

April 29, 2016

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Vol. 60 Issue 17

Combat Center leads way in sustainability



STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

The Combat Center is the largest combined arms live-fire training facility in the Marine Corps. As such, they have the responsibility of ensuring Marines remain the nation's force in readiness while simultaneously ensuring access to secure, reliable energy and water.

For their efforts in sustainability, the Combat Center was awarded the Sustainability Award in the Non-Industrial Installation category of the 2015 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards. The Combat Center exceeded Department of Defense goals in energy reduction and water conservation and consistently applied renewable energy solutions with an innovative and collaborative sustainability program. "Our energy and water initiatives across the board are all about creating an even more effective combat force," said Dennis V. McGinn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy. "We want to have better mission effectiveness, and operational efficiency. Because the Combat Center is the source of excellence for so many war fighting capabilities,

they're setting the standard." In addition to this recognition, the installation received the 2015 Sustainability, Non-Industrial Installation Award from both the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of Defense, as well as the Secretary of the Navy Environmental Award for Natural

Because the Combat Center is the source of excellence for so many war fighting capabilities, they're setting the standard." ~ Dennis V. McGinn

Environmental Affairs. "We have 40 to 50 thousand Marines here every year and that impacts the environment over time. Ultimately what we're trying to do is protect the environment in a way that not only meets the legal requirements for protecting resources but also allows the Marines to work in an environment that is sustained

over time." Divisions such as

Exercise Support Division, NREA, and Public Works Department are responsible in part for the installation's success in their conservation efforts. Due to the programs put in place by the installation and executed by each division, the base has not only met but exceeded expectations with regard to protecting the Combat Center's natural resources. "The Combat Center is a tough environment for water and energy conservation," McGinn said. "The installation's mission, to be able to prepare Marine units to go forward in peace and in war, is absolutely critical. The fact that the team here at the Combat Center has been able to win these awards tells me a lot about the leadership, the hard work, and the team work that goes on here."

NREA hosts Sustainability Expo STORY AND PHOTOS BY

CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

In support of the Department of Defense's Sustainable Procurement Program, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs hosted the Combat Center's first Sustainability Expo at the Frontline Restaurant, Tuesday.

The DoD's Sustainable Procurement Program aims to purchase environmentally preferable products and services in accordance with federally-mandated "green" procurement preference programs. Twentyeight vendors attended the expo to present energy- and water-efficient products to Combat Center Marines, leaders and patrons.

"Our goal was to bring together a variety of ven-



Ken King, manager, Western Area Research Test and Evaluation Center, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, shows communication components to Maj. Jamisen Fox, operations anad plans officer, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, during the Combat Center's Sustainability Expo at the Frontline Restaurant, Tuesday.

Resource Conservation on Aug. 18, 2015. The installation also received the 2015 Secretary of the Navy Energy and Water Management Award in the United States Marine Corps Expeditionary category on Jan. 21, 2016, and the 2015 Secretary of Defense Sustainability Award in the non-industrial installation category on Oct. 1, 2015.

"We conduct a lot of training out here," said Brian Henen, ecologist, Natural Resources and dors who had relevant materials to our base's practices and processes," said Lt. Col. Timothy Pochop, director, NREA. "Using biological-based materials helps reduce our chemical footprint and can expand our capabilities in the future."

DoD members working under the Secretary of Defense for Energy Installations and Environment were also present at the expo and expressed appreciation for working with the Combat Center's efforts in sustainability and environmental conservation.

"Twentynine Palms has been referred to as the leader in sustainability and environmental programs in the Marine Corps," said George Handy, program manager, DoD Sustainable Products Center. "Residents are really lucky to have this staff here. They

See Expo pg. A6

Restoring for the future, Marines help MDLT

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. DAVE FLORES

JOSHUA TREE, Calif. - Congressman Paul Cook, California's 8th District, visited Joshua Tree, Calif., Saturday, to show his appreciation to the more than 40 Combat Center Marines who pitched in to help restore Mojave Desert Land Trust's newest project area landscape, Section 33, also known as the Gateway Parcel as part the MDLT Earth Day Restoration.

"I'm glad the Marine Corps has kept and maintained their environmental awareness," Cook said. "Being the See MDLT pg. A6



Congressman Paul Cook, California's 8th District, thanks Combat Center Marines for their hard work during the Mojave Desert Land Trust Earth Day Restoration of the Gateway Parcel in Joshua Tree, Calif., Saturday. Marines and civilians from the Joshua Tree area spent the day restoring and landscaping the 623-acre site.

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 Lance Cpl. Carl King Jr.



Cpl. Ethan Small, a reconnaissance Marine assigned to Maritime Raid Force, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, simulates attacking a target through a window while rappelling down a rappel tower on Camp Hansen in Okinawa, Japan, April 14.



Reprinted from the Observation Post April 28, 1960

Artillery Era Ends Last AAA 75 Fired

Another era in Marine Corps history has been completed. The 75 millimeter Antiaircraft Artillery "Gun" has been fired for the last time in the regular service.

On April 21, Captain M. C. Kramer, commanding officer, of Alpha Battery, First 75 millimeter Anti-Aircraft Battalion, "cranked" off the last round fired from the 75mm "Skysweeper" gun.

The captain also holds the distinction of being the first Marine to fire the weapon when the Battalion first arrived at Twentynine Palms six years ago.

The rapid firing artillery weapon has been

retired from active service in favor of the new streamlined combat efficiency policy of the Marine Corps. The Hawk Missile will be integrated into service in place of the 75 mm weapon.

The 500 man "Skyweeper" Battalion will retire the 1st 75's colors at a parade on May 2, 1960. Lt. Col. A. G. Daddazio will lead his officers and men in their final parade.

Unit members will be retrained and reassigned with the majority of personnel assigned to the new First Light Antiaircraft Artillery Missile Battalion, employing the HAWK, ground to air guided missile.

The "Skysweepers" were the first organized as the 1st 75 mm AAA Training Battery, FMF, at the Marine Corps Base, Camo Lejeune, N.C., in January 1953. In December of that same year, the unit was moved to Twentynine Palms, traveling through the Panama Canal and up the Pacific Cost to Southern California.

In addition to acting as "host" unit for many thousands of Marine Corps Reserve training here in the summer months, the 1st 75's participated in many amphibious training exercises with the Third Marine Aircraft Wing at both the Santa Ana Facility and the Yuma Arizona Facility.

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OFF-LIMITS ESTABLISHMENTS

MCIWest off-limits establishments guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations. This order applies to all military personnel.

In Oceanside:

- Angelo's Kars, 222 S. Coast Hwy,
- Oceanside, Calif., 92054
- Angelo's Kars, 226 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054

In San Diego:

- 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.
- Sports Auto Sales, 1112 National City Blvd.

Local off-limits guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations.

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In Twentynine Palms:

- Adobe Smoke Shop, 6441 Adobe Rd.
- STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Rd.
- K Smoke Shop, 5865A Adobe Rd.

In Yucca Valley:

- Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Hwy. - Puff's Tobacco Mart, 57063 29 Palms Hwy. In Palm Springs:

- Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr.
- Whispering Palms Apts., 449 E. Arenas Road - NYPD Pizza, 260-262 N. Palm Canyon Drive

For the complete orders, but not off-limits, check out the Combat Center's officialwebsite at http://www.29palms.marines. mil

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Ron

Pleasant Hill, Calif. Facilities Maintenance Officer, Public Works Division

Genet retired as a sergeant major after 26-years of honorable service in the Marine Corps. He credits his success in life to his experiences in the Marine Corps and the years of support from his wife Debbie.

>I turned sixty May of last year. I'm still young, probably one of the youngest in the 60 category.

GENET

>I was born in San Francisco, [Calif.,] but that is not my hometown. I spent a majority of my childhood in Pleasant Hill, Calif.

>Growing up, my dad was a longshoreman who worked on the docks. Mom wasn't doing too well; I could tell she was kind of sickly. We lived in a couple of other places before we moved to New York.

>We lived in Albany, N.Y., for a while before moving upstate to live with my grandfather. About eight months later my mother lost her life to cancer. I was 9 years old at the time.

>After mom passed away, I moved back to California to be with my father. He got married so we could have a family atmosphere.

>After about two years, the marriage didn't work out and dad put me up for adoption.

> lived with my new parents and their son, Jody, from the 5th grade until my sophomore year of high school. We had a 155-acre ranch that we worked on for four years before we moved.

>They were strict, which was good. Nothing was ever handed to you, you had to earn everything. When we got home from school we would have to do our chores, cut firewood, plant the garden, milk the cows, and then do our homework.

>When we went hunting they taught Jody and I how to skin and clean; never to waste anything because there were always other animals that could use it. It helped me develop my moral compass. **>Half-way through high school**, I moved in with one of my three half-brothers, Sid, and his wife. We were nineteen years apart and he was around 35 at the time.

>After I graduated high school I went on to junior college. I decided it wasn't for me and went on to work for the city of Pleasant Hill.

>A really good friend of mine, named Mark Holmes, said he was joining the Marine Corps and he told me about the buddy program. At the time I was working maintenance for the city and I didn't want to do that my whole life. I was twenty years old when I went down to MCRD San Diego and stepped on those yellow footprints.

>I think what really saved me in the long run was the Marine Corps. The family concept is really something. I fell in love with my wife, Debbie, while I was in the Marine Corps and so many of I was blessed to have a wife who was very supportive, who was our friends have been in the Corps. Joining helped me mature a lot and the drill field helped my wife and I get closer. **>The other night there was a** special on 60 Minutes. The host asked the viewer who the first person was to show them unconditional love. I looked over at my wife, Debbie, and I thought "wow." She was the very first. That's why I think our kids turned out the way they did. That's the only type of love my wife and I have ever had. > was a sergeant when I went to the drill field. At the time I intended to get out of the Marine Corps because I wanted to be a truck driver like my brother. But it turned out the drill field was where I really decided to make the Corps a career. > wanted to relive basic training on the other side and take that with me to society if I decided to get out. Because all we're really doing is educating and maturing young kids to be self-thinkers, self-starters and have the initiative to be better. >It was the camaraderie on the drill field and the sense of doing something good that really appealed to me. As a drill instructor, you get these young raw recruits coming in, some of whom have no idea of where they want to go. >As a senior drill instructor, when you get to graduate your first platoon, it's emotional because you're standing there watching



the platoons come down and you're thinking "I gave these kids 105 days of my life, now I've got to do it again. Look how far they've come."

> I think being a drill instructor helped me a great deal to mature and understand where I wanted to go in life. As a Marine, willing to uproot anytime and go. And so we grew together. >My last duty station was in Twentynine Palms, Calif., at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School in June of 2001. I retired on August 31 of that same year and I was fortunate enough to get selected for civil service. >Civil service has been fantastic. I started here as a housing director and after three years, Debbie and I sold the house and I applied for a job in Novato, Calif. We stayed there for three years but we realized we weren't happy. >We missed our family, people we grew up with in the Marine Corps and people we could share stories with. So we moved back here. >We chose to move back here because it's a good community. The people are respectful, and the Marines are here. I'm still a Marine but the reason I have a job in civil service is because of these Marines and their families. >I did my 26 years with the Marine Corps, I'll do my 21 years with civil service by the time I retire. It's good to come full circle and to complete this chapter.



CTB major retires aboard Combat Center

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Family, friends and respected colleagues gathered for the retirement ceremony of Maj. Chad E. Craven at the base theater April 20.

Craven most recently served as the commanding officer of Company D, Communication Training Battalion, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. Enlisting on April 20, 1992, Craven served multiple commands throughout his 24-year career.

"Even though I retired on a Wednesday, in the middle of the day, I made it a point to retire exactly 24 years to the day and hour of when I enlisted," Craven said.

Prior to commissioning, Craven served as an enlisted Marine up to the rank of staff sergeant. Notably, he volunteered to help move the Computer Science School from Marine Corps Base Quantico, V.A., to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

"I had a great career. But every Marine will eventually have to make a personal decision to retire or leave the Corps," Craven said. "At the end of the day, they have to commit to a decision and now it's my time."

During the ceremony, Craven was presented the Meritorious Service Medal for his honorable service and also received letters of



U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Chad E. Craven, commanding officer, Delta Company, Communication Training Battalion, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Russell "Bones" Cook, squadron commander, 563 Operations Support Squadron, and Master Gunnery Sgt. Jerry Romero, senior enlisted advisor, Company D, CTB, stand at the position of attention for the reading of Craven's letter of appreciation from President Barack Obama during Craven's retirement ceremony at the base theater April 20.

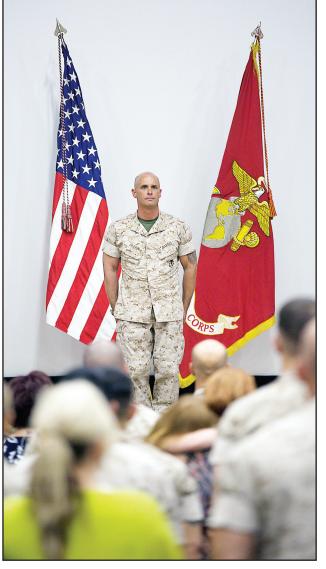
appreciation for his dedication to service from President Barack Obama, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Robert B. Neller and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Dunford. His personal awards include: the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star in lieu of second award and the Navy and Marine Corps

WELCOME TO

Achievement Medal with four gold stars in lieu of fifth award. He is also a graduate of the Amphibious Warfare School and Command and Staff College.

"It's hard to see him go because he had such an impact on everyone who came in contact with him," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Mawson, advanced instructor group, Co. D, CTB. "He held everyone to a high standard and held himself to that same standard all the way to the end. He was the same person throughout the ranks, deployed or back home, and always gave his honest opinion and sound advice. He was the definition of a true mentor."

During the ceremony, Craven presented a slide show displaying his journey through the Marine Corps and shared stories of Marines who helped him along the way. At the end of the ceremony, Craven stood at the position of attention as the "Marines' Hymn" played



Maj. Chad E. Craven, commanding officer, Delta Company, Communication Training Battalion, stands at the position of attention during the playing of the "Marines' Hymn" during his retirement ceremony at the base theater April 20. Craven retired after 24-years of honorable service.

for the final time in his career. As the song concluded, all in attendance stood and gave Craven a standing ovation for his honorable service.

tion of attention as the "My advice for Marines "Marines' Hymn" played is to find out what inspires them and to always remember that it is not about them, it is about the people they are able to serve," Craven said. "As long as they keep that in mind they will have a successful career."





Maj. Chad E. Craven, commanding officer, Delta Company, Communication Training Battalion, talks to friends and colleagues after his retirement ceremony at the base theater April 20.





PHOTO BY CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Gunnery Sgt. Jeremiah Bergeron, platoon sergeant, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, kisses his fiancée, Amneri Vazquez, during the battalion's homecoming at Del Valle Field, Saturday. 1/7 was deployed as part of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command 16.1.

'First Team' returns





PHOTO BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Cpl. John Sherriffs, rifleman, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, greets his 7-monthold daughter, April, during the battalion's homecoming at Del Valle Field, Saturday.

STORY BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Proud parents, anxious spouses and eager children welcomed home Marines and sailors of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment at Del Valle Field, Saturday.

First Team' served as part of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command 16.1. SPMAGTF-CR-CC is a well-trained crisis response unit that has the ability to project combat power over vast distances using organic aviation, logistical and ground combat assets. Marines and sailors prepared for this deployment by training aboard the Combat Center during Integrated Training Exercise 5-15.

"It's a great day for the regiment," said Col. William Vivian, commanding

officer, 7th Marine Regiment. "1/7 did a great job while they were deployed, so we're very excited for their homecoming. The Marines and sailors of the battalion received highly effective and realistic training prior to going overseas. They were prepared for the mission at hand and their efforts have been appreciated."

The battalion's involvement with SPMAGTF-CR-CC 16.1 played a part in solidifying the Marine Corps' role as the nation's force in readiness, able to respond to an ever-changing global environment.

"It feels wonderful to be home with my family," said Staff Sgt. Darrell Wills, data network specialist, 1/7. "Having all the families out here helps with resiliency as Marines and sailors reintegrate."



INVITE YOU TO A COMPLIMENTARY PRESENTATION

DENTAL IMPLANTS: A LIFE-CHANGING CHOICE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016

5:30PM HORS D'OEUVRES 6:00PM PRESENTATION JOHN CUMMINGS, DDS JUDY HEINRICH, DDS MARC SALOMONE, DDS ROBERT BASS, DDS

PLEASE RSVP BY FRIDAY, APRIL 29 (760) 365-3338

58457 29 PALMS HWY, SUITE 101, YUCCA VALLEY, CA 92284

Lt. Col. David Hart, commanding officer, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, embraces his daughter during the battalion's homecoming at Del Valle Field, Saturday.



Serving Kids throughout the Morongo Basin

PHOTO BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

There's nothing like a NEW pair of shoes for the FIRST Day of School

Saturday, May 14, 2016

START & FINISH: (New Location)

Joshua Tree Elementary School - 4950 Sunburst Avenue, Joshua Tree, Ca. 92252 Start Times: Bike Ride 6:30 a. m. Walk/Run/Roll 7:30 a. m.

30k, 60k, 90k Ride Tours: Joshua Tree, Yucca Valley, Landers & Pioneertown Professional bike mechanics, EMT's and Sweep vehicles available Helmets are required for ALL riders & underage children must be accompanied by a parent

Sponsors: Beltz Portable Toilets, Coyote Kitchen, Copper Mountain Broadcasting, Hi Desert Publishing, Joshua Tree Bicycle Shop, Payless Shoes, Rarick Financial, VFW Post #7264 Auxiliary, VFW Post #7264, & 2107.7

> On-Site Registration available - Mail registrations must be received by 5/11/16 Breakfast for Cyclists following ride

 Ride:
 Single Rider
 \$60, Family (up to 3)
 \$95, Club (up to 5)
 \$125, Seniors (62 +)
 \$50

 Military Single Rider
 \$50, Military Family (up to 3)
 \$85

Walk, Run & Walk n' Roll: Individual: \$10

Senior (62+) **\$5** Kids (12 and under) **\$5**

Registration forms available @ Desert Images in Yucca Valley & Z107.7 in Joshua Tree Rotary Club of Joshua Tree Foundation, Inc. - P. O. Box 1323, Joshua Tree, CA 92252 Information: E-mail @ JTRotary@yahoo.com Or Contact Jim Nutter 760+366-2357

Rotary Club of Joshua Tree Foundation Inc. is a 501 c3 public benefit non-profit. Tax ID: 46-1171170

Expo from pg. A1



Greg Kennedy, Tactical Lighting Solutions representative, shows off the Lazer Brite Tactical Pouch to Marines during the Combat Center's Sustainability Expo at the Frontline Restaurant, Tuesday.

are true supporters of the movement."

Vendors demonstrated various environmentally-efficient products, including tactical light emitting diode lights, designed to be a more efficient replacement of chemical light sticks used for

signaling. Apart from product demonstration, the expo included three 20-minute workshops on Green Procurement led by Beth Martin of the U.S. Army Public Health Center.

"The expo is a very important portion



Vendors demonstrate water sustainability products to Marines during the Combat Center's Sustainability Expo at the Frontline Restaurant, Tuesday.

of sustainability awareness, outreach and education," Handy said. "It's helping us with our mission."

The Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Defense Logistics Agency inspected each product prior to the expo, ensuring they complied with the U.S. government's sustainability standards.

"We vet the products upfront, allowing Marines to take these products to the field and make sure they meet the military's requirements," Handy said.



Congressman Paul Cook, California's 8th District, recognizes Marine volunteers during the Mojave Desert Land Trust Earth Day Restoration of the Gateway Parcel in Joshua Tree, Calif., Saturday.

largest Marine Corps base, in terms of land area, we've got to make sure that we are conscious of the surrounding communities and environments."

Cook was also there to award Keandre Jackson, son of Sgt. Dana Jackson, landing support specialist, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, two awards for being respectful and for making a positive impact in the classroom.

Since MDLT acquired the Gateway Parcel in 2013, more than 60 tons of garbage have been cleared from the 623acre site. According to MDLT, the preservation of that land is vital because it is a channel of movement for indigenous species such as the desert tortoise, bobcat, American badger and prairie falcon.

here is secure by ensuring there is no trash the wildlife might eat," said Frazier Haney, conservation director, MDLT. "Preserving the section protects both wildlife corridors between Joshua Tree National Park and Twentynine Palms."

The Combat Center strives to maintain close ties to the local community to strengthen relationships and participate in outreach programs to help the environment.

"It's rewarding to work with the community to keep the wildlife safe," said Lance Cpl. Haley Hennies, Bravo Company supply clerk, Headquarters Battalion. "Protecting the environpositive way."



Keandre Jackson, son of Sgt. Dana Jackson, landing support specialist, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, received two awards at the Mojave **Desert Land Trust** Earth Day Restoration of the Gateway Parcel in Joshua Tree, Calif., Saturday. He received the Outstanding Military Child Award and recognition from the Armed Services YMCA Military Child.



"We're making sure the wildlife habitat

ment through these cleanups can Lance Cpl. Wyatt Looslivaltrahis and Pfc. Isaiah Ringoen, students, Marine Corps affect the animals that live here in a Communication-Electronics School, helps restore the Gateway Parcel during the Mojave Desert Land Trust Earth Day Restoration in Joshua Tree, Calif., Saturday.



Attack Evolution: 2/8 Marines patrol, ambush and attack

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. JUSTIN UPDEGRAFF

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Wading through chest deep water, narrowly avoiding notional improvised explosive devices, Marines with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment conducted an attack evolution aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 20.

"Today we conducted an attack evolution incorporated with physical training in order to prepare ourselves for the

rigorous attacks that we are going to perform during our Integrated Training Exercise, starting next week," said Cpl. Casey Mansfield, a squad leader with the battalion. "The main purpose was to get them uncomfortable and get that unknown factor of what's going to happen next while under the stress of being wet and cold."

During the training evolution, the Marines were tasked to complete the basics of being an infantryman. They conducted patrols, eliminated enemy targets and executed a casualty evacuation.

"The best thing I saw [during the exercise] was that we were all from different squads, so we all had to morph together, but the teamwork and the unit cohesion was there," said Lance Cpl. Thomas Svrjcek, a rifleman with 2/8. "It showed that as a platoon, not just a squad, we can all work together."

After each exercise concluded, intelligence was gathered giving them information about either an enemy patrol or a fortified enemy position. The Marines

then had to maneuver to the location and conduct the ambush or attack, all while remaining silent and vigilant of any enemy threat.

The Marines will be conducting an Integrated Training Exercise at the Combat Center this May. They will be conducting offense and defense exercises, as well as Military Operations in Urban Terrain in preparation for their deployment in support of Special-Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force - Africa later this year.



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment divert from a trail that is known to have notional improvised explosive devices during an attack evolution aboard Camp Leieune, N.C., April 20. Intelligence was gathered from an enemy guard leading the Marines to avoid the path to continue to the objective.



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment transport a casualty to the landing zone during an attack evolution aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 20.



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment ambush the notional enemy during an attack evolution aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 20. Role players were placed throughout the course, adding various scenarios which included ambushing a patrol and assaulting an enemy fortified position.



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment spot two notional enemies ahead during an attack evolution aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 20. The Marines conducted patrols, ambushes and assaults to prepare for their upcoming Integrated Training Exercise.

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Marines peer into future at tech expo

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. DAVE FLORES

The Combat Center's Communication Training Battalion brought some of the latest innovations in technology to the Combat Center by hosting the Tactical and Technology Day Expo at the Frontline Restaurant April 19.

More than 20 companies presented unit leaders with the various tactical innovations and services they have to offer. The expo showcased some of the latest technological advances and the most compatible services the military can choose from, such as 3D printing.

According to Haley Scott, government contracts manager, Divine Imaging Inc., the expo provides a useful outlet for service members to see product demonstrations first hand.

"It is easy to fill out one or two orders online, but if you go to the bases you can see what your troops really need," Scott said. "That is what we're here to do, support the military and all their procurement needs."

Marines and sailors from various units came to the

expo to see how they could improve their unit's effectiveness. An example of the equipment presented included helmet mounting gear with built-in infrared and visible light flashlights which would allow for greater accessibility during night operations.

"It is important to expose leaders to the technology that is available so we can look at how we can help Marines on the ground," said Master Sgt. Robert Robinson, operations chief, Marine Corps Tactics Operations Group.



Lt. Col. Chris Dalton, academic department head, Marine Corps Logistics Operations Group, listens to theBoom, a microphone designed for clear audio even with loud background noise, at the Frontline Restaurant during the Tactical and Technology Day Expo April 19.



Master Gunnery Sgt. Steve Lowe, senior enlisted advisor, Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, speaks with Sharon Guervara, government sales manager, and Haley Scott, government contract manager, Divine Imaging Inc., about the different products and services the company offers at the Frontline Restaurant during the Tactical and Technology Day Expo April 19.

Master Sgt. Robert Robinson, operations chief, Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, looks at booster and network radio amplifiers made by AR Modular RF at the Frontline Restaurant during the Tactical and Technology Day Expo April 19.







Petty Officer 2nd Class Tyellis Greenprice, corpsman, Navy Personnel Office, looks at night vision mounting equipment made by Norotos Inc., at the Frontline Restaurant during the Tactical and Technology Day Expo April 19.



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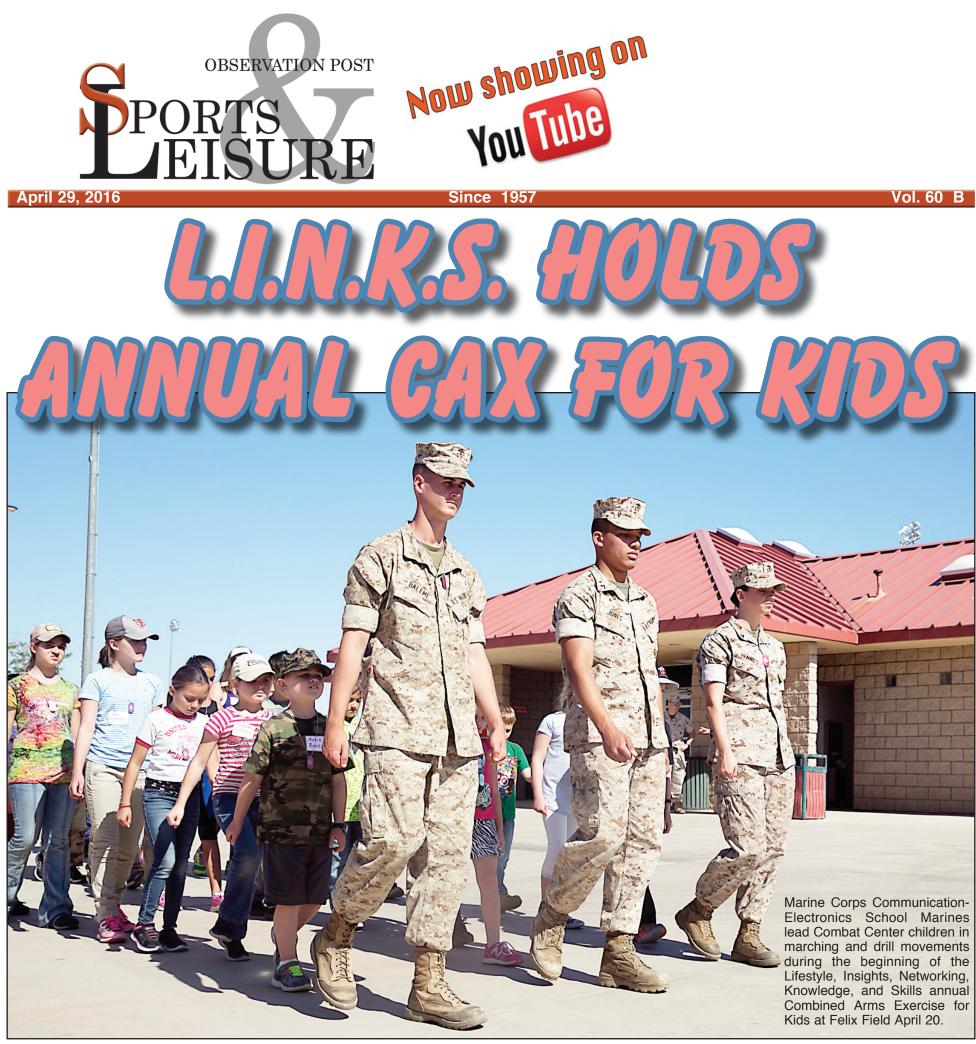
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STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. THOMAS MUDD

The Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills program held the annual Combined Arms Exercise for Kids at Felix Field April 20.

this lifestyle is really like," said Amber Bilderain, program manager, L.I.N.K.S. "They have a great time playing games and learning about the different aspects of their parents' life."

As part of the event, there were various activities to include: a relay The L.I.N.K.S. CAX for Kids, held race while wearing light flak jackets nizing the Marine Corps ranks, and running through an inflatable obstacle course. The participants were also provided opportunities to learn about

various military vehicles such as the Amphibious Assault Vehicle P7/ A1, the M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank, Light Armored Vehicle, and the Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement.

"These events are a great way to teach family members about the Marine Corps," said Sgt. Patricio Parra, warehouse noncommissioned officer in charge, Parra said. "Knowing the children look up Consolidated Material Support Center. "It's important for children to experience some of what their parents do."

Electronic School and CMSC Marines also volunteered to help teach and lead during the event. The participants were separated into ten groups and each group had one Marine assigned to lead them

"Being able to volunteer for this event

through the exercises.

during spring break, afforded eighty-eight and kevlar helmets, learning and orga-Combat Center children an opportunity to step into their parent's boots.

"It's a fun way to teach children about what their Marine or sailor does and what

Marine Corps Communication-

was an opportunity for me to give back,' to Marines is amazing. Some of them will grow up to be Marines or sailors like their parents and I hope by doing this we have some impact on their lives.'



CChaz, military working dog, chases down Sgt. John Scudder, MWD handler, MWD section, PMO, during a canine demonstration as part of Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills annual Combined Arms Exercise for Kids at Felix Field April 20.



Combat Center children participate in a relay race while wearing flak jackets and kevlar helmets as part of the Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills annual Combined Arms Exercise for Kids at Felix Field April 20.

Lance Cpl. Seth Wyatt, vehicle commander, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, teaches Combat Center children about the Amphibious Assault Vehicle P7/ A1 as part of the Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills annual Combined Arms Exercise for Kids at Felix Field April 20.



Combat Center children attempt to properly arrange the Marine Corps enlisted rank structure as part of the Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills annual Combined Arms Exercise for Kids at Felix Field April 20.



Combat Center Events

On April 30th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Provost Marshal's Office in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration will provide an opportunity for Combat Center residents to rid their homes of potentially dangerous, expired, unused, or unwanted prescription drugs. Individuals can bring their pills to the Marine Corps Exchange Parking Lot disposal. The service is free and anonymous, no questions will be asked.

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

The Combat Center Library will be hosting a Make a Gift for Mom event May 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. Children of all ages are welcome. For more information, call 760-830-6875.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, April 29 5:00 p.m. - The Divergent Series: Allegiant, PG-13 7:30 p.m. – The Perfect Match, R 10:00 p.m. – Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice, PG-13

Saturday, April 30

11:30 p.m. – Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice (3-D), PG-13 3:00 p.m. – The Divergent Series: Allegiant, PG-13 6:00 p.m. – My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2, PG-13 8:00 p.m. – 10 Cloverfield Lane, PG-13 10:30 p.m. – Eye in the Sky, R

Sunday, May 01

12:00 p.m. – Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice, PG-13 3:00 p.m. - Miracles from Heaven, PG 5:30 p.m. - Midnight Special, PG-13 8:00 p.m. - Eye in the Sky, R

Monday, May 02

7:00 p.m. - My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2, PG-13

Tuesday, May 03

7:00 p.m. - Eye in the Sky, R



Laughing All the Way to the Bank

Melissa McCarthy stars in raunchy rags-to-riches tale

NEIL POND

'The Boss' Starring Melissa McCarthy & Kristen Bell Directed by Ben Falcone Rated R

Steeled and shaped by a childhood of rejection in an orphanage, Michelle Darnell grew up to become a she-wolf of selfmade business savvy. Now she's a superstar investment titan and motivational-mojo guru who descends to the stage of frenzied fan events atop a giant golden phoenix in a spray of dollar bills, celebrating her brazen, competition-crushing excess like a carrot-topped combination of Donald Trump, Suze Orman and Richie Rich. But the bigger they come, the harder they fall. And Michelle (Melissa McCarthy) tumbles with a titanic thud when she's arrested for insider trading, loses her company and her home and has to serve a stint of white-collar jail time. When she's released, with no friends and no family to call on, she bullies her way back to her former assistant, Claire (Kristen Bell), and

her young daughter, Rachel (Ella that just isn't funny. Anderson).

Since making her film breakthrough as part of the ensemble in Bridesmaids (2011), McCarthy moved confidently into the lead for Identity Thief, Tammy, The Heat and Spy, proving her comedic bravura and her raucous adaptability for broad physical humor. She's a cherub-faced spark plug who'll go to just about any lengths for a laugh. things get really ugly. If you

As Michelle plots her comeback, she poaches Rachel's Dandelions scout troop to spin off her own group, Darwin's Darlings, and creates a bustling new enterprise-built on Claire's homemade browniesto compete with the Dandelions' cookie sales.

Forget Batman v Superman. When it's Dandelions v Darlings, The Boss is the second of her ever wondered what a Quentin Tarantino-inspired, Kill Billesque tween cookie-brownie street brawl might look like, well, The Boss has it. Peter Dinklage (from TV's Game of Thrones) gets chuckles as Michelle's spurned lover, now himself a preen-y mini-mogul obsessed with samurais. Saturday Night Live's Cecily Strong plays Claire's quirky supervisor at her depressing new office job. Kathy Bates has a scene as a wealthy mentor from Michelle's past. There are underlying themes about family and belonging, about rebuilding and reconnecting, about trust and ethics. But mostly The Boss is about laughing—all the way to the bank.

Wednesday, May 04

7:00 p.m. - The Perfect Match

Thursday, May 05

7:00 p.m. - 10 Cloverfield Lane, PG-13

movies directed by her husband, actor-comedian Ben Falcone, who also makes a brief appearance (as he's done in several of her films).

Hollywood has always loved a good rags-to-riches tale, and McCarthy and Falcone (who also collaborated on the screenplay, along with Steve Mallory) wring this one for raunchy, R-rated guffaws and give it some crisp contemporary pops that seem deliberately, satirically timed and tuned for the Age of Trump. But it's also a bit of a flopping mess, a hammy hodgepodge of crude jokes, awkward slapstick gags and sometimes mean-spirited, vulgar humor





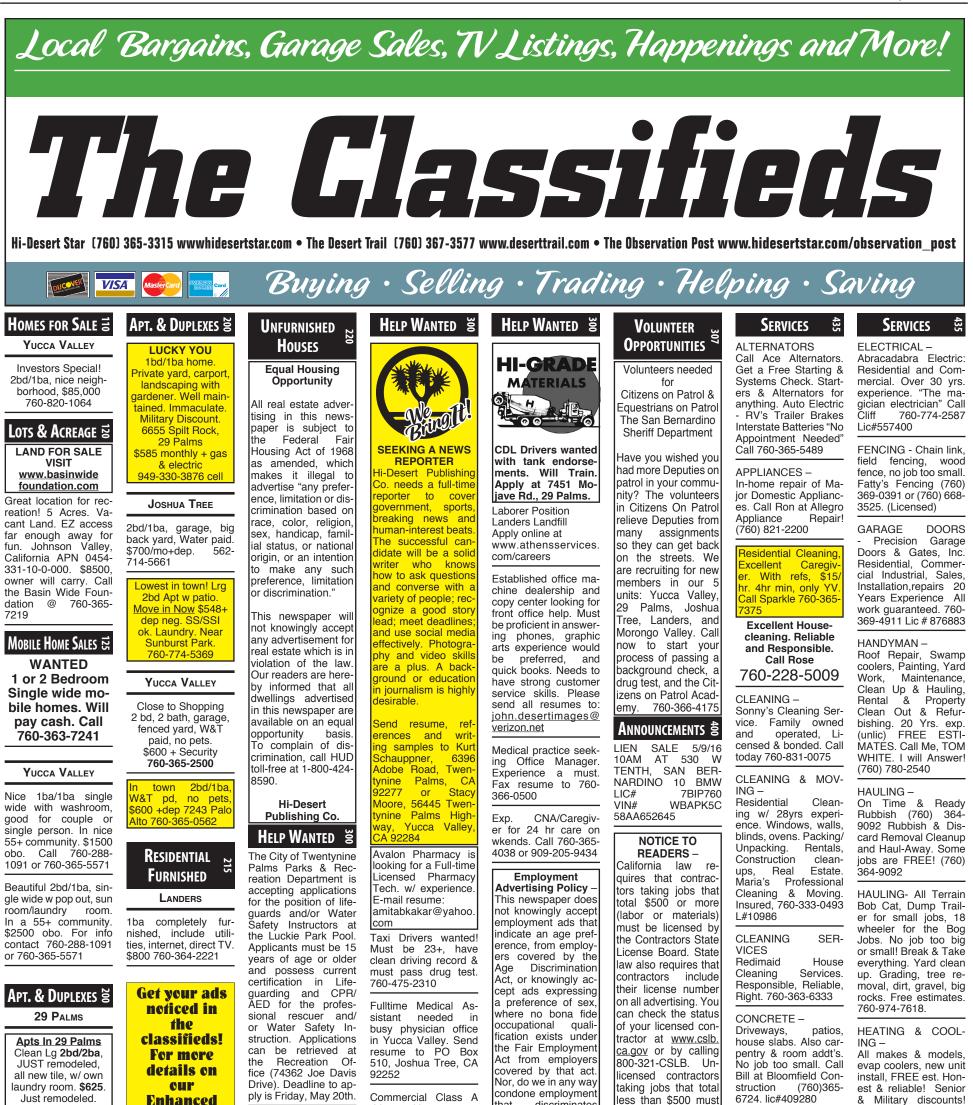
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W **WeekINPhotos 3/2 gains ground, readiness**



Marines with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment receive commands while holding their positions during a training exercise at Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 20. The unit practiced buddy rushing and squad tactics to maintain readiness and prepare for future deployments.



Pfc. Dugan Gilbert, a rifleman with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, suppresses enemy fire during a training exercise at Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 20.



presses the enemy during a training exercise at Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 20. lated fire during a training exercise at Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 20.



Pfc. Nicholas Frantz, a rifleman with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, sup- Marines with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment patrol before receiving simu-

Photos by Lance Cpl. Brianna Gaudi



because MOTHER'S DAY LETTER CONTEST: We want children to write a brief 100 words or less letter to us about "Why I love my Mom...." Only 1 entry per child is allowed. All entries may be mailed or brought in to the Hi-Desert Star or The Desert Trail by 5 pm Monday, May 2nd. Winners in each age category will be notified by phone before Mother's Day. 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners will be published in the newspaper and 1st place winners will be given a gift certificate for them & their mother. NAME AGE **SCHOOL** PHON **Hi-Desert Publishing Co.** (760) 365-3315 or (760) 367-3577 People you know, news you can trust www.hidesertstar.com • www.deserttrail.com