



A light armored vehicle with Company B, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, maneuvers into a security position in the Combat Center training area March 22, during a Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation Exercise. 3rd LAR conducted a five-day MCCREE to evaluate the combat readiness of B Co.

3rd LAR conquers MCCREE

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY LANCE CPL.
LEVI SCHULTZ

Marines with Company B, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion participated in a Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation Exercise aboard the Combat Center March 21-25.

The MCCREE is a tool utilized by commanders to evaluate their unit's combat readiness through either a single exercise or series of events. During their MCCREE, the battalion put B Co. to the test with a live-fire movement and an assault on Range 210.

"The first part of the MCCREE began with a force-on-force scenario," said Capt. Charles H. Richardson, company

See **3rd LAR pg. A6**



Marines with Company B, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, run through smoke during a live-fire assault on Military Operations on Urban Terrain town located at Range 210 in the Combat Center training area March 24, as part of a Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation Exercise. 3rd LAR conducted a five-day MCCREE to evaluate the combat readiness of B Co.

Career, education fair gives Marines, sailors tools for future



Sergeant Octavio Ureste, recruiter, Texas Department of Public Safety, talks to Cpl. Will Parker, refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, about his agency during the Education and Career Fair at the West Gym, March 23.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

The Combat Center's Career Resource Office and Education Office hosted an Education and Career Fair at the West Gym aboard the Combat Center, March 23.

More than 46 employers and 27 educators provided Marines and sailors information on their respective organizations and schools to prepare them for their transition out of the armed services and into the civilian workforce.

"Whether someone does four years or 20, every service member will eventually get out of their respective branch of service," said Virginia Sulick, program manager, Career Resource Office. "They should be preparing for that transition. They would not go to war unprepared and in the same sense, they should not go into the rest of their lives unprepared."

In accordance with Marine Corps Order 1700.31, Marines are required to attend the one-week Transition Readiness Seminar 12 to 14 months before their End of Active Service or 12 to 24 months prior to retirement but no later than 180 days prior to EAS or retirement. TRS provides exposure to opportunities in transition, career, and employment assistance to active duty, reserve component and eligible family members through the

See **Future pg. A6**



Staff Sgt. Tatiana Wright, fuel maintenance chief, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, talks to Officer Kris Powers, recruiter, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, about his agency at the Education and Career Fair at the West Gym, March 23.

Combat Center participates in Distracted Driving Awareness Month

MAGTFTC, MCAGCC SAFETY DIVISION

April is distracted driving awareness month and while most people may know that texting while driving is a dangerous behavior, many don't fully grasp the idea that using the infotainment system in your vehicle while driving is also risky. The National Safety Council helps to dispel a few myths that may blind you into believing it is safe to use your vehicle infotainment system while driving.

Our vehicles are now more connected than ever. It seems the automakers are in an arms race to put the latest technology into our vehicles so we can text, email, update social media and even make dinner reservations from our dashboards. But keep in mind that just because these systems are available does not make them safe to use while driving.

Myth: My car came with an infotainment system, so since it's built into my car it must be safe.

Fact: Marketing for these technologies has been powerful. A NSC survey found that more than 50 percent of drivers believe this myth – that infotainment systems must be safe to use because they are built into cars. But technologies that allow drivers to make hands-free calls, dictate texts or emails and update social media have not been thoroughly tested. Existing research shows these systems can be distracting to drivers. In fact, The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found drivers doing some voice tasks via infotainment systems may remain distracted for as long as 27 seconds after they finish the task.

Myth: I know distracted driving is dangerous, but my job depends on me being connected – even when I'm behind the wheel. I can't afford to miss calls, emails or

See **Driving 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. Patrick H. Owens.



A candidate assigned to Delta Company, Officer Candidates Class-221, breaks the surface of the murky water of 'The Quigley' at Brown Field, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., on March 15.



Reprinted from the Observation Post
March 25, 1966
Story by GySgt. Jack Butts

Ultimate Weapon, Aggressive Marine

HUE/PHU BAI, Vietnam — A certain amount of aggressiveness is essential in all walks of life. In a combat situation it is paramount.

Pvt Daniel R. Lopez (San Fernando, Calif.) a rifleman with “G” Co, 2nd Bn, First Marines, has more than his share of this aforementioned quality.

While with his unit in on operation New York, seven miles southeast of here, that aggressiveness paid off. The net result was one dead Vet Cong...what could have been a bottleneck was broken... and only Lopez was wounded when more of his fellow Marines could have been.

While sweeping north toward a blocking force the unit was crossing a rice paddy. Lopez had a feeling there were enemy on the other side of a rice paddy dike 30 yards to his front. He charged the dike, leaped over it, and turned and

fired when he spotted a VC lying in a trough on the reverse side.

The VC threw a fragmentation grenade which exploded a few feet away from Lopez, sending fragments into his chest and right leg. If the 20-year-old Marine hadn’t displayed the type of aggressiveness synonymous of the Marine in combat, the VC would conceivably have lobbed the grenade into the oncoming Marines before they arrived at the dike, resulting in more casualties for the unit.

Lopez, who has three year Marine Corps service and seven months in Vietnam considers himself “pretty lucky” to be just wounded. “I could have been killed,” he said.



But his aggressive quality didn’t suffer a setback. “I’ll be back shortly,” he said. People who know him tend to agree.

CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 1 Hatfield feuder
 - 6 "It's my turn to batt!"
 - 10 Not fully closed
 - 14 Brunch serving
 - 15 See 34-Down
 - 16 Let go
 - 17 "Journey to the Center of the Earth" author
 - 19 "Sounds good to me!"
 - 20 Valhalla V.I.P.
 - 21 Nonclerical
 - 22 Textile factory container with coloring
 - 24 "None of your ____!"
 - 26 String quartet member
 - 27 Spoon-____
 - 28 Piece of scenery
 - 31 Cheap hotels, for short
 - 34 Hindu class
 - 35 Dr. Dre's old group
 - 36 Love personified
 - 37 "The Two ____" (Nicholson movie)
 - 38 New driver, typically
 - 39 Lodge
 - 40 Tennis ace Monica
 - 41 Rendezvous
 - 42 Competed with
 - 44 Bishop's jurisdiction
 - 45 Toothbrush brand
 - 46 Hoosegow
 - 50 1960's supermodel
 - 52 ____ green
 - 53 ____ California
 - 54 Italian sauce brand
 - 55 Fictional coffee grower from Colombia
 - 58 Flu symptom
 - 59 With warts and all
 - 60 Rodents, in fun
 - 61 Cookers
 - 62 Actress Russo

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- Down**
- 1 Low-level position
 - 2 Unrefined
 - 3 "The Color Purple" role
 - 4 Precedes at a concert
 - 5 Word on a Ouija board
 - 6 Mountaineer's tool
 - 7 Name repeated in a nursery rhyme
 - 8 Mantel piece
 - 9 Foretells
 - 10 Off course
 - 11 Ernest P. Worrell actor
 - 12 Puccini piece
 - 13 Monthly expense
 - 18 ____ the Impaler
 - 23 Coupler
 - 25 Creepy Craven
 - 26 Ming things
 - 28 Kind of bean
 - 29 Has a tab
 - 30 Gasp
 - 31 Salon focus
 - 32 Old Dodge model
 - 33 Angelina Jolie's acting father
 - 34 With 15-Across, "The Alienist" author
 - 37 Smucker's container
 - 38 Shaky one
 - 40 Smelter refuse

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

HARRISON GERARD SHARPMACK
Born March 7, 2016
Born to Taylor Johnson and Nicholas Sharpmack

LIAM GRAYSON & BENTLEY CARLISLE CURFMAN
Born March 10, 2016
Born to Dakota and Wesley Curfman

DANIEL LEE WILBOURN
Born March 11, 2016
Born to Jessica and Joshua Wilbourn

ELLIA KUVIPOLANI RENNER
Born March 11, 2016
Born to John and Shanelle Renner

ALPHONSO CAUDLE IV
Born March 13, 2016
Born to Alphonso and Paula Caudle

ATHENA MAYA VANCLIFF
Born March 14, 2016
Born to Naomi Dorley and ADebuea Vancliff

CALLAHAN LOGAN BURDEN
Born March 17, 2016
Born to Skyler and Kristin Burden

ELIZABETH JUNE DUSENBERRY
Born March 17, 2016
Born to Samantha and Robert Dusenberry

EMMA TEODORA KICK
Born March 18, 2016
Born to Jessica and Andrew Kick

ANTONIO JOAQUIN FUENTES
Born March 19, 2016
Guillermo and Erika Fuentes

SUDOKU

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Last week's answers

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7	1	8	9	2	4	6	3	5
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 - Main Street Motel, 3494 Main St.
 - Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar St.
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 - K Smoke Shop, 5865A Adobe Rd.
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 - Puff's Tobacco Mart, 57063 29 Palms Hwy.
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- 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

Nickole

Dallas, Tx. Lance Cpl., maintenance management specialist, Exercise Support Division

GABEL

Gabel is an avid percussionist and has been a multi-instrumental musician most of her life. She hopes to one day perform in the “Commandant’s Own”, United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.



>I grew up in Dallas, Texas. I love it there because there’s a good amount of diversity. It’s a big city but there are still farms and ranches nearby.

>In high school, I was on the drumline and was in [Junior Reserve Officer’s Training Corps]. I met a lot of great people in JROTC and still keep in contact with most of my friends. Although it wasn’t as intense as the Marine Corps, it helped me prepare.

>I had a tightly knit group of friends and we’d spend a lot of time roller skating together and playing roller derby. I started playing on a roller derby team for fun and I enjoyed it even more when I started to get good at it. It can be a big adrenaline rush. It took me years to develop but I stayed consistent. I’d like to find a team nearby I can get involved with.

>When I was six years old my mom taught me how to read sheet music and play piano. My interest grew, and as I got older I wanted to learn percussion.

>Fortunately, my father was also a musician. He was an experienced

drummer so naturally I got some tips from him.

>He taught me how to properly play a drum kit and in my middle school band I played snare drum, marimba, xylophone, and a variety of percussion accessories.

>In high school I was primarily focused on drumline. I enjoyed playing tenor drum the most but I also played snare and bass drum. We went through a lot of hot summer practices but in the end I got a lot better. The same mentality can be applied in the Marine Corps. Sometimes we struggle but it’s always worth it.

>Now I play with the Joshua Tree Philharmonic Orchestra and listen to all types of music to get inspiration. We play everything from classical to rock.

>I want to keep getting involved in more concerts with the orchestra. It’s a fun learning experience and a great way to get out of the barracks. Playing music again and meeting other musicians reminds me a lot of home.

>Music is important because each song can have a different spirit or mood. Having the power to evoke emotions in people is what makes music special.

>After seeing the “Commandant’s Own” perform, it definitely got me interested in trying out. It was motivating to see how sharp their drumline was.

>The Marine Corps has taught me to never quit or give up on your goals. My goal is to practice as much as possible while finishing up my first enlistment. Around then I should be ready to try out for the band.

>If music doesn’t work out as a career, I plan on majoring in Aerospace Engineering. I’m a huge fan of science fiction movies like “Star Trek” and “Star Wars”, and try to keep up with science news whether it’s reading magazines or online articles.

>I’ve always been into astronomy and would like to work for a private aerospace company. It would be great to be a part of a team that builds something that goes to space.

INTERVIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

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STEM lab to open aboard Combat Center



Pfc. Wesley Sweeney, volunteer, Combat Center Library, demonstrates the use of 3-D printing software to Lt. Col. Frank Marilao, assistant chief of staff, Marine Corps Community Services, during a STEM lab presentation at the Combat Center Library, March 22.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

The Department of the Navy is actively engaging growth of Science Technology Engineering Mathematics education to meet the Navy and Marine Corps’ need to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

In accordance with the DoN’s mission, the Combat Center Library unveiled plans to implement STEM technology to be available for service members, patrons and students at the Combat Center Library, March 22.

“There’s a vision for the Combat Center Library to become more of a hands-on learning center,” said Pfc. Wesley Sweeney,

volunteer, Combat Center Library. “We’re creating a [STEM lab] to generate interest in STEM fields in both the community and the Marine Corps.”

The library has implemented STEM tools including a 3-D printer, Little Bits (electronic circuits), and 3-D design software applications.

“You can create something you might find in a 3-D animated film, export your creation and 3-D print it,” Sweeney said. “It’s bridging the gap between the designer and the engineer.”

According to Jeff Fourier, branch head, Personal and Professional Development, the library will officially open the STEM lab to the community near the end of June.



Lt. Col. Frank Marilao, assistant chief of staff, Marine Corps Community Services, completes a circuit using Little Bits (electronic circuits), during a STEM lab presentation at the Combat Center Library, March 22.

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U.S. Marines Remain Alert in Iraq

PHOTOS BY SGT. RICARDO HURTADO



Marine Sgt. Josh Greathouse, a team leader with Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command, scans the area during a perimeter patrol in Al Taqaddum, Iraq, March 21.



Marine Sgt. Josh Greathouse, a team leader with Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command, scans the area during a perimeter patrol in Al Taqaddum, Iraq, March 21.



Marines with Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command, perform a security halt during a perimeter patrol in Al Taqaddum, Iraq, March 21.

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SLOT MACHINES TABLE GAMES OASIS GRILLE SHELLY'S LOUNGE

3rd LAR from pg. A1



Light armored vehicles with Company B, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, move into a security position in the Combat Center training area March 24, during a Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation Exercise. 3rd LAR conducted a five-day MCCREE to evaluate the combat readiness of B Co.



Sgt. Torry L. Broome, light armored vehicle crewman, Company B, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, operates a light armored vehicle in the Combat Center training area March 24, during a Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation Exercise. 3rd LAR conducted a five-day MCCREE to evaluate the combat readiness of B Co.

commander, Company B, 3rd LAR. “We went up against a thinking enemy, composed of conventional and unconventional forces, tasked with defending an area.”

The Marines of Company C acted as the opposition during B Co.’s assault on Gay’s Pass training area. Over the first few days of the exercise, they challenged B Co. with a variety of scenarios ranging from notional improvised explosive devices to armed adversaries.

“The assault on Gay’s Pass gave us great insight on how to take on a thinking enemy and to adapt our plan to a changing battlefield,” Richardson said. “Within the company, we have 18 different military occupational specialties that allow us to conduct a wide array of operations. We can load everything up on our [light armored] vehicles and operate three to five days without much support due to our versatility.”

Upon completion of the first portion of MCCREE, the company moved on to a live-fire and maneuver exercise. Instead of living, breathing enemies, the Marines set their sights on targets and conducted an assault over open terrain.

“The second stage transitioned to live fire with movement to contact while fighting mechanized infantry before moving on to an assault on Range 210,” Richardson said. “We’re not always going to have the luxury of fighting in open terrain or be able to fight where the enemy is. Often times, the enemy is going to be in urban terrain so we have to prepare for that environment.”

The location of MCCREE’s culminating event, Range 210’s Military Operations in Urban Terrain facility, provided B Co.’s riflemen the opportunity to dismount from the vehicles and conduct building clearing operations.

Targets, designed to fall when fired upon, gave the Marines the feeling of fighting a tangible enemy.

“At first, there were internal issues the Marines had to work through,” Sgt. Maj. Marcus A. Chestnut, battalion sergeant major, 3rd LAR. “It’s always interesting to see them come out here and overcome those issues. At the end of it, it all worked out and I think they did very well.”

Richardson also expressed satisfaction with the results throughout the evaluation exercise as well as confidence in the Marines combat readiness.

“We’ve gone through a lot to get where we are now,” Richardson said. “The Marines have come a long way and we’re a more cohesive fighting force because of it. As we are now, I’m fully confident that we can step down range and take on any enemy that we may encounter.”

Driving from pg. A1

Fact: Car crashes are the #1 cause of workplace deaths. Safety-centric employers know that employees are their greatness asset and it is wise to go above and beyond to keep employees safe. One way employers are doing this is by implementing cell phone policies banning handheld and hands-free for all employees and creating a culture that encourages employees to embrace safety. Essentially, employers are making it easier for employees to put their drive first.

Dozens of Fortune 500 companies have adopted cell phone policies. Not only is this an added level of safety for employees, but it protects employers from being held legally responsible if an employee is involved in a distracted driving crash.

Myth: Most car crashes are caused by car malfunctions such as faulty brakes, blown tires or engine problems.

Fact: Vehicle problems are not the primary cause of car crashes. They represent a very small portion of crashes and most vehicle problems have to do with improperly inflated or maintained tires. More than 90 percent of all crashes are caused by driver error and can be prevented.

We know distraction can lead to driver error and we know distracted driving is common. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 9 percent of drivers are talking on cell phones while driving at any given daylight moment. Distracted drivers also miss seeing up to 50 percent of what is around them, including pedestrians, bicyclists, traffic signs/signals and other vehicles. Engaging with infotainment systems in vehicles is dangerous not just because they take our eyes away from the road, but because these systems take our attention away from the task of driving.

Avoid the dash to the dashboard. Dashboard infotainment systems allow drivers to stay connected, but just because we can do something, doesn’t mean we should.

Future from pg. A1



Petty Office 3rd Class, Adrian Garcia, corpsman, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, asks Officer Kris Powers, recruiter, San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, a question about his agency at the Education and Career Fair at the West Gym, March 23.

Career Resource Office.

“If they have a long term goal, they should look into ways they can do things while they are still in to maximize the resources the military offers them,” Sulick said. “Even service members who don’t want to get out yet but still want to be promotable; I think it’s important to prove they deserve the next rank by going the extra mile and continuing their education.”

During the fair educators, companies and law enforcement agencies such as Mayfield College, California Highway Patrol, Texas Department of Public Safety and Airstreams Renewables provided service members information and contact for present and future networking.

“An event like this is good because it’s tailored to the military and gives us an opportunity to broaden our scope of what is out

there,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Adrian Garcia, corpsman, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374. “It’s completely unbiased and you get a lot of open information with opportunities to ask as many questions as you want.”

According to Sulick, the average job search takes more than 26 weeks to complete and the Career Resource Office offers a federal employment workshop, resume class and individual career counseling for any aspect of transition that a service member is concerned about.

“It’s a big lifestyle change to go from military life back to civilian life,” Sulick said. “Our job here is to provide tools that make transition easier for service members through seminars that make them well rounded and help their professional development.”

For more information on TRS call the career resource office at 760-830-7225.

TOUGH MINDED
OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt

Dr. Edmund “Ned” Sutro of Pasadena wrote me a nice letter on March 24. Ned was an active member of the great First Congregational Church, Los Angeles, where I spent several years as Senior Minister in the late 70’s and in early 1980.

He wrote as follows:

“Your name evokes fond memories from years past: weddings, late night drives to Easter Eve Services, and your unparalleled joy at the christenings of babies during the 11:00 services—in my observation, no one took greater joy at such events as you.

With fond moments we have shared, I wish you a most blessed Easter.”

Ned’s letter reminded me of how fortunate I have been...and still am. Think about it. Since 1947 I have officiated at better than 3,500 weddings. I have conducted better than 2,500 funerals. I have christened better than 1,000 children and baptized hundreds of adults.

I tell you it is just wonderful to be alive and to make a positive influence in so many lives.

This column sponsored by:

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Dr. Lou can be reached at 760-367-4627
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See page B2 for
Sunset Cinema
movie schedule

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Around the Corps

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Marines operating a Light Armored Vehicle with 2nd Light-Armored Reconnaissance Battalion swiftly move to a new position for the next course of fire during the unit's annual gunnery qualification at Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 18. The purpose of the training was to increase readiness and ensure that the Marines maintain their proficiency employing the weapons.



Marines operating a Light Armored Vehicle with 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion fire a M242 Bushmaster 25 mm chain-driven autocannon during the unit's annual gunnery qualification at Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 18.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. SHANNON KROENING

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Marines with 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion conducted annual gunnery qualification training at Camp Lejeune, March 18-22.

The Marines of 2nd LAR conduct their qualifications with the M242 Bushmaster 25 mm chain-driven autocannon and the M240B 7.62 mm machine gun to maintain their proficiency and confidence employing the weapons systems.

"The reason that we do these qualifications is to ensure that the Marines are ready for whatever the commander may ask of us," said Sgt. Christopher Huey, a recent graduate of the Master Gunner course and one of the Master Gunners supervising the

course. "We need to make sure that no matter if it is a deployment or an exercise, that we here at 2nd LAR perform at our best."

During the live fire, crews are expected to engage various targets ranging as far as 1,600 meters to include vehicle targets, moving targets and troop targets. Each crew of Marines is graded on maneuvers and accuracy.

The unit is preparing for their upcoming integrated training exercise in 29 Palms in May; they are busy training to the full extent and have hopes to complete the ITX on a successful note.

"I tell my Marines to stay motivated because this is our way of life," said Master Sgt. Kevin "Lock Shields" Dumais, the company operations chief for Bravo Company. "We train like we fight, and at the end of the day we will be better for it."



Marines operating a Light Armored Vehicle with 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion swiftly move to a new position for the next course of fire during the unit's annual gunnery qualification at Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 18.

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WeekINPhotos

Dutch MOUT Town



A Royal Netherlands Marine maneuvers through smoke during an urban training exercise involving U.S. Marines and Royal Marines on Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 24. The Royal Marines worked with U.S. Marines as part of a bilateral training exercise to learn new techniques as well as develop working relations between partner nations.



Royal Netherlands Marines conduct urban operations during a training exercise involving U.S. Marines and Royal Marines on Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 24.



A Royal Netherlands Marine posts security during an urban training exercise involving U.S. Marines and Royal Marines on Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 24.



Royal Netherlands Marines maneuver through smoke during an urban training exercise involving U.S. Marines and Royal Marines on Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 24.

Photos by Cpl. Christopher Mendoza

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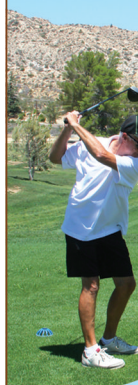
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MCTOG Softball Tournament fosters friendly competition



Team Random Jerseys proudly display their plaque after winning the Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group annual Softball Tournament held at Felix Field, Saturday.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group hosted their annual softball tournament at Felix Field, Saturday.

"The softball games are primarily used as a fundraiser for the Marine Corps ball," said Sgt. Hillary Aguirre, tournament coordinator, MCTOG. "This is the biggest fundraiser our unit holds and it brings in the most profit for the ball."

The tournament is open to any units aboard the base as well as civilians who can form their own team and are interested in participating. This year's tournament included 10 teams from eight different units. At a maximum number of 15 players per team, with an admission fee for each player, the bulk of MCTOG's proceeds are generated through admission fees as well as food sold during the day-long event.

"Our tournament lines up perfectly

with the intermural softball season that's about to start for the base," Aguirre said. "A lot of teams use this tournament to gauge their competition for the start of the installation's season."

During the first three hours of the tournament, each team got a chance to play in the tournament. For the rest of the day the winning team of each game faced one other until a winner came out victorious.

"This is my first time playing in the MCTOG softball tournament," said Staff

Sgt. ShannonLee Martinez, instructor, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. "It's a good way for people who don't work together to get out, have some fun and make connections with each other."

According to Aguirre, the tournament was a good way to bring members from different units together and have them engage in some friendly competition. At the end of the tournament team Random Jerseys took gold, receiving a plaque in recognition of their victory.



Master Sgt. Fernando Andrade, instructor, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, hits a softball during the Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group annual Softball Tournament held at Felix Field, Saturday.



Staff Sgt. ShannonLee Martinez, instructor, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, pitches a softball during the Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group annual Softball Tournament held at Felix Field, Saturday.



Sgt. John Evans, assault amphibious vehicle crewman, 3rd Amphibian Assault Battalion, rounds third base during the Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group annual Softball Tournament held at Felix Field, Saturday.



Sgt. John Evans, assault amphibious vehicle crewman, 3rd Amphibian Assault Battalion, and Sgt. Blake Seekamp, military working dog handler, Provost Marshalls Office, Headquarters Battalion, display good sportsmanship after a game by exchanging high-fives during the Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group annual Softball Tournament held at Felix Field, Saturday.



Combat Center Events

Attend the Basic Anger Management Workshop at the Village Center April 5, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The workshop will provide you with tools in controlling anger through defining anger, identifying signs of anger and more. The workshop is open to active duty Marines, sailors and spouses. For more information, contact 760-830-3115.

Come and enjoy a fun night of TV themed trivia covering; comedy, mystery, drama, classic and animation at Mamuluke's Pub April 7, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. TV Themed Trivia Night is open to pub patrons and guests are encouraged to dress as their favorite TV show character. For more information, contact 760-830-8429.

Hashmarks Staff Non-commissioned Officer Club hosts Steak Night, open to all hands, Mondays from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and SNCOs only on Fridays. For more information, contact 760-830-5035.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, April 01
5:30 p.m. – Zootopia (3-D), PG
8:30 p.m. – Deadpool, R
11:00 p.m. – London Has Fallen, R

Saturday, April 02
12:00 p.m. – Race, PG-13
3:00 p.m. – Risen, PG-13
5:30 p.m. – Gods of Egypt (3-D), PG-13
8:30 p.m. – How To Be Single, R
11:00 p.m. – The Witch, R

Sunday, April 03
12:00 p.m. – Deadpool, R
2:30 p.m. – Zootopia (3-D), PG
5:30 p.m. – Whiskey Tango Foxtrot, R
8:00 p.m. – London Has Fallen, R

Monday, April 04
7:00 p.m. – Zootopia, PG

Tuesday, April 05
7:00 p.m. – London Has Fallen, R

Wednesday, April 06
7:00 p.m. – Deadpool, R

Thursday, April 07
5:00 p.m. – Zoolander 2, PG-13
7:10 p.m. – How To Be Single, R



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Miracle Mom

Movie ‘faith’-fully dramatizes mother’s account of daughter’s near-death experience

NEIL POND

‘Miracles From Heaven’
Starring Jennifer Garner, Nathan Riggs & Kylie Rogers
Directed by Patricia Riggen
Rated PG

Christy Beam didn’t believe in miracles—until one smacked her over the head.

Well, actually, it was her preteen daughter who got smacked. It’s all in Christy’s 2015 book, *Miracles From Heaven*, now a movie starring Jennifer Garner as the mom and Kylie Rogers, a 12-year-old veteran of more than 20 small-ish movie and TV roles, as her youngest of

three girls, Annabel.

The setup: Annabel suffers terribly from a chronic, incurable disorder that blocks her bowels, distends her belly, causes her awful pain, restricts her diet to liquids and sends her shuttling with Christy between their home in Texas and a treatment center in Boston.

But one day, as she’s climbing the big old, dead cottonwood in her family’s yard, Annabel falls, headfirst, some 30 feet into the tree’s rotten trunk. There she remains, trapped and unconscious, until paramedics and firemen can free her. At first, everyone fears the worst; they think she’s dead. But then Annabel wakes up in the hospital with only a mild concussion—and, apparently, completely cured. One of her doctors admits that medical science has no proper term to describe when someone’s chronic condition suddenly—poof!—just disappears.

But Christy Beam knows what to call it: a miracle.

Miracles From Heaven is Hollywood’s latest foray into the faith-based market, a “message” film made for audiences who’ve indicated they’ll shell out and line up to see flicks that uphold and promote Christian values.

Director Patricia Riggen—whose previous project, *The 33*, was based on another true event, the 2010 Chilean mining disaster—has an eye for drama and a feel for character, and she treats the Beams as real people with real lives. Garland is believable as a frustrated, fiercely loving mom wrestling with her own crisis of faith. Queen Latifah provides comic relief as a Boston waitress.

The movie does dwell for a l-o-o-o-n-g time on Annabel’s suffering—it sometimes feels like a bit of a preteen *Passion Play*—and you have to wait for what feels like an eternity for the Big Event. The movie counterbalances the faith of Annabel’s dad, Kevin (hunky Martin Henderson, who plays Nathan Riggs on TV’s

Grey’s Anatomy), with Christy’s doubts and worries about why her prayers are going unanswered—or unheard. But it really trowels on the gospel goo in the home stretch, when Annabel shares details of her near-death, out-of-body experience.

“Miracles are everywhere,” Christy ultimately tells her church congregation, alluding not just to her daughter’s recovery, but to smaller, everyday acts of goodness, kindness, generosity and forgiveness. There’s a graceful, lovely scene mid-movie where we watch as Annabel gazes at a modern art painting, looking into the colors and the swirls, and we see a close-up of her face as something transcendent happens; her soft blue eyes fill with tears, and she smiles.

If you can find a miracle—or whatever you want to call it—in the bottom of a hollow tree, why not in the brushstrokes of a painting? And a lot of other places, too.

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2D 1:30 6:00

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1:30 7:00 9:30

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HELP WANTED 300

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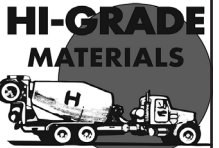
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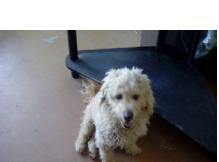
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April
13

Mountain Bike Event
Duration: 7 miles
Start: 8 am | 4th Street
Adjacent to Bldg.1480
by the Rappel tower

April
14

Road Bike Criterium
Duration: 8.8 miles
(1.1 mile loop)
Start: 8 am
15th & Dunham Street

April
15

5K Fun Run
Start: 6:30 am
Desert Winds Golf Course
Register early and get your
FREE t-shirt while supplies last.

April
15

Earth Day Extravaganza

Carnival Rides
Food
Music
Info Booths
Camel Rides

4:30 – 8:30pm
Trophy presentation: 6pm

Lincoln Military Housing
Athletic Field
(Behind ASYMCA)

**Register & view maps
at green29.org**
For more information,
contact 830.6857
**Entry Fee:
One recycled item**
Walk ups for all events
are welcome!

Trophies will be presented
at Earth Day Extravaganza.

April
30

Park to Park Ride
50 miles
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300 Riders | Pre-registered will receive a t-shirt
For more information, call 760.367.7562
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