



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. JULIEN RODARTE

Marines with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, provide security with a Weaponized Multi-Utility Tactical Transport vehicle at the Combat Center, July 31. The system was built by the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory.

‘Darkhorse’ Marines assault Calif. during MAGTF Integrated Exercise 16

STORY BY SGT. CUONG LE

“Our experimentation focus for the upcoming year will center on Third Battalion, Fifth Marines as the base unit of an experimental force. This battalion will be reconfigured, re-equipped, and will receive additional training as it progresses through its training and deployment,” said Gen. Robert B. Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

The five-day experiment See **Darkhorse** pg. A4-A5



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. JULIEN RODARTE

Marines with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, test out the newly developed “Black Hornet” unmanned aerial system at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., July 31.

Medal of Honor recipient implores: Let it out

STORY BY LANCE CPL. HARLEY THOMAS

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII — On May 1, 1968, while suffering from shrapnel wounds incurred while relocating his unit under heavy artillery fire the previous day, Capt. Jay R. Vargas, the commanding officer of Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 9th Amphibious Brigade, combined his company with two others and led his men in an attack on the fortified village of Dai Do in the Republic of Vietnam.

“One of my platoons got

pinned down by heavy machine guns — in fact, we all got pinned down — and couldn’t move anymore,” Vargas said. “I went forward with four Marines and ended up by myself because they were hit immediately, but I (took) out three heavy machine guns and killed 14 North Vietnamese in the trenches, opening us up to continue the attack.”

Vargas said he and his remaining 80 Marines thought they had secured the village when the North Vietnamese

Army counterattacked. He said after 48 hours of little to no sleep, the NVA pushed his already exhausted company into a cemetery.

“We were surrounded and cut-off” completely,” Vargas said. “I (told my Marines) the only way to survive (was) to dig up those graves and toss the bodies out. The NVA knew they had us good, and nobody could help me. Everybody said we weren’t going to make it and wrote us off.”

Vargas said it wasn’t un-

til hearing from Adm. John McCain, the U.S. Pacific Command commander in chief, that he knew his Marines would receive cover.

“He told me he had all his ‘little toys’ out there — his gunfire ships,” Vargas said. “He told me, ‘You are my priority, so do whatever you want to do,’ and I did just that. I built a circle of steel around (us) with aircraft, artillery and naval gunfire.”

Vargas said by digging up the bodies, his Marines

were able to make fighting holes and create a 360-degree defensive position. He said his company fought all night, with their hands and bayonets, and, after three days, the Marines continued forward and that’s when Lt. Col. William Weise, the battalion commander, found him in the trenches.

“I told him he better get out of (there) because I’d called artillery on myself and my Marines,” Vargas said. “They knew it, and I told them to grab their

butts because I was bringing it (close). The colonel turned around and as he did, took three shots to the spine. I had to bring in the fixed wing, artillery and naval gunfire with three radios in my hands because my radio operators were already dead.”

Despite his own injuries, Vargas dragged his wounded battalion commander nearly 100 yards through withering fire to a covered position.

See **Medal** pg. A6

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Marines test future capabilities

Page A4 & A5

Marine Corps’ Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans cast their votes for the best photograph posted on the Corps’ Facebook page. This week’s top shot comes from Cpl. Mandaline Hatch.



U.S. Marines from 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, attached to Australian 1st Armoured Regiment, 1st Brigade, help support their M-88A2 Hercules Armoured Recovery Vehicle during Exercise Hamel in Cultana Training Area, South Australia, Australia, July 3-12. Exercise Hamel is a trilateral training exercise with Australian, New Zealand, and U.S. forces to enhance cooperation, trust, and friendship.



Reprinted from the Observation Post
August 13, 1965

Forward Observer Is “Eyes” of 81 mm Unit

DA NANG, Vietnam, Aug. 3 – Third Marine Division FO’s (forward observers) and artillery and mortar units in Vietnam have the mission of pinpointing enemy targets and troop buildups and radioing the range and coordinates back to their parent units.

This means the FO’s observation post is in front of his units perimeter of defense—in the case of an artillery FO with a patrol,

he may be several miles beyond friendly lines.

An FO assigned to a mortar section on a sweep-and-clear operation in the jungles and villages of Vietnam operates with the “point” of the patrol. He spots the targets or areas of enemy concentration, calls his mortars and directs their fire on the enemy.

“Some of the men on patrol think I’m crazy the way I run around

when we’re under enemy fire,” said Cpl. Jack Wells, an 81mm mortar FO, “but I’m too busy directing the fire of our mortars to think about getting hit.”

Cpl Wells landed in Vietnam last January with “D” Co., Third Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, and a section of the 81mm Mortar Platoon. They formed the first Marine ground combat unit here and their mission was to provide

security for the strategic Da Nang Airbase. “B” Co. now is a unit on the regiment’s perimeter and is located about eight miles west of the airbase.

“I’ve made 23 patrols with the company since I landed,” related Cpl Wells “and I’ve been lucky. We’ve been hit four times by enemy mortars on patrols and I haven’t been scratched. I hope my luck holds.”

CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 1 Break
 - 7 Schnozzola
 - 11 Do something
 - 14 Freely negotiable by the holder
 - 15 Golden rule preposition
 - 16 Paid player
 - 17 Ice cream flavor # 1
 - 19 Drake's song
 - 20 God offended by Daphnis
 - 21 No more
 - 22 Casino transaction
 - 23 Whip
 - 24 Certain tape

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- 54 Ice cream flavor # 3
- 57 Get a move on
- 58 Ill temper
- 59 Rent payer
- 60 Stop
- 61 Takes out
- 62 Many desserts

Down

- 1 Dodgers' field, once
- 2 Pointillist painter Georges
- 3 "___ Hot Tin Roof"
- 4 Song and dance
- 5 ___ Dee River
- 6 Goof
- 7 New, to Neruda
- 8 In the past

- 9 Fab Four drummer
- 10 Many, many moons
- 11 Relaxing time on the slopes
- 12 Puts in a box
- 13 Exceed
- 18 Saddle front
- 22 Like some whales
- 24 Bishop's realm
- 25 Continental money
- 27 Speak well, facetiously
- 28 Drench
- 30 Shoal snarer
- 33 Dallas cager, briefly
- 34 ___-mutton
- 35 Crockett's cap
- 36 Cheered

- 37 Gaugin's last home
- 38 Obama's secretary of energy Steven
- 42 Work up
- 43 Aim
- 44 Makes aquatints
- 46 Cap'n's saluter
- 47 Facebook post comments
- 51 Security concern
- 52 It may be struck
- 53 Any ship
- 54 Fox rival
- 55 2002 British Open champion
- 56 Drops on blades

SUDOKU

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Last week's answers

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WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Whittington has served in the Navy for 15 years. Throughout his career, he has enjoyed being able to serve alongside Marines.

David

Coalinga, CA., Petty Officer 1st Class, corpsman, Public Health, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital

WHITTINGTON



> **I grew up in Coalinga, Calif.** It's probably the town I've spent the longest time in one place. It was a small town with about 11,000 people. Everybody knows everybody and I really enjoyed growing up there.

> **Growing up in a small community was nice.** Likewise, I enjoy being in small commands. I feel they have strong camaraderie and you understand everybody a little bit more.

> **I wasn't great in high school** and didn't take it too seriously. Initially, I entertained the thought of enlisting as just something to do once I made it into the real world. I knew I wasn't going to go to college and I was dating my wife at the time and knew it was getting serious.

> **My step dad was in the Air Force** and worked in medical. He told me the Navy was very independent while the Army and Air Force were very specialized. I think that is what drove me to become a Navy corpsman.

> **I've been in the Navy** for 15 years last month. I didn't think I'd stay in very long at first but one thing led to another and I stuck around.

> **I'll stay in as long as** it keeps being fun. Everyday has been enjoyable but at times it's a challenge.

> **Most of my tours have been with Marines.** The camaraderie with Marines is outstanding and it's something you won't find anywhere else. I think it's the fact that you go through unpleasant experiences with a group of people and you come through it closer. I also enjoy being outside — whether it's hot, cold, wet or miserable — it's a lot of fun.

> **In my second unit, 1st Sgt. Justin Lehew** was a Navy Cross Recipient from Operation Iraqi Freedom 1. He wasn't very tall; maybe 5 foot 5 inches but very intimidating and I really looked up to him. He had a lot of experience and I felt like he cared about his Marines and sailors.

> **I'm into competitive shooting.** My dad and I were always into shooting and we joined a club. Now, it's something we do whenever we get together.

> **I have one sister and two half-brothers.** My sister and I never got along as children. We didn't like the same stuff. But after she moved out of the house we had a better relationship. I took care of my two half-brothers while they went to school. It's probably why I waited so long to have kids.

> **My mom always supported us.** Both my parents, even though they separated, taught

me something different. My mom taught me the base values between good and bad and my dad taught me to fend for myself. I still maintain good communication with my family.

> **I've been married since I was 19** but have only lived with my family for about 3 years. My wife has her own career as a teacher and to uproot and move every time you change duty stations is a real challenge. Every time she goes to a new school district she starts back from the bottom.

> **I go home and visit as often** as I can. My family lives in the Fresno, Calif., area so every weekend I drive home.

> **I've thought about getting out** but it's pretty scary. I haven't really focused on myself but I feel like I'm resourceful enough. I'd like to look at a career in wildlife, fish and game.

> **The times I will remember most** will be relaxing and spending time with family and friends.

> **I've enjoyed the Navy and it's given** me a lot of opportunities. I've met a lot of acquaintances and people that I will stay in contact with forever. Even though you get out and move on you still stay in touch. Everyday is a ride and I enjoy what I do; that's all that matters.

INTERVIEWED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

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Marines test future capabilities



A Marine with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, assists his squad by providing reconnaissance with an “Instant Eye” unmanned aerial system at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Aug. 5.

STORY AND PHOTO BY
LANCE CPL. JULIEN RODARTE

The test was conducted to see the effectiveness of recently developed technology and how it could, one day, help in fighting the enemy of the future.

“Future threats will evolve in ways that the current force is not postured to address,” said General Robert B. Neller, the 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps. “Despite this challenging fiscal environment we must continue current operations, reset our equipment, and maintain our warfighting readiness, while at the same time, innovate and modernize the force.”

The Marines of 3/5 were tasked with testing the beginnings of the modernized force with equipment such as robots used for carrying gear, dealing suppressive fire, and conducting reconnaissance.

“Having this new technology is great,” said Lance Cpl. Christopher Cantu, an infantryman with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. “It allows us to put robots in our place so we don’t have to risk the safety of a Marine.”

Reducing the risks a Marine is exposed to in combat will not only allow for improved troop welfare but a Marine force that is more comfortable and confident when entering a hostile environment.

“One of the most dangerous thing a Marine can do is be the first one to enter a building, if a Marine is the first person to go through a door,

we’re wrong,” said Capt. Mike Malandra an infantry officer and ground combat element branch head for science and tech division at the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory. “With a robot potentially being the first one to go in, it will make it that much safer for our Marines.”

Staying safe in combat is just one of the many factors that will make the Marines an even greater fighting force with manned and unmanned teaming. Ensuring that our Marines have the energy to fight when it is necessary is also a big factor.

“Our Marines keep carrying more and more into the battlefield, eventually its going to get to the point where we cant carry anymore, which means either we lose capability by shedding stuff or we figure out a way to get this stuff into the battlefield, and that is exactly what things like the newly developed logistics MUTT provides for our Marines,” said Malandra.

Marines equipped with this technology are already showing how effective the future of the force can be.

“I think soon we’re going to see that this technology is vital, just because of how much more effective this makes us as a force,” said Malandra.

MIX16 is the first event in the Sea Dragon 2025 initiative, which is the Marine Corps’ deliberate campaign to blend innovative ideas and concepts through war gaming and experimentation to refine the force of the future.

Darkhorse from pg. A1



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. JULIEN RODARTE
Marines with Kilo company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, clear buildings of hostile enemies during the Marine Air-Ground Task Force Integrated Experiment (MIX-16) at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Aug. 1.

tested the unit’s ability to enter an enemy controlled area and maintain combat readiness, while sustaining their own food, water, electricity and security without outside support.

To aid in their mission, K Co. was equipped with 40 technologies provided by the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory to test surrogate technologies and develop tactics, techniques and procedures in an effort to make the force smarter, faster and more lethal.

Upon landing in the combat town, the Marines were met by an opposition force, played by Lima Company, 3/5. Their task was to represent a futuristic enemy force that possessed the ability to blend into the local population, employ commercially available and military technologies and conduct advanced hybrid military tactics.

“The opposition force has been extremely challenging,” said Capt. Josef Patterson, company commander, K Co. “The more time we spend dealing with the enemy the less time we

have to secure things like water and electricity.”

The scenario and realistic environment presented the Marines, small unit leaders and company leadership the opportunity to experience the challenges they will likely face in future operating environments. The experiment tested the Marines’ ability operate in a distributed fashion and come up with creative solutions with limited resources.

“We can survive out here no problem, but remaining combat effective is the challenge,” said Patterson. “We have been using the new [technology] we have with us to provide security and conduct recon of the local area and to watch the enemy movement.”

Although the new technology and machines provided the Marines with more ways to remain combat effective, the hot temperatures presented problems for them and their equipment.

“Some of our equipment can reach 200 degrees and over, but we have

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PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. JULIEN RODARTE

Marines with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, provide security during the Marine Air-Ground Task Force Integrated Experiment (MIX-16) at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., July 31.



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. JULIEN RODARTE

Marines with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, test out the newly developed "Dragon Runner 10" at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., July 31.

mitigated anything from breaking down by shutting off the equipment before it can overheat," said Cpl. Preston Cain, electrician, K Co. "We also take steps to prevent equipment from over heating by setting them under shade and tarps."

Some of the equipment used during the experiment included: the MK-2 Instant Eye, an unmanned aerial surveillance system;

the Weaponized Multi-Utility Tactical Transport (W-MUTT), an all-terrain vehicle with the ability to mount heavy weapon systems not normally assigned to the company level; and the Dragon Runner 10, an unmanned ground robotics system.

"Our goal is to get to a point where Marines are not the first people through the door but a robot in their stead,"

said Capt. Eric McCrery, infantry officer, MCWL.

The enemy force did not make it easy for the "Darkhorse" Marines. The experiment forced the Marines to expand their view of the enemy and to understand they are not fighting a small group but a significant organization rooted within the local populace. The opposition force applied pressure on K Co. with tactics similar



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. JULIEN RODARTE

A Marine with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, assists his squad by providing reconnaissance with an "Instant Eye" unmanned aerial system at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., July 31.

to a near-peer asymmetric force, disrupting communications and swaying the local population's perception.

"I think as a Marine Corps we need to get away from conducting training, field exercises and evaluations where we always win, because that is not the reality. I think it is good for a company to come in here and take casualties and possi-

bly even lose because you are only going to learn through failure," McCrery said.

Determined not to fail, K Co. ramped up its intelligence gathering, strengthened relationships with the local populace and executed offensive operations that overwhelmed the enemy.

"We have incredibly talented, skilled, smart, fit, disciplined Marines and I

think one of the best parts about this is, we give them some tools and see what they come up with," said Neller.

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SLOT MACHINES TABLE GAMES OASIS GRILLE SHELLY'S LOUNGE

Medal From pg. A1

He continued to coordinate his remaining Marines’ defensive actions and called in deadly airstrikes until the attacking North Vietnamese diminished. It was for his actions at Dai Do that he received the Congressional Medal of Honor, presented to him by then-President Richard M. Nixon during a White House ceremony.

The retired colonel, now a mental health advocate,

spoke to the Marine Corps Base Hawaii community about the importance of seeking help for those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, May 12, 2015, at the Chaplain Joseph W. Estabrook Chapel.

Col. Timothy Winand, the commanding officer for 3rd Marine Regiment, said it was a great privilege to have a Medal of Honor recipient speak to the Marines about

such an important topic.

“(It was) a great opportunity in the realm of professional military education,” Winand said. “Col. Vargas has commanded Marines at every level, from platoon to infantry regiment, and his great story is one of courage, dedication, honor, commitment and valor. This is a message we should all listen to and take away from.”

Vargas, a Winslow, Ariz., native, said it took him 37 years to talk about his ex-

periences and once he let it all out, it felt good. He said he held it in because it’s what his brothers did. His brothers, Angelo and Frank, were at the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa during World War II, and his brother Joseph was in the Korean War. Vargas said they never spoke about it.

“The night after I received the medal, the four of us got together at supper and that was the first time I had heard what they did in

WWII,” Vargas said. “They held it in, like I did. I had just assumed that once you came home, you didn’t talk about it, like that’s the way it was supposed to be. To those of you who are coming out of a combat zone, don’t hold it in and, if you might have a problem, seek help.”

Vargas said there isn’t a Marine in this world that’s not tough, but there’s ongoing issue in the military called fatigue. He said it causes mental problems such as post-traumatic stress disorder or suicidal thoughts.

“I’ve found this stigma between all of us,” he said. “Nobody wants to admit they have a problem because of the things they’ve seen in combat, but most people don’t understand what effect combat fatigue — that was the term we used in WWII — has on Marines. If you need help, contact your chain of command. PTSD is vicious and some people might not be aware they have it; after coming home, I didn’t.”

Coming from a family of hunters, Vargas and his brothers would always

go out and hunt, he said. Vargas said for reasons unbeknownst to him, during one hunting trip, he would just go out and circle back to their base camp.

“I couldn’t kill anymore and I still can’t,” he said. “I can’t pull the trigger and my brother sensed (that). All he said, having gone through it himself, was ‘that’s okay, I understand,’ and took me (to get help). Was I cured? Yes. Will I ever forget what I went through in Vietnam? No. I will live with (my) memory of combat forever, I’m not going to deny that. I was told that my life was going to be different, that I would walk through life with a different posture. That I may even think about suicide.”

Vargas said one thing he has told Marines all over, was that nobody should ever think about taking their own life.

“Your life is too damn precious to throw away,” he said. “Some people never talk about what they go through, but if you put your heart and soul into it, you can live through anything.”

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LANCE CPL. HARLEY THOMAS

Col. Jay R. Vargas, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, waves at the camera after speaking to service members about the importance of finding help for those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder May 12, 2015, at the Chaplain Joseph W. Estabrook Chapel aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt

When the civic leaders of Twentynine Palms broke ground recently for a dog park, I rejoiced and asked my friend Steve Kanold to share his reflections. Read and enjoy.

The World Has Gone To The Dogs

I heard with delight that a ceremony to build a new dog park in 29 Palms recently took place. What a great place for dogs to socialize with others!

If the dog park in Yucca Valley is indicative of what is to come, the following can be expected: Breeds of all sorts mingle together—long and short hairs, dark and light-colored, shaggy and well-coifed. I’ve even seen a Mexican hairless once or twice. In the confines of the chain-linked fence surrounding the compound, all seem to get along quite well, although there have been incidences now and then when intervention was necessary. Sometimes when German derivatives mix with the French and English, war breaks out, if you know what I mean. Throw in an Irish red and you’ve got real chaos.

It’s funny, though, how size doesn’t seem to matter at dog parks. Small varieties can be just as feisty as husky ones, and males—fixed or not—have no advantage over females, when it comes to staking out their territory on the grassy turf. Still, aggressive pawing, while rare, occasionally happens after socializing and causes dust-ups, reminding us that certain animals need to be kept on short leashes.

But enough describing pet owners who come to the park. Dogs, who ditch their owners almost immediately once inside, seem to get a kick out of the place, and that’s what’s important.

This column sponsored by:

Mark and JoAnn Reischman Landers

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

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WeekINPhotos



Sgt. W. L. McMullen, a comptroller chief with 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, flips over in the shallow-water egress training chair, Wednesday, on Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan. This training prepares Marines and sailors to evacuate an aircraft in the case of an over-water crash.



Marines with 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade train to orient themselves while upside down in the shallow-water egress training chair, Wednesday, on Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan.



Staff Sgt. Russel Engelman, a cyber security technician, and Sgt. Tanniel Ashley, a logistics embarkation specialist, with 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade practice using an emergency breathing device during shallow-water egress training, Wednesday, on Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan.



Capt. Jeff Kisla, a G-4 Deputy, and 1st Lt. Dan Novotny, a combat engineer officer with 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, learn the steps to escape from the modular amphibious egress trainer, Wednesday, on Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan.

Photos by Sgt. Allison Beiswanger

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AMU ALUM AND VETERAN WES O’DONNELL (MBA 2011)



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

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Sound Advisory: ITX 5-16

There will be increased sound in the local area due to I Marine Expeditionary Force conducting Integrated Training Exercise 5-16 and Large Scale Exercise 16 aboard the Combat Center for the next 30 days.

Integrated Training Exercise, formerly known as the Combined Armed Exercise and Enhanced Mojave Viper, is the longest-lasting activity that occurs aboard the Combat Center and is comprised of an intensive training cycle involving a series of progressive live-fire exercises that assesses the ability and adaptability of a force of approximately 3,500 active duty or Reserve Fleet Marine Force Personnel.

Large Scale Exercise is designed to challenge commands across the spectrum of the Marine Air Ground Task Force. The exercise focuses on improving the warfighting skills of senior commanders and their staffs, developing a common understanding of MAGTF doctrine, and enhancing the capabilities to employ a MAGTF in a joint environment. The end state is that MAGTF commanders and their staffs possess the requisite warfighting skills to optimize operational success.

To submit a sound report, visit: <http://www.29palms.marines.mil/Staff/G5CommunityPlansPAO/SoundReporting.aspx>
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DOD personnel practice proper procedures during election season

STORY BY
SGT. GRACE WALADKEWICS

With the 2016 presidential election swiftly approaching, Department of Defense personnel are reminded of their restrictions and rights as voters to ensure a thorough, professional and well-coordinated transition without regard to political party affiliation this election year.

On Nov. 8, voters across America will take to the polls to elect the President of the United States, Vice President, House of Representative seats, Senate seats, state and territorial governors and various state representatives.

“This Fall our Nation again exercises one of our greatest freedoms, electing our next President,” said U.S. Secretary of Defense, Ash Carter in the Preparation for Orderly Transition memorandum. “With the leadership and support of each of you, we will provide the next administration with the most effective and seamless transition possible.”

While it is the right of all American citizens to cast their votes, DOD personnel must remain aware of specific responsibilities and expectations they are required to abide by, before, during and after the election.

Service members and DOD civilian employees are encouraged to exercise their right to vote in the election, but should be aware of limitations on participation in partisan political activity, which are outlined in the Hatch Act, departmental policies and DOD Directive 1344.10.

According to the Hatch Act, political activity is defined as an activity directed toward a success or failure of a political candidate or party for partisan political office or political group.

The Hatch Act groups individuals appointed by the President and confirmed by senate and non-career Senior Executive Service positions, as well as career members of the SES, contract appeals board members, employees of the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the National Geo-Spatial Intelligence Agency as further restricted employees who fall under strict guidelines in terms of election and political related policies and procedures. DOD civilian employees and schedule C appointments fall under the less restricted category and are subject to a different set of political activity guidelines.



PHOTO BY SGT. GRACE WALADKEWICS

Posters encouraging Marines to engage the political systems they defend hang in various locations throughout Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. With their military lifestyles and professional requirements, Marines often find politics and profession to be a balancing act. While maximum participation in the electoral process is encouraged throughout the Marine Corps, the guidelines laid out in Department of Defense Directive 1344.10 are readily available to Marines walking the politics-profession tightrope as they perform their civic and military duties.

Employees labeled as further restricted are prohibited from taking part in any political activity sponsored or supported by a political party partisan political group or candidate for political office. These activities include soliciting and receiving political contributions.

DOD Employees considered less restricted are permitted in their own capacity, to volunteer with political campaigns and organizations, including organizing rallies or meetings, assisting in call centers, serving as a delegate to a party.

While it is acceptable for less restricted employees to participate in various political aspects of the election, all civilian and DOD employees, regardless of restriction level, are prohibited from engaging in political activity while on-duty or in a federal building. This includes, but is not limited to sending emails or engaging on social media even if the employee is on a personal electronic

device, according to DOD Directive 1344.10.

DOD Directive 1344.10, which provides guidance for military personnel states that active duty personnel may not participate in partisan political activities and may not campaign for a partisan candidate, engage in partisan fundraising activities, serve as an office of a partisan club or speak before a partisan gathering.

Further restricted employees and active duty service members are permitted to express their personal opinions on political candidates and issues, make monetary contributions to a campaign or organization and attend political events as a spectator while not in uniform.

Social media is a rapidly growing platform used for getting our opinions, facts, information and visual content anywhere in the world in a matter of seconds. DOD Directive 1344.10 states that civil-

ian and military personnel employing the use of social media sites are permitted to express their personal views on public issues or political candidates, however, the posts must clearly and explicitly state that the views expressed in the posts are those of the individual and not of the DOD as a whole.

Active duty service members and further restricted personnel are permitted to “follow,” “like,” and “friend” political candidates or parties but are not permitted to “share” or “re-tweet” comments or posts from those running for partisan office.

In addition, service members must be mindful that their posts, comments and links fall within the guidelines set forth by the Uniform Code of Military Justice and their particular services regulations.

For more information and guidance, visit www.osc.gov, or <http://go.usa.gov/xCTEP>.





Combat Center Events

Single Marine Program is scheduled to host the 7th Annual Marines Got Talent. The show will take place on August 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Sunset Cinema. Admission is open to all hands. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

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 and Friday from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event is open to all hands Monday and SNCOs on Fridays. For more information, contact 760-830-5035.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Aug. 12
7:00 p.m. — Marines got Talent
9:20 p.m. — Independence Day: Resurgence (3-D), PG-13

Saturday, Aug. 13
12:00 a.m. — Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates, R
10:00 a.m. — The LEGO Movie (NDVD-Free Admission), PG
12:00 p.m. — The Legend of Tarzan, PG-13
2:30 p.m. — The BFG, PG
5:00 p.m. — The Secret Life of Pets (3-D), PG
7:00 p.m. — The Shallows, PG-13
9:00 p.m. — Independence Day: Resurgence, PG-13
11:30 p.m. — The Purge: Election Year, R

Sunday, Aug. 14
12:30 p.m. — Ghostbusters (2016)(3-D), PG-13
2:50 p.m. — The Infiltrator, R
6:30 p.m. — SNEAK PREVIEW-War Dogs, R

Monday, Aug. 15
1:30 p.m. — Chicken Run (NDVD-Free Admission), G
3:10 p.m. — The Peanuts Movie (NDVD-Free Admission), G
5:10 p.m. — The BFG, PG
7:40 p.m. — Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates, R

Tuesday, Aug. 16
1:30 p.m. — A Bug's Life (NDVD-Free Admission), G
3:10 p.m. — The Croods (NDVD-Free Admission), PG
5:10 p.m. — The Legend of Tarzan, PG-13
7:30 p.m. — Ghostbusters (2016), PG-13

Wednesday, Aug. 17
1:30 p.m. — Norm of The North (NDVD-Free Admission), PG
3:00 p.m. — the Jungle Book (NDVD-Free Admission), PG
5:10 p.m. — The Secret Life of Pets, PG
7:00 p.m. — Independence Day: Resurgence, PG-13

Thursday, Aug. 18
5:00 p.m. — The Shallows, PG-13
7:00 p.m. — Free State of Jones, R

Friday, Aug. 19
2:00 p.m. — Escape Planet Earth (NDVD-Free Admission), PG-13
4:00 p.m. — Ratchet and Clank (NDVD-Free Admission), PG
6:00 p.m. — The Secret Life of Pets (3-D), PG
8:00 p.m. — Ghostbusters (2016), PG-13
10:30 p.m. — The Infiltrator, R

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Moms Gone Wild

‘Bad Moms’ is a raunchy yarn about mothers who’ve had enough

NEIL POND

‘Bad Moms’
Starring Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell,
Kathryn Hahn & Christina Applegate
Directed by Jon Lucas and Scott Moore
Rated R

“I feel like the worst mom in the world,” says Amy (Mila Kunis), the harried, hurried, overworked, underappreciated mother of two young teens. “Still, I love being a mom.”

That conflicted yin and yang of motherhood, so familiar to anyone who’s been there (or is there), is the comedic core of this raunchy, righteously rollicking yarn about a trio of suburban moms who decide they’ve had enough—of PTA Nazis, wussie husbands, doofus booses and just about everything else—and cut loose.

Writer-directors Jon Lucas and Scott Moore, who contributed to the screenplays of The Hangover—about three guys on a Las Vegas party-pa-looza—and its two sequels, seem to want to show that they’re equal-opportunity humorists: They can write crude, R-rated sex jokes for women, too, even soccer moms!

The strong cast seems up for the task. Kunis is just the right shade of frazzled as Amy, whose world falls apart quickly after she catches her loutish husband (Dave Walton, who plays Sam on TV’s New Girl) in a compromising position with his internet girlfriend.

Kristen Bell is social outcast Kiki, struggling to raise three young children with her chauvinist mate and fanta-

sizing about getting into a car crash where she can go to the hospital for some quality “me time.”

But the real comedy catalyst is Kathryn Hahn, a veteran of dozens of TV and movie roles, as Carla, the trio’s sole single mom—and she’s a pistol, a brash, been-around-the-block sexual dynamo who gets most of the movie’s laugh-out-loud lines and visual gags, particularly the hilariously vulgar ones. You’ll have a hard time looking the same way again at any sweatshirt hoodie after Carla uses the pink one Kiki is wearing to demonstrate a particular point about male anatomy.

“I’m not going to wear this sweatshirt ever again,” a stunned Kiki vows.

Christina Applegate digs deep into the delicious dirty tricks of her role as Gwendolyn, the head of the school PTA, who rules everything—particularly bake sales—with an iron fist. Jada Pinkett Smith is Stacy, her feisty first lieutenant. Jay Hernandez is the school’s “hot” widower dad (who really knows how to speed-buckle a car seat). Wendell Pierce (who played Det. “Bunk” Moreland on TV’s The Wire) gets in a great line in his short scene as the principal. Wanda Sykes plays a marriage counselor who finally gets an un-coupled couple she can’t re-couple. And there’s a very special cameo by a very special hostess.

“It’s OK to be a bad mom,” a converted Amy eventually realizes, after a blitz of female empowerment, liberation, bonding and unification. Nobody’s perfect, every “bad mom” has a good side, there’s beauty in imperfection, and when moms are all in it together, it’s all good!

Stay for the credits to meet the real-life moms of the cast members. For anyone feeling a bit roughed up and raw by the R-rated humor, this gentle, parting dollop of smooth sweetness is guaranteed to leave you with a smile.

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Around the Corps

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PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. ALVIN PUJOLS

Cpl. William F. McNamara, a crew chief with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, fires an M240B medium machine gun on range targets during a joint close air support exercise between the Malaysian Royal Air Force and Marines from the 13th MEU, Sunday.



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. HERNAN VIDANA

Marines participate in advanced water survival training, Aug. 4 at the Area 5 pool on Camp Lejeune, N.C. The Marines are qualifying WSA to increase readiness for their deployment with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The Marines are with Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 24th MEU.



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. JACK A. E. RIGSBY

Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 26, Headquarters Regiment, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, conduct a helicopter support team training exercise at LZ Kite on Camp Lejeune, N.C., Monday. The training was conducted to increase proficiencies of Landing Support Marines to hook up external loads to military helicopters that provide an expedient manner of transportation of gear and supplies.

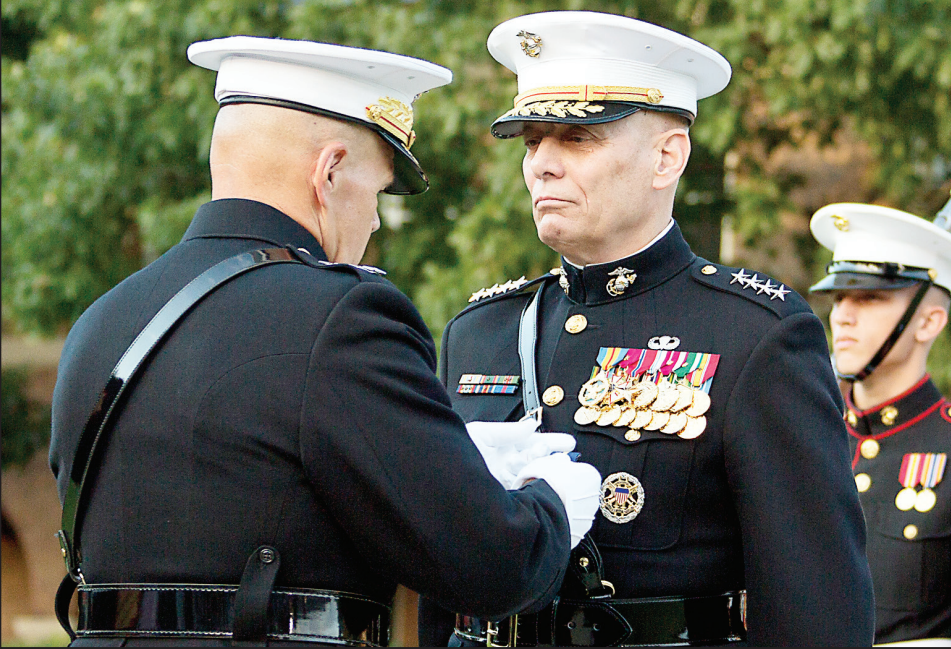


PHOTO BY CPL. SAMANTHA K. DRAUGHON

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert B. Neller, left, pins the Navy Distinguished Service Medal onto Gen. John M. Paxton, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, during his retirement ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington, Washington, D.C., Aug. 4. Paxton retired after 42 years of serving in the United States Marine Corps.

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