours,” said Patrick Mills, QRP manager, NREA Division. “A penny saved is a dollar earned.”

“It takes one-fourth the amount of energy to make something new out of recycled materials,” Brown said.

With the hope of improving the lives of the people living on base, the QRP is looking for Marines, sailors and their families on base to recycle as much as they can to help in the future. For more information on what can or cannot be recycled call the QRP at (760)-830-5666 or (760)-830-5664.



[biological] hazard for the workers,” Brown said. “If there is animal waste with the recycling or diapers in the recycle that also contaminates the rest

they make pays their workers and what is needed to ship the materials. The amount of money made is equal to the amount of the material they can

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# 15th MEU Marines prepare for TRAP mission

PHOTOS BY SGT. JAMEAN BERRY



U.S. Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 (Reinforced), 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, prepare for a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel mission during realistic urban training aboard Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Sunday. RUT prepares the 15th MEU's Marines for their upcoming deployment, enhancing their combat skills in environments similar to those they may find in future missions.



An AH-1Z Viper with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 (Reinforced), 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, prepares for a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel mission during realistic urban training aboard Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Sunday.



U.S. Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 (Reinforced), 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, prepare for a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel mission during realistic urban training aboard Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Sunday.



AH-1Z Vipers with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 (Reinforced), 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, prepare for a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel mission during realistic urban training aboard Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Sunday.

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# Changes to Corps:

## Promotion eligibility changes for most enlisted ranks



STORY BY CPL. GRACE L. WALADKEWICS

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT, N.C. - Marines eager to sew on that next chevron or rocker need to take a glance at the new promotion requirements put into effect with Marine Administrative Message 521/14.

According to Sgt. Maj. Christopher G. Robinson, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing sergeant major, Marines are always striving to raise the bar higher and be the best. By changing the requirements for promotion, the Marine Corps is setting a higher standard and giving the Marines another goal to work toward.

"We, as senior enlisted advisors, saw the value in the implementation of mandatory command-sponsored enlisted professional military education courses among E-7 and E-8 Marines," Robinson said. "We are changing and making assessments to the Marines currently serving and for the Marines who will follow in their footsteps. We are professionalizing the Marines to be a more efficient enlisted force."

Lance corporals looking to add a scarlet blood stripe will now need to complete the MarineNet Leading Marines course as a prerequisite to attend a command-sponsored Lance Corporal Leadership and Ethics Seminar.

"Lance corporals are still required to complete Leading Marines, but now they are also responsible for an in-house command-sponsored course, which focuses on leadership, ethos and the expectations of a Marine on and off duty," Robinson said.

The seminar is to be planned and executed by a unit's command sergeant major or senior enlisted advisor. Each seminar emphasizes the whole Marine concept. Small unit leadership, understanding of Marine Corps ethos and leadership fundamentals are some of the topics discussed during the seminar.

Promotions for Marines from corporal to sergeant and from sergeant to staff

sergeant require completion of grade appropriate MarineNet distance education courses as a prerequisite for acceptance into required resident courses.

"We notice those Marines who have attended the corporals or sergeants course," Robinson said. "They set

nery sergeant must complete the prerequisite MarineNet Career Course and then complete either the resident Career Course or the Career Course Seminar distance education program.

While enrolled in the resident Career Course, staff sergeants are sent to a

sergeants. The mission of both courses is to provide SNCOs a resident professional military education program where they can interact with professional instructors and their peers in an academic environment.

However, unlike the seven-week resident course, which is held at one of four SNCO academies, the seminar provides staff sergeants the opportunity to receive the same benefits and education during a 15-week program where students meet with instructors once per week and receive online instruction during remainder of the week.

"The challenge and responsibility is going to be on the commanders and senior enlisted advisors to prioritize these enlisted PME's," Robinson said. "It is our job to ensure that every enlisted Marine has the time and the opportunity to complete these courses and that we as leaders have the capacity to send them."

For promotion to master sergeant or first sergeant, gunnery sergeants must complete the MarineNet Advanced Course before attending the resident Advanced Course.

Both master sergeants and first sergeants competing for their final promotion must complete a regional Master Sergeant or First Sergeant Seminar. In addition to the seminar, first sergeants are required to complete the First Sergeants Course.

"The return on the time invested into these courses will be profound," Robinson said. "It will improve the Marine and the entire unit. Our goal is to make the individual better so we can have a better person and a better Marine who is informed, equipped and capable to uphold the values and standards while remaining ready at all times and being a better piece contributing to command excellence."

For more information, read MARADMIN 521/14.



themselves apart in so many different ways. While enrolled in the course, they are in a professional environment that allows them to learn more, be challenged and become better leaders so they can come back and cross-pollinate with other Marines, creating a higher level of professional development across the board."

Staff sergeants competing for gun-

school-house where they are separated from their primary MOS for an extended period of time and they become a full-time student until their graduation from the course.

Due to the number of staff sergeants and the high demand for entry into the resident Career Courses, the Marine Corps implemented the Career Course Seminar as an alternative PME for staff



**Combat Center Events**

**The Main Exchange is scheduled to host** the Holiday Family Fun Festival, today, from 4 to 8 p.m. Stop by to meet Santa Claus, get your face painted and receive a caricature. For more information call 830-6163.

**The Desert Winds Golf Course will host** the Festival of Lights, today, starting at 5:00 p.m. Bring your family along, take in the festive decorations during a holiday hayride and enjoy cookies with hot cocoa. For more information, call 830-6132.

**Throughout the month of December, Mameluke's Pub is running** the 'Battle of the Units Competition.' Stop by to have your chip placed in your unit's jar for a chance to win a barracks bash for your unit. For more information, call 830-6922.

**Mameluke's Pub is schedule to host** Football and Texas Hold'em day, Saturday, starting at noon. Come see the Navy and the Army face. Participants must be over 18 to join. For more information call 830-8429.

**Palms Springs Art Museum** is opening the Soldiers Stories from Iraq and Afghanistan exhibit, tomorrow. Come see a series of photos taken from U.S. veterans in Iraq and Afghanistan to include a photo of a Combat Center Marine. The museum opens at 10 a.m.

**Sunset Cinema**

**Friday, Dec. 12**  
6 p.m. – Big Hero 6, PG  
8 p.m. – Nightcrawler, R  
11:30 p.m. – Dumb and Dumber To, PG-13

**Saturday, Dec. 13**  
10 a.m. – Home Alone 2, PG  
1:30 p.m. – Big Hero 6, PG  
4 p.m. – Ouija, PG-13  
6 p.m. – John Wick, R  
8:30 p.m. – Dumb and Dumber To, PG-13  
11:30 p.m. – St. Vincent, PG-13

**Sunday, Dec. 14**  
12 p.m. – Big Hero 6, PG  
7 p.m. – Interstellar, PG-13

**Monday, Dec. 15**  
3 p.m. – Nightcrawler, PG-13

**Tuesday, Dec. 16**  
5 p.m. – Big Hero 6, PG  
7:30 p.m. – St. Vincent, PG-13

**Wednesday, Dec. 17**  
6:30 p.m. – Interstellar, PG-13

**Thursday, Dec. 18**  
5 p.m. – Ouija, PG-13  
7 p.m. – John Wick, R

**Friday, Dec. 19**  
3:30 p.m. – The Santa Clause, PG  
5:30 p.m. – St. Vincent, PG-13  
8 p.m. – Dumb and Dumber, PG-13  
10:30 p.m. – Nightcrawler, R



# ‘Hunger Games’ semi-finale is light on action but heavy on build-up

NEIL POND

**“The Hunger Games: Mockingjay—Part 1”**  
Starring Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Philip Seymour Hoffman & Liam Hemsworth  
Directed by Francis Lawrence  
PG-13

Fans of The Hunger Games will be thrilled because the latest installment—the next-to-last movie, the result of splitting the final book of author Suzanne Collins’ smash trilogy into two movie parts—has hit the screen. But that excitement might be tinged by some disappointment in watching the feisty, girl-power heroine Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) sit out much of the drama on the sidelines.

Mockingjay—Part 1 begins where last year’s Catching Fire left off: Katniss, the victor of the first two movies’ kill-or-be-kill games, has become a refugee from the totalitarian regime’s brutal President Snow (Donald Sutherland), living underground with a group of rebel insurgents and their leader, President Coin (Julianne Moore).

A revolution is brewing, and the rebels want Katniss to become its poster girl. “We have to have a lightning rod,” says Coin. So Katniss is recruited to make a series of propaganda videos—or “propos”—to spark a rebellion in the miserable masses of Snow’s repressed citizens.

“It’s the worst terror in the world, waiting for something,” Coin tells Katniss. A lot of Hunger Games fans might agree, given that so much of the movie feels like waiting around for the real excitement to start.

Katniss, the rousing action figure around which the entire franchise is based, appears in only one scene that would qualify as an action scene, in which she gets to actually un-sheath an arrow from her quiver and fire it

from her bow. But then it’s back to the bunker for more plotting, more prep, and hanging out while other people get down to the nitty-gritty. There’s other action—a big dam blows up, a bunch of forced-labor lumberjacks turn the tables on their “Peacekeeper” guards, and a daring nighttime rebel raid on President Snow’s compound looks like a mash-up of Mission Impossible and Zero Dark Thirty. But Katniss sits it all out.

Director Francis Lawrence (no relation to Jennifer), who also steered last year’s Catching Fire, keeps things looking drab and dreary, to match the mood of repression, doubt and dread. Obviously, he’s holding back, saving the story’s knockout punch for its final act, the big show. OK, I get that—but frequently this warm-up seems like it’s huffing and puffing without generating a lot of real heat.

The movies’ main cast returns: Woody Harrelson, Elizabeth Banks, Stanley Tucci, and (the late) Philip Seymour Hoffman. Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth are back as Peeta and Gale, the two hunks competing for Katniss’s affections, although the storyline puts them in very different places and situations.

There’s a lot here for Hunger Games fans to digest—political undertones, the drumbeat of war, public executions. And it’s got another great performance by Lawrence, who makes almost everything she does (even playing a bad actress, who struggles to get her propos lines right) fun to watch. She even breaks out in song, a haunting, dirge-like ditty called “The Hanging Tree.” There’s some real dramatic tension, a good deal of emotion, and one heck of a setup for the next movie.

But as for a big, “fiery” showdown that fans have been waiting, and waiting for, well, they’re just going to have to stay hungry a bit longer—until next November.

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Sources: NissanUSA.com, Automobiles.Honda.com and Toyota.com. Comparison values based on 2015 Nissan Altima Sedan 2.5, 2015 Honda Accord LX Sedan and 2015 Toyota Camry LE. MPG based on 2014 EPA mileage ratings. Use for comparison purposes only. Your actual mileage will vary depending on how you drive and maintain your vehicle. See dealer for full details. Powertrain Warranty: terms and conditions available. Stock photos, actual colors and equipment may vary. See dealer for details.

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MODEL#23114



**0% APR FINANCING**  
**72 MONTHS\***  
**\$500 PLUS**  
NMAC CAPTIVE CASH\*\*

\*0% APR for 72 months = \$13.89 per month per \$1000 financed with \$0 down to well qualified buyers with approved above average credit on select models. Must finance thru NMAC. \*\*NMAC Cash available when financed thru NMAC and is subject to credit approval. No money down to qualified buyers thru NMAC.

2014 NISSAN VERSA NOTE  
S PLUS  
MODEL#11454 STK#7701 VIN# 433983



**0% APR FINANCING**  
**60 MONTHS\***  
**\$1,000 PLUS**  
NMAC CAPTIVE CASH\*\*

\*0% APR for 60 months = \$16.67 per month per \$1000 financed with \$0 down to well qualified buyers with approved above average credit on select models. Must finance thru NMAC. \*\*NMAC Cash available when financed thru NMAC and is subject to credit approval. No money down to qualified buyers thru NMAC.

2014 NISSAN MAXIMA  
S or SV



**0% APR FINANCING**  
**72 MONTHS\***  
**\$500 PLUS**  
NMAC CAPTIVE CASH\*\*

\*0% APR for 72 months = \$13.89 per month per \$1000 financed with \$0 down to well qualified buyers with approved above average credit on select models. Must finance thru NMAC. \*\*NMAC Cash available when financed thru NMAC and is subject to credit approval. No money down to qualified buyers thru NMAC.

**#1 VOLUME NISSAN DEALER IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY\***



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Sun: 10:00AM-7:00PM OR LATER



68-177 Kyle Road  
Cathedral City Auto Center



All advertised prices exclude government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document processing charge, any electronic filing charge, and any emission testing charge. \*As cited by Nissan North America Sales CYTD 2013. Photos are for illustration purposes only and may not reflect actual vehicles. Vehicle availability based at press time and all vehicles subject to prior sale. Prior sales not eligible for advertised prices. Dealership not responsible for price misprints or typographical errors. Offers end 1/2/15.

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