Vol. 60 Issue 3



Lt. Col. Ross A. Parrish, outgoing battalion commander, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, passes the colors to Lt. Col. Andrew J. Nelson, incoming battalion commander, 3/7, during the battalion's change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Jan. 14.

'The Cutting Edge' changes command

STORY BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Lt. Col. Ross A. Parrish relinquished command of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, to Lt. Col. Andrew J. Nelson at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Jan. 14, 2016.

Parrish took command of 'The Cutting Edge' in July 2014 and led the battalion through its deployment with Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Crisis Response Central Command 15.2 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Parrish described how proud he was of his Marines for their dedication during deployment.

"The highlight was seeing the Marines taking their training and putting it into action in distributed operations throughout central command," Parrish said. "Having all Marines come back home to their families from that deployment after engage-



Marines with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, present flowers to the family of Lt. Col. Ross A. Parrish, outgoing battalion commander, 3/7, during the battalion's change of command ceremony, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Jan. 14.

ment with the enemy was the highlight of my time with the battalion.'

Parrish also spoke about the challenges and improvements undertaken by 3/7 during his time at the helm.

"With the constant turnover of manpower within the battalion, there needs to be constant education, training and lessons from deployments and combat experiences," Parrish said. "That's the most valu-

able progress I witnessed in the small-unit leaders, staff non-commissioned officers and junior officers throughout the battalion."

Nelson, former operations officer, Tactical See Command pg. A6

HQBN receives healthy dose of motivation



PHOTO BY SGT. CHARLES SANTAMARIA Sgt. Maj. Avery L. Crespin, Headquarters Battalion Sergeant Major, leads the battalion on a four-mile unit run through the installation, Jan. 15. Headquarters Battalion held the run to improve upon the battalion's motivation and camaraderie.

STORY BY LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

The Combat Center's Headquarters Battalion conducted a unit run led by Sgt. Maj. Avery L. Crespin, sergeant major, Headquarters Battalion, aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 15.

The purpose of the run was to foster camaraderie and motivation within the battalion. Crespin also reflected on Martin Luther King Ir. Day with this quote from King; "If you can't fly, run. If you can't run, walk. If you can't walk, crawl. But whatever you do, don't stop moving forward." Crespin explained the importance of these words to the Marines present, telling them to keep working hard and improving upon themselves.



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Sgt. John Scudder, military working dog handler, and Baby, MWD, MWD section, Provost Marshal's Office, participate in the Headquarters Battalion run through the Combat Center, Jan. 15.



PHOTO BY SGT. CHARLES SANTAMARIA

First Sgt. Frank O. Robinson, Company A First Sergeant, Headquarters Battalion, sings cadence during a battalion run through the Combat Center, Jan. 15.

Desert Bighorn Sheep grow stronger with elixir of life



Volunteers help install Guzzler Systems aboard the Combat Center, Nov. 20-22, 2015. The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep helped install the guzzler systems with the purpose of providing a manmade artificial water source for Desert Bighorn Sheep.

STORY BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

As the largest Marine Corps base in the world, the Combat Center utilizes approximately 1,100 square miles of training area to conduct relevant live-fire combined arms training, urban operations, and Joint/Coalition level integration training that promotes operational force readiness. The installation manages to do this while maintaining an awareness of the environment, shared land and the creatures that inhabit it.

The Guzzler Project provides man-made water sources

See Sheep pg. A6

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. Erick Galera.



Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 2 conducting external lifts in conjunction with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 302 at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 6.

A2 JANUARY 22, 2016 **OBSERVATION POST**



Reprinted from the Observation Post January 22, 2010

El Niño storms hit high desert in waves

A series of four El Niño storms began to sweep through the area Monday and Tuesday, leaving car accidents and power outages, but no major injuries, in their wake by Tuesday night.

As Tuesday afternoon's storm poured heavy rain into the Morongo Basin, traffic collisions began to dot the roads.

A truck rolled to its side at Twentynine Palms Highway and Hess Boulevard in Morongo Valley, while a car ran into a curb in front of Yucca Rentals on eastbound Twentynine Palms Highway at Apache Trail in Yucca Valley.

Another truck ran off the road on Old Woman Springs Road in Yucca Valley. No injuries were reported in any of the accidents. The Tuesday storm front soaked the Basin, dumping almost a half inch of rain about two hours after it began around 2 p.m. Storm spotters for the National Weather Service, Peter and Marilyn Poillon of Yucca Valley, Calif., measured the wind at 7 mph, with a 31 mph gust at 2 p.m. Tuesday. The

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National Weather Service predicted this system's rain would be heaviest Tuesday night, and by midnight, snow levels were expected to drop to as low as 4,000 feet.

Monday's storm poured about 1.25 inches of rainwater into Yucca Valley, according to measurements by the Yucca Valley station of Cal Fire, the state's fire department. This initial storm caused one vehicle rollover and flooded some buildings. On the Old Woman Springs Road grade at San Juan Road, a driver traveling north on the highway hit a puddle of water and hydroplaned, according to the sheriff 's department. The vehicle overturned and ended up on its side. No one was hurt.

Heavy rain in Joshua Tree around 3:45 p.m. flooded Hi-Desert Family Elder Care, where county firefighters from the Joshua Tree station helped clean out blocked gutters and divert the flow of water. "We had floodwater coming in through the dining room door. It came through the back door and

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just kept coming," Cynda Sullivan, the facility's administrator, said. "It covered the soles of your feet inside, and outside the door, probably 6 inches accumulated." She was grateful for firefighters' help. "The fire department was so awesome," she declared. "They went beyond ordinary measures to divert the water away from the facility. They really were clever." In Morongo Valley, firefighters also went on flood duty when, around 3 p.m. Monday, water ate away at the sand between concrete and asphalt on Hess Boulevard. "It was like a river coming down the road," engineer Chris Giertz said. "We

threw some gravel on it and that helped." The soaker kept tow-truck drivers busy, too. "There were a lot of people getting stuck in their own driveways," Troy Reynolds, general manager of Hill's Towing, said. "We responded to a lot of flat tires and dead batteries from people leaving their lights on," he added. As Monday's storm moved over Twentynine Palms, it knocked out power for over 2,000 Edison customers.

CROSSWORD

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- 6 Haven
- 11 Links org.
- 14 Babies' wombs
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- **16** Battering device
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- 24 Tel Aviv's land
- 27 Burden
- 28 Red faced magpie?
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- **37** Seating sections 38 Lyrical lines
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- 53 Gandhi's father
- **55** Uris's "____ 18"
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- 65 Sticks
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- 9 Eur. land
- **10** Mattress parts
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- **12** Marvin of Motown
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- 18 Legal rights org.
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- **25** Swedish singers
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- **56** Suggestion
- **57** Found's partner 61 Santa's helper
- **62** Health resort
- **63** Wrestling win

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Last week's answers

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OBSERVATION POST

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- Club Mustang, 2200 University Ave.
- 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.

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- In Twentynine Palms:
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- 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 officialwebsite at http://www.29palms.marines. OBSERVATION POST JANUARY 22, 2016 A3

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Avery Headquarters Battalion Sergeant Major CRESP

>I'm from the foothills of Colorado. Growing up I was probably your typical case that you might hear. Poor kid, not really much going for me financially as far as my family.

>I had a friend named Joe, who joined the Marine Corps back when we were seniors in high school. Now looking at me, I'm 5'4" a whole 128 lbs soaking wet, just pure motivation. We were at lunch talking and the Marine Corps came up. One of our friends said, "Avery you couldn't do it". So I asked Joe to take me to the recruiter. >Not only did I finish boot camp, I ended up getting meritoriously promoted and finished as squad leader. So I came back and I

>Honestly I've been hooked ever since. I knew I was in the right environment.

told everybody "I told you I could do it".

>l've always been involved in sports. Being involved gave me something to do and I found that same sort of team concept in the Marine Corps.

>I was a wrestler, that was my thing. I was the motivated 110 pounder out there hooking and jabbing. Wrestling to me is the same concept as the Marine Corps, I think that's why I got so hooked on the Marines.

>When you wrestle, it's just you and the other person out there on the mat. So if you lose, you can't blame it on anyone else and it's a very humbling experience. By the same token, if you win that's the most rewarding feeling ever.

>All the different experiences I've had while in the Marine Corps are what have kept me so long.

>My first duty station was here with [3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion]. I remember gearing up to go to Okinawa, and then being told at the last moment I wasn't going. I was crushed. After that I found out about [Marine Security Guard] duty. After getting accepted into MSG, my first duty station was Pakistan and I thought, this is the Marine Corps, because I started seeing stuff.

>As a young corporal in Islamabad, Pakistan the amount of decisions and trust that was instilled in me, was incredible. That's something I've never forgotten, the level of trust that we created amongst ourselves.

>l have three kids. They're 15, 11 and 5. I think growing up in the Marine Corps has taught my children a lot. Moving often has taught them how to be social and something I've tried to instill in them is the importance of hard work.

>lt's important to give your all and never stop setting goals for yourself. Personal and professional, whether it's in the Marine Corps or after, always try to better yourself.

>The higher I got the more I've learned that being a Marine is about being in the business of people. If I take care of my Marines, they'll get the mission done. A good leader learns how to take mission accomplishment and troop welfare and make them linear. If you're taking care of your Marines, the mission will always get done.

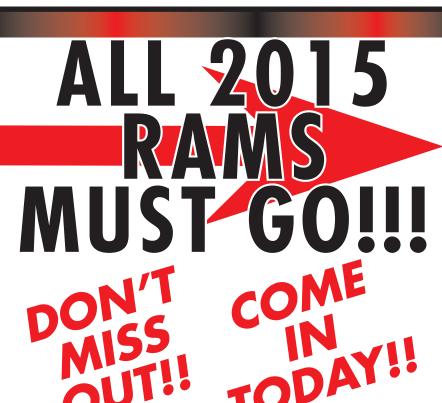
>I didn't attain my success because of anything that I did alone. It's about the Marines under me. That's how I got here and I'm truly in debt to lots of Marines.

Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo



Crespin currently serves as the Headquarters Battalion Sergeant Major, having assumed the responsibility in December 2015. Throughout his career, Crespin has enjoyed being stationed in places such as Islamabad, Pakistan and Caracas, Venezuela.





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Ariana Christy Kay Eberhart April 28, 2015 Cody & Celeste Eberhart



Aubree Shae Bradshaw July 3, 2015 Brett & Jessica Bradshaw



Aubrey Ann Sansoucie August 17, 2015 Becca Durham & Brandon Sansoucie



Ava Lianna Holkesvig May 3, 2015 Josh & Alexandra Holkesvig



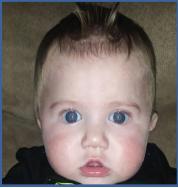
Avery Audra Lynn Ramos September 15, 2015 Al & Dezaray Ramos



Bailey Rae Baines October 6, 2015 Benjamin & Christine Baines



Bella Lynne Pererra January 29, 2015 Jesse & Brienna Pererra



Bentley Joseph Lopez McCauley June 19, 2015 Ashley McCauley



Brodie Trout Bradshaw August 7, 2015 Nicole & Richard Bradshaw



Carter Ray Brodrick December 15, 2015 Josh & Colleen Brodrick



Charlotte Ann Marie Hannon October 16, 2015 Chelsea Blake & Charlie Hannon



Michaela Gale Davis Luke Dunnica Davis July 24, 2015 Michael & Denise Davis



Emma Ray Parker May 2, 2015 Erik & Michelle Parker



Ethan Austin Mahaffey March 27, 2015 Jason & Heather Mahaffey



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OBSERVATION POST JANUARY 22, 2016 A5

Suicide Charlie runs TRAP EX 2

PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. CLARENCE LEAKE



Lance Cpl. Kevin Banduk, rifleman, with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, fires his M4 service rifle at simulated targets set out in the distance during a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel exercise at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Dec. 28. SPMAGTF-CR-CC is ready to respond to any crisis response mission in theater to include the employment of a TRAP force.



Marines with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, carry a simulated casualty toward an MV-22 Osprey with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 268, SPMAGTF-CR-CC, during a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel exercise at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Dec. 28.



Lance Cpl. Chase Goff, rifleman, with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, provides security during a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel exercise at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Dec. 28.



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Congratulations to the parents and all the Sweet Babies born in 2015!!!







Watson Neil Harper July 18, 2015 Shane & Amanda



Harper Alexandria Bradshaw December 8, 2015



Harper Braxton Hale August 15, 2015 Ryan & Jodie



Hayley Rose Mizell August 31, 2015 Joey & Tanna



Holley Jones August 26, 2015 Dylan & Cura



Isaiah Castellon July 22, 2015 Angelica & Salvador



Jordan Lee Hunter January 30, 2015 Crystal Tyree & Ronnie Lee Hunter



Kaylee Annette-Faye Fox August 9, 2015 Paul C. Fox & Misty D. Biscamp



Malerie Ryan Miller June 16, 2015 Jeff & Ricki Miller



July 8, 2015 Rok & Brooke Vrhovnik



Mia Marie Lee September 12, 2015 Celestine Lopez & Brandon Lee



Myla Kylynn Jarrard December 23, 2015 Kyle Jarrard & Lynn Anderson



Quincy McCrea Wilson November 5, 2015 Cody Wilson & **Bailey Nirider**



Ryder Lee Burkins August 28, 2015 Kimberly Roby & Bruce Burkins



Saber Roshi Stephens November 5, 2015 Shahene & Shawn Stephens



Veda Cheyenne Roby January 27, 2015 Alan Roby & Erika Reutter

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A6 JANUARY 22, 2016

OBSERVATION POST

Command from pg. A1

Training and Exercise Control Group, intends to carry on the esteemed legacy of 3/7.

"Being a new guy in such a storied battalion, I hope to carry the standard forward," Nelson said. "This battalion was strong before I got here and it is going to be strong after I leave. I just want to instill warrior ethos, a sense of mission success and everything I can in the Marines while I'm here."

Parrish has been selected for Top Level School, and is scheduled to attend the National War College. The school is located in Washington D. C., and is part of the National Defense University and educates future leaders of the Armed Forces, Department of State, and other civilian agencies for high-level policy, command and staff responsibilities.

"It's hard to say you're looking forward to leaving a command because that's never the case," Parrish said. "Moving forward, I would hope I would be able to help these Marines that I have been privileged to serve with and that they would feel comfortable to reach out to me as we move down the road."



these Marines that I have been privileged to serve with and that they would feel comfortable to reach out to me as we move down the road."

Lt. Col. Ross A. Parrish, outgoing battalion commander, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and Lt. Col. Andrew J. Nelson, incoming battalion commander, 3/7, salute during the pass in review as part of the battalion's change of command ceremony, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Jan. 14.

Sheep from pg. A1

for desert wildlife. The project aims to ensure the Combat Center remains a good steward of the environment.

"The Guzzler Project is a long-term plan that we have outlined in our integrated natural resources management plan," said Martin B. Husung, natural resource specialist, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs. "Within that plan we have a program to monitor and maintain the Desert Bighorn Sheep population that inhabits MCAGCC."

The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep helped install the guzzler systems with the purpose of providing a man-made artificial water source for Desert Bighorn Sheep. Due to the way the guzzlers are designed, birds, small mammals, coyotes, bobcats, and other forms of desert wildlife can use them too.

"The systems are very unique," Husung said. "Each guzzler holds about 4,500 gallons of water, and is filled by rain water. In a scenario where we had a lot of wildlife using the guzzler and they started to run out, I would go in and manually pump water back into the system."

Sheep, along with other desert wildlife, will not move unless they know there is a resource available. Through installing additional guzzlers in the center of the installation, NREA hopes to influence mating between the sheep populations in different areas. According to Husung, this strategy will make for a more stable sheep environment because stronger genes are passed down to offspring and inbreeding is avoided, which makes the sheep population healthier.

"If I were to make an estimate, we currently have about 40-45 Desert Bighorn Sheep that utilize these water sources aboard the installation," Husung said. "The way the guzzlers work is the mat collects rain water, and the rain water flows down a gravity feed system and fills up the tanks."



Volunteers help install Guzzler Systems aboard the Combat Center, Nov. 20-22, 2015. Due to the way the guzzlers are designed, birds, small mammals, coyotes, bobcats, and other forms of desert wildlife can use them too.

NREA took the initiative to install the first guzzlers aboard the base more than 20 years ago. The rest were donated to the base by the SCBS, combining for a total of seven guzzler systems. Each requires little to no maintenance and is estimated to last up to 50 years.

"We have a large amount of land that we have to manage and part of being a good steward is being very proactive in the management of the resources and wildlife we've been entrusted to take care of," Husung said. "The Desert Bighorn Sheep is just one of many things we have to take care of. We know we have sheep on the installation and we're trying to do our due diligence to make sure that we provide the resources available to those sheep so they can sustain themselves, reproduce and survive."



Col. William H. Vivian, commanding officer, 7th Marine Regiment, talks about the accomplishments of Lt. Col. Ross A. Parrish, outgoing battalion commander, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, during the battalion's change of command ceremony, at Lance Cpl. Torrey



OBSERVATION POST JANUARY 22, 2016 A7

Japan Ground Self-Defense Force officer candidates learn from Marines



First Lt. Melissa Cooling demonstrates a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program arm bar to Japan Ground Self-Defense Force officer candidates on Camp Kinser, Okinawa, Japan, Jan. 15. Three hundred and sixty officer candidates visited Combat Logistics Regiment 35 to complete joint and combined operation requirements. The cadets watched Marine Corps Martial Art Program demonstrations, learned the capabilities of various machine guns the Marine Corps uses, and observed a static display of motor transportation vehicles.



PHOTO BY CPL. ROBERT WILLIAMS JR.

Marines demonstrate how to defend and attack with a rifle for Japan Ground Self-Defense Force officer candidates on Camp Kinser, Okinawa, Japan, Jan. 15.

CAMP KINSER, Okinawa - Aspiring Japanese officers completed one of the most significant events in their

STORY BY CPL. REBECCA ELMY

bine operation training requirement on Camp Kinser,

Okinawa, Japan, Jan. 15. Three hundred and sixty Japan Ground Self-Defense Force officer candidates attended a presentation of Marine Corps weapons, vehicles and martial arts to better

training by visiting U.S. Marines and fulfilling a com-

another's knowledge and experiences between our different, yet alike forces," said Lance Cpl. Jerry Tolenoa, a motor transport operator with Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistic Group, III Marine

in Australia and during humanitarian operations across



Cpl. Malynn Ochsner shows Japan Ground Self-Defense Force officer candidate Ayako Yukawa how to operate a MK19 machine gun, MOD 3 on Camp Kinser, Okinawa, Japan, Jan. 15.



PHOTO BY CPL. ROBERT WILLIAMS JR.

Col. Christopher Feyedelem welcomes 360 Japan Ground Self-Defense Force officer candidates to Camp Kinser, Okinawa, Japan, Jan. 15. The candidates visited Combat Logistics Regiment 35 to complete joint and combined operation

requirements.

about the Marines Corps, especially by the size of the base compared to our tiny school." At the end of the event, both forces gathered to

> exchange gifts. "This experience has reminded me of the importance of the job that I'm doing for the Marine Corps," said Tolenoa. "I enjoyed the interaction with the officer candidates and answering their questions."

> The visiting members of the JGSDF were happy and grateful to be here and interact with Marines, according

> "I look forward to working with Marines, especially now the JGSDF is emphasizing on amphibious operations so I think it's especially important to learn about the Marine Corps.," said Kikuchi. "Next month I will start my training to become an infantry officer, so I really look forward to training with and learning from Marines."

understand the force they may work with in the future.

"These events give us the opportunity to share one Expeditionary Force.

Japanese and U.S. Forces are dedicated to strengthening their alliance by continuing bi-lateral training in the Asia-Pacific region, according to Marine Corps officials. The two forces have worked together at sea, Japan and the Philippines.

More recently, Marines and JGSDF took part in Exercise Forest Light. The semi-annual, bilateral exercise took place last September when they trained on command post exercises and multiple field training events in Japan.

"These types of events strengthen our already established bond even at the lowest level," said Tolenoa. "For example, myself as a lance corporal and the candidates to be able to bond and talk about things like one another's vehicles and weapon systems highlights our connection both personally and professionally."

The visit began with opening remarks by U.S. Marine Col. Christopher Feyedelem, the commander of Headquarters Regiment, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, to inform the candidates about how Marines operate and train in the Pacific.

"Being here at an event like this has given me a better feel about what Marines do," said officer candidate Suhn Suke Kikuchi. "For many of the Japanese candidates, this event has been their first time on a Marine Corps installation. Today helped me understand a little bit more

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Pastor John Runckel

TOUGH MINDED **OPTIMISM** by Lou Gerhardt



I recently asked my dear friend Derwood Andrews to write a brief essay. This is what he wrote. Please read and take appropriate action.

Stating the Obvious

"Dr. Lou has had me write about our pets in the recent past, but I do want to mention the plight of the homeless folk up here in our area.

There is currently no homeless shelter in our entire Morongo Basin. As deserving (if not more) of shelter, food and respect as our dogs and cats, people young, old, maybe mentally ill and just temporarily lost, need a safe place to try and get it together, especially as winter is here.

Can you imagine being chilled to the bone outside, hungry and with no daily routine other than hoping for

Couldn't the County, instead of allocating over \$100,000 for an unwarranted outhouse in Section 6 Joshua Tree, spend some time and money on a safe house and qualified staff for a Morongo Basin Homeless Shelter?

I think if enough housed and communicative people took a moment to contact the County Rep (Ramos) and ask why we don't have a facility for the homeless up here, the problem could be addressed and resolved.

I know I'm stating the obvious, but sometimes the obvious ain't stated.'

When my colleague Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was asked his profession, King answered "I am a drum major. I am a drum major for justice."

That's my answer to anyone who wonders about my devotion and dedication to alleviating homelessness in our Hi-Desert. I am a drum major. I am a drum major fighting homelessness.

This column sponsored by:

Jack Kennedy - Joshua Tree Patricia Aitken - Yucca Valley

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

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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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OBSERVATION POST

Bulgarian, U.S. tanks roll side-by-side to conclude Platinum Lion 16-2

PHOTOS BY CPL. JUSTIN UPDEGRAFF



U.S. Marines with the Combined Arms Company, Black Sea Rotational Force, Bulgarian and Romanian Forces conduct a joint exercise utilizing Bulgarian and U.S. main battle tanks, indirect fire, mechanized infantry, and close air support from U.S. Air Force assets during Platinum Lion 16-2 at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, Jan. 15. Exercise Platinum Lion increases readiness and demonstrates our collective ability to operate as a single force committed to protecting the sovereignty of NATO allies and other European partners.



U.S. Marines with the Combined Arms Company, Black Sea Rotational Force, Bulgarian and Romanian Forces conduct a joint exercise utilizing Bulgarian and U.S. main battle tanks, indirect fire, mechanized infantry, and close air support from U.S. Air Force assets during Platinum Lion 16-2 at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, Jan. 15.



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Congratulations to last weeks winner: *Michael Voyoes*

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January 22, 2016 Since 1957 Vol. 60 B

Learning occurs; Science Night hosted aboard Combat Center



Staff Sgt. Feliz Eriel, engineer maintenance chief, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, helps his daughter Carolina, 5, assemble a snap circuit during the Combat Center Library's Science Night, Jan. 14. The night featured stations that taught children about snap circuits, robots, magnets and X-rays.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

The Combat Center Library hosted its annual Science Night aboard the Combat Center, Jan. 14.

Marine Corps Community Services has hosted the Science Night aboard the Combat Center annually for approximately five years. The educational event was open to Combat Center patrons of all ages and provided the 110 participants with an opportunity to learn more about science with hands-on activities.

According to Benjamin Goulet, library technician, Combat Center Library, there's a national initiative in the Marine Corps to incorporate science, technology, engineering and math-related projects into base libraries.

The Combat Center Library recently received a grant to purchase family-oriented science activities for children, which they used for the first time during their event. Goulet says events like this reinforce what children are learning in school and provides a nice opportunity for families to come together, connect, and meet one another.



Lt. Col. Frank Marilao, assistant chief of staff, Marine Corps Community Services, talks to attendees of the Combat Center Library's Science Night, Jan. 14. The event was hosted by MCCS and was open to all Combat Center patrons.



Sgt. Ivan James, telecommunications mechanic, G-6 Communications and Information Systems, explains how to operate a robot during the Combat Center Library's Science Night, Jan. 14.



Combat Center patrons attempt to assemble snap circuits during the Combat Center Library's Science Night, Jan. 14. The night was held in an effort to foster an appreciation of math, science and astronomy in the Combat Center children.

B2 JANUARY 22, 2016 **OBSERVATION POST**



Combat Center Events

Head down to Hashmarks for a Texas Hold 'Em tournament, Jan. 30. Doors open at 1 p.m. and the tournament begins at 2 p.m. The event is open to all hands and food and drink will be available throughout the evening. Come out to watch UFC fights and the Bud Girls. For more information call (760) 830-5035.

Marine Corps Community Services is taking registration for the 2016 Winter Dodgeball League starting Feb. 10. The league is open to active duty military, family members and NAF/DOD employees. To register, download the sign-up sheet at mccs29palms. com. For more information, contact (760) 830-6857.

Marine Corps Community Services is hosting a Father Daughter Dance. This event is open to all fathers and their daughters aboard the Combat Center. Guests will enjoy light refreshments and a complimentary photo. Limited tickets are available, for more information call (760) 830-5086.

Frontline Restaurant & Mameluke's Pub is hosting weekly Taco Tuesdays from 4:30 to 8 p.m. For more information, contact (760) 830-8429.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, January 22

5:00 p.m.- Star Wars:

The Force Awakens (3-D), PG-13 8:00 p.m.- Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip, PG

10:30 p.m.- Star Wars: The Force Awakens, PG-13 Saturday, January 23

12:00 p.m.- Alvin and the Chipmunks:

The Road Chip, PG 2:00 p.m.- In the Heart of the Sea, PG-13

5:00 p.m.- Brooklyn, PG-13

7:30 p.m.- Star Wars: The Force Awakens, PG-13

10:30 p.m.- Sisters, R Sunday, January 24

12:00 p.m.- Star Wars: The Force Awakens, PG-13

3:00 p.m.- Sisters, R 5:30 p.m.- Point Break (3-D), PG-13

8:00 p.m.- Daddy's Home, PG-13

Monday, January 25

7:00 p.m.- In the Heart of the Sea, PG-13 Tuesday, January 26

6:30 p.m.- Star Wars:

The Force Awakens (3-D), PG-13 Wednesday, January 27

5:00 p.m.- Alvin and the Chipmunks:

The Road Chip, PG 7:00 p.m.- Point Break, PG-13

Thursday, January 28 5:00 p.m.- Krampus, PG-13

7:00 p.m.- Spotlight, R Friday, January 29 5:00 p.m.- Star Wars:

The Force Awakens (3-D), PG-13 8:00 p.m.- Point Break (3-D), PG-13

10:30 p.m.- Daddy's Home, PG-13



Dueling Dads

Ferrell & Wahlberg star in high-spirited co-parenting comedy

sounds like a rascal," he

says. "But I don't think he's

takes over Brad's

home-improvement

projects, his home and

even his job, triggering all

sorts of comedic shenan-

igans—dueling bedtime

stories, a gonzo back-

vard tree-house, a visit

from "Santa" in April, a

fertility-clinic fiasco and

a wild motorcycle ride

that turns Brad into a

Ferrell and Wahlberg,

wall-piercing projectile.

who worked together pre-

viously in the shoot-'em-

up cop comedy The Other

Guys (2010), are two very

funny guys. It's nice to

see them both back in a

PG-13 setting, especially

after Wahlberg's raunchy

excursions with his furry,

foul-mouthed teddy-bear

friend in Ted and Ted 2,

and Ferrell's crude 2015

prison-comedy flop with

them in something this

funny. Much credit goes

to director Sean (Horrible

Bosses 2) Anders and his

5020 Adobe Rd • 29 Palms

And it's good to see

Kevin Hart, Get Hard.

That's before Dusty

anything I can't handle."

NEIL POND

"Daddy's Home" Cardellini

Directed by Sean Anders Rated PG-13

"What do families need more—fathers or a dad?"

entury

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That's the question posed at the beginning of to be a dad—because he can't become a father, at least biologically. Since an unfortunate snafu in a dental office years ago rendered him sterile, stepdad Brad is working hard to become part of the household—and the world—of Sarah (Linda Cardellini) and her two

young children. It's not easy. And it certainly gets harder when the kids' real father, Dusty (Mark Wahlberg), shows up—and sets up the "good, old-fashioned dad-off" hijinks of this high-spirited holiday comedy.

Motorcycle-riding Dusty is scuffed boots, big belt buckles, bulging biceps and AC/ DC's "Thunderstruck." Brad Minivan-driving button-down blue Oxfords, neckties and the smooth jazz of the middleof-the-road radio station at which he's a mild-mannered middle exec.

Cinema 6 **Showtimes Effective** 1/22/16 - 1/28/16

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www.cinema6theatre.com

(PG13)

Her ex is "crazy and wild: collaboration with Brian like Jesse James and Mick Burns and John Morris, Daddy's Home by Brad Jagger had a baby," offers which keeps the laughs Starring Will Ferrell, (Will Ferrell), who wants Sarah. Ever-optimistic Brad coming and works many Mark Wahlberg & Linda more than anything else is unfazed—at first. "He gags for "overtime" pay off later. Anders also knows how to guide his supporting players— Thomas Hayden Church, Bobby Cannavale and Hannibal Burress—into comedic grooves with just the right harmonic undertones. Keep your eyes peeled as well for L.A. Lakers hoops superstar Kobe Bryant, actor-comedian Paul Scheer, and a cameo at the very end that puts the ideal capper

> on all that's come before. But there's a soft, sweet spot in Daddy's Home, too, about parents and kids and the realities of divorce—about how it takes teamwork to make a family, how parenting is hard work and no two dads are the same.

Brad tries to see beneath Dusty's tough exterior. "I think, in here," he says, pointing to his heart, "there's a creamy center." Daddy's Home has one, as well, and it gives this rollicking co-parenting comedy a burst of sweet, flavorful feel-good that could make it a new seasonal repeat long after its theatrical run is done.





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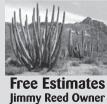
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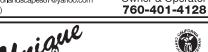
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OBSERVATION POST

Promotions in our Ranks: Master Sgt. Todd McKeown

PHOTOS BY CPL. JULIO MCGRAW



Major Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, and Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, Combat Center Sergeant Major, pin the newly promoted Master Sgt. Todd McKeown, commanding general's administrative chief, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Tuesday.

Master Sgt. McKeown, commanding general's administrative chief, salutes Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Center Combat Commanding General, at the commencement of McKeown's promotion ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Tuesday. Craparotta and Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, Combat Center Sergeant Major, pinned the McKeown to the rank of master sergeant.





Master Sgt. Todd McKeown, commanding general's administrative chief, talks to family members and colleagues after his promotion ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Tuesday. Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, and Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, Combat Center Sergeant Major, pinned the newly promoted master sergeant.

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