June 24, 2016 Since 1957 Vol. 60 Issue 25

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CTB bids farewell to CO

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Lt. Col. Speros C. Koumparakis relinquished command of Communication Training Battalion, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, to Lt. Col. Barian A. Woodward at the Sunset Cinema, Tuesday.

Koumparakis served as the battalion's first commander since its activation in March, 2015. While serving as commander, he oversaw the battalion as it developed new methods to train and evaluate Marines on the operation and maintenance of Marine Corps communications systems.

"We train Marines every single day and we've changed the vernacular of communications to be a warfighting function as opposed to just ones and zeroes behind the scene," Koumparakis said. "The Marines inspire me every single day with how much they learn and what they can do with it."

Prior to the consolidation of communication training in the Marine Corps, enlisted Marines

COMMUNICATION
TRAINING BATTALION

DUCIT, DOCEBIT, DISCANT

trained here at MCCES while commissioned Marines conducted training at the Communications School, previously located aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

Koumparakis ceremoniously passed command of the battalion to Woodward with the passing of the unit's colors. The passing of the colors during a change of command represents the passing of responsibilities from one commanding officer to the next.

Prior to commissioning, Woodward served as an enlisted Marine for seven years, a trait Koumparakis believes will help him better understand both enlisted and commissioned students. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Woodward expressed his intent

direction for the battalion.

"We will continue to make a positive impact on our ability to enable command and control for Marine

commanders across the Marine

to continue with Koumparakis's

Lincoln Military Housing provides housing and management services to military families. Over the past six months, LMH has begun renovation on more than 56 housing units aboard the Combat Center. Thus far, LMH has completed renovations on and complete six houses per week until all 56 are finished. Sgt. Maj. Michael Hendges, Combat Center Sergeant Major, toured one of the new units, Tuesday.

Military housing

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES

renovations

under way

Lincoln Military Housing provides housing and management services to military families. Over the past six months, LMH has begun renovation on more than 56 housing units aboard the Combat Center. Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Hendges, Combat Center Sergeant Major, toured one of the new units, Tuesday.

The units in the Adobe Flats I community were selected for renovation in order to improve the quality of life for service members stationed at the Combat Center. LMH will begin assigning the renovated houses to enlisted service members

See **Housing pg.** A7



Leslie May, Palm District manager, Lincoln Military Housing, explains to Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Hendges, Combat Center Sergeant Major, the new exterior features of newly-renovated housing units aboard the Combat Center, Tuesday.



Lt. Col. Speros C. Koumparakis, outgoing commanding officer, passes the Communication Training Battalion's colors to Lt. Col. Barian A. Woodward, oncoming commanding officer, during the battalion's change of command ceremony at Sunset Cinema, Tuesday.

Marines bond with community during Summer Splash

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

As Xyliana began her usual routine, community members, young and old, gathered around to gain a better view. On her handler's command, "get," she lunged forward toward her intended target inciting silence and awe throughout the crowd.

Marines from the Combat Center joined the Military Working Dog section as interacted with the Morongo Basin community during the fourth annual Joshua Tree

See **Splash pg.** A7



The Provost Marshal Office's Drug Abuse Resistance Education Lion, Daren, interacts with community members during the Joshua Tree Community Days Summer Splash at the Joshua Tree Community Center in Joshua Tree, June 18.

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. Naquan Peterson.



An AV-8B Harrier with 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit rests aboard the deck of the USS Boxer.

A2 June 24, 2016 **OBSERVATION POST**

Avoid falling victim to sextortion

STORY BY THE PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE

What is sextortion?

Sextortion is a cybercrime perpetrated against unwitting victims who are approached in casual conversation via social media and then seduced into engaging in online sexual activities. After fulfilling the sexual requests, which are recorded without the victim's knowledge or consent, the victim is threatened with public exposure and embarrassment if he or she does not pay a specified sum of money to the perpetrator, usually through a wire transfer. Service members worldwide and across all ranks have been affected by sextortion. Since August 2012, technologically savvy perpetrators have targeted at least 160 DON service members, with more than 50 confirmed "successful" incidents of sextortion resulting in a cumulative loss of more than \$45,000. Sextortion is underreported given many service members' feelings of embarrassment and concern regarding potential consequences of their actions. Regardless, perpetrators will typically continue harassment and threats of embarrassment even if payment is made. Reporting is critical to identifying and pursuing those responsible for sextortion scams.

How does sextortion occur?

While using social media, a service member is contacted by a young, attractive individual. The service member and individual begin chatting online and subsequently exchange Skype contact information. Their online communication quickly transitions to a video chat, becoming

Avoid falling victim to sextortion:

*Adjust privacy settings of social media profiles and accounts to limit publicly available information to unknown persons.

*Exercise caution when accepting friend requests or communicating with unknown persons online.

*Avoid advertising or discussing U.S. military and/or U.S. government affiliations.

*Refrain from engaging in sexually explicit activities online, such as posting or exchanging compromising photos/videos.

*Turn off electronic devices and cover webcams when not in use.

*Safeguard your personal banking and credit card information from unknown recipients.

sexual in nature. Unknown to the service member, the individual is secretly recording the sexual act. Shortly thereafter, the individual sends the service member the video file and threatens to release it to the service member's friends, family, and command unless the service member sends cash via Western Union. After the service member pays the initial amount, the perpetrator demands more money. Variations on this scenario include the victim receiving phone calls and threats from the alleged

father of the individual or a purported law enforcement officer claiming that the individual is a minor and that the filing of criminal charges is forthcoming.

Some common indicators of sextortion include: unknown persons approach you online or attempt to "friend" you, even if you appear to have mutual "friends" or the "friends lists" are comprised predominantly of U.S. military members; the use of poor grammar and sentence structure by the perpetrator when exchanging messages; the person encourages you to engage in explicit video chat or exchange sexually explicit images almost immediately after initiating contact or "friending" you; a video call begins with an individual in a state of undress or engaging in a sexual act; communications from "law enforcement officials" occur via text message, email, or phone.

What should you do if you are targeted?

Reporting is critical to identifying and pursuing those responsible for sextortion scams. If you or someone you know identifies suspicious activity or believes that they are being targeted:

Contact your command and law enforcement.

Do not submit any payment.

Save all messages and communications between you and the perpetrator.

PMO: 760-830-6800 CID: 760-830-6820 NCIS: 760-830-6275

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Fully absorbed
- 5 Beehive, e.g.
- **9** Boxer Roberto
- **14** Exploitative type
- tide
- 16 Old Rodeo maker
- 17 Popular cuisine
- 18 Peace
- 19 French toast
- 20 People with metal detectors
- 23 Actor Tom
- 25 WWII admiral
- Tunes" 27 Humble
- **29** Russian mountains
- **30** Ring sport
- 31 Cartesian conclusion
- **34** Think tank, e.g.
- Yearbook sect.
- 39 "Othello" fellow 40 Nonsensical
- 41 Shills for, e.g.
- 43 Bordeaux wine
- 44 Pitch to the noggin
- to go, people to see"
- **48** Vacation area of England
- **51** #2 Bill Withers hit of 1972
- **52** Clapton of rock
- 53 Capri, for one 57 Excavation find
- 58 Long (for)
- **59** Intimate
- **60** Jet
- **61** Norton Sound port
- **62** Nuts (over)

Down

- 1 Furrow
- 2 Blond shade
- 5 Apprehensive
- 7 100-meter, e.g.
- **8** Fuel grp.

- 13 Cracked
- letters

- - **23** Hue
- 4 Court of justice

- 6 Christmas wish
- **9** Cheerless
- 10 In a convenient way
- 11 Wears the crown
- 12 Sky-blue
- 21 "Old MacDonald"

- 22 "Outta sight!"
- 24 Old newspaper sections 3 Shooter ammo
 - **26** Pool exercise
 - 27 Breathing organs
 - 28 Novel of the South
 - **30** Trick-taking game
 - 31 Challenge opener
 - **32** Dancer De Mille
 - **33** Convene
 - **35** Food Network's Guy
 - **36** Flowering shrub
 - **37** Putting into effect

- 41 Feeble
- 42 Embellish
- **43** Saw 44 Squib
- 45 Stand for something
- 46 Kipling's wolf pack leader
- 47 Rainbow maker
- 49 Wrapped (up)
- **50** Nirvana, e.g.
- 54 Expanse 55 Fall behind
- **56** Period

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Last week's answers

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- -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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- K Smoke Shop, 5865A Adobe Rd. In Yucca Valley:
- Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Hwy. - Puff's Tobacco Mart, 57063 29 Palms Hwy.
- In Palm Springs: - Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr. - Whispering Palms Apts., 449 E. Arenas Road
- NYPD Pizza, 260-262 N. Palm Canyon Drive

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

June 24, 2016 A3

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Sonoma County, Calif. Corporal, coyote, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group C W h

> grew up in the Bay **Area** north of San Francisco before moving to Boulder Creek, Ariz., where I played baseball and later attended Arizona State University to study business communication. > left college at age 19 because I wanted to be able to serve my country. I was able-bodied and didn't want to miss my opportunity or look back and regret that I never got to serve. I had four to six years to serve my country just like any other great American.

>Baseball was a big part of my life going through high school. Being coached by Coach McDonald back in Boulder Creek instilled a lot of commitment in me and I learned values that were similar to the Marine Corps. Having him as my coach and mentor at a young age set me on the right path.

>Baseball was hugely important to me throughout high school and college, but after going through three hernia surgeries, I had to take a break. Now, I spend my time lifting weights and going to the gym.

>One of the best benefits the Marine Corps offers is the opportunity to travel. I was able to go to Gora Marza, Afghanistan, for my first

INTERVIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED
BY CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, which brought me into the Mediterranean Sea. I got to visit many different ports out there, including Africa and Iraq. I went to places I never thought I'd be able to go.

deployment. During my sec-

ond deployment, I was a part of

>lt's pretty amazing being able to stand at a place where you never thought you'd be and look back to where you were a couple years prior.

>l'm a rifleman. I have served as a team leader and a

squad leader but I've also been able to work as a company clerk and see a different perspective of the Marine Corps compared to the "grunt" side. As a clerk, I made sure Marines were trained and we were functioning from an operations perspective.

>The Marine Corps has definitely turned me into the man I am today. Fighting the fight in Afghanistan and training with my brothers day in and day out changed me. The experiences you go through

Crump enjoys baseball, weight-lifting and pushing himself out of his comfort zone.

while being away from home and friends can definitely get you out of your comfort zone. I'm going to take these experiences away from the Marine Corps, and in the future, tell all the stories to my kids.

>Master Sgt. [Travis] Madden was my company gunny back in 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines. He was definitely a mentor and father figure to me. He really taught me how to do my job in a way that I could understand with my young age and experience in the Marine Corps. When I left 3/9, he came to [Tactical Training Exercise Control Group.] Joining him out here was quite the coincidence. He took me under his wing and was able to help me understand how TTECG processes. If it weren't for him, I know my Marine Corps experience would have been much different.

>Being a coyote helps me see the bigger picture of how Marines fight in a [Marine Air Ground Task Force]. Being able to see it from a different perspective really opens your mind.

>When you're training as a rifleman, everything seems so fast and you have to make those split-second decisions. After watching Marines train over and over again from an outsider's perspective, you're able to catch the common mis-

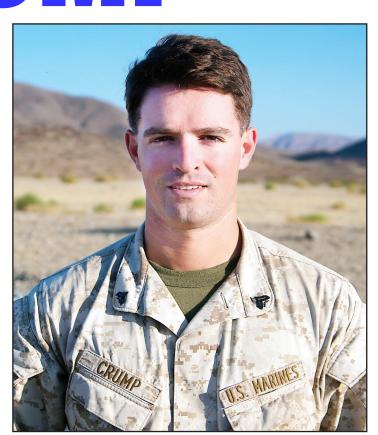
takes an everyday rifleman or squad leader makes. Being a coyote really helps bring all that knowledge together.

>I want to finish my business communications degree. I'm looking to finish at either Arizona State University or San Diego State University. With hard work and dedication, I know I'm going to succeed in getting that degree. Finding the right job will hopefully come easily after that.

>My girlfriend, Crysta, is amazing. She's on her way to becoming a veterinarian technician and is obsessed with animals. She's beautiful and has beautiful soul. I couldn't be happier when I'm with her and having her along for the journey is great.

>Every Marine serving with TTECG has a tough job. Our main goal is to focus on the Marines' training at hand. We do it for more than just ourselves. We do it for the Marine Corps as a whole.

>I know it's a tough job but I'm glad I came out here to get this kind of experience. Knowing we can change one Marine's perspective or help them improve is why we get up every day. The training Marines receive at [the Combat Center] could potentially save their lives out on the battlefield. I know that helps us sleep at night.







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Visit the official MCAGCC facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/ thecombatcenter A4 June 24, 2016

Observation Post

First Team welcomes new CO

Lt. Col. David Hart relinquished command of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, to Lt. Col. Erick Clark during the battalion's change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Tuesday.

Hart took command of 'First Team' in December, 2014, and has played a vital role in preparing his Marines in their mission to locate, close with, and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver, or to repel his assault by fire and close combat.

"It has been an honor to be able to serve as part of this battalion," Hart said. "I consider myself lucky to be able to serve with such excellent Marines and sailors."

Hart passed command of the battalion to Clark with the ceremonial passing of the unit's colors. The passing of the colors represents the commanding officer bequeathing responsibility to the next commanding officer.

"I feel that this battalion is in great hands with Lt. Col. Clark," Hart said. "He is a man of excellent character and will lead this battalion well in his time here."

Hart will depart the Combat Center to attend the Marine Corps War College aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. During Murphy's time as 1/7's commanding officer he led the battalion in support of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command.

Clark addressed the audience, thanking them for their attendance and expressed his gratitude for being able to serve as this unit's commanding officer.

"This battalion stands on the shoulders of giants," Clark said. "I was told before coming here by a Marine in 1/7 that while you are part of the battalion you feel 10 feet tall. I understand that now after seeing the Marines here. This battalion has been blessed with some of the most iconic leaders in the Marine Corps and we work to uphold that greatness to this day."



Lt. Col. David Hart, off going commanding officer, ceremonially passes the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, colors to Lt. Col. Erick Clark, on-coming commanding officer, during the battalion's change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Tuesday.



The 1st Marine Division Band marches past the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment's formation during the battalion's change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Tuesday.



Marines of 1st Battalion, 7the Marine Regiment stand at the position of attention during the battalion's change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gary Field, Tuesday.

Thirty-year service awards



LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES

Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, congratulates Christopher Ronia, motor technician mechanic, and Hector Villapudua, small arms repair and inspector, Exercise Support Division 30 Years of Civilian Service Awards for their achievement of at the ESD compound, June 15.



LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES

Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, congratulates Jimmy Brown, Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Supervisor, Public Works Division for his achievement of 30 Years of Civilian Service Award at the PWD compound, June 16.

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OBSERVATION POST

JUNE 24, 2016 A5

Steel on Target; Tanks welcome new CO

PHOTOS BY CPL. THOMAS MODD.

Marines of 1st Tank Battalion conduct a pass in review during the battalion's change of command at the tank ramp, Wednesday.



PHOTOS BY CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Marines of 1st Tank Battalion stand at attention during the battalion's change of command ceremony at the tank ramp, Wednesday.



PHOTOS BY CPL. THOMAS MUDD.

Lt. Col. Lee Rush, outgoing commanding officer, 1st Tank Battalion, addresses the audience during the battalion's change of command ceremony at the tank ramp, Wednesday.

STORY BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Lt. Col. Lee M. Rush relinquished command of 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, to Lt. Col. Christopher Meyers during the battalion's change of command ceremony at the tank ramp, June 22.

Rush assumed command of 1st Tanks in June, 2014. While serving as commander, his focus was on ensuring the Marines' readiness to engage the enemy using expeditionary armor-protected firepower, shock effect and maneuver in support of a Marine Air Ground Task Force across the range of military operations.

"This is an emotional day for me; this is my family," Rush said. "I couldn't be more proud of who the Marines and sailors are, what they have achieved and what they are going to accomplish."

Rush's experience as battalion commander of 1st Tanks goes back to 2008, when he first assumed the duty after serving as the battalion's executive officer. He currently has orders to study at the National War College in Washington, D.C.

During the ceremony, Rush performed the ceremonial exchange of the battalion's colors with Meyers; a tradition representing the passing of authority and responsibility. Meyers recently returned from the National War College and intends to build upon the strong foundation Rush has laid for the battalion.

"The unit certainly has a rich history," Meyers said. "The Marines of 1st Tanks have accomplished a lot in the last few years and I just hope to keep the ball moving forward."

Rush expressed confidence in Meyers ability to lead the battalion and has high hopes for the future of 1st Tanks.

"I think they are in fantastic shape and we've come a long way," Rush said. "There is always more work to be done and I think Lt. Col. Meyers is going to come in and take this battalion to the next level."









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A6 June 24, 2016 OBSERVATION POST



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BOUQUET BRAVADO

By Tresa Erickson

Brides have been carrying bouquets for hundreds of years. In ancient times, bridal bouquets generally consisted of garlic, herbs and spices to keep evil spirits away. By Victorian times, fresh flowers had replaced the garlic, herbs and spices, and many of these flowers carried special meanings, like innocence, faith and love. Floriography, the language of flowers, continues to this day, with some brides researching flower meanings and basing their bouquet selections on those meanings. Floriography isn't the only trend in bridal bouquets. There are many others. Here is a brief review.

Bridal bouquets are traditionally pale in color, but today's brides are branching out and choosing bolder colors, like burgundy, red and purple. Bouquet color schemes can be monochromatic-all shades of purple, for example—or complementary. With bouquets getting brighter, they have become a real feature in wedding photography, in particular black and white photography with selective coloring.

Roses remain a bridal bouquet standard, but other flowers are starting to make their way into the mix. Daisies, hydrangeas, lilies, peonies and tulips are popular choices, as are orchids. Many brides, in fact,



are asking for more tropical flowers in their bouquets, either because of

their theme or for a unique twist. While cascades of flowers were many brides today are opting to take a simpler route. Hand-tied bouquets are a popular choice. With the flowers gathered together and wrapped in ribbon, the bouquets are easier to handle and have a contemporary look to them.

While today's bridal bouquets might be somewhat simpler in design, brides can still add some dazzle to them with beads, crystals, feathers, pearls, sequins and other accessories. Brides with themed weddings can take it a step further and incorporate extra special touches into their bouquets, like miniature seashells, pinecones or butterflies. Bouquets featuring vintage brooches are also becoming popular.

Bridal bouquets can run the gamut from the traditional allwhite hand-tied rose bouquet drenched in crystals to the sassy gold, red and purple bouquet cuffed by feathers. It is up to the bride how she wants her bouquet to be. Brides should check out some samples, talk to their florist and select a bouquet design that speaks to them.



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OBSERVATION POST June 24, 2016 A7

Housing from pg. A1

ranging from the E-1 to E-5 paygrade.

We are renovating these houses because it is important for our Marines to have a good well-being at home," said Leslie May, Palm District manager, LMH. "We want them to live here and know that LMH supports them while they are serving their country."

Contractors have outfitted the new units with many new appliances, floors, countertops, and heating and air-conditioning units.

"We've had a quick return rate on the houses from the contractors, which is always good for service members looking for homes," said Carlos Eussegil, maintenance supervisor, LMH. "There are plenty of new additions to the inside. We have installed new water heaters, heaters and refrigerators; just to name a few."

According to Eussegil, LMH will continue to renovate the different housing units and communities at the Combat Center as the need arises.



Lincoln Military Housing provides housing and management services to military families. Over the past six months, LMH has begun renovation on more than 56 housing units aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Hendges, Combat Center Sergeant Major, toured one of the new units, June 21.



Xyliana, military working dog, performs a take down on a Marine volunteer with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion during the Joshua Tree Community Days Summer Splash at the Joshua Tree Community Center in Joshua Tree, June 18.

Cpl. Johnathan Tomaino, light armored vehicle crewman, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, escorts Jenna Hurd, 5, as she explores a light armored vehicle during the Joshua Tree Community Days Summer Splash at the Joshua Tree Community Center in Joshua Tree, June 18.



Splash from pg. A1

Community Days Summer community." Splash at the Joshua Tree Community Center, June 18, 2016.

In addition to MWD section's K-9 demonstrations, volunteers from the Provost Marshal's Office showcased the Mobile Command Post along with Daren the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Lion. Additionally, Marines with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion displayed Light Armored Vehicles and the Explosive Ordinance Disposal unit provided a display of their equipment such as the ground robotics system, Talon IV.

"Most children don't have the luxury of being able to meet military members up close very often," said Tammie Moore, recreational coordinator, Joshua Tree Recreation and Park District. "For those who don't have members of the military in their family it's a good way for them to see a good role model here in the

The Marines took time to answer questions from spectators. Sgt. Blake Secant, military working dog handler, PMO, said he really enjoyed being able to share his work with younger members of the community.

"If I had seen something like this when I was young, and then thinking about joining the military, it would have given me a good idea of the opportunities available," Secant said. "It's really great to be out here building a strong relationship with the community."

According to many of the Marine volunteers, the event was a great opportunity to meet new people within the local community and build lasting bonds.

"I want to thank all those that serve who are willing to come out here and give up their time to do the community a service and raise public awareness," Moore said.



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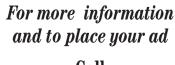
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TOUGH MINDED **OPTIMISM** by Lou Gerhardt



Better than ten years of writing this column in this newspaper I am able to report that all seems to be going well. I receive good comments almost daily from people who appreciate what I am attempting to accomplish. To put it simply, I want readers to find my columns to be helpful in their effort to maintain a positive attitude each day regardless of circumstances.

When I write about having a positive attitude, I am not suggesting that you should abandon common sense or deny the reality of extremely difficult situations.

Tough minded optimists are not naïve, Pollyannaish, or unrealistic. They "smell the coffee" in every difficulty. They are pragmatic, logical, and extremely practical. On the other hand, they have the audacity of hope and a certain belief that something of value may come from any negative experience.

Have hope, dear friends. Tomorrow will be different. Tomorrow you may hear the music, meet the person, read the book, have the insight, think the thought that changes your life in a beautiful way.

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell is a tough minded optimist. It was Powell who said with deep conviction "perpetual optimism is a force multiplier."

Believe it, my friends, and anticipate with optimism tomorrow, next week, and all your days.

This column sponsored by:

Dr. Marc Siegmund And Ernesto Velarde Chula Vista, CA

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





June 24, 2016 Since 1957 Vol. 60 B



A sailor hangs the dog tag of a fallen corpsman on the battlefield cross to honor the ultimate sacrifice the sailor made as a part of the hospital corpsman remembrance portion of the 118th Hospital Corpsman Ball at Pechanga Resort and Casino in Temecula Calif., June 17.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES

When America was on the brink of the Spanish-American War in 1898, Navy Surgeon General J.R. Tyron and fellow physicians lobbied that the Navy have a hospital corps. President William McKinley signed the bill from Congress into law June 17, 1898. Today, more than 118 years later the Navy Hospital Corps has become the largest corps in the Navy.

Corpsman of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., celebrated their 118th Hospital Corpsman birthday at Pechanga Resort and Casino in Temecula Calif., June 17.

This is the second year that the sailors have decided to celebrate their corps' birthday with a traditional ceremony.

"Celebrating our birthday lets us reach back and celebrate our 118 years of where we came from and where we go moving forward," said Capt. John A. Lamberton, commanding officer, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital. "The junior sailors, both officers and enlisted, get to wear the traditional military uniform. Wearing it celebrates our past 118 years, the celebration of future is the hope they have today, and the hope today is these men and women take pride in wearing our uniforms."

The ceremony starts with the master of ceremonies; this year's MC was Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew Sirucheck, command career counselor, 1st Marine Division. After that the invocation was given by the chaplain from the Protestant chapel pastor.

"For 118 years, corpsmen have held the care of the sick and injured to be a privileged and a scared trust," said Lt. Ryan Krause, Protestant chapel pastor, Headquarters Battalion. "It is upon the strong shoulders of yesterday's warriors that today's 'Devil Doc' stands sure and true."

After the invocation by the chaplain, Lamberton gave the commander's remarks. He spoke of the rich history of the Hospital Corps and one individual in particular, Robert Eugene Bush.

"In front of our proud hospital is a statue of one brave man, in one hand holding IV fluid, and in the other holding a .45 caliber pistol; lying before him is a Marine Corps captain," said Lamberton. "Robert E. Bush answered his call to save this wounded captain

after hearing, 'corpsman up.' It didn't matter that he was only 18 years old, it didn't matter that he didn't finish high school, what mattered is he was answering his call to 'corpsman up."

The guest speaker of the ceremony, retired Command Master Chief Petty Officer Eric D. Faulkner, spoke after the commanding officer gave his final remarks and thanked his fellow sailors for serving alongside him.

"We recite the corpsman pledge every year and it should mean something and resonate with you," said Faulkner. "You are not allowed any harm to come to anyone vested to your care, whether that is in garrison or on the front lines. We as corpsman have showed over the years that it is what we are about."

Following the guest speaker's comments, the corpsman took a moment to remember the prisoners of war and those missing in action. There was a table near the front of the event, set for one person. It represented the people who have yet to come home. As all the lights shut off and a spotlight shown the table, the corpsman stood quietly, respectfully observing the table.

After the POW/MIA remembrance took place the Hospital Corpsman remembrance portion of the ceremony happened. For many sailors present, this was the most sobering and heavy hearted portion of the ceremony.

All of the lights were dimmed except for a single light shown on the battlefield cross in the front. A designated group of sailors hung dog tags of corpsman who gave their lives in combat.

"It's hard during that portion of the ceremony, especially being a command master chief," said Command Master Chief Carol Merricks, command master chief, 1st Medical Battalion. "Seeing all the corpsman that have made the ultimate sacrifice makes me take my job so much more serious. If you ask any command master chief, you will learn that they lose sleep over the health and welfare of their corpsman. We care so much about service members."

The last portion of the ceremony was the reciting of the hospital corpsman pledge. Corpsman of all ranks raised their right hands and concluded the ceremony echoing, "I shall do all within my power to show in myself the example of all that is honorable and good throughout my naval career."



Corpsmen from the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., prepare to partake in the presentation of colors during the 118th Hospital Corpsman Ball at Pachage Pacet and Casino in Tamogula Calif. June 17



Capt. John Lamberton, commanding officer, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, Twentynine Palms, Calif., speaks to his sailors at the beginning of the 118th Hospital Corpsman Ball at Pechanga Resort and Casino in Temecula Calif., June 17.



Corpsmen recite the hospital corpsman pledge at the conclusion of the ceremony during the 118th Hospital Corpsman Ball at Pechanga Resort and Casino in Temecula Calif., June 17. Corpsmen recite the pledge every year to remember the dedication they have to caring fellow service members.

B2 June 24, 2016 **OBSERVATION POST**



Combat Center Events

The USO and Sesame Street will be coming to the Combat Center today. The Muppets of Sesame Street will be conducting shows today at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. and again tomorrow at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Sunset Cinema. The show is open to all hands. Doors open 30 minutes before each show. For more information call 760-830-5086

Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center is holding their 60 Days of Summer event allowing children ages 5-18 to bowl free now through August 13. Adults can join by purchasing a family pass. For more information call 760-830-6422.

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 24 NO MOVIES

Saturday, June 25

8:00 p.m. - Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising, R 10:30 p.m. - X-Men: Apocalypse

Sunday, June 26

12:30 p.m. - The Angry Birds Movie, PG 3:00 p.m. - Alice Through The Looking Glass (3-D), PG-13

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3:30 p.m. – Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (NDVD - Free Admission), PG-13

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10:30 p.m. - The Conjuring 2, R

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Trouble in Suburbia

Girls bring the party—and more—in 'Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising'

NEIL POND

'Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising' Starring Seth Kogen, Kose Byrne & Zac Efron Directed by Nicholas Stoller Rated R

When a sorority moves in next door to a family trying to sell their house, it's trouble.

That's the quick premise, but this ribald new comedy-a sequel to the 2014 hit—puts a fresh, topical spin on its predecessor, while reuniting its cast and hewing mostly to its original manic framework.

Mac (Seth Rogen) and Kelly (Rose Byrne), now the parents of a 4-year-old daughter (Elise Vargas) with another on the way, have sold their suburban house...sort of. It's in a 30-day escrow hold, which means the buyer has a month to decide or back out. That's troubling news, because Mac and Kelly have already bought another house, no strings attached.

It's especially troubling when a sorority roosts in the vacant, broken-down fraternity house next door. But not just any sorority: The young women of the freshly minted, renegade Kappa Nu (led by Chloë Grace Moretz, Kiersey Clemons and Beanie Feldstein) have split from the campus Greek system, fed up with the leering bros-before-hos sexism of fraternities and the prissy, priggish constraints of

Xinema 6

Independence Day:

Resurgence (PG13)

3D 12:30 6:30 2D 3:30 9:30

Finding Dory (PG)

3D 2:30 10:00

2D 12:00 5:00 7:30

Central Intelligence

(PG13) 12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

The Conjuring 2 (R)

12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

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And look who's come aboard as their advisor: Mac and Kelly's old nextdoor fraternity nemesis, Teddy (Zac Efron). But the girls increasingly see Teddy as out of touch, and his old college fratboy crew (including Dave Franco, Jerrod Carmichael, and Christopher Mintz-Plasse) have all grown up and moved on faster than

Where does Teddy fit in? It may be where you—and he—would least expect...

How all these comedic strands weave together and work is in the hands of director Nicholas Stoller, who also steered Get Him to the Greek, the marvelous Forgetting Sarah Marshall and the original Neighbors. He once again has a great cast, down to the cameos by Lisa Kudrow (as a deadpan dean), Selena Gomez (as a rival sorority president) and Kelsey Grammar (as a pleading parent).

Rogen, who also collaborated on the screenplay, makes sure to push his pro-

the established sororities. one extended weed-heist At Kappa Nu, it's weed, sequence that feels like an wild parties and full-throt- action-movie parody. But tle fem-centric fun, all the look through the haze (and the randy, raunchy jokes) and you'll find something else: a movie with empathetic messages about acceptance and inclusion, gender rights and sexism, hypocrisy and double standards, mothers and fathers and daughters, loving families, girls who grow up to become young women, and growing up in general.

And in the middle of it all is its secret weapon, the former High School Musical star Efron, who at the age of 28 has proven his adaptability in a wide variety of roles, particularly comedy. As Teddy, he brings something to the part richer and fuller and much more dimensional than what was flat on the page, an ache to belong and to be "valued" that resonates beyond the script's jokes about dope, crazy pranks and a raucous rift between crazy college kids and cranky "old people."

Neighbors 2 is the rare sequel that grows up with its audience, its subject matter and its funnier and more mean-



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B6 June 24, 2016 OBSERVATION POST



Marines with Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School participate in Communications Training Battalion's Sunset Run aboard the Combat Center, June 17.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

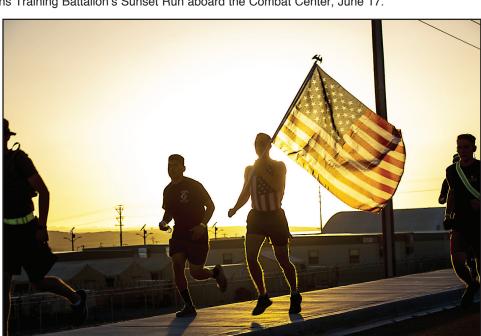
ommunication Training Battalion, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, held a Sunset Run starting at the MCCES barracks, June 15.

Every quarter, CTB hosts a battalion-wide physical training event such as a 9-mile hike or fun run. The battalion accepted donations during the run, half of which will be given to the Wounded Warrior Regiment and the rest for the MCCES Marine Corps Ball. The run also served as a

last salute to Lt. Col. Koumparakis, battalion commander, CTB, as he prepares to relinquish command of the unit.

"It's [the battalion's commander's] last fun run with the Marines," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Carl R. Bisson, communications chief, CTB. "CTB, as a unit, appreciates Lt. Col. Koumparakis and we just want to thank him for all he's done."

Koumparakis served as the battalion's first commander since its activation in March, 2015. The battalion's change of command is scheduled for June 21.



A Marine with Communications Training Battalion, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, runs with the national colors during the battalion's Sunset Run aboard

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Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School students participate in Communications Training Battalion's Sunset Run aboard the Combat Center, June 17.

