

Memorial Day 2016



PHOTO BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Carnations lay atop a casket as a sign of respect during the Memorial Day Ceremony in Veteran's Park at Big Bear Lake, Calif., Monday.

Combat Center honors day of remembrance

STORY BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

BIG BEAR LAKE, Calif., — Celebrations honoring the fallen soldiers of the Civil War began the year after the war ended in 1866. Once known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day was established as a federal holiday meant to unify the celebration as a national day of remembrance. On Monday, Combat Center leadership visited ceremonies throughout the community and dedicated their Memorial Day to the remembrance of America's fallen heroes.

Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, represented the Combat



PHOTO BY CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, addresses ceremony attendees during the Memorial Day Ceremony at the 29 Palms Cemetery in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Monday.

Center as the guest speaker in the Memorial Day Ceremony at 29 Palms Cemetery. He began his

address to community members in attendance by speaking about the beginnings of Memorial Day and the importance of keeping it alive in the minds of our citizens.

"On that first Memorial Day the graves of soldiers, both union and confederate, buried at Arlington Cemetery were all decorated with flowers and flags," Craparotta said. "For more than 150 years, Memorial Day has stayed relatively the same. We must ensure as a country that we don't let the real meaning of Memorial Day slip away. It's critical to the core of this country that we continue to recognize the extraordinary efforts of hundreds

See **Remembrance** Pg. A6

Marines, sailors honored by the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. JOEY MENDEZ

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, N.Y.—Marines and sailors marched through the streets of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, in a parade hosted by the town's fire department, Sunday.

The parade was intended to honor fallen service members from prior and current wars as well as have the Marines and sailors interact with local residents.

"This is a great opportunity for veterans and people of the community to recognize all those who died in prior wars," said retired U.S. Army Col. Timothy Tillson, the post commander for the village's Veteran of Foreign Wars detachment.

The day started out with the service members being



Marines and sailors salute a memorial in front of the Veterans of Foreign Wars detachment in the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, following a wreath-laying ceremony meant to honor the fallen, Sunday. This year is the 28th year New York has hosted Fleet Week.

greeted and welcomed by the village's fire department.

"We had an excellent greeting from the people of Hastings, particularly the fire department. Chief gave us a very warm welcome and we hung out for a little bit and had a nice lunch before forming up for the parade," said Pfc. Parker McGinnis, a machine gun-

See **Honored** Pg. A6



Marines and sailors march down a street in the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, during a parade meant to honor veterans, Sunday.

Harvey visits Combat Center

PHOTOS BY CPL. THOMAS MUDD



Lt. Col. William Hendricks, commanding officer, Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269, explains the training and daily maintenance of various rotary wing aircraft to Thomas Harvey, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans and Capabilities, during a tour of the Combat Center May 24.



Thomas Harvey, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans and Capabilities, inspects an AH-1W 'Super Cobra' with Lt. Col. William Hendricks, commanding officer, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269 during a visit to the Combat Center May 24.

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 Sgt. Rebecca L. Floto.



Cpl. Seth Hall, anti-tank missileman, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, mans the rails of USS Bataan in a parade of ships as part of Fleet Week in New York May 25.



Reprinted from the Observation Post
June 3, 1966
Story by Sgt. Greg Pearson

Leathernecks in Vietnam have new radar...it smells them out

DANANG, Vietnam—Marines in Vietnam are enjoying phenomenal success with a new kind of radar they're using to ferret out the Viet Cong.

It's not the kind of radar that goes "beep, beep." It's a vicious kind that snarls and growls and makes even the toughest enemy soldier cringe in fear.

Scout dogs.

They are being used by Marines

for the first time in combat since WWII. There are 30 of them in the 1st Marine Scout Dog Platoon, commanded by 1stLt Robert V. Wilder (Philadelphia, Pa.).

In their first month of operational activity in Vietnam, the scout dogs have:

Led to the capture of almost 100 Viet Cong suspects; uncovered nearly 50 booby traps; found several enemy weapons as well as a great

deal of Viet Cong rice and clothing; and even discovered batteries used to detonate mines and booby traps.

"That's a pretty good score when you figure we're just starting," says Wilder, a former rifle platoon commander.

The dogs and their Marine handlers arrived in Vietnam in March after three months of training together at Fort Benning, Ga. The first month here was devoted

to acclimatizing the dogs to the intense heat, which often soars well beyond 100 degree Fahrenheit.

The scout dogs went into action for the first time in April.

Since then they have participated in numerous combat and reconnaissance patrols. They also have been used on major operations, and have even been used on night listening posts beyond Marine lines.

CROSSWORD

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 - 15 On land
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 - 18 Designer Versace
 - 19 Final Four org.
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 - 27 Pronto
 - 28 High-tech tablet
 - 32 Track event
 - 33 Hunting dogs
 - 36 Before, poetically
 - 37 Academic cap
 - 39 Ming of the Basketball Hall of Fame
 - 41 Football's "Bald Eagle"
 - 42 Ballade ending
 - 44 Lighten
 - 45 Combines
 - 49 Novelist Ernest
 - 51 Swagger
 - 52 Highest honors
 - 57 Straw in the wind
 - 59 USAF newcomer
 - 60 Russian orbiter
 - 61 Custom
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 - 21 Boozehound
 - 22 Shark's back fin
 - 25 Canal locale
 - 26 Ham holder
 - 28 Teeny bit
 - 29 Go on and on
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 - 39 Agreement
 - 40 Queen, maybe
 - 43 Praying figures.

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Last week's answers

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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.

- 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 official-website at <http://www.29palms.marines.mil>

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Jacob

Durant, Okla. Lance Cpl., ordnance light armored vehicle mechanic, Exercise Support Division

WILLMON

Willmon spends his free time painting and volunteering for various events around the base.

>My great-grandmother taught me how to paint while I was growing up. I continued to paint because I can use it to calm myself down or brighten my mood no matter what the circumstances.

>I paint as a way to express myself. I paint whatever comes to mind. Starting with three colors and being able to create any other color I can imagine is a great feeling.

>I was a boy scout growing up and the opportunity to help out other people was one of my favorite parts about being a scout. I loved being outside and learning about the various skills they taught.

>I started volunteering with the boy scouts. It gave me the opportunity to go to a lot of different events while doing my volunteering and I grew to love it. Different events are a great way for people to get together and have fun.

>I have continued to volunteer ever since then. I have spent time volunteering for concerts and conventions. Volunteering makes me feel like I'm contributing to the community while also getting to go events and have fun. I have also been going to the Elks Lodge to volunteer about twice a week for a while.



>I have always strived to help others when they need it, even if it means going to the store at 2 a.m. and buying ice cream for a friend.

>I feel that everyone deserves to have a friend that will be there for them. I have always been that friend and love being able to do it.

>I joined the Marine Corps for many reasons, one of them being that my family has been in the military for a generations.

>I chose the Marine Corps over other branches because I thought their dress uniforms looked the best. The other reason was that my father owned a noncommissioned officer sword and I decided I would earn that sword too.

>I got married shortly after joining the Marine Corps. I met her

in high school and while on leave for Christmas, I proposed to her. My great-grandmother somehow knew I was going to propose without me telling her and gave me one of her rings to use as an engagement ring.

>I would love to make a career out of the Marine Corps. I feel that I can help more people while I'm part of the Marines.

INTERVIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY CPT. THOMAS MUDD

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Composting and Recycling Workshop

Saturday, June 4 • 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Yucca Valley Community Center, Cholla Room
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The **FREE** workshop will discuss:

- Backyard Composting
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- Grasscycling
- Recycling
- Becoming a Master Composter Volunteer



To sign up, or for more information, call 951.265.8699 or e-mail MC_Coordinator@dnbvvisions.com. Seating is limited, so please RSVP by Friday, June 3.



The workshop is sponsored by
The Town of Yucca Valley, The City of Twentynine Palms,
the County of San Bernardino and the
Mojave Desert & Mountain Recycling Authority

For more info, visit www.urecycle.org, or call 1-888-URECYCLE.

Inside ITX: Long Range Raid



Scout snipers with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, board a CH-53 ‘Super Stallion’ for extraction from the Combat Ville training area aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., during Integrated Training Exercise 3-16, Sunday.



Scout snipers with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, wait for extraction during Integrated Training Exercise 3-16, outside of the Combat Ville training area aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Sunday.

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY CPL. THOMAS MUDD

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz. — Tactical Training Exercise Control Group conducts the Long Range Raid exercise at the Combat Ville training area as part of the 28-day Integrated Training Exercise held aboard the Combat Center three times each year.

The exercise requires detailed planning and integration between ground and air combat elements. According to Sgt. Christopher McDowell, assistant engineer instructor, TTECG, the exercise gives the units involved an opportunity to practice the necessary planning and integration required for long range raid operations.

“The Long Range Raid requires good communication and planning with multiple combat elements in order to work successfully,” said 1st Lt. Joseph Livi, scout sniper platoon commander, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment. “The Marine Corps is especially suited for this kind of mission because of the flexibility of the [Marine Air Ground Task Force]. By coordinating with the different aspects within the MAGTF, we can execute an operation like this independently.”

The exercise starts at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., where a ground assault force is transported via

rotary wing aircraft from the Strategic Expeditionary Landing Field to the Combat Ville, a military operations on urban terrain training area at MCAS Yuma. Upon arrival the unit assaults the simulated town and accomplishes key objectives in a predetermined time frame.

“The training we provide for Marines who come to the Combat Center is as realistic as possible and we are always trying to make it even better,” McDowell said. “We use Marines as role players to give the units training a real opposing force to train against. TTECG brings the training to life.”

The role players use simulated firearms and improvised explosive devices to defend the notional town. The unit sends a small team of scout snipers to collect intelligence on the enemy’s movements and actions the day before the raid takes place, giving the assaulting force the critical information before the raid commences.

After the exercise the members of TTECG meet with the training audience’s leadership to discuss their assessment of the unit’s planning and execution of the exercise.

“We provide the best training for the Marines who come through ITX,” McDowell said. “We train Marines faster, safer and more completely. If more Marines come home at the end of deployments we have accomplished our goal.”



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- 29 Palms Chamber of Commerce
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Joshua Tree Locations

- HDMC’s Helen Gray Education Center
- Z107.7 Community Radio Office

Yucca Valley Locations

- Stan’s Music
- Sky Harbor Care Center
- Big O Tires
- Hi-Desert Family Health Clinic
- Morongo Basin Healthcare District Office
- Gadi’s Restaurant & Bar
- Kole Michael Salon
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- Desert Cove Assisted Living

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CTB hosts Classroom to Career Day

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

Communication Training Battalion partnered with Girl Scouts of San Gorgonio Council to host the Classroom to Career Day aboard the Combat Center May 26. CTB and the Girl Scouts organized the event to enable youth toward professional development and foster community relationships.

More than 70 middle school students came to the Combat Center from San Bernardino and Riverside County to get a first-hand look at careers offered in the Marine Corps and Navy. Career volunteers from eight base organizations including Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, and 23rd Dental Company, escorted the girls through their workplaces while answering informal questions and providing advice.

“It’s important to educate the girls on every opportunity so they can make the best decision for their future,” said Sgt. Kelsey Marvel, chief investigator, Provost Marshal’s Office.

Many career day volunteers gave the girls insight on military careers to help make an informed decision on joining the military, college, or the workforce.

“I learned a lot talking to the [Marines and sailors],” said Rosario Garcia, 14, student. “It’s good to see all the options I have.”

Lt. Col. Rhesa Ashbacher, Combat Center Staff Judge Advocate, and Lt. Col. Erin McHale, commanding officer, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, led the Power Lunch portion of the event, which was focused on providing the girls with career knowledge and confidence through casual conversation.

In its second year, the Classroom to Career program has grown to involve 20 different schools and has educated more than 2,000 girls. The program has visited businesses organizations throughout Southern California, but this was the program’s first visit to a military installation.

“We want to show the girls some careers they probably would never think of,” said Carrie Raleigh, Science Technology Engineering Mathematics program manager, Girl Scouts of San Gorgonio. “It’s also exciting for the girls to come out and see some of the females who’ve emerged as leaders and the roles they’re taking on.”



Lt. Col. Rhesa Ashbacher, Combat Center Staff Judge Advocate, gives career advice to middle school students during the Power Lunch portion of the Classroom to Career Day aboard the Combat Center May 26. Communication Training Battalion and the Girl Scouts organized the event to enable youth professional development and foster community relationships.



Cpl. Tyler Brooks, instructor, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, shows middle school students how Marines set up communication systems during the Classroom to Career Day aboard the Combat Center May 26.



Sgt. Kelsey Marvel, chief investigator, Provost Marshal’s Office, explains her military occupational specialty to middle school students, during the Classroom to Career Day aboard the Combat Center May 26.

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Remembrance From A1

of thousands of men and women who put country before self and gave their lives for our nation.”

Following Craparotta’s speech, memorial wreaths were presented and the event was concluded with the ceremonial execution of a rifle salute.

Combat Center leadership was also present at the Memorial Day Flag Raising in Indio, Calif., a Memorial Day Observance in Cathedral City, Calif., and the Memorial Day Observance at Joshua Tree Memorial Park in Joshua Tree, Calif. Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 7’s color guard proudly presented the national and Marine Corps flags during a Memorial Day flower drop at the Palm Springs Air Museum in Palm Springs, Calif.

At Big Bear Lake Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Hendges, Combat Center Sergeant Major, addressed community members during the Memorial Day Ceremony in

Veteran’s Park.

“We are not gathered today to glorify war,” Hendges said. “It is not war that we are remembering on this holiday, rather we gather to remember that when a war does arise there are men and women who are more than willing to give their all for the safety of this great nation.”

Hendges went on to discuss the hardships that the family members of the fallen endure and the noble sacrifices service members make in order to keep the scars of combat outside of America’s doors. He concluded his address with the importance of remembering the ultimate sacrifice so many American service members have paid.

“Conflicts are won but the fallen are never forgotten,” Hendges said. “While the debt from those who gave their lives can never be repaid, our appreciation is reflected in how we honor and remember their sacrifices.”



PHOTO BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

A ceremony attendee lays a carnation atop a casket to pay respect to fallen service members during the Memorial Day Ceremony in Veteran’s Park at Big Bear Lake, Calif., Monday.



PHOTO BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Hendges, Combat Center Sergeant Major, addresses ceremony attendees during the Memorial Day Ceremony in Veteran’s Park at Big Bear Lake, Calif., Monday.



PHOTO BY CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Combat Center Marines give a rifle salute during the Memorial Day Ceremony at the 29 Palms Cemetery in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Monday.

Honored From A1

ner with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment.

Hastings-on-Hudson has a population of almost 8,000 people and thousands of their residents showed up to support the service members.

“I think the town is very pleased with the Marines and sailors coming. We enjoy having a Fleet Week and through our fire department we invite the Marines and sailors every year,” Tillson said. “It is a great privilege for us to have them here. They have given their time in defense of this country, so I appreciate all of them coming.”

ciate all of them coming.”

The parade also featured the village’s fire department, police department, the VFW, and emergency medical services.

“It was very motivating walking through the streets. You can definitely tell this event meant a lot for the people of Hastings, and I was very thankful for all of it,” McGinnis said.

After the parade, the Marines and sailors, along with Maj. Gen. Brian Beaudreault, the commanding general of 2nd Marine Division, participated in a wreath-laying

ceremony in front of the VFW post.

“My favorite part of the day was the wreath-laying ceremony for Memorial Day and for the fallen. It definitely struck a chord and it was a resounding response from the crowd and military members,” McGinnis said.

As the events ended, the Marines and sailors took part in a barbecue hosted by the fire department.

“Out of my entire experience in New York, Hastings has been my best experience. It has been laid-back, very local, and I’ve enjoyed every second of it,” McGinnis added. “I want to give a big thank you to Hastings-on-Hudson.”



Maj. Gen. Brian Beaudreault, commanding general, 2nd Marine Division, shakes hands with leaders of the Veterans of Foreign Wars detachment in the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, after a wreath-laying ceremony meant to honor the fallen, Sunday.

TOUGH MINDED
OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt

Frieda’s June Hiking Schedule
I want to re-introduce to you a tough minded optimist.
Frieda Burdette is the mother of four, truly an amazing person at 77 years old and has earned a well-deserved reputation for her leadership in sharing the beauties of our incredible world with her well publicized and documented group titled “Frieda’s Happy Hoofers.”
“Frieda’s Happy Hoofers” have been hiking together since 2008 and they have visited many areas of great interest. Frieda is ably assisted on her hikes by her loyal partner Ken Schaefer.
Frieda invites everyone of any age, Ethnicity, sexual orientation, church membership, political affiliation, etc. to join the group and simply enjoy. No pledge of regular participation is required. Why not give it a try.
The hike is June 27. It is the Pacific Coast Trail, Big Bear. You will walk the trail towards Canada, as far as the horse camp. Lunch at the Log Cabin Café. Meet at the parking lot between Carl’s Jr and O’Reilly’s, Yucca Valley.
Please let Frieda know if you are coming. Her telephone number is 1-760-364-2872 or 808-341-4437. Join the fun!

This column sponsored by:

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Around the Corps

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Members of the official party, including Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Green, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, salute during a Memorial Day ceremony in which U.S. Marines performed alongside the French Army at the Aisne-Marne American Memorial Cemetery in Belleau, France, Sunday. The French and the Americans join together, as they do every year, to honor those service members from both countries who have fallen in WWI, Belleau Wood and throughout history, fighting side by side.

French, U.S. come together

during Memorial Day ceremony

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. KIRSTIN MERRIMARAHAJARA

BELLEAU, France— Marines from 6th Marine Regiment and the 2nd Marine Division band traveled to Belleau, France, to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, alongside their French Allies during a Memorial Day Ceremony, Sunday.

Belleau Wood is the location of a bloody battle that occurred during WWI 98 years ago, in which the lives of many French and Americans were lost while combating against German soldiers. Though there was carnage around every turn, U.S. Marines never gave up fighting for themselves and for their French brothers-in-arms, eventually earning the nickname “devil dogs” from the Germans.

“They had never encountered an enemy as fierce as the German Army—a professional, veteran fighting force equipped and supported by modern weaponry,” said Gen. Robert B. Neller, commandant of the Marine Corps. “When the Marines emerged from the Wood twenty days later, bloody but victorious, they were transformed forever... The Marines who fought at Bois de Belleau left an enduring mark on our Corps. Their dogged determination has become the stuff of legend.”

Guests of both French and American descent attended the event to honor the military members who fought valiantly to protect their rights and freedoms throughout history.

“Today we gather to honor the memory, the service, and the sacrifice of all the men who fought here, side-by-side, for liberty—Marines, Soldiers, American and French. We return here annually to remember them and be fortified by their example, and to rededicate ourselves to the ideals they died for,” Neller said.

On either side of the Americans and French participating in the ceremony are the graves of thousands of military members from both countries who have died upholding the values of their nations.

Each year, citizens and service members gather together to remember the fallen from WWI, the Battle of Belleau Wood, and every other fight since.

“This day bears witness to the indestructible ties that unite U.S. and French service members,” said Lt. Gen. Francis Autran, representing the chief of the French Army. “These links are strong. They are deeply-rooted in the history of our two countries. The have forged the brotherhood-in-arms we see today to honor the memory of these heroes surrounding us and that of all who have fallen since then, in every theater of operations where we have been and where we still are deployed side by side.”



Cpl. Lucas DeValder, trumpet player with 2nd Marine Division band, stands at attention during a Memorial Day ceremony in which U.S. Marines performed alongside the French Army at the Aisne-Marne American Memorial Cemetery in Belleau, France, Sunday.



French soldiers carry wreaths during a Memorial Day ceremony in which U.S. Marines performed alongside the French Army at the Aisne-Marne American Memorial Cemetery in Belleau, France, Sunday.



A U.S. Marine Lt. Col. and his son enjoy the French Army band during a Memorial Day ceremony in which U.S. Marines performed alongside the French Army at the Aisne-Marne American Memorial Cemetery in Belleau, France, Sunday.



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WeekINPhotos

9/11 Memorial Performance



Members of the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon perform at the 9/11 Memorial during Fleet Week New York, Sunday. U.S. Marines and sailors are in New York to interact with the public, demonstrate capabilities, and teach the people of New York about America’s sea service.



The Commandant’s Own performs at the 9/11 Memorial during Fleet Week New York, Sunday.



Members of the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon perform at the 9/11 Memorial during Fleet Week New York, Sunday.

Photos by Lance Cpl. Jimmy J. Vertus



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Combat Center participates in annual Grubstake Days



Marines with the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, march during the annual Grubstake Days Parade in Yucca Valley, Calif., Saturday. The parade was held as part of Yucca Valley's Annual Grubstake Days, a festival held to embrace the mining heritage of the Yucca Valley community.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

YUCCA VALLEY, Calif. — Combat Center Marines and sailors participated in the annual Grubstake Days Parade along California Highway 62 in Yucca Valley, Saturday.

The town holds the Annual Grubstake Days festival to embrace the mining heritage of the Yucca Valley community. In addition to the parade, events held for the celebration include a golf tournament, a rodeo, beard growing competition, horse-shoe throwing and a carnival.

The Combat Center Color Guard, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Tank Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Provost Marshal's Office, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Twentynine Palm's Color Guard and Combat Center Fire Department, represented the Combat Center with vehicles and marching displays.

resented the Combat Center with vehicles and marching displays.

"It's great to be able to represent the Combat Center on this platform," said Sgt. Heather Keasler, color sergeant, Combat Center Color Guard. "Participating in an event that means so much to the local community is a great way to show our appreciation and support for them."

This year was the 66th anniversary of the parade, hosted by the Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce and the town of Yucca Valley. According to Wanda Stadum, YVCC president, the chamber plans to continue inviting military members to participate in the parade.

"I enjoyed the parade and I especially enjoy the Marine base being so close by," said Robert Garcia, parade spectator and a Yucca Valley native. "I wish we had more chances to mingle with the Marines, who are doing their best to keep this country safe."



The Combat Center Provost Marshal's Office Mobile Command Post sounds its siren for parade spectators during the annual Grubstake Days Parade in Yucca Valley, Calif., Saturday.



Parade spectators wave to Combat Center Marines during the annual Grubstake Days Parade in Yucca Valley, Calif., Saturday.



Marines with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion wave to parade spectators during the annual Grubstake Days Parade in Yucca Valley, Calif., Saturday.



The Combat Center Color Guard marches during the annual Grubstake Days Parade in Yucca Valley, Calif., Saturday.



Combat Center Events

The MMA Fight Night will be held at Del Valle Field on June 10 at 7 p.m. with special guest UFC Hall of Famer Forrest Griffin. There will be eight amateur bouts and a meet and greet following the fights. Food and drink concessions are available. For more information call, 760-830-5086.

Head down to the Joshua Tree Community Center for the Joshua Tree Community Days Summer Splash June 18 at 9 a.m. The event will feature live music, barbeque, static displays and a K-9 demonstration.

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, June 3
5:00 p.m. – Captain America: The First Avenger (Free Admission), PG-13
7:30 p.m. – The Jungle Book, PG
10:00 p.m. – Elvis and Nixon, R

Saturday, June 4
12:00 a.m. – Keanu, R
10:30 a.m. – Captain America: The Winter Soldier (Free Admission), PG-13
1:30 p.m. – The Jungle Book (3-D), PG
4:00 p.m. – Mother’s Day, PG-13
6:30 p.m. – Criminal, R
9:00 p.m. – Keanu, R
11:30 p.m. – Captain America: Civil War (3-D), PG-13

Sunday, June 5
12:30 p.m. – Ratchet and Clank (3-D), PG
3:00 p.m. – The Huntsman: Winter’s War, PG-13
6:00 p.m. – Captain America: Civil War (3-D), PG-13

Monday, June 6
6:30 p.m. – Captain America: Civil War (3-D), PG-13

Tuesday, June 7
5:00 p.m. – Ratchet and Clank (3-D), PG
7:00 p.m.- Elvis and Nixon, R

Wednesday, June 8
5:00 p.m. – The Jungle Book, PG
7:30 p.m.- Keanu, R

Thursday, June 9
7:00 p.m. – Criminal, R

Friday, June 10
5:30 p.m. – Ratchet and Clank, PG
8:00 p.m. – Mother’s Day, PG-13
11:00 p.m. – Captain America: Civil War, PG-13

YouTube

The Combat Center has its own YouTube channel
Find it at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO>.



Captain Crunch

The Marvel gang’s all here in superhero-packed mega-movie

NEIL POND

‘Captain America: Civil War’
Starring Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr., Sebastian Stan & Scarlett Johansson
Directed by Anthony Russo & Joe Russo
Rated PG-13

What do superheroes do when they’re not saving the planet? A lot of the same things everyone else does—they prattle around the house, do their best to get along and sometimes get on each other’s nerves.

“Who’s putting coffee grounds in the disposal?” Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.) asks his houseguests, which include Captain America (Chris Evans), Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson), Scarlet Witch (Elizabeth Olsen), War Machine (Don Cheadle) and Vision (Paul Bettany). “Am I running a bed and breakfast for a biker gang?”

Crammed into a back of a tiny VW Beetle, the hulking Winter Soldier (Sebastian Stan) has a request of Falcon (Anthony Mackie). “Could you move your seat up?” Like a grumpy sibling on a family road trip that’s already over-stretched his patience, Falcon isn’t exactly in an agreeable mood. “No!” he snaps.

Captain America: Civil War is a big, sprawling superhero mega-movie, with more spandex to the gallon than any flick that’s come down the pike in a long time. The latest in the multi-billion-dollar Marvel cinematic canon, it’s officially the third of the Captain America franchise, but it’s also a continuation of the Avengers movie arc, and it ropes in characters from other Marvel movie properties as well, including Iron Man, Ant-Man (Paul Rudd) and even the new Spider-Man (Tom Holland), whose movie won’t be in theaters until next summer.

The “Civil War” in the title refers to the major rift that occurs within the Avengers when a United Nations panel wants to rein them in. The global community is concerned about the civilian deaths and wakes of

destruction that accompany the superheroes’ bad-guy smackdowns—a theme that also cropped up a few weeks ago in another comics-character slugfest, Batman v Superman.

The Avengers divide into two camps about the issue—those who feel that some international oversight and cooperation is the way to go (led by Iron Man), and the rebels who refuse to sign the accord (team Captain America). That sets the stage for several spats, a couple of subplots, more than two hours of squabbles and one stupendous battle royale in an abandoned airport.

Directors Anthony and Joe Russo keep things moving along with style, substance and significant flair, and they give all their characters time to shine—no easy task when they are so many, including newcomers Chadwick Boseman as an African prince who becomes the Black Panther; Marissa Tomei as Peter Parker’s Aunt May; and Daniel Brühl as the Eastern European über-villain Zemo. There’s also Jeremy Renner as Hawkeye, Martin Freeman as a CIA official, Emily Van Camp (from TV’s Revenge) as Sharon Carter, and William Hurt as the U.S. Secretary of State. Oscar-nominated Alfre Woodard pops in as an aggrieved mom.

But through it all are the Avengers, the world’s coolest, most powerful cadre of superfriends—family, actually—being ripped apart, fractured from within, pulverizing each other as the divide between them, widened by treachery, becomes filled with distrust, dark secrets and deep wounds from the past.

There’s a whole army of frozen Winter Soldiers, a funeral and a sweet kiss between two characters that may point to future romance.

How does this wham-bam, jam-packed road trip on the superhero highway end? I won’t spoil it. But you shouldn’t be surprised to know that even when it does, it doesn’t, and that the Marvel movie map is still being drawn for Captain America, Iron Man, Spider-Man and other characters for years to come!

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