October 23, 2015 Since 1957 Vol. 59 Issue 41



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, establish a perimeter after debarking a CH-53 'Super Stallion' as part of a noncombatant evacuation operation exercise at Del Valle Field as part of Weapons and Tactics Instructors Course 1-16, Oct. 16.

NEO exercise conducted aboard Combat Center

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Marines of Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One conducted a non-combatant evacuation operation exercise aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 16.

MAWTS-1 conducted the NEO exercise as part Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 1-16. The WTI course is a seven-week curriculum consisting of advanced tactical aviation training designed to produce weapons and tactics instructors. A WTI will serve in key training officer billets to act as a training expert in the Fleet Marine Force, ensuring that Marine aviation units continue to train effectively and to a standard across the Marine Corps.

The NEO exercise spanned from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., to the Combat Center providing Marines the ability to practice procedures of evacuating U.S. personnel and local civilians from a foreign country. The operation utilized aircraft such as CH-53 'Super Stallion' helicopters and MV-22 'Osprey' tilt rotor aircraft to conduct



Two CH-53 'Super Stallions' take off after dropping off security forces at Del Valle Field during a noncombatant evacuation operation exercise as part of Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 1-16, Oct. 16. WTl conducted the exercise at three different location aboard the Combat Center: Del Valle Field, Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, and Range 220.

the simulated evacuations.

"This exercise helps Marines continue to be ready for any situation that may arise during a crisis," said Gunnery Sgt. Isaac Carlson, staff non-commissioned officer in charge, Role Player Section, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group.

"We have role players act as different types of people throughout the exercise. As the night progresses, the role players may change how they act, becoming either more desperate to leave, or more hostile toward the Marines conducting the

See **NEO pg.** A7

Marines, sailors join salute

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Combat Center Marines spent a day interacting with the local community during the City of Twentynine Palms' Salute to Those Who Serve celebration at the Twentynine Palms Junior High School's Tom Nicoll Memorial Stadium, Oct. 16.

The City of Twentynine Palms held the event as part of the 78th annual Pioneer Days, a four-day celebration which commemorates the unique pioneering history of the town, and allows the city to show their appreciation to service members and those who sup-



Sgt. Jonathan Scudder, military working dog handler, Provost Marshal's Office, commands Colli, military working dog, to bite and hold on to Sgt. Darren Westmoreland, military working dog handler, PMO, during a K-9 unit demonstration as part of the City of Twentynine Palms' Salute to Those Who Serve celebration at the Twentynine Palms Junior High School's Tom Nicoll Memorial Stadium, Oct. 16.

port the community.

"We have been planning this event for over a year," said Randy Councell, community services director, City of Twentynine Palms. "It's important to take a day to think about what the service members do for our community."

According to Councell, more than 1,000 children from local schools attended and spent the day exploring the Combat Center's static displays of an M777A2 Howitzer and a Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement from 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, and two High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles from the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School.

"We have Marines that are young who possibly don't have families here and it gives them the

See **Salute pg.** A7



The City of Twentynine Palms displayed the American Veterans Traveling Tribute Wall at the Twentynine Palms Junior High School's Tom Nicoll Memorial Stadium for the city's Salute to Those Who Serve celebration, Oct. 16.

Spouses walk for awareness

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

The Combat Center's Officers' Spouses' Club, hosted the 2nd annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk at Felix Field, Oct. 16. The club held the event to show support for those affected by breast cancer and to educate individuals on prevention.

OSC volunteers worked with Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital to set up information booths, Zumba exercises, and prize giveaways. Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School volunteers collected pink bracelets and tallied laps completed by the

See Walk pg. A7



Marines with Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School welcome participants to the 2nd annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk at Felix Field, Oct. 16.

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. Summer Dowding.



A UH-1Y Venom assigned to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One, lifts off of an expeditionary airfield during an air ground defense exercise at Landing Zone Bull at Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range, Calif., Oct. 10.

OBSERVATION POST **OCTOBER 23, 2015 A7**

NEO from pg. A1

evacuations."

The MAWTS-1 conducted the exercise in three locations, Del Valle Field, Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field; and Range 220, a combined-arms Military Operations in Urban Terrain training range located aboard the Combat Center.

The operation started with the landing of MV-22 and CH-53 aircraft on to landing zones at different locations. The aircraft dropped off Marines from 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Combat Regiment; Logistics Battalion 13,

MAWTS-1 and WTI instructors. The Marines located at Del Valle Field secured a perimeter and set up various check points to screen individuals before evacuating them. Marines located at Range 220 and Lance Cp. Torrey L. Gray Field conducted similar training. Later, AV-8B 'Harriers' gave a show of force by flying over the Combat Center at 600 feet. In theater, a show of force is used to help keep the evacuation site clear of role playing hostiles.

"We are out here to test

the Marines' ability to get the proper people aboard the aircraft," Sgt. Miles Stroud, non-commissioned officer in charge, Role Player Logistics, TTECG. "We send role players through who want to get out of their [simulated] country but are not American citizens and American civilians who need to be evacuated. It is the Marines' job to screen them properly and safely evacuate them while handling the local populace."

Initially, the role players acted as curious locals and slowly escalated to carrying simulation firearms before performing notional small arms attacks on the evacuation site. The escalation gave the Marines a better understanding of how to handle a variety of different situations.

"This is really good training," said Lance Cpl. Dannie Obie, role player, TTECG. "In a place like this it's a lot more realistic than being down at a range."

As the helicopters flew into the night sky, the WTI students left better prepared to impart upon their Marines the skills necessary to evacuate U.S. personnel from a hostile environment safely and effectively.



Lance Cpl. Patrick Shelton and Lance Cpl. Michael Smith, role players, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, are stopped by Marines of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, during a noncombatant evacuation operation exercise at Del Valle Field as part of Weapons and Tactics Instructors Course 1-16, Oct. 16. Combat Logistics Battalion 13 and Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One also participated in the exercise.

Salute from pg. A1

opportunity to become Becker said. "Our goal is part of the community," said Kristina Becker, community liaison,

Community Plans and Liaison Office. "The younger children also get to meet Marines to interact and learn that they are just like evervone else."

Throughout the day, the Provost Marshal's Office's military working dog handlers held demonstrations and the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Lion, Daren, interacted with the children. Explosive Ordnance Disposal also participated by presenting their ground robotics systems, the Mark I Packbot and the Mark II Talon, used to remotely clear ordnance.

"Many of our active duties families live and reside in the community,"

to be a partner and support the community in any way we can."

Representatives from the Combat Center's Natural Resources and Affairs Environmental Division and CPLO set up informational displays for the public. NREA answered questions about the base's natural and cultural resources, and water efforts. conservation Children took turns holding NREA's desert tortoises, Thelma and Louise, and ecologists answered questions about the species. CPLO provided information about the installation's land acquisition project and the Johnson Valley Shared Use Area.

"Anytime the community holds an event, we want to be a part of it to

educate people about what we do aboard the Combat Center," Becker said. "A lot of times people have questions about what we do and we want to provide an opportunity to answer their questions."

The City of Twentynine Palms also arranged the set up of the American Traveling Veterans Tribute Wall on the football field to remember those who served in the Vietnam War. The wall, an 80-percent scale replica of the Washington, D.C., memorial, lists the names of more than 58,000 Americans killed in during the Vietnam War.

"I think by doing this we are able to do a lot of justice to Vietnam veterans," said Jerry Spulecki, Vietnam War veteran. "It's important that we never forget the sacrifices that these people have



Tyler Ammerman, 17. student, Twentnine Palms High School, dons the Explosive Ordnance Displosal 8 Bomb Suit during the City of Twentynine Palms' Salute to Those Who Serve celebration at the Twentynine Palms Junior High School's Tom Nicoll Memorial Stadium, Oct. 16.

Walk from pg. A1

more than 200 participants.

Diane Durden, guest of honor and breast cancer survivor, spoke to participants about her story and emphasized the importance of monthly

"It only takes two minutes, one minute per side," said Durden. "The key to surviving breast cancer is early detection."

According to Sylvia Sanchez, co-chair, OSC, the event also served as an outlet for support. "We want [anyone diagnosed] to know, we're all here for them," Sanchez said. "Instead of someone being scared to go to a provider, we brought providers so they can talk to them here. It's a big support mechanism."

Durden said treatment and awareness has progressed immensely in the past ten years since she was diagnosed. She recommends friends and family of anyone with breast cancer to show strong support.

"Be there for them, encourage them, smile, and give them the love that you have," Durden said. OSC reached its goal of 400 laps and is planning

"We hope to make the event bigger every year," Sanchez said. "We hope that participants will walk away with more knowledge.'

the next walk to take place in October of 2016.

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A2 OCTOBER 23, 2015 **OBSERVATION POST**



Reprinted from the Observation Post October 24, 1961

Marines provide round-the-clock flight service at air operations

"Pilot tower, this is HOK 53 requesting landing instructions." These words or very similar words form a constant stream of conversation carried on over the radio located in building 1056, the home of Flight Operations.

Under the control of the Base G-3 office, the Airfield is the center of nearly all incoming VIP's that visit Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms.

The Staff that handles all inbound planes and helicopters is headed by SSgt Morris W. Williams, NCOIC of the office. He is assisted by SSgt James Barry. The tower, located just off the airstrip, is manned by Lance Corporals Donald F. Portner and Elliot F. Fowers. Refueling the aircraft is managed by LCpl Robert D. Grey. The combined efforts of all these individuals make up Flight Operations.

On an average day, anywhere from five to ten aircraft land at the strip. Five thousand feet of runway makes it possible for many types of craft to land aboard the Base. The enormous GV1, a turbo prop plane, capable of carrying many tons of equipment and men, may taxi down field and park next to the

piper cub.

Four motor Lockheeds and two motor Beechcraft are but two more of the variety of planes that can be seen every day at the airfield. In the helicopter category the large "cross eyed" HR2s might be parked next to the small "bug type" HOK.

Each time a large scale operation, such as the recently completed "Operation Sand Storm," is about to begin, the troops pour in by the hundreds and Sergeant Williams and crew make arrangements for the many planes that come in bearing troops and equipment. After the desert visitors finish their stint, the large GV1's return again to handle the troops leaving our desert home. Their speedy evacuation is completely completed in an efficient manner by the men in building 1056.

During Operations in the field, on a Base as large as this, there is bound to be an occasional stray in the flock. When a person is separated from his unit an alert is sent out. The Helicopter rescue unit is notified by Flight Operations and flights are sent out to locate the wanderer.

At different times in the past years we have had some unexpected visitors on Base. A call received on the radio would bring a civilian aircraft aboard the Base. Lost planes have lessened today, but this field has provided a safe landing to more than a few planes not on their "beam."

Thermal is a system by which we are connected to both March and North Air Force Bases. This system provides all the Bases contact with Airports in Los Angeles. All information regarding outgoing flights from Bases involved in Thermal are sent in ahead of scheduled, permitting all Bases to know how many planes are in the air and their flying pattern.

When the Base was an Army Installation, Condor Field was the name of the strip. The field was then merely a glider path. Today more than ten thousand gallons of fuel are consumed here each week. Two five thousand gallon tanker trucks make the run to the Base every week. The field, however, is still listed as an "emergency landing strip." If everything continues in its present vein, the airstrip will surely continue to grow and be classified as a full fledged airfield.

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Robot of Jewish lore
- 6 Messy dresser
- 10 Strain, as flour
- **14** Speedy Northeast train
- 15 Diamond Head locale
- **16** Melville tale
- 17 1947 Rex Harrison film, with "The"
- **20** "I got an _ my test! Woo hoo!"
- 21 Diehard
- 22 Like child's play
- 23 "Hold your horses!"
- 24 To be in France 25 Like a Seoul man
- 28 Some Olympians,
- nowadays 29 Parts of finan.
- portfolios
- 32 "Bad news"
- 33 Island feast
- 34 Hunted
- 35 Lindbergh's plane, with "The"
- 38 Kind of wave
- **39** Ring bearer
- 40 Raised
- 41 Survey choice
- **42** Anchovy containers 43 Glossies' opposites
- 44 Composes
- 45 Dapper fellow
- 46 Bud holders?
- **49** Not manual
- 53 Pilot, perhaps

50 Journalist's question

- 56 Musical mark
- 57 Sans ice
- 58 Last 59 It has its ups and downs
- **60** Houston baseballer, briefly
- 61 Rundown

13 12 16 22 21 26 27 28 30 31 33 36 37 45 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61

Down

- 1 Crazy (over)
- 2 Eight in España
- 3 Rock's Kings of
- 4 Golf pro Ernie 5 Seductive WWI spy
- 6 Actress Braga
- 7 "Shane" star
- 8 Physics unit
- 9 Give sudden release to, as laughter 10 Amiens is its capital
- 11 Late riser's "all right
- already!" 12 Baking sheet
- 13 Sped
- 18 Skin care brand

- **19** Lancelot and Mix-a-Lot, for two
- 23 "___ the World"

 - 24 Expunge
 - 25 Given to smooching
 - 26 "Have another slice
 - 27 Control, symbolically
 - 28 Light pastries
 - 29 Salad oil holder
 - 30 Prepare for winter takeoff
 - **31** Procedures: Abbr.
 - 33 Meat cuts
 - _-cochere (carriage entrance)
 - 36 Esau and Jacob, to Isaac

- 37 First ones at the plate
- 42 It may be pitched
- 43 Stray dog, often
- 44 Spotted 45 Because of
- 46 Active
- 47 Lt. Kojak
- 48 Effortless
- 49 Open a bit
- 50 Soave, e.g. 51 Principal
- 52 Paris airport
- 54 Confronted
- 55 Deception

SUDOKU

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Last week's answers

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For the complete orders, but not off-limits, check out the Combat Center's officialwebsite at http://www.29palms.marines. **OBSERVATION POST** OCTOBER 23, 2015 A3

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Brancon Hooker, Okla. Legal assistance clerk, Legal Services Support Team. Age 20 BAKER

Baker began gunsmithing at 16 years old. With his knowledge of guns, he competes in various shooting competitions and works on the rifle range as a marksmanship coach.

>l enjoy being around guns and practicing marksmanship. Before I joined the Marine Corps, I worked as a gunsmith for a small 'mom and pop' gun shop. Eventually, I became certified by three different manufactures to work on their firearms.

>In my time as a gunsmith, I've worked primarily on Colt pistols, Smith and Wesson pistols and several Remington rifles. Most of the work I performed included bore sighting but occasionally I would get a request to build

>The customer would give me a general idea of what kind of rifle they needed and I would take that to the next level and decide what kind of scope and design they needed. I would try to take the picture in their mind of what they wanted and make it a reality.

>My upbringing led me to get into gunsmithing. Growing up on a farm, you worry about predators attacking your livestock so I have been around guns for my entire life. Once I got older, I began to enjoy working with my hands a lot and my passion for it grew.

>While in the Marine Corps, the biggest translation I have taken from my gunsmithing is while on the shooting range. If another Marine is having a problem with their weapon I can assist them. I'm really good at identifying issues with guns and I am able to help the other shooters which led me to become a marksmanship coach for the Marine Corps.

>During my time spent with other marksmanship coaches, it has helped to reinforce what I already knew about shooting. I've taken the little tips the instructors have from years of shooting Marine Corps style and adding them to my personal 'playbook' for when I go to the range. When I go out hunting and shooting in competitions, the little personal tips you get from people helps to grow your skills.

>When I get the opportunity, I enjoy participating in marksmanship competitions. Different competitions I have competed in include; defensive pistol, cowboy action shooting, and a 1,000- yard match.

>In defensive pistol competitions, you're given a scenario with different targets and must choose how to engage them. It is a timed event so you're basically racing the time, your own accuracy and at the same time, everyone else.

>During cowboy action shooting, the competitors shoot powder rounds to pop balloons from horseback using lever-action rifles and six-shooter revolvers. Participants in the event are required to be in full cowboy rig including a drop holster and a cartridge belt.

>The biggest factor drawing me to shooting is in that moment, nothing else matters but you and that machine. You don't have to rely on anything but yourself and the weapon.

>When many people get around guns they are afraid of them because they feel they are dangerous however most weapon malfunctions are caused do to user error.

People often don't realize that these machines are used to control little explosions. The detail that goes into them is extreme to the 1/1,000of an inch. Just to know that something that intricate can be made from things so simple as a couple pieces of steel, springs and plastic cut to a certain shape is really incredible.

> **I grew up** in a very small town with maybe a thousand people. If you can think of any movie with a little farm town; that is what Hooker, Okla. was. Saturday night the whole town would be at the football game and on Sunday morning the only place that was open would be church.

>My greatest inspiration is my great-grand-

father who fought in the Army during WWII. Until the day he died in 2011, he was working on his farm. The man had a huge heart and no 'quit' in him. He never talked about his time in the service so I had to do my own research and I have found that he earned a bronze star and purple heart. I regret that I didn't spend more time with him when I was young.

>My younger sister still lives back home and my older sister moved away and currently lives in Palms Springs. My little sister looks at my decision to join the Marine Corps as an inspiration. She sees it as proof that just because you come from a small town doesn't mean you can't do great things.









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A4 OCTOBER 23, 2015 OBSERVATION POST

PHOTO BY CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Cpl. Rafael Pacheco, rifleman, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, is greeted by his wife Diana, and son Elias, 2, during the battalion's homecoming at Del Valle Field, Oct. 18. 'Cutting Edge' deployed as part of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command 15.2.



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Sgt. Michael Mendez, network administrator, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, kisses his girlfriend Aubrie Helper, during the battalion's homecoming at the Desert

SPMAGTF



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Tanner Forguson, 6, son of Sgt. Tony Forguson, generator mechanic, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, waits to greet his father at the Desert Winds Golf Course, Oct. 18. CLB-7 deployed as part of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command 15.2.

Right, Sgt. Luis Moreno, squad leader, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, holds his son, Maximus, 6 months, during the battalion's homecoming at Del Valle







Observation Post October 23, 2015 A5

Returns



PHOTO BY CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Cpl. Jeff Hammer, rifleman, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, embraces his wife, Meghan, and daughter, Kara, 2, during the battalion's homecoming at Del Valle Field, Oct. 18.



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL LEVI SCHULTZ

Petty Officer Second Class Shaun Wireman, corpsman, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, calms his child, Jason, 1, during the battalion's homecoming at Del Valle Field, Oct. 19.





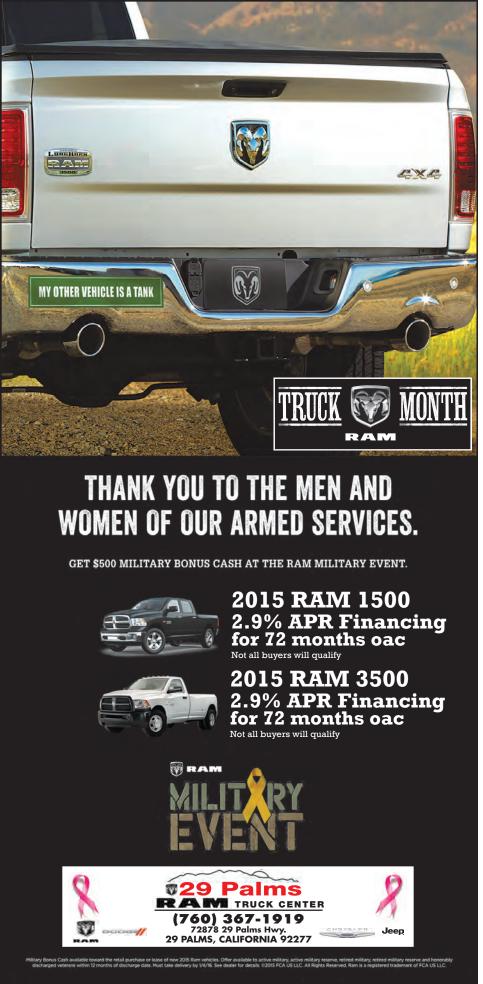
PHOTO BY CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Seaman Michael Smith, corpsman, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, greets his family during the battalion's homecoming at Del Valle Field, Oct. 18.

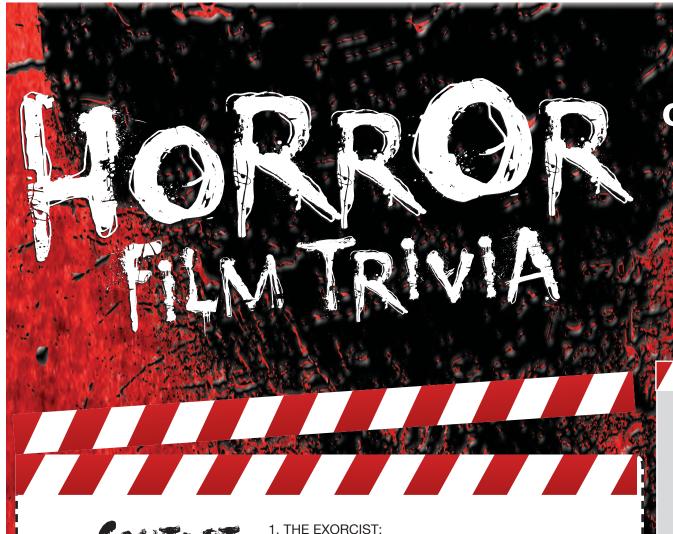


PHOTO BY LANCE CPL LEVI SCHULT

Petty Officer Third Class Joshua Garcia, corpsman, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, hugs his wife, Cindy Garcia, during the battalion's homecoming at Del Valle Field, Oct. 19.



A6 OCTOBER 23, 2015 OBSERVATION POST



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2. POLTERGEIST:	
B. A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET:	

4. THE SHINING: __

5. HALLOWEEN: __

6. FRIDAY THE 13TH: _____

7. CHILD'S PLAY:

8. THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS: _____ 9. PSYCHO: _____

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A8 OCTOBER 23, 2015

**** Around the Corps ****



PHOTO BY CPL. ANNA ALBRECHT

U.S. Marines with Lima Company, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, run with water jugs during a deck shoot aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Essex, Oct. 16. The Marines grappled and ran between courses of fire to practice shooting with an increased heart rate. The 15th MEU, embarked aboard the ships of the Essex Amphibious Ready Group, is deployed to maintain regional security in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.



PHOTO BY CPL. AARON PATTERSON

U.S. Marines assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment, 3D Marine Division, board a CH-53E Super Stallion assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 in preparation for a Marine Air Ground Task Force demonstration during the Kaneohe Bay Air Show aboard Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Oct. 18.



PHOTO BY CPL. SUMMER DOWDING

A U.S. Marine Corps CH-53E Super Stallion participates in Assault Support Tactics 3 at Kiwanis Park, Yuma, Ariz., Oct. 16. This exercise was part of Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 1-16, a seven week training event, hosted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One cadre, which emphasizes operational integration of the six functions of Marine Corps aviation in support of a Marine Air Ground Task Force.



PHOTO BY CPL. BRIAUNA BIRI

A U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey approaches the flight deck for a landing while being guided by a member of the flight crew as Marines with Marine Medium Tilt Rotor Squadron 166 Reinforced VMM-166, the air-combat element of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, work to land and stow aircraft in preparation for the Composite Training Unit Exercise which simulates a variety of missions as Marines with the 13th MEU Unit continues training for its upcoming tour abroad at sea, Oct. 19.

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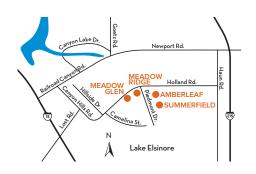
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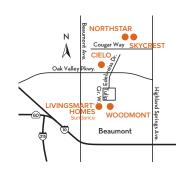
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October 23, 2015 Vol. 59 B **Since 1957**

Gombat Genter takes

The Combat Center Color Guard marches during the Pioneer Days Parade on Highway 62 and Adobe Road in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Saturday.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Combat Center Marines invariably advanced up Adobe Road in ceremoniously military procession as community members cheered and waved during the 2015 Pioneer Days Parade, Oct. 17.

Combat Center leadership and various units represented the installation as part of the City of Twentynine Palms' 78th annual Pioneer Days, a four-day celebration held Oct. 15 until Oct. 18.

"Pioneer Days is where we celebrate what we are as a city as well as what we are in relation to the base," said Lori Cosgriff, job developer, Morongo

Unified School District. "As a citizen I feel [the base] is really important. I don't think we would exist as well as we do without them and they wouldn't exist as well without us."

Combat Center Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta; Combat Center Sergeant Major, Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino; Combat Center Chief of Staff, Col. James F. Harp; Navy Capt. John A. Lamberton, commanding officer, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital; and Master Chief Carol Merricks, command master chief, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, represented the Marine Corps and Navy leadership aboard the installation by riding in the parade.

"It's like a family; when we do events like this we work together," Cosgriff said. "Half of the participants in the parade are military-based."

Adding to Combat Center participation, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, the Provost Marshal's Office and the Combat Center Fire Department showcased different vehicles and a detachment of 62 Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School Marines marched in the parade.

"It's always nice to see the community support us," said Staff Sgt. Christoper Hill, infantry unit leader, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. "It's important that we maintain a positive relationship with them because we exist for them."

According to Cosgriff, the parade provided an opportunity for the community to recognize the service members for the commitments and sacrifices they make.

"As a whole, we are a very patriotic community," Cosgriff said. "We like to welcome them. Most of us within the community come from military families and we know what it is like to be far from home so we'd like them to come and be part of our family."



Soldiers with the 40th Infantry Division Band, California Army National Guard, play patriotic music during the Pioneer Days Parade on Highway 62 and Adobe Road in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Saturday.



Combat Center Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, and his wife, Laurie, ride in the Pioneer Days Parade on Highway 62 and Adobe Road in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Saturday.



Combat Center Sergeant Major, Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, and his represent the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School students march in formation Combat Center in the Pioneer Days Parade on Highway 62 and Adobe Road in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Saturday.



during the Pioneer Days Parade on Highway 62 and Adobe Road in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Saturday.

B2 OCTOBER 23, 2015 **OBSERVATION POST**



Combat Center Events

The Combat Center Library is hosting a Pumpkin Decorating Contest through Oct. 29. Drop off your own painted, decorated or bedazzled pumpkin to the Combat Center Library. There will be a Grand Prize winner for each age group. For more information, call (760) 830-6875.

Desert Winds Golf Course is hosting the Glow Ball Tournament Oct. 24 at 3 p.m. Cost includes 18 holes of golf, range balls, golf balls, a golf cart, food and prizes. For more information, call (760) 830-6132.

MCCS is hosting a craft fair and bake sale at the Community Center Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information, call (760) 830-3380.

The Combat Center Library invites you to a haunted library Oct. 29, from 5 - 7 p.m. Take a stroll through the not so spooky haunted library in your favorite costume and enjoy ghostly stories with lots of Halloween fun. Children of all ages are welcome. For more information, call (760) 830-6875.

The Protestant Chapel is hosting the 'Roar Against Domestic Violence Motorcycle Ride' Oct. 30 at 7:30 a.m. This event will provide an opportunity for installation motorcycle riders to participate in an educational poker run style ride to bring awareness to domestic violence. For more information, contact Michele Godfrey at (760) 368-6345.

Officers' Spouses' Club invites you to Bingo and Broomsticks Oct. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Frontline Restaurant. Join us for a night of boos, brews and BINGO! Make sure you dress in costume. Tickets can be purchased at OSC29Palms.com. The event is open to all hands. For more information, call (760) 830-8031.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, October 23

6:00 p.m. - Hotel Transylvania 2, PG

9:00 p.m. - The Intern, PG-13 Saturday, October 24

12:30 p.m. - The Perfect Guy, PG-13

3:00 p.m. - A Walk in the Woods, R

5:30 p.m. – No Escape, R 8:00 p.m. – The Visit, PG-13 10:30 p.m. – Everest, PG-13

Sunday, October 25

12:30 p.m. - Maze Runner: Scorch Trials, PG-13

3:30 p.m. – Hotel Transylvania 2, PG 6:30 p.m. – Everest, PG-13

Monday, October 26

7:00 p.m. - The Intern, PG-13

Tuesday, October 27

7:00 p.m. - Everest, PG-13 Wednesday, October 28

7:00 p.m. - Black Mass, R

Thursday, October 29

5:00 p.m. - A Walk in the Woods, R 7:00 p.m. - No Escape, R

Friday, October 30

6:00 p.m. - Hotel Transylvania 2, PG 9:00 p.m. - The Intern, PG-13

TOUGH MINDED **OPTIMISM** by Lou Gerhardt



Mike McBride and I were visiting with friends and enjoying a delicious lunch at Las Palmas Mexican Cuisine (a great place for lunch or dinner) when our talk turned to praise for our great nation. Tough minded optimists come to our blessed country from all over the world, become citizens, and then develop businesses much like Las Palmas Mexican Cuisine and their excellent restaurant.

Then I got to thinking about Mike McBride. What a great American success story he is. Just think about it. He didn't even go to college until he was in his late 40's. He graduated at 50 years of age with a degree in Management and Organizational Development from prestigious Fresno Pacific. Along the way he obtained the highly coveted Grade Five-Waste Water License.

Mike has accomplished much in his 68 years including teaching elementary children for better than 14 years in both public and private schools.

Now Mike is an elected leader in his community and is a past president of the Big Horn Desert View Water Agency. Mike is an excellent example of what it means to be a tough minded optimist.

Both the people at Las Palmas Mexican Cuisine and Mike McBride are superior examples of why you and I must never forget for a moment that we are proud citizens of the finest republic in the history of mankind.

This column sponsored by:

Lois Salzmann Johnson - Yucca Valley **Debbie Steiner - Yucca Valley**

Dr. Lou can be reached at 760-367-4627 800-995-1620 res19mxc@verizon.net



Hey, Mr. Spaceman

Marooned astronaut inspires in many ways in 'The Martian'

NEIL POND

"The Martian" Starring Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain, Jeff Daniels and Chiwetel Ejiofor Directed by Ridley Scott Rated PG-13

Super-smart, sharp-witted, funny, dramatic and moving, The Martian is a gripping, gorgeous, geeky, hightech, big-screen adventure-survival yarn that will leave you cheering.

When a brutal, blinding surface dust storm causes a group of scientist-astronauts to abort their Martian expedition after only a few sols (days, or solar cycles), one of them gets left behind, lost and believed to certainly be dead. But after the Ares III blasts off and heads for home and the Red Planet dust clears, botanist Mark Watney (Matt Damon) revives, wounded but very much alive.

NASA and his crewmates have no idea he survived. He has to find some way to let them know, some way to stay alive, and some way to keep his hopes from fading—knowing that it help. And once Watney's crew mates could take years for another mission to mobilize and reach him.

What to do, what to do?

"In the face of overwhelming odds, I'm gonna have to science the s— out of this," Watney says into a camera, in the video log he begins filming as a high-tech diary.

It's not a spoiler to tell you that Watney "sciences" how to grow his own food, rig up a communication device, make water and generate heat from radioactive material. One of the coolest things about The Martian is the way it makes knowledge hip and cool, how Watley's process of discovery and learning and figuring things out are integral parts of its plotline.

Back on Earth, the world becomes insfixed with the man marooned on Mars. NASA officials (Jeff Daniels, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Kristen Wiig, Sean Bean) race to figure out how to reach Watney before he runs out of time and resources. America's competitors in the space race on the other side of the world, the Chinese, offer their top-secret technology to

(Jessica Chastain, Michael Peña, Kate Mara, Aksel Hennie, Sebastian Stan) find out they've accidentally left him behind, they're willing to spring into action, even if it means staying in space for another year or longer.

Director Ridley Scott is no stranger to space or the future, from Blade Runner and Alien to Prometheus. But there are no bioengineered androids, ancient astro-gods or acid-drooling space creatures anywhere to be found in The Martian—just real people, working together, using their heads, solving problems, focused on one man 50 million miles away and united in a single goal: to "bring him home."

And despite its big ensemble cast, gorgeous special-effect space shots and marvelous, desolate red-orange Martian landscapes, this is Damon's show. He is The Martian, and he sells every minute of it in bravura, mostly solo performance that radiates humanity and humor, and shows the amazing, odds-defying things that science—and brainwork, and dedication and teamwork—can do.

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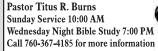


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Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized ever one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of

sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38



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quires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor or materials) must be licensed by he Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license number on all advertising. You can check the status of your licensed contractor at www.cslb ca.gov or by calling 300-321-CSLB. icensed contractors taking jobs that total less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they

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GARAGE SALE Sat & Sun 10/24-25 starting at 7am. 73844 Two Mile Rd 29P. household items, clothes, furniture, & more!

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First Baptist Church Craft Sale, Baked goods & candies, Fri. 10/23 & Sat. 10/24 5pm-9pm, 6740 Sunset Rd.

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Oct 23, 24 8:AM - 4:PM 11414 Tecopa Dr. Morongo Valley Large items, construction equipment & materials, construction layout large camping tent, household items plus misc. Follow the signs starting at the Traffic signal in Morongo Valley.

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2pm. 56279 Buena Vista

Dr. Park on Sunland or Buena Vista only, xCholla BIG GARAGE SALE Fri 10/23 & Sat 10/24 8am-? Tools, antiques, generator,

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Vista Dr. x near Avalon

Some furniture, and lots & lots of misc. Sat. 10/24. 7453 Victoria Ave. 7am-? 300 Salls 300 Salls



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Please refer ques tions to Contractors State License Board East Coole Drive. Suite 200 Colton, CA 92324

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Lost & Found &

Lost male Chihuahua in 29 Palms. Brown with white paws with spots on the paws. Went missing around Rib Co & Rite Aide on 10/6/15. Answers to "Hershey" Call James 760-904-8191

Missing German Shepherd. 2 vr old male. very friendly. Reward if found, no questions asked. (760) 812-0211

Lost & Found \ \xi

13 yr old, short haired Shepherd mix male named Cooper, he's wearing a black collar he was last seen on Star Lane near Sunset Rd in J.T. on Thursday 10/8/15 in the early morning. Please help us find our precious Cooper, we are heart broken!!! If you have seen Cooper or if you have any information

we urge you to call

(760) 366-3194. T.Y!!!

Black Chihuahua / Terrier mix and is pregnant. Went missing around 9pm 10/11/15 near Y.V Community Center. Is wearing a colorful rainbow collar. Call Brian at 760-974-

Lost Dog: Brown & White American Bull dog with red nose. 4 year old male. Answers to "Honer", went missing 6am, day, 10/11/15, vicinity of Sunfair & Tonto in Joshua Tree. \$100 REWARD for info. leading to recovery. Call Robert 760-366-1122

Found: Red Brindle male pit bull on 10/9/15 in Landers at Post Office. Super sweet. Has a collar with owners contact info. but no one has returned any calls. Call Roger 760-567-7929

Lost Dog: Male, blue nose / gray pit bull with white patch on neck & chest has been missing since Sat. 10/10/15 evening. Vicinity of Bagley & El Paseo in 29 Palms. Call 760-296-7142

Lost Cat: Orange Tabby with short hair. 1 year old Male. Went missing near Jr. High Samarkand in 29 Palms this morning 10/13/15. Call Laura 310-963-3203

Lost German Shepherd, tan & brown male with green collar. Went missing last night, 10/13/15 in 29 Palms around Siesta Dr. & Mesquite Springs. Answers to "Otto" and is micro-chipped. Sarah 440-409-4939

Lost Dog: 15 mo. male. Jack Russell Terrier, with 1 brown eve & brown ear. Went missing Tuesday night, 10/13/15 between Cholla & Amador on Bonanza in Yucca Valley. Reward!! 760-418-5149 or 442-256-0314

FOUND Camping gear near Sky Harbor between Fri. 10/9 & Sun. 10/11. Call Sue 760-902-7966



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Misc. For Sale \arg \arg \

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I buy old dirt bikes, motorcycles, ATV's, and old jet skis. Call 760-455-8399

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H - D E S E R T

Hi-Desert Water District is seeking a Communications and Conservation Officer.

The successful candidate must be able to develop, coordinate, and facilitate community outreach programs; provide public education via multiple platforms; review, analyze and interpret existing and proposed federal, state, and local legislation; and serve as District spokesperson both within the community and in the larger governmental and legislative arena.

Candidate must have the ability to design and develop water conservation programs; promote and facilitate conservation education; design, write and edit press releases, newsletters, and other multi-media content; produce web content and use social media to engage the public.

Candidate must be a management-level professional, experienced in meeting multiple deadlines with minimum supervision. Strong presentation skills are a must.

The Communications and Conservation Officer will be a team player, and a key member of the Requirements include a minimum of three years of performing increasingly responsible professional level

public relations duties including community outreach, public relations, government relations, and/or legislative analyst work. A Bachelor's degree in communications, marketing, journalism, public relations, public administration or a related field from an accredited four-year college or university is preferred. Candidates must have a California driver's license and good driving record; be able to type 50-60 wpm;

have expertise in MSWord, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Outlook; and be available to participate in

evening and weekend meetings and events on a regular basis. For a complete job description, and to download an application form, visit www.hdwd.com

Please submit completed application, cover letter, and resume to Human Resources, 55-439 Twenty-nine Palms Blvd., Yucca Valley, CA 92284; Email: <a href="https://hrw.ncber.nc 16, 2015 at 12:00PM. EOE.

Equipment Operator I Trainee San Bernardino County, CA \$31,865.60 - \$42,681.60 Annually

before: October 28, 2015.

High School Graduate or equivalent.

may

Applications

The **Department of Public Works** is currently recruiting for Equipment Operators I Trainee, who, under training conditions, learn to operate a variety of light construction equipment, such as backhoes and water and dump trucks, for the maintenance and construction of roadways and flood control facilities, while gaining the necessary knowledge and abilities to progress to the Equipment Operator I level (\$34,278 - \$47,070 annually). Incumbents may occasionally be assigned to operate medium duty equipment. A current vacancy exists

in Joshua Tree. For more details, please review the announcement www.sbcounty.gov/hr . Application can be made on-line - apply ASAP - open until 10/30/15. (909) 387-8304 - EEO/ADA

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It Pays To





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- Facilities Attendant The starting rate is \$12.7408 to 18.4525/hourly, non-benefitted position 20 hours per week

Closing date: Thursday, October 29, 2015 at 5:00pm

The successful candidate will perform a variety of functions to maintain the cleanliness and sanitation of public facilities and buildings; assist with the set up and tear down of facility activities as required and assist other departments as needed. This position requires moderate to heavy physical exertion and the ability to lift up to 100 pounds on a regular basis. Must have equivalent to a high school diploma, previous custodial/ maintenance experience preferred. Possession of a California driver's license and the ability to maintain a satisfactory driving record.

Complete application packages and related materials are available at Town Hall and online at our website at http:// www.yucca-valley.org/ . Applications can be dropped off at Town Hall or mailed in by the closing date. Applications sent by fax or e-mail will be not be accepted.

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PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD



Whitney Cuellar; spouse of Lance Cpl. Robert Cuellar; motor transportation operator; 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, enters into a Light Armored Vehicle during the Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills Combined Arms Exercise for Spouses at Del Valle Field, Oct. 14.



The 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Color Guard conducts a colors ceremony during the Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills Combined Arms Exercise for Spouses at Del Valle Field, Oct. 14. The battalion also provided a static display and volunteers for the event.

