



Lance Cpl. Cody McMillian, Team Leader, 3rd Squad, 3rd Platoon, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion 25th Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve shoots down range during the 2015 Integrated Training Exercise at Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 12. ITX allows Reserve Marines the opportunity to train in realistic environments and conditions, ensuring the highest levels of proficiency and readiness for worldwide deployment.

# Reserve Forces Begin ITX 4-15

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. IAN FERRO

Marines with Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, began Integrated Training Exercise 2015 with a live

fire platoon attack exercise during the second day of ITX at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California, June 12, 2015.

The exercise consisted of a series of combined shooting, fire maneuvers and movement in which

the Marines simulated an encounter and fire suppression against a hostile enemy.

“The infantry battalion is here to develop their combined arms skills, so they can effectively fight and win against a hybrid oppo-

nent,” said Col. Morgan Mann, deputy commander of the 25th Marine Regiment. “This is about getting that individual proficiency and those small unit skills that they need to do their job and this is actually getting

See **Fire** pg. A6

## Training to open for troops, Vets, spouses

STORY BY TERRI MOON CRONK

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Defense Department announced a partnership to launch employment training for transitioning service members, veterans and military spouses in highly skilled utility industry jobs.

The Utility Industry Workforce Initiative is a public-private partnership comprising DoD, the departments of Energy, Veterans Affairs and Labor, and private-sector companies Edison Electric Institute, Center for Energy Workforce Development, Nuclear Energy Institute, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and American Gas Association, defense officials said.

The initiative’s goal is to promote and design training and credentialing opportunities for applicants to enter the utility industry, officials noted.

The announcement builds on the White House effort that began in April to help America’s veterans find high-quality jobs, with a goal to train 75,000 workers for the renewable energy industry by 2020. About 200,000 service members leave the military annually.

The energy sector is projected to require an additional 1.5 million workers by 2030 to modernize the nation’s energy infrastructure, according to Quadrennial Energy Review.

VA’s Veterans Economic Communities Initiative will work with local resources to connect transitioning service members, veterans, and their families on training and employment opportunities.

DOL will match military occupation codes with credentialing opportunities in the utility sector, and expand training capacity in SkillBridge through the community college structure.

The DoD SkillBridge authority promotes civilian job training available to transitioning military service members.

“This announcement is just the latest example of how leveraging our new SkillBridge authority can help in easing the transition of our service members to civilian life -- while delivering real value to the American economy,” said Frank C. DiGiovanni, DoD’s director of force readiness and training.

“As we have seen, [by] the private sector participating in SkillBridge, it just makes good business sense,” he added.

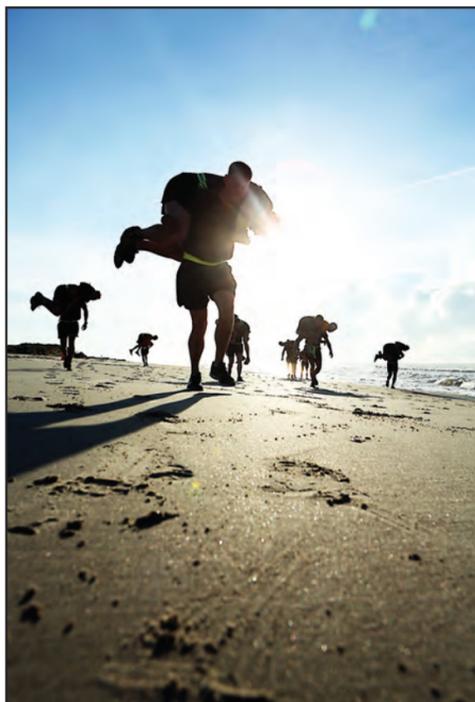
SkillBridge will help link military occupations to utility jobs, and active-duty troops can receive entry-level utility training, such as apprenticeships or internships, in their last six months before separation.

To qualify, the eight- to 12-week training must lead to a “high probability” of employment and must be provided at little or no cost to service members, officials said.

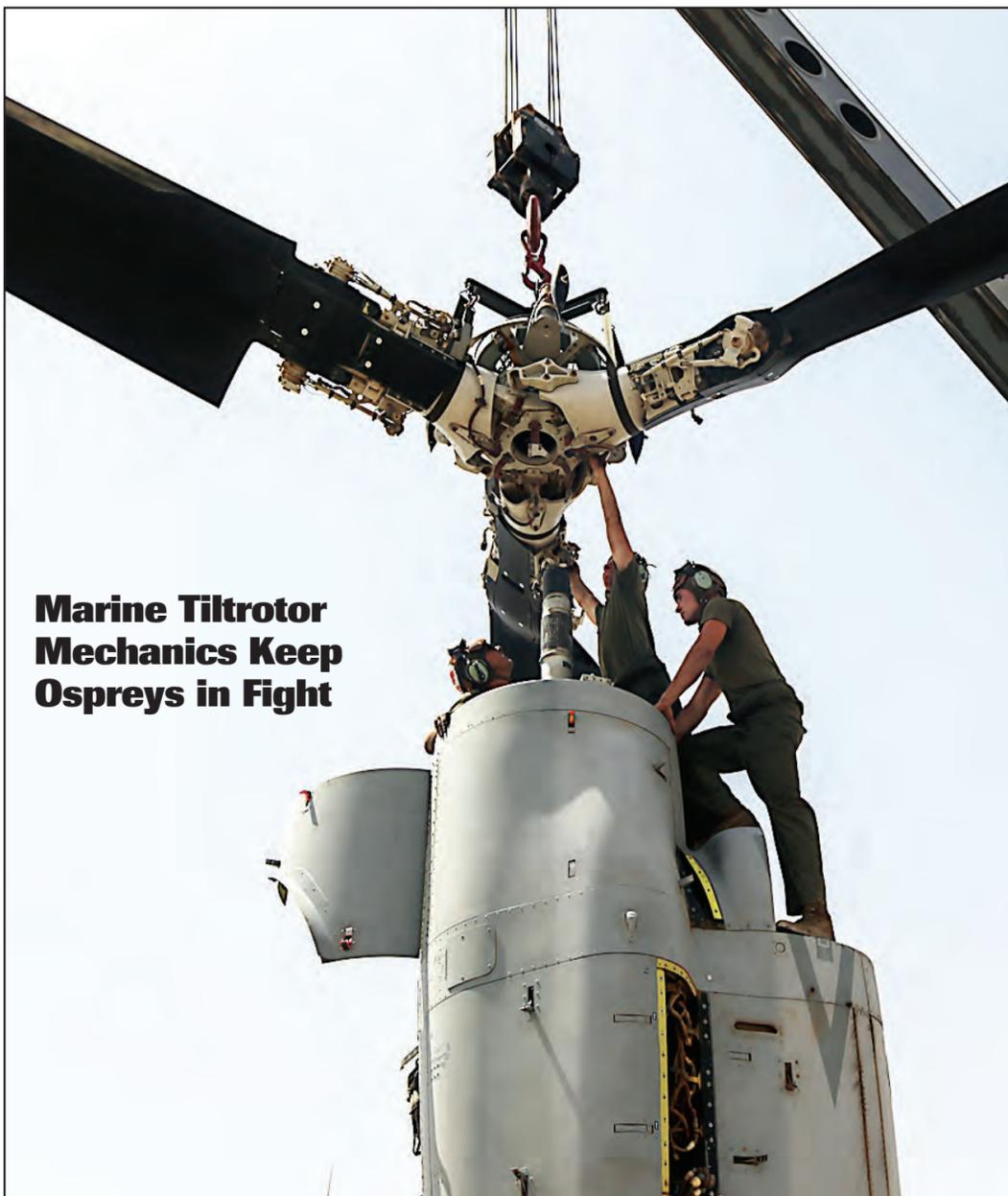
Defense officials said the strategic plan will roll out later this year.

## Marine Corps’ Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans cast their votes for the best photograph posted on the Corps’ Facebook page. This week’s top shot comes from Cpl. Anthony Quintanilla.



Marines with 2nd Marine Logistics Group exercise on Onslow Beach, North Carolina, June 11. The officers of 2nd MLG performed various workouts during the Commanding Generals run.



## Marine Tiltrotor Mechanics Keep Ospreys in Fight

U.S. Marine tiltrotor mechanics with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 165, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, reattach an MV-22 Osprey rotor to the aircraft in Southwest Asia, Monday. Aircraft maintainers play a crucial role in ensuring the squadron’s readiness and aircraft are set for a wide array of tactical and logistical missions. See pg. A5



Reprinted from the Observation Post  
 Story By SSgt. Mike Buhler  
 June 19, 1981

# Reservists build huts at tent city

Marine Corps reservists from Green Bay, Wisc., were sweltering in the vast stretches of California's southern Mojave Desert to help make life a little more tolerable for their fellow active duty Marines.

Wing Engineer Squadron (WES)-47, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing (USMCR), is made up of part time Marines from the greater Green Bay area as well as from other towns and cities as far away as 150 miles.

The unit has a total strength of 200 reservists in Green Bay with 96 making the trip to the Combat

Center. While here, the combat engineers underwent their annual two weeks of active duty training which ended Friday. WES-47 is made up of electricians, carpenters, heavy equipment operators and others with specialties involving construction.

During their two week stay here, the Wisconsin Marines constructed 16 "A" frame shaped living spaces capable of providing visiting Marines with permanent sleeping facilities.

The wood-framed, aluminum-walled quarters are part of an

ongoing multi-million dollar construction project involving the combined Arms Exercise Support Base, located 10 miles northwest of the Combat Center's main side area.

Presently, Marine units assigned here for training live in tents, which must be set up each time a unit arrives. Thousands of Marines can be housed at the support base.

According to Lieutenant Colonel F. A. Buethle commanding officer of WES-47, for each "A" frame hut built, three fewer tents will be needed. "Eventually, 80 units will

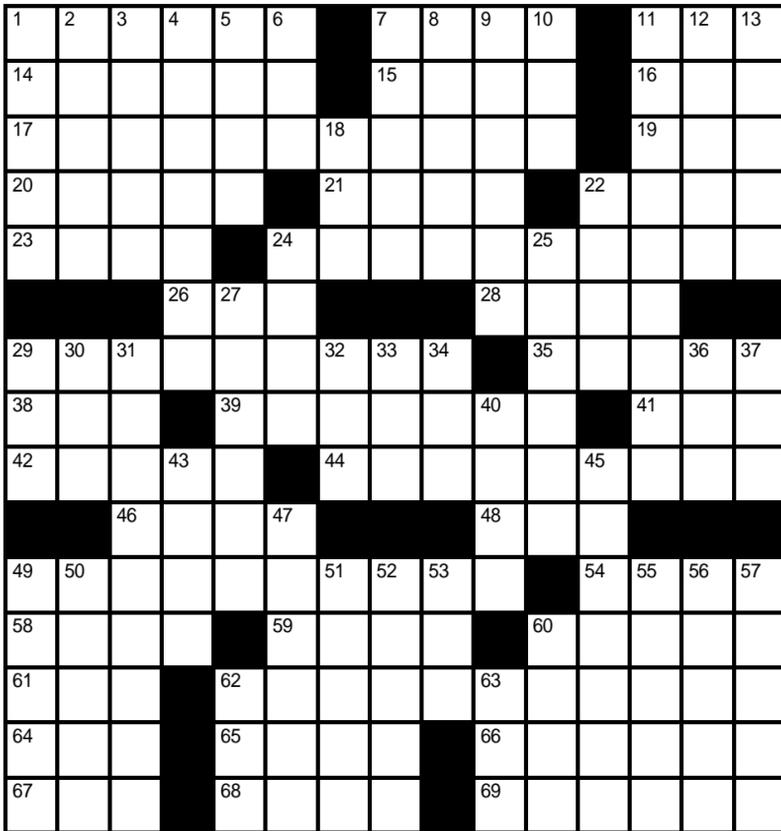
be constructed. We're here to build the first 16."

"With temperatures sometimes reaching 130 degrees here during the summer months," continues Col. Buethle, a big design advantage of a hut as opposed to a tent that the inside is usually 10 degrees cooler."

Other projects of the Green Bay builders during their two week stay here has included the regarding of a hillside in the back of a portion of family housing here, wiring buildings for electricity and running water lines.

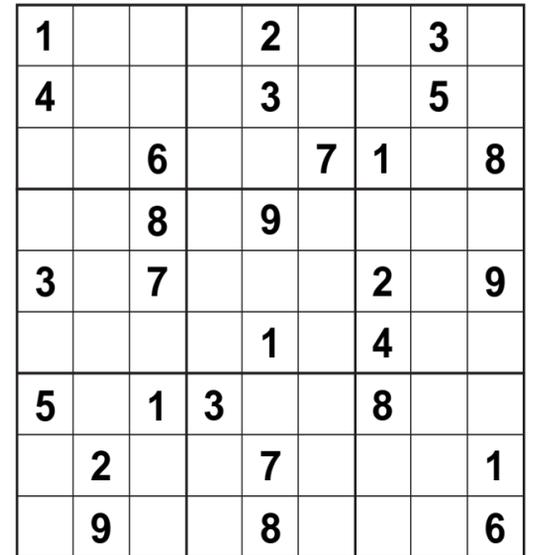
## CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 1 Shade provider
  - 7 Thousand \_\_\_\_, Calif.
  - 11 Took the cake
  - 14 Amerindian language
  - 15 Eye opening for a squint
  - 16 "It's \_\_\_-brainer!"
  - 17 Cloyingly charming
  - 19 Disco-era kid
  - 20 Paris parents
  - 21 \_\_\_ out a living (gets by)
  - 22 Car alarms of a sort: abbr.
  - 23 Carded, say
  - 24 Device with a snooze button
  - 26 \_\_\_ up (get dressed)
  - 28 Freedom from worries
  - 29 Up-to-date
  - 35 Vehicle engine
  - 38 U.S.C.G. rank
  - 39 City south of San Diego
  - 41 "... \_\_\_ woodchuck could..."
  - 42 Clock keeper
  - 44 Persian alternative
  - 46 H.G. Wells' blond race
  - 48 Elbow bender
  - 49 Password
  - 54 Knee-to-ankle bone
  - 58 Baby's powder
  - 59 Cabby's car
  - 60 Rosetta \_\_\_
  - 61 Mendacity
  - 62 "The Fall" author
  - 64 Coach Parseghian
  - 65 Count (on)
  - 66 Pull through
  - 67 Dad's boy
  - 68 "Ah, yes!"
  - 69 Family emblems

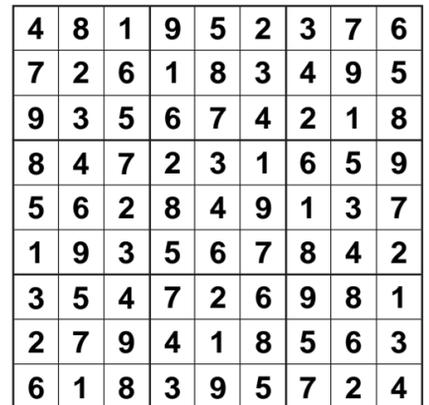


- Down**
- 1 "Same here"
  - 2 Did an electrician's job
  - 3 \_\_\_ Dame
  - 4 "That was my habit once"
  - 5 No votes
  - 6 Health supplement store
  - 7 Japanese port city
  - 8 Tweak, e.g.
  - 9 Valentine candy message
  - 10 Place to serve slop
  - 11 Use purple prose
  - 12 Year in Augustus' reign
  - 13 From Oslo's country, to a native
  - 18 Buddhism, e.g.: Abbr.
  - 22 "One more thing..."
  - 24 Prefix with business
  - 25 Popular Chevy model
  - 27 Codas
  - 29 Part of a play
  - 30 Wire service letters
  - 31 Tell all
  - 32 Steely Dan album
  - 33 Franciscan, e.g.
  - 34 Cry before "You're it!"
  - 36 Son \_\_\_ gun
  - 37 Inform
  - 40 One margin of victory
  - 43 "Juice": abbr.

## SUDOKU



Last week's answers



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

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 - Main Street Motel, 3494 Main St.  
 - Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar St.  
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 - 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

**Raul Ponce, Puerto Rico** Warehouse clerk, Headquarters Battalion, Pfc. 21

# CASANOVA

Casanova, developed a passion for photography through his love of skateboarding. After the Marine Corps he hopes to pursue photography professionally.

**>I was born and raised in** Ponce, Puerto Rico. I've got three brothers, one step-brother, my mom and my step-dad.

**>I like to skateboard,** play basketball and cook.

**>My mom taught me** how to cook and I cook pretty much anything. Although it's hard, I've tried to learn how to cook traditional Puerto Rican food.

**>I like the process of** making a meal for yourself the way you like it.

**> I was about 5 years old when** I started playing basketball. I used to play with my dad all the time and as soon as I got older I played with my friends. Basketball is just something that me, my brothers and my friends grew up with.

**>I've been skateboarding since I was 8 years old.**

Before that my cousin got me into roller blading. My mom bought me a skateboard and after that it was paradise. I haven't stopped skateboarding since.

**>I've competed in competitions** before but to me there's no difference from when I'm skateboarding recreationally. I might be competing for something but either way you just go out to have fun.

**>My favorite thing about skateboarding is** trying to do a trick and not getting it right the first time. You get to love that feeling because it makes you better. When you fall you get up and you have that fire. There's no feeling that compares to finally getting it right.

**>I used to take pictures and videos of** my friends and I skate-

boarding. I got into photography when I started posting pictures on-line and they got recognized. That's when I really developed a passion for it.

**>Let's say you take a picture** and then you don't see it for a while. When you find it again it brings back memories. If you're having a bad day and you see that memory it can brighten your mood.

**>I like having the ability** to capture a moment in time.

**>I love Puerto Rico.** I lived in Orlando, [Fla.], for a year when I was 12 but we moved back to Puerto Rico. There's just something about being in your homeland with people you know that is comforting.

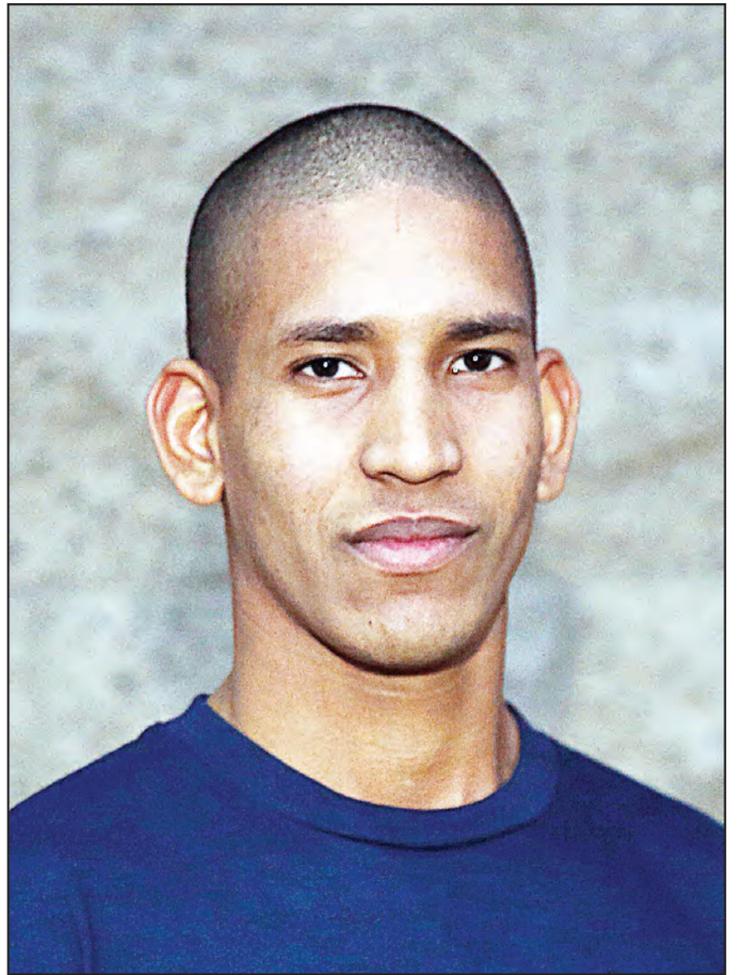
**>The thing about Puerto Rico is** that people are closer with each other. There's a lot of tradition and culture. Back home you might not know the person, but you still treat them like family.

**>Living out here, there is a different pace.** Being in the Marine Corps has allowed me to meet different people and learn about different types of cultures.

**>I'm the oldest of all** my brothers. The second oldest is 18, the middle child is 12 and my baby brother is a year old.

**>We've always been close.** I've always tried to be close with my brothers because family is one of the most important things to me.

**>My younger brother and I were** tight growing up, we always took care of each other. We used to build little castles around the television using sheets and furniture. We would sit and watch T.V. for hours



and it got to the point where we knew which show was coming on right after the other.

**>The hardest part about being here is** being away from them. I talk to my brothers every day.

**>I joined the Marine Corps because** I was in need of a steady paycheck. I had a friend back in college who joined before I did. I told him that I was serious-

ly considering joining the military and he suggested that I join the Marine Corps.

**>If I was going to join the military** I wanted to be the best. I started to learn about Marines and what they represented and I wanted to embody that.

**>I'm proud to wear the Marine Corps uniform.** I like what it represents. Not many people can claim the title.

Interviewed and photographed by Medina Ayala-lo

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Inside Out (PG)

3D 12:30 6:30  
2D 3:30 9:30

Jurassic World (PG13)

3D 3:30 9:30  
2D 12:30 6:30

San Andreas (PG13)

12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

Pitch Perfect 2 (PG13)

12:30 6:30

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# Why I Love My Dad....

**I ♥ MY DAD**

*Because*

He makes me chicken nuggets. And because he play's games with me and rides bikes with me. He is not my real dad but he don't say that. He is nice to me and my mom and my brothers and loves me a whole lot. I want to grow up just like my dad. He is a great dad. His name is Jeremy Roses, and he will always be my dad, and my hero.

Tucker Godden  
Age 5

## 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE

**I ♥ MY DAD**

*Because*

He is so fun. He loves me so much! He builds me club houses. He fixes my bike when it is broken. The reason I love him the most is because he was there for me when my real dad wasn't. If I could choose my dad I would choose him! I love that he calls me prinscess. He is the best dad!

Kinlei Totten  
Age 7  
Onaga Elementary

**I ♥ MY DAD**

*Because*

he does so much for me and my family! My dad goes to work every single day to make money to feed, buy clothes, and provide a shelter for me. He does his best for me no matter what. When I need something, he tries his best to give it to me. I know he cares about me and loves me. He teaches me so many things that help me everyday. My love for my dad is everlasting!

Caitlynn Venezia  
Age 12  
Morongo Valley Elementary

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**I ♥ MY DAD**

*Because*

my DaDDy works hard being a marine so we are safe. He teaches me to ride my dirt bike. Thank you daddy for everything you do for me! Happy daddys day.

Cole Jr  
Age 6  
Oasis Elementary

## 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE

**I ♥ MY DAD**

*Because*

he lets me get new shoes. He also lets me go to explore the mountains He never forgets about me and always tells me he loves me a lot. He's nice enough to take me out to eat out on my birthday. He sees me when I get my awards from school. He watches me at my track meets. I also love him because he appreciates for what I do and make. He tells me I look pretty. He helps with my homework if I need help. Thats why I love my dad.

Crissy Venezia  
Age 9  
Morongo Valley Elementary

**I ♥ MY DAD**

*Because*

I feel safe when I'm with you. You love me no matter what. You help me through the rough times, and encourage me through the rough times. The minute I was born one man stole my heart, and that man's name is daddy! He always makes me smile and laugh. He holds me tight and keeps me close. I love you soo much daddy.

Jennifer Purdy  
Age 13  
Homeschooled

Copper  
Mountain  
College  
760-366-3791

Kelly's  
All Beauty  
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Pickers Shack  
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760-821-5221

Jack In The Box  
73750 29 Palms Hwy  
760-369-0904

All letters were typed as the children submitted them.

**I ♥ MY DAD**

*Because*

I love hot chocolate, and he buys me games and toys. He loves my mom and golfing. He takes care of my dog Bruduce and that is very nice of him. My dad is the coolest dad ever.

Ethan Braley  
Age 4

**I ♥ MY DAD**

*Because*

He is nice and loveing. He teaches me thangs about his work and thangs about places to. He's careing for me. He's my Hero to me because he protects and loves me. He is funny with me. I don't think he can be without me and I can't be without him. I love him because he is my Dad.

Mackenzie Johnson  
Age 7  
Yucca Valley Elementary

**I ♥ MY DAD**

*Because*

he is so awesome! and he protects me! And he is really nice, and handsome! And picks me up when I fall. And my dad is very tall! I Love my daddy! He is the man of the house, and he sure acts like one. And thats why I LOVE MY DADDY!

Tegan Henretty  
Age 10  
Friendly Hills Elementary

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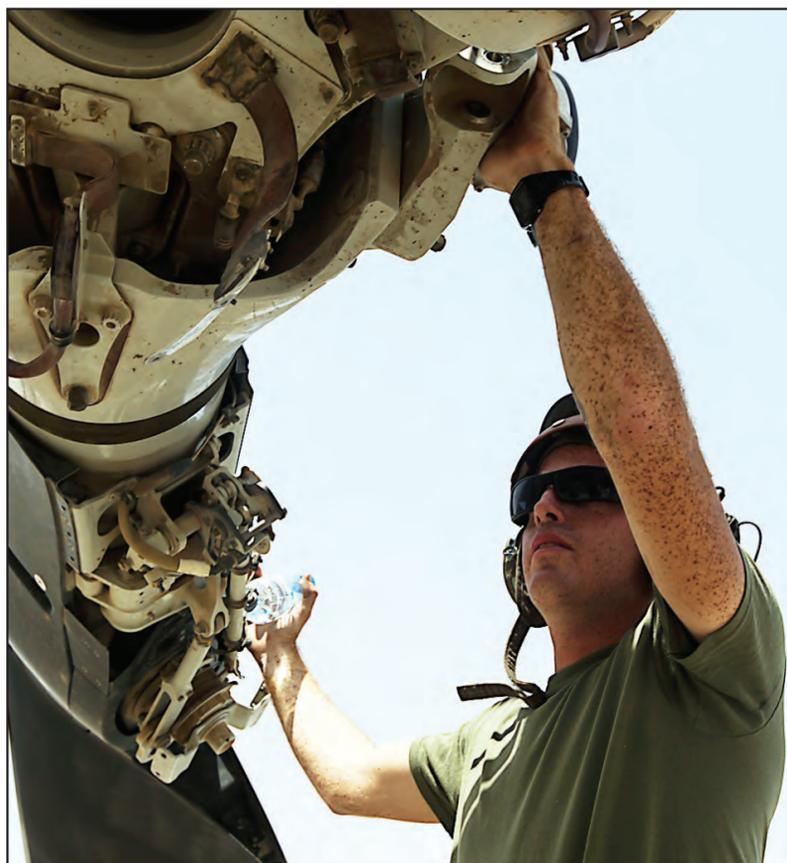
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# Marine Tiltrotor Mechanics Keep Ospreys in Fight



PHOTOS BY CPL. CASIN HARDYGRITAG

Marine Corps tiltrotor mechanics with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 165, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, lower a rotor onto an MV-22 Osprey in Southwest Asia, Monday.



Marine Cpl. Kevin Rodriguez, a tiltrotor mechanic with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 165 from Orlando, Fla., guides an MV-22 Osprey rotor as it is lowered onto the aircraft by crane in the Central Command area of Operations, Monday.



Marine Corps tiltrotor mechanics with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 165, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, wheel an MV-22 Osprey rotor toward a waiting crane for installation on an airframe in the Central Command Area of Responsibility, Monday.



Marine Lance Cpl. Michael Dominguez, from Gainesville, Ga., Lance Cpl. Jacob Kipler, from Buffalo, N.Y., Cpl. Robert Powell, from Fowlerville, Mich., and Cpl. Kevin Rodriguez, from Orlando, Fla., all tiltrotor mechanics with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 165, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, fasten an MV-22 rotor to a crane for installation on an airframe in Southwest Asia, Monday.

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## Fire from pg. A1

them ready.”

The unique terrain and weather conditions present at the 410A platoon attack range provide Marines the most realistic experience of what they would go through during a deployment to the Middle East.

“Up and down that hill you actually had to dig deep and find something, otherwise you won’t make it up the hill,” said Sgt. Andrew Gosink, section leader for Lima Company. “It is the same thing as overseas.”

At the culmination of the final platoon attack, the Marines had implemented both their individual skills and those of their team’s. Mistakes were made and noted to be improved upon next time, but this was only day one for these Marines. As the days go by, there will be much work to be done and lessons to be learned at ITX, which can be applied to future deployments.

“We have prepared for this pretty well for the past couple months,” said Lance Cpl. Andrew Morris, rifleman for 2nd platoon, Lima company. “I think we definitely did well, but there is always room for improvement.”



Marines with 3rd Platoon, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, patrol the area evading enemy fire during the 2015 Integrated Training Exercise at Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 12. At ITX, Marines must overcome stressors that would be present in a combat situation or on deployment.



Marines with 3rd Platoon, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, secure the perimeter and watch for enemy fire during the 2015 Integrated Training Exercise at Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 12. At ITX, Marines learn to work in environments that simulate combat in order to be prepared for future deployment.



Marines with 3rd Platoon, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve lay down a line of fire during the 2015 Integrated Training Exercise at Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 12. ITX allows Reserve Marines the opportunity to train in realistic environments and conditions, ensuring the highest levels of proficiency and readiness for worldwide deployment.

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# G3 Operations and Training Chief retires after 28 years of service



Col. Andrew R. Kennedy, assistant chief of staff, G3 operations and training, presents a plaque to Master Gunnery Sgt. Steve Hernandez, operations chief, G3 operations and training, during Hernandez's retirement ceremony at the Combat Center Community Center, June 5, 2015. Hernandez assumed the role as senior enlisted leader at G-3 in September 2014.



PHOTOS BY KRISTIE KENNEDY

Col. Andrew R. Kennedy, assistant chief of staff, G3 operations and training, makes remarks while serving as the retiring official during Master Gunnery Sgt. Steve Hernandez's, operations chief, G3 operations and training, retirement ceremony at the Combat Center Community Center, June 5, 2015. During the ceremony, Hernandez was honored for his 28 years of service.



Col. Andrew R. Kennedy, assistant chief of staff, G3 operations and training, presents an award to Master Gunnery Sgt. Steve Hernandez, operations chief, G3 operations and training, during his retirement ceremony at the Combat Center Community Center, June 5, 2015.



Col. Andrew R. Kennedy, assistant chief of staff, G3 operations and training, presents a gift to Master Gunnery Sgt. Steve Hernandez, operations chief, G3 operations and training, during a retirement ceremony at the Combat Center Community Center, June 5, 2015.



Master Gunnery Sgt. Steve Hernandez, operations chief, G3 operations and training, presents flowers to his family during his retirement ceremony at the Combat Center Community Center, June 5, 2015. Hernandez's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and Combat Action Ribbon.

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# 17 nations conduct amphibious landing in Sweden



PHOTO BY SGT. TATUM VAYAVANANDA

An international Corps of Marines from Sweden, Finland, and the U.K. conduct amphibious assaults on a beachhead in Ravlund, Sweden, for local media outlets during Baltic Operations 2015, June 13. The amphibious forces are part of 17 NATO Allies and partner nations that are integrated in air, land, and sea operations to improve their combined-force capability to work together and to respond to threats in the Baltic region.

STORY BY 1ST. LT. SARAH BURNS

RAVLUNDA, Sweden – NATO and partner nations stormed the shores of Sweden, June 13, during an amphibious landing part of Baltic Operations 2015.

The landing was a rehearsal for the main event happening in Ustka, Poland, June 17.

“I’ve been doing amphibious operations in the U.S. Navy for almost 30 years, and never have I seen a staff get together so quickly and execute this well,” U.S. Navy Capt. Todd Lewis, Combined Amphibious Task Force commander for BALTOPS 2015, said about execution of the amphibious landing rehearsal in Sweden. “The staff is really leaning forward. We know Poland is a different situation. It’s not the same environment, but we showed our ability to execute, and I have no doubt we will perform even better with the lessons we learned today.”

The troops arrived to shore via the U.S. Navy’s Landing Craft Air Cushion, the U.K. Royal Navy’s Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel (LCVP), the Finnish Marine Corps’ U-700 and the Swedish Navy’s Combat Boat – 90. Supporting air assets included the U.K. Royal Navy’s Lynx MK-8 and the British Army’s Apache helicopters.

The Combined Landing Force consisted of U.S. Marines from II Marine Expeditionary Force Camp Lejeune and Black Sea Rotational Force, U.S. Army paratroopers from 173rd Airborne Brigade, Finnish marines from the Nyland brigade, marines from the Swedish 1st Infantry Regiment, U.K. Royal Navy sailors

and U.K. Royal Marine Commandos.

Operating in the amphibious planning room aboard the HMS Ocean, the CATF and CLF team comprised of service members from Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands, the U.K., the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army, supported the landing via transportation logistics, air and fire support and communications.

“From the perspective of the operations room, it was great to see how well we executed given the short amount of time of being together and planning for such a large amphibious operation,” said 1st Lt. Chris Cavanaugh, communications officer with Black Sea Rotational Force and fire support communication officer for BALTOPS 2015. “Seeing the synchronization of the staff and the communication flow amongst everyone really demonstrated our ability to work together.”

There are 5,600 troops from 17 nations exercising a broad array of naval warfare areas including maritime defense, air interdiction, anti-submarine warfare and amphibious operations.

The U.S. Marines split across the USS San Antonio, HMS Ocean, and ORP Gniezno, with service members from Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands, the U.K., the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army comprise the Combined Landing Force and Combined Amphibious Task Force executing the amphibious operations in Sweden and Poland.

Participating nations include Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Turkey, the UK and the United States.

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# Marines tackle recon assessment during ITX

PHOTOS BY CPL. IAN LEONES



Lance Cpl. Brandon A. Jaggard, machine gunner, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, emerges from the water during the Reconnaissance Assessment at the Combat Center Training Tank, Tuesday.



Lance Cpl. Alex S. Carroll, machine gunner, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, performs a 500-meter swim as part of the reconnaissance assessment at the Combat Center Training Tank, Tuesday.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Fawehinmi Seunoke, corpsman, 4th Medical Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, resuscitates a swim casualty during a demonstration of safety procedures before a reconnaissance assessment at the Combat Center Training Tank, Tuesday.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Vonterrias Foster, corpsman, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, pulls a swim casualty from the pool in a demonstration of safety procedures before a reconnaissance assessment at the Combat Center Training Tank, Tuesday.

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## TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



### REPEATED WITH MUCH LOVE

When Dennis the Menace was asked to explain Father's Day he replied "Father's Day? Well, it's just like Mother's Day, only you buy a cheaper present."

I guess that's about right but I want you dear reader to know a little about my father.

He was a remarkable man. Devoted husband, loving father, considerate son and brother, and adored and respected by all who knew him.

In the early 1930's in the midst of the great depression, he was a union organizer among timber and lumber workers in the State of Washington. I remember well, as a little boy, listening to my Dad and his fellow workers as they set around our kitchen table and developed their strategy.

Believe it or not, less than 20 years later my father was personnel manager of one of the largest plywood mills in the Pacific Northwest.

How did my father successfully lead hard working men to victory in extremely different times and then be selected by leaders in the lumber industry to serve in an extremely sensitive position during a time of healing between the average working man and the powerful and growing lumber industry?

It was because my father believed in the worth, the integrity, the dignity of each individual whether he was the lowest paid janitor in the warehouse, a shift foreman, or the president of the company.

My father and mother were married almost 60 years before her physical death and he cared deeply about his two sons and sweet daughter until his physical death just days before his 94th birthday.

On this Father's Day week end I salute my father, Leonard Harry Gerhardt. He was a good man!

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Pvt. Christopher Caudillo, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, racks the billiard balls before his match during the Single Marine Program's weekly pool tournament held at the 5th Street Zone, Tuesday.

# Billiards evoke friendly competition



STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. LEVI SCHULTZ

The cracking sounds of billiard balls marked the beginning of the Single Marine Program's weekly pool tournament held at the 5th Street Zone, Tuesday.

The SMP-sponsored tournament provides service members with an opportunity to get outside the barracks and promote camaraderie through recreational activity during their off-duty hours. The tournament began with competitors being matched up at random and eliminated upon receiving a loss. The event concludes with the top

competitor receiving a prize that varies week-to-week.

Lance Cpl. Ryan Maxwell, machinist, Combat Logistics Battalion 453, proved victorious over 10 competitors in this week's tournament after being undefeated throughout the evening.

Other activities available at the Zone include Ping-Pong, video game and poker tournaments. Additionally, the SMP occasionally hosts trips and events available to all active-duty Marines and sailors.

For more information on recreational activities held by the SMP, call 760-830-8454.



Combat Center Marines and sailors participate in the Single Marine Program's weekly pool tournament held at the 5th Street Zone, Tuesday.



Pfc. Sydney Child, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronic School, lines up a shot during the Single Marine Program's weekly pool tournament held at the 5th Street Zone, Tuesday.



Lance Cpl. Darrin Pringle, diesel mechanic, Combat Logistics Battalion 453, prepares to take a shot during the Single Marine Program's weekly pool tournament held at the 5th Street Zone, Tuesday.



Pvt. Christopher Caudillo, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, watches his shot during the Single Marine Program's weekly pool tournament held at the 5th Street Zone, Tuesday.

## Liberty Call



### Combat Center Events

**Come visit Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center.** With well-maintained lanes, large screen televisions, and a digital jukebox, it's a great facility for indoor recreational fun and relaxation. Tournaments are offered regularly and cosmic bowling runs every Friday and Saturday evening. For more information, contact 760-830-6422.

**Visit the Sand Trap Grill** at the Desert Winds Golf Course, The Grill brings back old favorites like the charbroiled hamburger, salads, hot dogs and breakfast. Their expansive seating accommodates large groups of people. For more information, contact the golf course at 760-830-6132.

**For a fun night with dinner and dancing** come visit the Hashmarks Staff NCO Club for Latin Night. The event is held every second and fourth Friday of the month 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. For more information, contact 830-5035.

**To keep your mind active this summer** check out the Combat Center Library's Summer Reading Program. The six week program runs from June 22 to August 3 and is open to all hands. The event will conclude with prize drawings to those who have completed all five reading levels. Visit the library for the complete Read to the Rhythm Guidelines and schedule of events. For more information, contact 760-830-6875.

**To learn how to be better prepared** for natural and man-made disasters and hazards attend the Emergency Preparedness Workshop. The event will be held at the Village Center in Room 25 on June 25 from 1 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. The Marine Corps encourages all personnel to maintain a basic level of preparedness for all potential hazards. For more information, contact 760-830-3115.

### Sunset Cinema

#### Friday, June 19

5:00 p.m. – Avatar, PG-13, Free Admission  
8:30 p.m. – Avengers: Age of Ultron, Pg-13  
11:30 p.m. – Mad Max: Fury Road, R

#### Saturday, June 20

10:30 a.m. – Open Season, PG, Free Admission  
1:00 p.m. – Mad Max: Fury Road, R  
4:00 p.m. – Ex Machina, R  
6:30 p.m. – Pitch Perfect 2, PG-13  
9:00 p.m. – Hot Pursuit, PG-13  
11:30 p.m. – Poltergeist 2015, PG-13

#### Sunday, June 21

12:00 p.m. – Pitch Perfect 2, PG-13  
2:30 p.m. – Mad Max: Fury Road, R  
5:30 p.m. – Tomorrowland, PG  
8:00 p.m. – Poltergeist 2015, PG-13

#### Monday, June 22

6:30 p.m. – Tomorrowland, PG

#### Tuesday, June 23

7:00 p.m. – Mad Max: Fury Road, R

#### Wednesday, June 24

6:30 p.m. – Avengers: Age of Ultron, PG-13

#### Thursday, June 25

5:00 p.m. – Ex Machina, R  
7:30 p.m. – Poltergeist 2015, PG-13

#### Friday, June 26

5:30 p.m. – The Water Diviner, R  
8:00 p.m. – Mad Max: Fury Road, R  
10:30 p.m. – Hot Pursuit, PG-13  
11:50 p.m. – MIDNIGHT MOVIE – Mortdecai, Free Admission



# All Shook Up

Earthquake flick makes a major mess of things...again

NEIL POND

*“San Andreas”*  
Starring *Dwayne Johnson, Alexandra Daddario, Carla Gugino & Paul Giamatti*  
Directed by *Brad Peyton*  
Rated *PG-13*

No need to look at the calendar: If the world is about to end, you can be pretty sure that summer's almost here. As the temps rise, so do the odds that you'll see some really big things blow up, be swept away or get pulverized—again. Alas, London. Nice knowin' ya, New York. Woe is Washington, D.C.

In San Andreas, named for the famous fault line that runs through much of California, a monstrous earthquake turns both

Los Angeles and San Francisco into pancake-like piles of rubble, creates a tsunami that takes out the Golden Gate Bridge and—symbolism cue—dramatically reunites one “split-apart” family.

This adrenaline-pumping summer blockbuster really busts some blocks, literally. It starts off with a rockslide, and in just a few minutes, and we're watching the Hoover Dam explode in a heaving, slo-mo convulsion of concrete, rebar and water.

Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson is Ray, an L.A. helicopter-rescue pilot, whose plans for a pleasant weekend drive to take his daughter Blake (Alexandra Daddario) back to college are disrupted by gaping chasms, toppled, flaming skyscrapers and collapsed, crumbled interstates (not to mention what must be countless victims that, curiously, never seem to require his services).

Ray's wife, Emma (Carla Gugino) has filed for a divorce and

is about to move in with a filthy-rich real estate developer (Ioan Gruffudd), who turns out to be every bit the weasel the movie leads you to think he'll be.

Before the big shake-and-bake, Blake meets a couple of oh-so-charming Brits, a resourceful young engineer (Hugo Johnson-Burt) and his bright little brother (Art Parkinson). In movies like this, meetings like this usually pay off later, and this one certainly does.

Paul Giamatti is a data-streaming seismologist who predicts the Big One. (“No one listens to us until the ground shakes,” he glumly tells a TV reporter.) Australian pop singer Kylie Minogue has one scene, in a fancy, high-rise restaurant, where she basically gets to chat, scream, run and plummet.

The earth shakes, the oceans rise, buildings topple and fall. But this is clearly The Rock's show, which is why the screenplay by Carlton (Lost, Bates Motel) Cuse weaves plenty of

personal drama into the disaster, and much of movie concerns Ray and Emma's search for their missing daughter-in-distress. And believe me, if the world is ending, The Rock is the guy I want on my team: A mountain of muscle with a heart of gold, he can rappel out of a hovering helicopter and leap from a zooming airplane, hot-wire a pickup truck and pilot a boat through a tsunami, and even bring someone back from the dead. He's The Rock and The Man.

Some of the effects are impressive, but really: We've seen it before. And we'll see it again. “So, what now?” ponders Emma as she surveys the CGI rubble and ruin. Ray, looking out over San Francisco Bay at the exact moment a gigantic American flag is unfurled from the wreckage of the Golden Gate Bridge, has the answer.

“We rebuild,” he says. Yes! In time next summer, and the next disaster movie!

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# Marines train for success at sea

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. EMMANUEL RAMOS

USS RUSHMORE, At Sea – It's a muggy humid morning and Marines with 4th Platoon, Kilo Company, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, stand on the flight deck in a stacked formation ready to rehearse room clearing techniques.

"Alright gent's let's run it again," said Sgt. Chad Skaggs to his platoon.

Without hesitation the Marines burst into action. They move through simulated rooms shouting "Clear!" Every move is swift and calculated. Everyone in the fire team aware of each other's movements, almost as if it were a ballet, and soon the rehearsal is over.

On a daily basis Marines with 3/1, 15th MEU, work tirelessly to stay combat ready while deployed on Western Pacific Deployment 15-1 aboard the USS Rushmore.

Prior to deploying, Marines with 3/1, 15th MEU, underwent an extensive training period to prepare them for military operations in mountainous terrain, urban terrain, as well as amphibious operations, noncombatant evacuations, and humanitarian assistance.

"We've spent the past couple of months training and working our guys up to meet the standards the MEU commander has set," said Gunnery Sgt. Arthur Abrego Jr., a company gunnery sergeant with Kilo Company, 3/1, 15th MEU. "The goal now is to maintain that readiness so we can carry out anything that is asked of us."

The Marines' training consists of combat lifesaving skills, Marine Corps Martial Arts, military operations in urban terrain, and physical fitness, as well as small-unit tactics.

Kilo Company's squad leaders make sure their Marines know their craft and maintain a state of readiness.

"One of the differences between a MEU deployment and a combat deployment is that you're not sure what you're going to be asked to do, so making sure your Marines are ready for that is essential to being successful," said Sgt. Paul A. Luna, a squad leader with Kilo Co., 3/1.

"That can be kind of tricky when you're confined to a ship. The threat of Marines becoming complacent is there, so as a squad leader you have to get creative with your training, and constantly reinforce a combat mindset to your Marines."

Doing what Marines are known to do best - improvising, adapting and overcoming - they make the most of the limited space available aboard the USS Rushmore. With the help of engineer tape, the layout of a house quickly appears on the deck.

"These are all tricks you pick up over time," said Staff Sgt. David Long, a platoon sergeant with Kilo Co. "Training isn't limited just because you're in a confined area. You just adjust; you find a way to make it work. Right now our guys are getting the same training we would be getting if we were in the field back at [Camp Pendleton]."

In addition to maintaining a state of combat readiness, Marines are also developing their professional growth by completing career progression courses, and reading selections from the Commandant's Reading List.

Sergeant Chad Skaggs, a squad leader with Kilo Co., requires his Marines to read a book, of their choosing from the reading list, and write a report on knowledge learned.

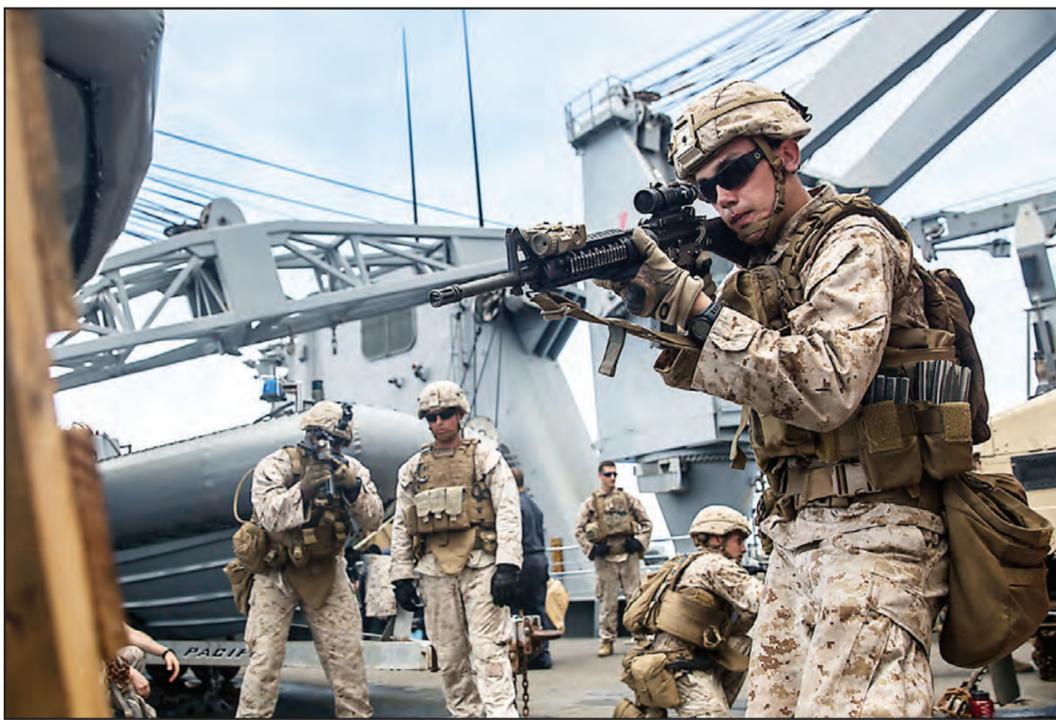
"Sgt. Skaggs doesn't want doers, he want's thinkers" said Cpl. Ryan Reardon, a team leader with Kilo Co. "Examples of everything he teaches us are in the books we read. We get to see how they've actually been used in combat and that translates to us making better decisions on the battlefield."

These Marines fill their days reinforcing their infantry tactics by rehearsing as squads on the flight deck, or in the classroom expanding their professional growth. To ensure this, squad leaders submit training schedules to their platoon sergeants who verify every minute of working hours are scheduled with training and education exercises.

"It really does fall on the squad leader to make sure our guys our ready," said Long. "These are the ones putting in the man hours to make sure they don't become complacent. It's a huge responsibility, but our guys handle it with ease, because they know what they're doing."

While none can say what will be asked of these Marines; one thing is certain, they will be ready when they get the call because their squad leaders have put in the man hours to ensure their readiness.

"My job's not to know where we're going next," said Luna. "My job's to make sure we're ready when we get there."



U.S. Marines with Kilo Company, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, rehearse urban operation tactics aboard USS Rushmore at sea in the Pacific Ocean, June 1. BLT 3/1 constantly trains for the unknown in order to respond to the needs of the MEU while deployed. These drills keep the Marines in a constant state of combat readiness while at sea.



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Trent Martin, left, and Cpl. Heath Crouch rehearse urban operation tactics aboard USS Rushmore at sea in the Pacific Ocean, June 1. Martin is an automatic rifleman and Crouch is an intelligence analyst with Kilo Company, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit.



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Daniel Del Rio takes cover as he practices movement under fire tactics aboard USS Rushmore at sea in the Pacific Ocean, June 1. Del Rio is a rifleman with Kilo Company, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

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