

May 13, 2016

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Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, former Combat Center Sergeant Major, and Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Hendges, Combat Center Sergeant Major, salute during the pass in review as part of a relief, appointment and retirement ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Tuesday. Villalino relinquished his post as Combat Center Sergeant Major to Hendges and retired after 30 years of honorable service.

# **Combat Center Sgt. Maj. retires after 30 years**

#### STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Marines, sailors, distinguished guests and loved ones of Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command gathered at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field to wish fair winds and following seas to Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, former Combat Center Sergeant Major, during a relief, appointment and retirement ceremony, Tuesday. of the impact [Villalino] had on Marines throughout his career."

Villalino then passed the noncommissioned officer sword to Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Hendges, oncoming Combat Center Sergeant Major, representing the transfer of authority and responsibilities from one sergeant major to the next.

"I'm looking forward to learning everything the base does and how I can better support and serve the Marines and sailors of [the Combat Center],' Hendges said. As Villalino prepares to move on to the next chapter in his life, one of his sons, Pfc. Karl M. Villalino Jr., is beginning a new chapter in his. Villalino Jr. recently graduated from recruit training prior to his father's retirement. "I'm incredibly grateful to my father for being such an enthusiastic mentor and for his willingness to pass



## MCTOG graduates TMIC 1-16 students

#### STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group held a graduation ceremony for Tactical Marine Air Ground Task Force Integration Course 1-16 aboard the Combat Center May 6.

The 8-week advanced planning course gathers operations and intelligence officers and chiefs from across the Marine Corps into a practical training environment at MCTOG.



Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, presents one of four honor graduates a trophy during the graduation ceremony for Tactical Marine Air Ground Task Force Integration Course 1-16 aboard the Combat Center May 6.

"When the Marines return to their units upon graduation, they will take with them an elevated understanding of all the different elements of an operation," said Lt. Col. Dave O'Brien, course chief, MCTOG. "They'll have the benefit of some intense practical application in everything from unit readiness planning to offense, defense and stability operations."

According to O'Brien, TMIC has been around since 2008 and has been advancing and evolving ever since.

"Before TMIC, being an operations or intelligence officer or chief was a learn by doing job," O'Brien said. "This course gives Marines the opportunity to train and learn before entering a real setting."

The course challenged both operations and

During the ceremony, Villalino retired from the Marine Corps after 30 years of honorable service. He received the Legion of Merit for his dedication to duty while serving as the installation sergeant major since August of 2013.

"Today is not just a tribute to the time-honored tradition of a relief and appointment," said Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General. "It's certainly a reflection

Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center commanding General, presents the nation's colors to Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, former Combat Center Sergeant Major, during a relief, appointment and retirement ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Tuesday. intelligence Marines by requiring them to work together in small teams similar to the setting of their units.

"The most important thing I learned from this course is the right way to conduct planning," said Capt. Brendan R. Neagle, operations officer, 2nd Marine Regiment. "It's a collaborative process and must be truly integrated across all the war fighting functions for the plan to be effective. Being able to do that well is a difficult process and requires different members of the staff to speak the same language."

During the course, 2nd Marine Regiment acted as the training support regiment, serving as the higher headquarters for training operations. This See **MCTOG pg.** A6

## **Community learns about business with Combat Center**

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. THOMAS MUDD

JOSHUA TREE, Calif. — Members of the Combat Center G-5, Government and External Affairs Office coordinated with the Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree and Yucca Valley Chambers of Commerce, to hold a 'How to do Business with the Base' event at Copper Mountain College May 5.

The Government and External Affairs Office hosted the event to provide the surrounding communities an opportunity to learn about conducting business through various entities aboard the Combat Center.

"In working with the community, I am frequently See **Business pg.** A6



Virginia Sulick, staffing specialist, Combat Center Human Resources Office, answers questions for Linda Bunnell, supported employment manager, Desert Arc, during the 'How to do Business with the Base' event at Copper Mountain College May 5.

## **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 Staff Sgt. Richard McCumber.



The Wall of Fire is an eye catching display at the 2016 MCAS Cherry Point Air Show "Celebrating 75 Years," on Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., April 29.

## EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE Active shooter exercise keeps Combat Center mission ready

#### STORY BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

On May 17, the Combat Center will conduct an active shooter response and recovery exercise. The exercise will assess and further develop the installation's ability to protect personnel and property as well as to counter and contain an active shooter event. The exercise will also offer participants an opportunity to practice and improve upon their emergency response standard operating procedures as related to an active shooter incident.

"In today's environment, the threat is out there and it's real," said Michael Burns, force protection supervisor, G-7 Mission Assurance. "It's important we make sure our service members and their loved ones are prepared for and know how to respond to that type of attack."

The exercise will take place aboard the Combat Center between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., with

active shooter scenarios taking place at the Village Center and building 693, which is the former location of the Child Development Center. During the exercise, the Combat Center will test their mass notification systems and the Fire Department and Provost Marshal's Office will communicate procedures through the dispatch center.

"Our first responders conduct this type of training frequently. In the event of an active shooter incident, the installation's response wouldn't be an issue," Burns said. "But ensuring everyone aboard the installation has their emergency action plans ready and understands their roles and responsibilities is key."

The most important step in being prepared is staying informed, learning what to do in the event of an active shooter, and making a plan to keep oneself and loved ones safe. When preparing for or dealing with an active shooter incident, it's important to:

Recognize signs of potential violence around you

٠ Build an emergency kit with essentials, including medication, to have on hand at your workplace if a lockdown order is given

• When law enforcement arrives, remain calm and follow instructions

 Do not leave until law enforcement authorities have instructed you to do so

Seek medical care and counseling if needed.

Active shooters pose an immediate risk of death or serious injury to anyone in the vicinity. According to www.ready.marines.mil, "they are often on the move and will accept random victims of opportunity while searching for intended victims or until stopped by law enforcement, suicide, or other intervention."

For additional information on properly planning for active shooter incidents, visit www. ready.marines.mil or contact the G-7 Mission Assurance branch at 760-830-1884.

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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.

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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

# **Dantre** Augusta, Ga. Lance Cpl. Postal clerk, Headquarters Battalion KKI

> was born and raised in Augusta, Ga. I graduated high school there and went to D.C. to attend college. I went to the University of the District of Columbia for about a year and a half before I joined the Marine Corps.

>My father died when I was four in a car accident and I grew up as an only child, but I've always wanted brothers and sisters. I'm glad I joined the Marine Corps because now I have them.

>The Marine Corps has opened so many doors for me so I want to give back as much as possible to the Corps. It actually changed my life and gave me that push I needed to keep going.

>When I moved to D.C., I was in school for a while before things got really rough. I became homeless but I kept my job. I had to cover it up from my boss so I would wander around or sleep near work to make sure I was there on time.

>After a while, I realized that I wanted to do something where people would see that I'm here while also making a difference. I saw that in the Marine Corps, so I enlisted.

>Going through recruit training after the challenges I faced broke me down even more but the Marine Corps built me up into something great. From where I was to where I am now, I appreciate everything.

>My great-grandfather was a big influence on my life and my decision to join the military. He served in the Army during WWII. I was an average high school student but he always instilled in me the importance of education and wanted to see me graduate. He passed away a month or two before I graduated, which really tore me up inside.

>I was going to school for a major in music and a minor in art. My great-grandfather taught me how to play guitar and I started playing piano when I was 6 years old. I've always been able to play by ear. If I hear something I can learn to play it. I also played in marching band from middle school all the way through high school as a percussionist.

Strobridge is a musician and artist. At a young age, he began to see the arts as an invaluable form of expression, learning to play piano, guitar and percussion as well as draw portraits.



of people listen to the mainstream music artists but there are so many great artists underground. Out on the streets of D.C., there are homeless people with instruments who are amazing. They only make a couple dollars from tips and it's hard to make it big.

>As an only child, I was always in my head. I thought if I was a super hero I'd be able to do this and that, so I would draw comics of myself or super heroes everyone knows like

> enjoy pretty much all music. I like jazz and my great-grandfather, who was born in the 20s, was into blues and introduced me to artists like Muddy Waters and Robert Johnson. Over time, I moved on to Jimi Hendrix and that eventually got me interested in the Rock and Metal genres.

>I think there's something about creating music that lifts you up. Growing up, I always felt like I had no one to talk to. Music became sort of a way of speaking for me. When I was feeling down, I would play my guitar or piano. >The most challenging part of music for me is learning a song while still learning the instrument. Music is very technical and while I can play by ear, I'd rather try to understand the instrument. Understanding the instrument and learning the song is very stressful but the end state makes it worth the effort.

**>The music industry is very hard** to get into. A lot

Showtimes Effective 5/13/16 - 5/18/16

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INTERVIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ



Superman and Spiderman.

>Inspiration for art usually comes from how I feel at the moment. I could be out and pass a place or car and think it looks cool so I'll draw it. I'm a good artist but artists are the hardest on themselves. They always notice the mistakes they make.

>I drew a portrait of my great-grandfather modeled after the photo he took when he was in basic training for the Army. I made it for him about a month or so before he passed and while I was working on it he would come by every day to see me [create] it piece by piece.

> I want to be a drill instructor to help those recruits who might feel the way I felt while I was there. I want to instill in them the confidence and desire to become something great.

>If I do decide to get out of the Marine Corps, I will hopefully become a police officer. I want to be able to help and protect people.



# **Company E sweeps**

#### STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES

Marines from 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, traveled from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., to perform field training exercises at Ranges 400 and 410 as part of Integrated Training Exercise 3-16 aboard the Combat Center, Sunday and Monday.

During the exercise, each Marine from Echo Company played their role in executing the mission. Combat engineers cleared the way for fellow Marines and kept them safe from notional improvised explosive devices, snipers provided cover fire for the riflemen who advanced using fire and maneuver.

"Everything we learn, from buddy pairs to battalion sized movements, we utilized here," said Cpl. John C. Fisher, squad leader, 2/8. "We practiced fire and movement along with fire and maneuver on the basic level to complete the range."

According to the Marines of 2/8, it is important to train in an environment similar to the one they'll encounter while deployed. Not only is it beneficial for Marines at the forefront, it provides invaluable training for the leaders behind the scenes.

Gen. Brian Maj. Beaudreault, commanding general, 2nd Marine Division, attended the training exercise to observe Marines from his division prepare for their upcoming deployment with Special Purpose



Sgt. Kyle Kimbriel, squad leader, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, throws an M67 hand grenade to clear out targets at Range 410 while participating in Integrated Training Exercise 3-16 aboard the Combat Center, Monday.

Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa. SPMAGTF-CR-AF is a self-sustaining crisis-response force specifically designed to support U.S. and partner interests throughout the United States Africa Command use all the organic weap-

area of responsibility to include; embassy reinforcement, support of non-combatant evacuation operations, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance.

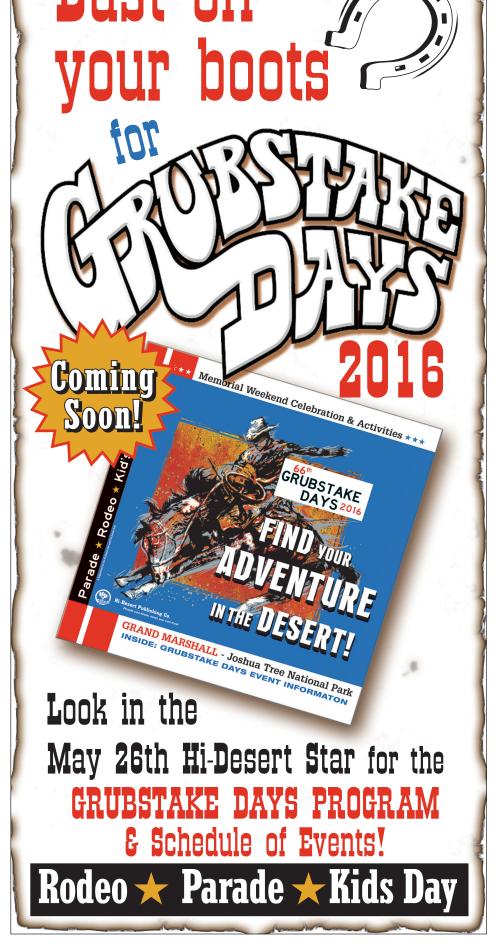
"It is important to

ons systems we have available at the infantry battalion-sized level," Beaudreault said. "This type of training isn't available on the East Coast. So it is great to train ourselves to the high-caliber end of each spectrum."

Prefer your news from the web?







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Lance Cpl. Geovanny Nunez, rifleman, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, reloads the M240B machinegun while Lance Cpl. Jacob Mills, rifleman, 2/8 informs the other machine gunners of Nunez's reload at Range 410 while participating in Integrated Training Exercise 3-16 aboard the Combat Center, Monday.

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# through ITX 3-16



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, observe as combat engineers lay down mine clearing line charges to clear the path at Range 410 while participating in Integrated Training Exercise 3-16 aboard the Combat Center, Monday. 2/8 came from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., to participate in ITX 3-16.





Cpl. John C. Fisher, squad leader, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, leads his Marines through Range 410 while participating in Integrated Training Exercise 3-16 aboard the Combat Center, Monday.



#### Retire from pg. A1

on his wisdom," Villalino Jr. said. "I'm proud of his accomplishments and especially thankful for the path that has been cleared by all the Marines who came before me."

Prior to the pass in review, Villalino concluded the ceremony with a message to all those who continue to wear the uniform of a United States Marine.

"We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us," Villalino said. "Continue to build on that foundation; continue to build upon the legacy of the Marine Corps. That's your responsibility."



Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, salutes Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, former Combat Center Sergeant Major, during a relief, appointment and retirement ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Tuesday.



Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, former Combat Center Sergeant Major, escorts his wife, Deanna Villalino, during a relief, appointment and retirement ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Tuesday.

#### MCTOG from pg. A1

created a realistic setting for the students to apply the curriculum learned throughout the course.

Gunnery Sgt. Fernando A. Brea, intelligence chief, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, agreed with Neagle and went on to explain the importance of operations and intelligence Marines being on the same page.

"I consider [graduates of the course] force multipliers," Brea said. "The graduates return to their units and are automatically ready to implement change for the better. The [operation] chiefs and officers are going to know the best way to conduct training and plan for opera-

tions. From the intelligence perspective, it definitely helps us to plug and play into what they are thinking."

In addition to augmenting their units with their newfound knowledge, the Marines are qualified as instructors, enabling them to share what they learned with the Marines they lead.

"I think once we leave here, if we don't go back and teach our young Marines the concepts we learned here, we are wasting time," Brea said. "If they are exposed to what we've learned at an earlier point in their careers, by the time they get to our ranks they will be better equipped to lead others."





Marine Corps Community Services offered informational pamphlets of various ways to volunteer and work with the base to members of the surrounding communities at the 'How to do Business with the Base' event at Copper Mountain College May 5.

#### Business from pg. A1

asked about opportunities aboard the base," said Kristina Becker, External Affairs Director, Government and External Affairs Office. "This event allows community members to better understand how contracting, employment and marketing work at the Combat Center. Through partnerships between the local chambers of commerce and Copper Mountain College, we are able to provide the community the information that they need."

Resources Office, Single Marine Program and Marine Corps Community Services came out to provide community members with information on contracting with the base as well as volunteer, and advertising opportunities.

"Events like this help spread the word about different opportunities aboard the base," said Donald Burton, volunteer coordinator, Marine Community Corps Services. "There are a lot of people who don't Ten different offices realize the amount of from the Combat Center opportunities the base

Attendees were able to network with the different base offices and were provided points of contact for additional information on conducting business with the installation.

"Coming to this event gave me a chance to get the word out about events that are held off base," said Rick Millard, retired, San Bernardino Sheriff's Department. "Being able to work with the base is an amazing asset."

For more information about conducting business with the base call 760-830-3765 or visit 29palms.marines.mil or

Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, congratulates a graduate during the graduation ceremony for Tactical Marine Air Ground Task Force Integration Course 1-16 aboard the Combat Center May 6.

to include the Human provides." mccs29palms.com.



# \* \* \* \* \* \* \* Around the Corps \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* **Okinawa honors fallen** combat camera Marines

STORY BY CPL. DOUGLAS SIMONS

CAMP FOSTER, OKINAWA, JAPAN— Motivational cadence rang through the air as Marines and sailors participated in a 5-km memorial run aboard Camp Foster, for two fallen combat camera Marines, Thursday.

The run marks the one-year anniversary of the death of Cpl. Sara A. Medina, 23, a combat photographer and Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Hug, 22, a combat videographer assigned to Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Installations Pacific-Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Japan. Medina and Hug were performing earthquake relief efforts in Nepal during operation Sahayogi Haat.

"We were amazed to see all of the support," said Lance Cpl. Sean Evans, a combat photographer with H&S Bn., MCIPAC-MCB, Camp Butler, Japan. "Marines and sailors from all over Okinawa came out to participate."

The Marines who organized the event intend to hold it each year in remembrance of their fallen comrades.

"We started small but this will get bigger," said Chief Warrant Officer Clinton Runyon, a combat camera officer with H&S Bn., MCIPAC-MCB Camp Butler, Japan. "Medina and Hug were a big part of our lives and we will continue to honor their memories."



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. JESULA JEANLOUIS

Combat camera Marines shout cadence during a 5-km memorial run to honor two fallen Marines, Cpl. Sara A. Medina and Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Hug, aboard Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan, Thursday. Medina and Hug passed away while performing earthquake relief efforts in Nepal during operation Sahayogi Haat on May 12, 2015.



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. JESULA JEANLOUIS

Combat camera Marines pray after a 5-km memorial run to honor two fallen Marines, Cpl. Sara A. Medina and Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Hug, aboard Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan, Thursday.



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. JESULA JEANLOUIS

Participants of a 5-km memorial run held to honor two fallen Marines, Cpl. Sara A. Medina and Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Hug, aboard Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan, eat breakfast following the event, Thursday.



# AAAAAABABABABABABBB<



Veteran, author, and entrepreneur Wes O'Donnell gained the right tools and confidence from AMU to publish a book, start a healthcare solutions company, and launch a successful digital media group. Join the #1 provider of education to the Armed Forces\* and gain knowledge that's relevant to what you do today and what you want to do tomorrow. **Reach higher at www.AMUonline.com/OBSERVATION** 

\*As reported by Military Times, July/August 2015

# **Zero emissions with SECNAVs permission**

#### STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES

The Combat Center Public Works Division recently installed new charging stations for government electric vehicles aboard the Combat Center in accordance with Executive Order 13693, Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade. The charging stations were tested May 3 as part of the Combat Center's initiative to further the installation's conservation and sustainability efforts.

"The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Joseph Bryan, wants to replace 500 Department of the Navy fleet vehicles with electric vehicles," said Navy Lt. Sam Yu, assistant public works officer, PWD.

The installation of these electric vehicle charging stations will help meet the Department of Defense's goal to reduce direct greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40 percent over the next decade. This is only one example of the Combat Center's efforts toward improving conservation and sustainability.

In addition to the new charging stations, the installation also received the Secretary of the Navy and Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards, and the Society of American Military Engineers 2015 Sustainability Award Towards Net Zero. This award is given for outstanding efforts to reduce energy use, water use and/or waste production in support of goals set by Executive Order 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance.

"Having the zero-emission vehicles helps us pro-Combat Center and further its conservation efforts."



Public Works Division personnel finish installing one of the three electric vehicle charging stations aboard the Combat Center.



Navy Lt. Sam Yu, assistant public works officer, Public Works Division, charges a government electric vehicle at one of the charging stations that was recently installed, as part of Executive Order 13693, Planning duce less pollution," Yu said. "This will support the for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade, aboard the Combat Center.



In accordance with Executive Order 13693, Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade, the Public Works Division installed new charging stations for government electric vehicles aboard the Combat Center. The charging stations were tested May 3 as part of the Combat Center's initiative to further the installation's conservation and sustainability efforts.



## Let's get moving

#### WRITTEN BY THE DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The Personal Property Office located within the Distribution Management Office will process your application for shipment or storage and forward it to the Joint Personal Property Shipping Office in San Diego for booking. This change makes it critical that you plan your move as soon as you receive your orders. JPPSO sends our office a daily notification of the first available pickup date. The first available pickup date can be from 9 to 15 working days from the date you submit your application. We anticipate during the peak season that the first available pickup date can be up to 45 days from the date you submit your application.

Our peak season begins May 15 and extends through July 31. The following information can help you prepare yourself and result in a smooth move for you and your family.

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As soon as you receive your orders, complete your application in DPS.

• We have computers and counselors available to assist you in processing your application and answer any questions you may have.

• Summer months are the most popular time to relocate, mainly during Memorial Day and the 4th of July. Since requested pickup and delivery dates may not be available during this time, flexibility is important and building extra time into your schedule for unforeseen circumstances is recommended.

• Summer season presents unique challenges since shipment volumes stretch the limits of industry capacity.

• Create your personal moving calendar with checklists, phone numbers and note your dates for pack out.

• Make sure to confirm your pack and pickup dates before making any final moving/travel arrangements.

Stay in contact with your Transportation Service Provider formerly known as your carrier.

Immediately notify our office of any changes or issues that arise throughout your move.

Consider performing a Personally Procured Move formerly known as Do-It-Yourself move. An advance can be authorized providing you are renting a truck. Payments for advance may take up to 10 working days after submission of your application.

• Attend the DMO Smooth Move briefing held the first Wednesday of each month. Call the Information and Referral Specialist/Relocation Services Office at 760-830-6344 for the schedule and location.

• If this is your last household goods move due to separation or retirement, please call 760-830-6119 for an appointment. Attend the DMO Separation and Retirement brief held every couple months. Call the Career Resource Office at 760-830-7225 for the schedule and location.



# TRACE ADKINS, MEGHAN LINSEY PERFORM AT COMBAT CENTER



Trace Adkins performs his hit song "Semper Fi" for Combat Center patrons during the We Salute You Celebration at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Saturday. Marine Corps Community Services hosted the event to provide local entertainment to Marines and sailors aboard the Combat Center.

#### STORY BY CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

Thousands of Combat Center patrons gathered to listen to country music performed by Trace Adkins and Meghan Linsey during the We Salute You Celebration at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Saturday.

Trace Adkins headlined the event, which was hosted by Marine Corps Community Services.

"It doesn't take much motivation for us to play for the troops," Adkins said. "They're one of the best audiences we play in front of and we always enjoy doing it."

Adkins ended the night with an extended version of his song "Semper Fi", which had Marines singing and cheering along.

Linsey also played many self-written songs, including songs performed during her time on the TV show "The Voice". Before performing her 40-minute set, Linsey expressed appreciation for the troops and said her military fan base has been a big support network for her music.

"I was honored to be able to come here and play tonight," Linsey said. "It's fun to come out and shake things up a bit. Marines' have busy routines and this may help get their minds off of it."

Many Marines who attended the event said it was great to see the country stars at the Combat Center.

"Events like these mean a lot to the Marines here," said Lance Cpl. Eric Clayton, combat photographer, Combat Camera, Headquarters Battalion. "Everyone on base works hard so it's nice to be able to relax and enjoy the music."

Adkins is leaving next month on a USO tour to play for U.S. troops in the Middle East and Linsey is scheduled to continue touring across the U.S.



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES

Combat Center patrons listen to Trace Adkins perform at the We Salute You Celebration at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Saturday.



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Meghan Linsey performs her final song for Combat Center patrons during the We Salute You Celebration at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Saturday.

A saxophone player performs alongside Meghan Linsey during the We Salute You Celebration at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Saturday.



#### **Combat Center Events**

Sandy Hills Lanes is scheduled to host the Big Lebowski Bowling Tournament May 16 starting at 6 p.m. There is a \$10 entrance fee and consists of three games and shoes. All adults are welcome. There will also be a costume contest and trivia challenge. For more information, call 760-830-6422.

Head to building 1433 for a caregiver peer to peer support forum, May 17 from 9 to 11 a.m. The forum is open to anyone who provides support and care to wounded, ill, or injured service members. It will give caretakers the opportunity to meet new people and broaden their support network. Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of every month. For more information, call 909-963-8776.

**Come view the Combat Center Color Guard at** the Grubstake Days Rodeo in the Homestead Valley Park, May 27 and 28 at 7 p.m. The event will feature food, drinks and entertainment the whole family can enjoy. For more information, call 760-218-1980.

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

#### Sunset Cinema

Friday, May 13 5:30 p.m. – The Jungle Book (3-D), PG 8:30 p.m. – Eye in the Sky, R 11:00 p.m. – Barbershop: The Next Cut, PG-13

#### Saturday, May 14

12:00 p.m. – Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice (3-D), PG-13
3:30 p.m. – My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2, PG-13
6:00 p.m. – Eye in the Sky, R
8:30 p.m. – The Boss, R
11:00 p.m. – Criminal, R

#### Sunday, May 15

12:00 p.m. – The Jungle Book (3-D), PG 2:30 p.m. – Criminal, R 5:00 p.m. – Batman V Superman: Dawn Of Justice, Pg-13 8:00 p.m. – Barbershop: The Next Cut

Monday, May 16 7:00 p.m. – Criminal, R

**Tuesday, May 17** 7:00 p.m. – The Jungle Book, PG



# Oh Mama

#### All-star cast sinks in overly sweetened, sentimental sap

#### NEIL POND

'Mother's Day' Starring Jennifer Aniston, Julia Roberts, Kate Hudson, Timothy Olyphant, Jason Sudeikis, Britt Robertson & Shay Mitchell Directed by Garry Marshall Rated PG-13

Mother's Day the holiday is all about moms,

broad brushstrokes of humor aren't what anyone would exactly call enlightened.

"I don't get that joke, but I think it sounds racist," says one character when another makes a crack about her ethnicity.

Young boys shock their mom (Aniston) by talking about their genitals; a teenage girl embarrasses her widower dad (Sudeikis) by asking him to buy tampons; a lesbian couple (Sarah Chalke

#### Wednesday, May 18

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

#### Thursday, May 19

6:30 p.m. – Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice, Pg-13

#### Friday, May 20

4:30 p.m. – The Jungle Book, PG 7:00 p.m. – Barbershop: The Next Cut, PG-13 9:30 p.m. – The Boss, R 11:50 p.m. – The Huntsman: Winter's War, PG-13



and so is Mother's Day the movie, which has them of every shape, style, size, temperament and hue.

And life sure looks beautiful, bountiful, wacky and whimsical when it's played out against a picture-perfect backdrop of suburban affluence by Jennifer Aniston, Julia Roberts, Kate Hudson, Timothy Olyphant, Jason Sudeikis, Shay Mitchell (from TV's Pretty Little Liars), Britt Robertson, Jennifer Garner, Jon Lovitz and comedian Loni Love.

This is the third holiday-themed ensemble comedy from Garry Marshall, the veteran TV writer/producer (Happy Days, The Odd Couple, Mork and Mindy) and movie director (Pretty Woman, Runaway Bride) who also previously brought us Valentine's Day and New Year's Eve. In both of those films, as in this one, an all-star cast of unrelated characters manages to somehow intersect with each other, as improbable as it might seem.

Marshall is a maestro of this kind of comedic mixology, plied and played over the decades. But it seems to have run out of a lot of its steam, at least for contemporary times. Most of his movie gags feel like they're waiting for a sitcom's laugh track to back them up, and his bawdy, brusque,

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and Cameron Esposito) makes a pink "womb" float for a Mother's Day event—which another character refers to as a "parade of vaginas."

Are you laughing yet?

Then maybe you'll titter when a good-ol'-boy grandpa (Robert Pine) addresses his Indian sonin-law (Aasif Mandvi) as a "towelhead," or when grandma (Margo Martindale) sizes up a situation by asking herself, "I put on a bra for this?"

The large, talented cast is largely wasted with little do but go with the flow of the overly sweetened, sentimental twists and turns, the not-so-surprising surprises and the eventual resolutions and wrap-ups. But the sap eventually sucks all of them under.

Coincidence is one thing, but here, worlds collide like particles in some kind of bizarre cinematic quantum theory, where strands not only cross and overlap, they magically weave into a crazy Mother's Day movie smock of American flags, a careening RV, a Tao-dispensing clown, soccer, Skype, llamas, teenagers, toddlers, babies, a cute guy in a comedy club, Aniston with her arm stuck in a vending machine and Sudeikis singing "The Humpty Dance."

And Hector Elizondo, an actor you should recognize if only because he's been in every movie Garry Marshall has ever made, all the way back to 1982.

I'd love to see what Garry and Hector—and who knows who else—could do with Election Day. Now that could really be fun.





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#### **OBSERVATION POST**

# **ARCYC** gets **Combat Center** children involved

#### STORY BY CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

The American Red Cross Youth Club has been providing Combat Center youth with an opportunity to learn confidence, team work and leadership, through career days, training services, and charity events.

ARCYC's Homework Helper Club provides students with a supportive environment to catch up on school assignments. The club meets every Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Village Center, where older students encourage and tutor younger scholars.

"A lot of tutoring is done by older students who have grade point averages as high as 4.0," said Nguyet Gold, director, ARCYC. "They are

the younger children."

The club, run by student members, holds charity events to show members the importance of giving back to the community. Fifty-five percent of the proceeds from each event go toward charity and the

remaining is donated to the American Red Cross. "We host yard sales and bake sales to raise money for holidays, the homeless and orphans," Gold said. "The students are focused and always want to give back."

Career day is a program the ARCYC hosts which features Combat Center professionals, who answer questions about their jobs and give children insight on future job opportunities. Children shadow employees and learn about

viewed as role models for different careers first hand. The career days are hosted based on the availability of volunteering professionals.

According to many club members, being a part of the ARCYC has improved their personal skills and they hope it will become a resource for more Combat Center children.

"The club is fun because it's just all my friends getting together," said Alyssa Steiner, 12, ARCYC member. "It's good being able to meet positive role models and learn about what they do for a living."

Parents who want to get their children involved can call the American Red Cross office at 760-830-6685. Parents interested in volunteering can visit volunteerconnection.redcross.org



PHOTO BY CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

Marisol Gold, 11, chairwoman, American Red Cross Youth Club, helps Hollie Medina, 7, club member, with her homework during the ARYC's Homework Helper Club at the Village Center May 5. The Homework Helper Club provides students with a supportive learning environment every Thursday at 5 p.m.



PHOTO BY CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Dyani Felicianes, member, American Red Cross Youth Club, sells baked treats to Combat Center patrons at the Lincoln Military Housing athletic field, Saturday.



Jessica Gold, 4, club member, draws a picture during the American Red Cross Youth Club's Homework Helper Club May 5. The Homework Helper Club provides students with a supportive learning environment every Thursday at 5 p.m.



PHOTO BY CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK