www.29palms.marines.mil



An MV-22 Osprey with Marine Medium Tilt-rotor Squadron 166 inserts Marines with Infantry Officer's Course at Range 220, the Combat Center's largest military operations on urbanized terrain facility, Sept. 23 as part of Exercise Talon Reach. Officers awaiting training at Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School and Marine Corps Intelligence School also participated in the exercise, for the first time, to create a mutually beneficial learning environment.

Combat Center hosts Exercise Talon Reach

STORY BY CPL. LEVI **SCHULTZ**

Marines attending Infantry Officer Course, based out of Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., conducted Exercise Talon Reach aboard the Combat Center and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Sept. 21-23.

await-Officers ing training at Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School and Marine Corps Intelligence School participated in the exercise, for the first time, to create a mutually beneficial learning environment. Additionally, Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 and Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group supported the exercise to further broaden the scope of the training.

"The IOC students are finishing up their course with Exercise Talon Reach," said Capt. Andrew Krebs, instructor, IOC.

"What we are trying to do is give them exposure to the [Marine Air Ground Task Force] in terms of certain mission sets they may need to execute in the future."

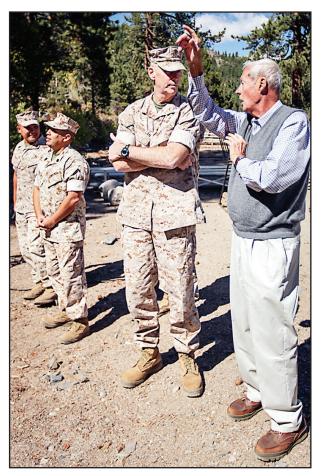
The students conducted urban patrolling lane training at the squad and

See **Talon Reach** Page A7

Inside the Observation Post

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B2	Liberty Call
B4	NREA bike ride



MWTC 65th anniversary See page B1

Pioneer Days' Military Grand Marshall

THE COMBAT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

(Einerson) Dorothy ngil has been named 2016 Pioneer Day's Military Grand Marshall. Dorothy enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve on February 24, 1943, with her sister, Mildred, just days after the service opened its ranks to women.

The Minnesota natives were members of the second-ever class of women trained at Hunter College in the Bronx, N.Y. during the war, they worked in the

See Grand Marshall Page A7



Dorothy Angil, left, takes part in a Memorial Day service at the Twentynine Palms Public Cemetery.

Combat Center concludes America's Prepare-A-Thon

STORY BY CPL. LEVI **SCHULTZ**

Today the Combat Center will be participating in National Preparedness Day as part of America's Prepare-A-Thon 2016, a presidential initiative geared toward arming Combat Center residents with the knowledge needed to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters and man-made incidents

On Preparedness Day, the Combat Center will test the Enterprise Mass Notification System (eMNS), an interactive,

community notification system capable of providing voice and/ or data messages to multiple, designated receivers through: desktop notification, telephone and social media to include a

"It is important that our residents are prepared for any situation that may arise," said Luis Aguirre, installation emergency management specialist, G-7 Mission Assurance. "This day will provide everyone aboard the installation with the opportunity to practice responding

See Prepare-A-Thon Page A7

NREA civilians recognized for environment efforts



Brig. Gen. William F. Mullen III, Combat Center Commanding General, presents Brian Henen, ecologist, Natural Re-

sources and Environmental Affairs, with the 2016 Secretary of the Navy Environmental Award for Natural Resource Conservation aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Sept. 27. Additionally, Chris Elliott, water resources manager, NREA, received the Secretary of the Navy Environmental Award for Environmental Quality. These awards highlight Henen and Elliott's efforts in supporting the installation's progressive conservation standards and long-standing reputation of being good stewards of the environment.

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. Trever Statz.



U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Trinity Brown, right, a combat engineer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command, holds a jack hammer air hose while conducting airfield damage repairs at Al Taqaddum Air Base, Iraq, Aug. 19, 2016. The ADR conducted ensured future operations could be conducted on the flight line safely. Advise and assist sites like Al Taqaddum Air Base are an integral part of Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve's multinational effort to increase the military capacity of Iraqi Security Force personnel to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

A2 SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 **OBSERVATION POST**



Reprinted from the Observation Post Sept. 29, 1989

Secretary of Defense views mobile assault exercise

STAFF SGT. CHUCK **DEMAR**

Amid M60A1 Main Battle Tanks, Light Armored Vehicles (LAVs) armed with 25 mm cannons and TOW (tube-launched optically-tracked, wire-fired) missiles, indirect artillery fire, AH-1T Cobra Helicopters and AV-8B Harrier attack aircraft, camera flashes and swarming media, the Secretary of Defense, The Honorable Richard B. Cheney, escorted by Major General John I. Hopkins, base commander, viewed a lifefire Mobile Assault Corse exercise Sept. 20.

camouflage-netted

Ames Well observation post, the secretary was briefed by Maj. Steve Swift, infantry controller and Col. Buck Bedard, deputy director of the Tactical Evaluation Exercise Control Group. Both officers guided the secretary through the assault scenario as artillery rounds fell, and aircraft encroached, pinning the "enemy" down, allowing the tanks and LAVs time to maneuver into the offensive position on their objective.

The M60s unleashed their main-guns as the LAVs launched TOWs on the enemy's position with pinpoint accuracy, and Harriers shed their ordinance "on target" -

all the music like synchronicity, orchestrated as only as well trained Marines do.

After observing the Mobile Assault Course, the secretary met and talked with crewmembers of the assault tanks and LAVs. Culminating his visit was hands-on training of the LAV-25. After climbing into the gunner's seat and receiving a brief orientation of its operation,, the secretary closed in on national security." and destroyed stationary targets resembling Russian troops carrier, with the LAVs 25 mm chain gun.

defense secretary entertained questions from the media in

attendance. His thoughts on the Combat Center? "I've heard a lot about it, but this is my first visit," he stated. "This is a key training facility and is a very valuable base in regards to our national defense. It is the only base in the world where Marines can train in a live-fire environment," he noted. Commenting further on the Combat Center, "... a very vital part of our

As a dust cloud enveloped the secretary's helicopter, it lifted off toward the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, After exiting the LAV-25, the Calif., the next stop in his tour of western defense facilities and training bases.

CROSSWORD

"Sound Conclusions"

Across

- 1 Knight titles
- 5 C minor chord note
- **10** Representation
- 14 Pint or quart
- **15** Bum
- 16 Math calculation
- **17** Add cargo
- 18 Run up
- 19 Keats, for one 20 Santa's home
- 23 Man of fable
- 24 Shuttlecock
- 28 Catch suddenly
- 29 Mystery feature **34** Onion roll
- 35 CIA agent
- 36 Interior space 37 American symbol
- 38 Nonbinding vote
- 41 Actress Christina
- 44 Adolescent
- 45 Evening hrs.
- 48 Spot's jingler
- 49 Miscue **51** "I see!"
- 52 Bartender, often
- 54 Madcap comedy
- "Gateway" sci-fi author
- 61 Editable site
- 64 Element no. 5 65 Connive
- 66 "Sounds good!"
- **67** Kind of suit
- **68** Late Tonight host
- 69 Zingy taste 70 Blocks
- **71** Genesis garden

Public Affairs Chief - Cpl. Julio McGraw

12 13 15 20 23 26 27 28 42 43 46 58 59 61 62 63 64 67 68 69 70

Down

- 1 Islamic chiefs
- 2 Piled up
- 3 Passes on the road
- 4 Note taker
- 5 Mideast potentate
- 6 Source ___ Ness Monster
- 8 "Can I borrow _ of sugar?"
- 9 Beat
- 10 Magnificent
- **11** Murmur
- **12** Words of honor?
- 13 Clear

- 21 Choose (to)
- 22 Actionable words
 - 25 " nabbit!" 26 Laid up
 - **27** Ogle
 - 30 Campaign setting
 - 31 Het up
 - 32 Ratty place
 - 33 Become narrower
 - 38 Gorging on
 - 39 Clemson athlete
 - 40 Musician Yoko
 - 41 Shred
 - 42 Nuptial agreement 43 Jack Bauer's org.
 - 45 Released early

Lance Cpl. Dave Flores

- 46 Sonic boom speed
- Country singer
- 50 Bobby, for short
- 53 Picture puzzle
- 55 iPad maker
- **57** Stop order?
- 58 HOMES body
- **59** Scope 60 Resting places
- **61** Humor
- little
- confused" **63** Family folk

SUDOKU

	1			2		3	4
		4	5			1	
6				7		8	
		5				6	
	2	1			8	7	
	6				9		
	7		8				6
	4			5	1		
5	3		9			2	

Difficult

Last week's answers

6	8	1	2	7	3	4	9	5
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9	5	2	4	1	6	7	3	8
4	6	5	9	3	8	2	1	7
8	2	7	5	4	1	9	6	3
1	9	3	6	2	7	5	8	4
5	3	6	7	9	2	8	4	1
7	1	9	3	8	4	6	5	2
2	4	8	1	6	5	3	7	9

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OBSERVATION POST

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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.

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- 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.

members from patronizing the following

Local off-limits guidance prohibits service

- 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:
- 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** SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 A3

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Eddy Rockville, Md. administrative clerk, Installation Personnel Administrative Center, Headquarters Battalion HUEZO

> I grew up in Maryland and lived there basically my whole life. At the age of two, I began traveling every summer with my great grandmother to El Salvador. The last time I went, I was eighteen.

> I would go there during the summer and attend school in Maryland for the rest of the year. My grandmother would work two jobs to be able to save enough money for us to go every year. We have a lot of family there still.

> grew up with a single **mom** and was raised in a household full of women. Growing up in a neighborhood that wasn't so friendly, but with a loving family as the foundation really affected my beliefs and values.

>When I was younger I was bullied for all sorts of things. Going through all that made me who I am and built a stronger mindset and inspired me to go in a positive direction.

>A friend from high school came back from the Marine **Corps** and he was like a whole new person. I saw that and thought, "I need to get like that." I never knew anything about the Marine Corps but I went in and I would like to say I achieved the transformation I sought. I've come to expect the same thing from my junior Marines.

learned from the Marine Corps

is that I can come here from Okinawa to [the Combat Center] and just be instantly integrated into the system. If I see you in the civilian world ten years later, we are going to connect. That is what I love about the Marine Corps — through our core values, we are brothers and sisters.

>For those who really **know me,** I love making music. Music was one of those things that helped get me through everything I've gone through. I started with an ear for it. I know a little piano and guitar but certain sounds and pitches were really interesting to me. I've written lyrics for songs that have turned out really beautiful. I plan on making a CD for fun once I'm able too.

>I enjoy just about everything from country to rap but the genre that speaks to me most is often hip hop. Songs that tell a story and do it well are the most interesting to me.

>I'm looking to become a firefighter. I'm starting a course with Copper Mountain College for their [emergency medical technician] program soon. I just completed basic life-support training as well. I love serving the community, helping people and especially taking care of Marines.

>I really look up to my >The biggest thing I've great-grandmother because

Huezo spent his summers growing up in El Salvador. Since enlisting in the Marine Corps, he has learned to take both good and bad experiences and make the most of them.



gest heroes because she started want to continue to give back to with just the clothes on her back and worked and worked and still works to this day. She was the >In the Marine Corps, she lived through civil wars in root that got my family to the is camaraderie. One thing about El Salvador and has seen a lot. U.S. She started with nothing and el. Regardless of rank you can Marines that I love so much She is probably one of my big-made something happen and I learn from everyone.

my family.

everyone is my role-mod-

Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Levi Schultz

To all Marine Corps Enterprise Network (MCEN) Computer Users aboard MCAGCC Twentynine Palms

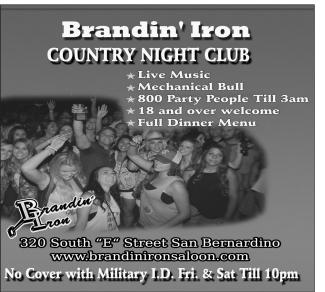
There is an ongoing effort to update computer software onboard MCAGCC Twentynine Palms.

The G-6 requires the assistance of all MCEN users to do the following to ensure the successful installation of software updates.

User required action:

- 1. POWER ON ALL COMPUTERS located aboard MCAG-CC Twentynine Palms.
- $2.\ ALLOW$ SOFTWARE INSTALLATION to occur. When a message is displayed indicating software is available for installation, save your work, close all applications and accept the installation notification.
- 3. PROPERLY DETACH USB STORAGE DEVICES, such as external hard disk drives.
- 4. LOG OFF COMPUTERS. All users need to close computer applications and logoff their computers before securing for close of business.
- 5. Communicate software installation success and/or failure status information to your organization's ISC (Information Systems Coordinator).

Everyone's assistance and cooperation on this matter is greatly appreciated.







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A4 SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

OBSERVATION POST

Combat Center civilian

receives Latina Style Distinguished Civilian Award

STORY BY CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

he Combat Center's Maritza Carrillo, financial management analyst, G-8 Comptroller, received the 2016 Latina Style Incorporated Distinguished Civilian Award. The award is designed to recognize women in the military and the DoD civilian workforce who, through their service, have enhanced the role of Latinas in their organization.

Carrillo's supervisor, Kevin Cosgriff, the accounting officer for G-8, nominated her for the award because of her superior performance in the workplace and volunteer work within the local community.

"The award is given out

once a year by the DoD," Cosgriff said. "It recognizes one civilian and one military member from each branch of the Armed Forces. I decided to nominate her for her distinguished service. A lot of the work she does is complex and requires a lot of critical analytical skills. She has solved a lot of system and accounting related problems here, but what is most important, was how she interacts with the Hispanic community and the community in general here in the High Desert."

In her free time, Carrillo often volunteers to help those whose second language is English develop basic language skills and become acclimated to the community. She also volunteers her time with children in the community by

assisting with local intramural sports.

Prior to civilian service, Carrillo served in the supply logistics field as an enlisted Marine for four years.

"Her prior service is really evident in how she applies herself and her acquired skills," Cosgriff said. "It comes to the forefront in everything she does making her a quality employee in every regard."

Carrillo said she hopes to continue in giving back and making a difference in the local community.

"It's really great to be recognized in this way for my work," Carrillo said. "I'm doing what I love, and I hope to be able to continue to volunteer my time helping others."



-8 Comptroller

Maritza Carrillo, financial management analyst, G-8 Comptroller, received the Latina Style Incorporated Distinguished Civilian Award.

CLB-7 begin projects aboard Camp Wilson

PHOTOS BY CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ



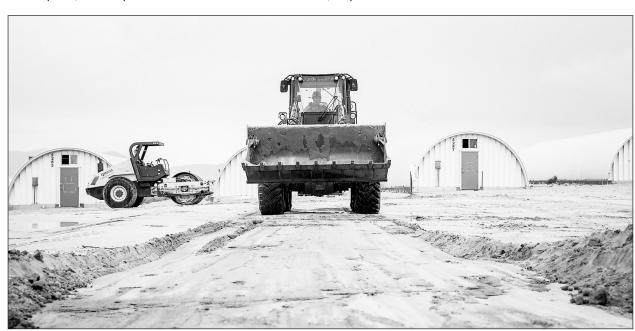
Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 7 lay the foundation for additional expeditionary steel structures, known as K-Spans, at Camp Wilson aboard the Combat Center, Sept. 23.



Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 7 lay the foundation for additional expeditionary steel structures, known as K-Spans, at Camp Wilson aboard the Combat Center, Sept. 23.



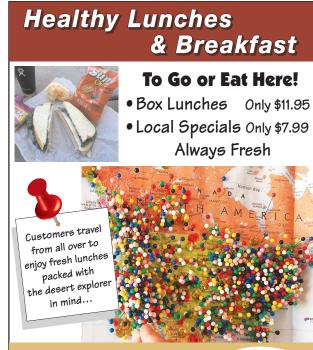
Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 7 lay the foundation for additional expeditionary steel structures, known as K-Spans, at Camp Wilson aboard the Combat Center, Sept. 23.



Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 7 lay the foundation for additional expeditionary steel structures, known as K-Spans, at Camp Wilson aboard the Combat Center, Sept. 23. The structures will improve the installation's ability to support units as they conduct combined arms live-fire exercises.







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OBSERVATION POST SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 A5

The Marine Corps invites you to comment on a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and attend public information meetings



A Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) has been prepared to study alternative plans for translocating tortoises from specific newly-acquired training areas following the July 2012 Final EIS for Land Acquisition/Airspace Establishment at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms.

The Marine Corps welcomes your participation!

Comments will be accepted during the public meetings, by mail, or online at www.SEISforLAA.com.

Submit written comments to: 29Palms SEIS Project Team c/o Cardno Government Services 3888 State Street, Ste. 201 Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Comments on the Draft SEIS must be received or postmarked by November 14, 2016, for consideration in the Final SEIS.

The Draft SEIS is available on the website and at public libraries in Apple Valley; Barstow; Palm Springs (Sunrise Way); San Bernardino (Administrative Offices); Twentynine Palms; Victorville (Circle Dr.); Yucca Valley; Joshua Tree; Lucerne Valley; Needles; Ontario (C Street); and Sacramento (Capitol Mall).

OPEN HOUSE
PUBLIC MEETINGS
5 – 8 p.m.

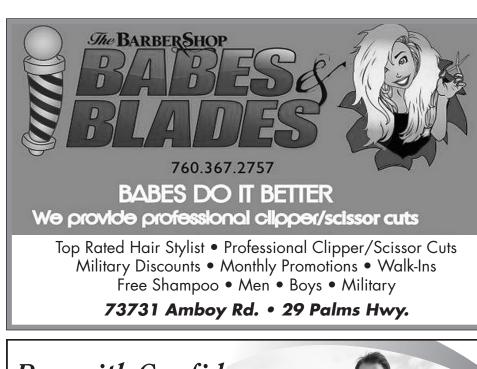
Joshua Tree Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2016 Joshua Tree Community Center 6171 Sunburst St.

Palm Springs
Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2016
Palms Springs Convention Center
277 N. Avenida Caballeros

Barstow
Thursday, Oct. 27, 2016
Barstow Harvey House
681 N. 1st Ave.

There will not be a formal presentation.

For more information visit: www.SEISforLAA.com







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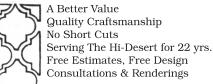


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OBSERVATION POST SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 A7

Talon Reach From A1

platoon levels at Range 220, the Combat Center's largest military operations on urbanized terrain facility. They also trained in counter-improvised explosive device and cordon and search tactics.

Concurrently, IOC students located at MCAS Yuma rehearsed command operations center activities, tested communications and prepared for the use of new and innovative technologies. Through the collaboration of different organizations, the future leaders were introduced to a broader image of the functions of a MAGTF.

"We like the students to witness how intelligence drives operations and how advanced communication planning allows them to integrate with the rest of the MAGTF," Krebs said. "It really gives them experience with some of the problems and solutions they will encounter in the MAGTF, specifically with the incorporation of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) integration with close-air support and the communication architecture that goes along with it."

According to Capt. Terry Traylor, operations officer, Company D, Communications Training Battalion, MCCES, the integration between MCCES and IOC provides the future infantry officers with the basic understanding of information warfare and how it supports the ground combat element.

"This is a tactical level operation so we are simulating what information warfare effects do on a tactical level," Traylor said. "We have a live link out to the DoD Cyber Security Range out at [MCB] Quantico, Va., where we are affecting virtual targets while these Marines are on the ground. They can immediately take that experience and go straight to deployment. For the communications students. they are now learning how they can support these guys."

In order to adapt to the ever-evolving nature of warfare, IOC students learned techniques to counter enemy UAS as



Marines with Infantry Officer Course conduct lane training at Range 220, the Combat Center's largest military operations on urbanized terrain facility, Sept. 22, as part of Exercise Talon Reach. This exercise is the IOC students' last training event before graduation.

well as the means to incorporate various advanced technologies in order to increase digital inoperability, such as the Marine Air Ground Tablet, a tablet with the ability to coordinate indirect fires on the ground, currently utilized by Marines in the fleet. MCTOG concept development observed the process as part of an effort to standardize the most efficient methods of training future Marines in the use of these technol-

"At concept development and innovation, one of the concepts we have been tasked with is command and control with a tactical edge," said Maj. Paul Tremblay, concept development and innovation head, MCTOG. "In line with what Marine Corps Warfighting Labs has been exploring with the Sea Dragon 2025 initiative and the technologies they are experimenting with, we are trying to build a framework around how the GCE will integrate digital inoperability initiatives with the attachments to realize tactical networking down to the squad level."

With these new steps towards innovation, the future leaders of the Corps will be better prepared to serve their roles as Marine Corps staff officers and commanders across the Fleet Marine Force.

"This is their initial



An AH-1Z Super Cobra with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron flies over Range 220, the Combat Center's largest military operations on urbanized terrain facility, Sept. 23 as part of Exercise Talon Reach.



A student with Infantry Officer Course speaks to role-players at Range 220, the Combat Center's largest military operations on urbanized terrain facility, Sept. 22 as part of Exercise Talon Reach.

exposure to this technology and integration, so if they find themselves Expeditionary Force] they can hit the ground

running," Tremblay said. "It's an exciting time in the Marine Corps. We are on a Special Purpose really capturing and think-MAGTF or a [Marine ing over those lessons learned in the echoes of battle."



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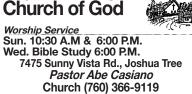
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Grand Marshall From A1

induction and recruiting stations in Manchester, N.H., and Philadelphia, recruiting women into the Marine Corps, in-processing new enlistees and performing clerical duties. Dorothy also served as a member of the Women's Reserve Pistol Team.

When both were discharged after the war ended in 1945, Dorothy returned to her old job at Archer Daniels Midland Co. in Minneapolis while Mildred stayed in the East to raise a family with her husband.

When Marines contacted Dorothy to reenlist at the start of the Korean War, she answered the call, returning to active duty in August 1950. While serving in the induction and recruiting station in Des Moines, Iowa, she met and married another Marine, Thomas Angil. She stayed in Des Moines while he was deployed to Korea, requesting a transfer to Camp Lejeune, N.C., to be with him after his return to the States.

Dorothy left active duty for good in March 1953, but she never left the Marine Corps behind. In May 1959, Tom reported to Twentynine Palms for duty and the Angils purchased the home where she still lives today. When Tom passed away in 1972, 10 years after his retirement from the Marine Corps, Dorothy chose to stay in the community where they'd made their home.

She worked at Twentynine Palms Elementary School from 1965 to 1975 before joining the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Comptroller's Office, where she worked until her retirement in 1986.

Through the years, Dorothy has faithfully served the Twentynine Palms community as a volunteer with the Red Cross and Joshua Tree National Park Association, as well as with the local chapters of the Women Marines Association (WMA) and the Retired Officers' Spouses Club (ROSes).

At 94, Dorothy remains active in both the WMA and ROSes organizations. Each May, she represents the WMA at Twentynine Palms' annual Memorial Day observance, presenting a wreath honoring America's fallen on behalf of the orga-

Dorothy will be honored at our PAAC Art Exhibition & Pioneer Days Opening Celebration October 14, 2016, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Bucklin Park at 73470 Twentynine Palms Highway.

Prepare-A-Thon From A1

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"Staying prepared is important because you ensure that you or your family doesn't become a victim," Aguirre said. "If you're prepared for whatever may happen, our first responders can assist with other types of emergencies; it's a matter of helping us help you."

For additional information and to register on the National Prepare-A-Thon, visit www.ready. marines.mil or contact G-7 Mission Assurance at 830-6074.

TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM by Lou Gerhardt



One of my good friends tells about the lay preacher in his small town in the South who had a way of bringing in to almost every prayer these words, "Dear Lord, prop me up on the leaning side." What a colorful way of saying a very important truth. We all have our "leaning side" and we need God's help to "prop us up.:

Some of us have a "leaning side" in matter of character which is to say we may have a particular moral weakness. It is my testimony based upon experience that only a kind of religious experience, a God-awareness or a spiritual new birth has enabled some people to conquer their moral weakness. With God's help through a "power not their own," they were "propped up on the leaning side."

Some of us have a "leaning side" in matters of temperament. More and more I have come to believe that we inherit our temperaments and we should recognize that they are almost as difficult to change as our physical features. I know, for example, those who are hostile or aggressive by nature who have kept themselves under control through spiritual discipline. With God's help they have been "propped up on the leaning side."

Then there are the unexpected and unwelcome things that happen to us. You know there are many hurts that people carry deep in their hearts, invisible hurts about which nothing is ever said. Well again, I would make testimony that the lay preacher's simple prayer, "Dear Lord, prop me up on the leaning side," speaks a memorable truth. It is God, and God alone, who is sufficient for our need when the need is greatest.

This column sponsored by:

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A8 SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

OBSERVATION POST

U.S. Marines and Singapore Armed Forces retire the colors during the opening ceremony for Exercise Valiant Mark 2016 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms,

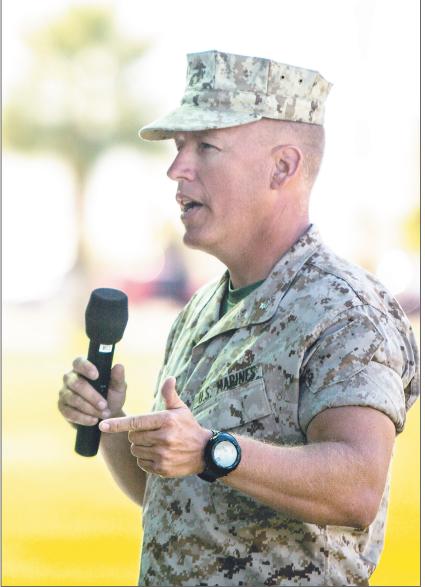


U.S. Marines and Singapore Armed Forces salute as the colors are presented during the opening ceremony for Exercise Valiant Mark 2016 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Sept. 26.



U.S. Marines and Singapore Armed Forces stand at attention during the opening ceremony for Exercise Valiant Mark 2016 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Sept. 26.

WeekINPhotos



CPL. AKEEL AUSTIN

Lt. Col. Eric Clark, commanding officer, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, addresses the audience during the opening ceremony for Exercise Valiant Mark 2016 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Sept. 26. Valiant Mark is an annual exercise conducted by U.S. Marines and the Singapore Armed Forces in order to maintain a high level of interoperability, enhanced military to military relations and to enrich mutual combat capabilities through international combined arms training.



CPL. AKEEL AUSTI

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U.S. Marines and Singapore Armed Forces salute during the opening ceremony for Exercise Valiant Mark 2016 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. Sept. 26.





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September 30, 2016 **Since 1957** Vol. 60 B

MWTC celebrates 65 years of excellence



Marines previously stationed aboard Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., including retired Maj. Gen. Orlo K. Steele, look at gear used during training exercises, in the Levitt Training Area, Sept. 22.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LAUREN KURKIMILIS

CORPS

MOUNTAINWARFARE TRAINING CENTER, BRIDGEPORT, Calif. — The Sierra Nevada Mountain Range is as unforgiving as it is beautiful. Tracing California's eastern border, the range boasts the tallest summit within all of the continental United States and the largest alpine lake in all of North America. Northeast of Yosemite National Park, carved out of granite on the 38th parallel, is the Marine Corps' most austere and remote of duty stations; a place from which generations of Marines have been forged into mountaineers, the Marine Corps Mountain

MARINE

MWTC held an anniversary celebration September 22, after 65 years of commitment to ensuring Marines are truly prepared to fight in any clime or place. Marines from throughout the decades came for the anniversary commemoration, which began with a welcome address from Col. James E. Donnellan, commanding officer, MWTC.

Warfare Training Center in

Bridgeport, Calif.

"Marines are always keenly aware of their history and this place has a very unique and special history," Donnellan said. "From the days of cold-weather training that was just a two and a half or three day excursion into the hills of Big Bear, to Lt. Col. Hubbard scouting out and choosing the site of what became MWTC here in Pickel Meadows,

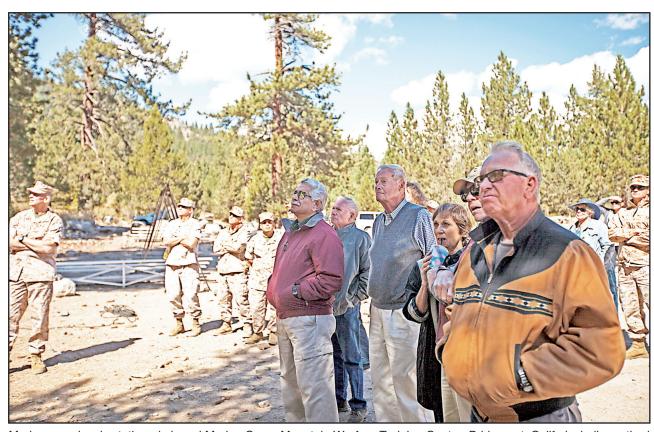
we are aware of our history and grateful to have our guests here today to help share in that and to

share their memories of their time here."

Following the Chosin Reservoir Campaign in North Korea, where U.S. troops incurred a disproportionate amount of casualties due to exposure and cold weather related conditions, what was then called the Cold Weather Battalion was established in 1951 and allowed Marines to receive cold weather indoctrination prior to replacing troops in Korea. Sitting at 6,600 feet of elevation, with surrounding summits reaching 11,000 feet and an average snow-depth of 10 to 25 feet, Pickel Meadows was certainly a location where personnel could be thoroughly schooled in mountaineering skills, tactics and survival techniques.

Not long after, a young Marine by the name of Pfc. Orlo K. Steele reported for duty to the rugged snow-covered post, having just completed boot camp and infantry training. Never would he have imagined that he would spend so much of his career there and that more than 60 years later he would be standing in an auditorium at MWTC as retired Maj. Gen. O.K. Steel, serving as the guest of honor during the center's 65th anniversary.

"I am frequently asked, having served 35 years as a United States Marine, 'what was your best duty station?' and that's an easy one for me," Steele said. "I've always said



Marines previously stationed aboard Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., including retired Maj. Gen. Orlo K. Steele observe a training exercise in the Levitt Training Area, Sept. 22.

that it's the Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif."

Steel, a man who literally wrote the book on MWTC, was also honored at the command library for donating books to the library from his personal collection. The day's events also included a display of military vehicles, lunch with the troops at the mess hall, and a training demonstration at Levitt Training Area.

"We are very fortunate that Maj. Gen. Steele has donated the vast majority of his library, which has become the vast majority of our library, 999 books," Donnellan said. "His collection has become the basis of the Mountain Warfare Training Center's library."

Over the years, MWTC

has evolved into what is an unmatched venue for Marines to develop self-confidence to operate on trying terrain or in an extreme climate. The training offered in Bridgeport began changing with the expansion of capabilities in 1963 after the Korean War and moved on to focus on training Marines and operational units for deployments on NATO's northern flank in the 1980's. Eventually, curriculum was once again adapted to support fighting the Global War on Terrorism, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. For years, MWTC has trained Marines to adapt and overcome and today's mountain warfare training packages must challenge Marines to operate in those same harsh conditions while also

facing new challenges.

MWTC stands out from other mountain warfare training offered throughout the Department of Defense, not only in the individual skillset it imparts on students, but through its ability to support multiple service-level training packages each year.

"Even today, the training center is still quite unique in the DoD," said Steve Gardner, academic director, MWTC. "It's the highest altitude topography of any of the training areas and mountain warfare schools and it's the only one that does service-level exercises. All the others are formal schools and, although they model after us to a certain extent, they don't have near the throughput or diversity in specialized schools."

As the years go on, the curriculum may adapt and be optimized, just as Marines are accustomed to, but the terrain will not and because of this the formidable challenges found only when forced to endure this unrelenting piece of the Sierra Nevada have remained for the past 65 years.

"The training here in Bridgeport is integral to our success as a Marine Corps," said Maj. Paul Mann, operations officer, MWTC. "At this location, we train Marines to fight in extremely austere conditions, in high altitudes and mountainous and cold weather environments. This is how the Marine Corps holds itself to the standard of fighting and winning wars in every clime and place."

B2 SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 **OBSERVATION POST**



Combat Center Events

Come to Heritage Park for a Night Out Against Crime, Tuesday from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Enjoy a fun-filled evening with activities for kids, a movie and snacks. This event is open for all active duty, family members, retirees and DOD civilians. For more information, call 830-3244.

Head to the Protestant Chapel Friday at 7:30 a.m. for the Poker Run Style Motorcycle Ride. Motorcycle riders get to participate in an educational poker run style ride to help bring awareness to domestic violence. Learn about resources available to help build healthy resilient families and how to prevent domestic violence. To register or for more information, contact the FAP Office at 830-6345.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Sept. 30

5:00 PM - Pete's Dragon (3-D) PG

7:20 PM - War Dogs R

9:50 PM - Sausage Party R

11:50 PM - Mechanic: Resurrection R

Saturday, Oct. 1

11:00 AM - Kubo and The Two Strings PG

1:20 PM - Pete's Dragon PG

3:40 PM - Ben-Hur PG

6:30 PM - Mechanic: Resurrection R

9:00 PM - Hell or High Water R

11:30 PM - Don't Breathe R

Sunday, Oct. 2

12:30 PM - Pete's Dragon PG

3:00 PM - The Wild Life (3-D) PG

5:00 PM - The Light Between Oceans PG 7:50 PM - Don't Breathe R

Monday, Oct. 3

6:30 PM - Hell or High Water R

Tuesday, Oct. 4

6:30 PM - Ben-Hur PG

Wednesday, Oct. 5

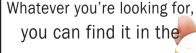
5:00 PM - Don't Breathe R

7:00 PM - Mechanic: Resurrection R

Thursday, Oct. 6

5:00 PM - Pete's Dragon PG

7:30 PM - Sausage Party R







COURTESY PHOTO Corbin Reid plays Ashley, who accompanies her friends into the haunted Black Hills Woods.

Young documentarians return to haunted woods

NEIL POND

Blair Witch Starring James Allen McCune & Callie Hernandez Directed by Adam Wingard

In theaters Sept. 16, 2016

films in its wake.

Witches have been around for centuries, and the Blair Witch well, she's been on the scene since 1999, when a modestly budgeted little flick called "The Blair Witch Project" became a spectacular \$250 million worldwide hit and created an entire genre of "found footage" horror

follow a certain format: Someone documents something unsettling with a video camera then mysteriously disappears, leaving their baffling "footage" behind for someone else to discover — and decipher. The footage can shape the entire movie, or — as in the original "Blair Witch

Project" — be the movie. In this latest Blair Witch spawn, nearly 18 years later, another group of attractive young people ventures into the same haunted woods in Maryland that claimed the original movie's victims. Apparently, they've seen the "footage," if not the original film. James (James Allen McCune) is looking for his big sister, who never came back from that fateful trip. He brings along three of his friends, working on a student-documentary project for her college class — so she rigs everyone with every kind of recording gizmo conceivable.

The group picks up another pair, a rather odd young couple (Wes Robinson and Valorie Curry) who found the original footage and posted it online. They claim they can be their guides into the Black Hills Woods — a place steeped in legends of a 17th century witch lynching, a cursed town and modern serial-killer madness.

In addition to "traditional" handheld cameras, everyone has mini-"Found footage" movies came to cams that clip to their ears. They also carry portable units that can be mounted on branches, heads or sticks, and there's even a drone that lets them see what's going on from high above.

> The result is that everything gets recorded — and I mean everything. We see the group drinking in the bar the night before they leave, eating weenies around a campfire, crawling into their tents to sleep. We get to watch as one pees on a tree.

> On the upside, all the cameras "explain" why, and how, we're seeing what we see; this is this movie's "found footage."

> And when the scares start to roll in and ramp up, all the differ-

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one of whom (Callie Hernandez) is bleeps as audio and video signals cut in and out — add to the sense of extreme disorientation, especially when things get all weird and time-warpy. But the gotchas aren't anything novel, particularly frightful or ghastly, or anything you haven't seen before; they just come via new

> Important takeaways: Don't get too attached to any of the characters. Beware, as always, of the "stick men," the Blair Witch's handmade calling cards. Don't go wandering off at night by yourself. Take proper care of all puncture and slash wounds, lest something hideously creepy happen to them. Keep hands and fingers away from the whirring blades of drones lodged in the tops of tall trees. In eerie, deserted houses in the middle of haunted forests, for God's sake, stay out the attic and the basement. And never look directly at the Blair Witch: "No one's ever seen her and lived to talk about it," warns one character.

> That may indeed be true. But after seeing how upset she particularly seems to be at this group of kids invading her ancient dark space with their arsenal of high-tech recording devices, I'm wondering if the grumpy ol' gal just simply isn't in the mood to be photographed and uploaded to Facebook, Instagram, YouTube or anything else. She doesn't strike me as the social media type.

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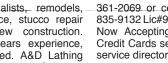
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