



The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Color Guard leads the Pioneer Days Parade in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Saturday. The parade is held annually to celebrate the unique culture and history of the community.

Combat Center, community celebrate Pioneer Days

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Combat Center Marines led the way during the 2016 Pioneer Days Parade in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Saturday. Installation leaders and various units represented the installation as part of the City of Twentynine Palms’ 79th annual Pioneer Days, a tradition that dates back in the local community to 1937.

Combat Center Chief of Staff; Navy Capt. John A. Lamberton, commanding officer, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital; and Master Chief Jerry A. Ramey, command master chief, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, represented the Marine Corps and Navy leadership aboard the installation by riding in the parade. “The biggest thing is that the base, the town and the national park co-exist so it’s in our best interest to work together,” said Aaron Kyle, presi-

dent, Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce. “Marines come out here and don’t know what they can do locally. We encourage them to use the visitor center, because we can point them in the right direction.” Adding to Combat Center participation, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, the Provost Marshal’s Office and the Combat Center Fire Department showcased different vehicles such as a

Light Armored Vehicle 25 and PMO’s Mobile Command Post while a detachment of more than 50 Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School Marines marched in the parade. “It feels good to have the Marines out here and just to be part of the parade and help out anyway we can,” said Sgt. Eric Larsen, instructor, MCCES. “I feel honored that I got to participate in an event that means so much to the local community.”



A Light Armored Vehicle 25 with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion drives on California Highway 62 during the Pioneer Days Parade in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Saturday.



Sgt. Eric Larsen, instructor, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, leads a detachment of MCCES students during the Pioneer Days Parade in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Saturday.

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 Gunnery Sgt. Robert Brown.



SAN DIEGO – Marines and sailors stand in formation prior to going underway aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS Somerset (LPD 25) Oct. 14. The formation was held to take accountability just before final words from the commanding officer and sergeant major. More than 2,400 Marines and Sailors with the 11th MEU began a seven-month deployment to the Western Pacific, and Middle Eastern regions embarked on the three U.S. Navy ships of the Makin Island Ready Group.

PMO helps clean up Combat Center with Drug Take Back

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. THOMAS MUDD

The Provost Marshal’s Office held a Prescription Drug Take Back at Heritage Park, Saturday. PMO and Marine Corps Community Services held the event in conjunction

twice a year. According to Gerland, prescription medications are one of the most abused forms of drugs. These types of events help prevent misuse or theft of these drugs.



Staff Sgt. Joshua Gerland, physical security chief, and Agent Natalie Calderon, chief investigator, Criminal Investigation Division, Provost Marshal’s Office, display filled boxes of prescription medication to be properly disposed of during the PMO Drug Take Back held aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.

with the Drug Enforcement Administration to provide Combat Center residents an opportunity to anonymously turn in any expired or unneeded prescription drugs for proper disposal. “There are a lot of people who flush or throw away their old [medication],” said Staff Sgt. Joshua Gerland, physical security chief, PMO. “That is dangerous because they don’t break down properly and may contaminate the water supply.” PMO hosts the event

“There are a lot of large cases that revolve around prescription drugs,” said Agent Natalie Calderon, chief investigator, Criminal Investigation Division. “This helps prevent these thefts and keep the medication with the person its intended for.” PMO was able to fill five boxes with prescription medications for the DEA to properly dispose of. Another opportunity to turn in expired prescriptions is scheduled next year.

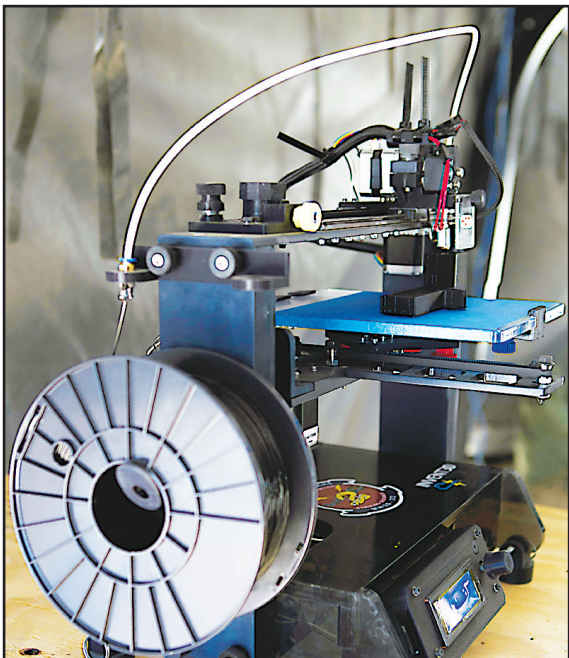


Members of the Provost Marshal’s Office help a Combat Center patron peel off medication labels during the PMO Drug Take Back at Heritage Park, Saturday. The take back is held to give the Combat Center community the opportunity to anonymously turn in any expired or unneeded prescription drugs for proper disposal.

Inside the Observation Post

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Printing the future
See page B1



Reprinted from the Observation Post
October 26, 1984

Gas! Learning to survive

STORY BY
CPL. VINCENT BOSQUEZ

From the revolutionary war to their peacekeeping in Lebanon, Marines have taken pride in being a “force in readiness” whenever duty calls.

While the distinction may be as old as the Corps itself, it is one which must be earned on a daily basis since technology keeps changing the weapons and tactics involved in combat.

Many Marines experienced a new phase of fighting during

the first week of October when the 27th Marine Regiment conducted a regimental Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) exercise to prepare Marines for conflict in such an environment.

Approximately 150 men took part in the week long exercise. The Marines were tested on their knowledge of equipment used to monitor radiation levels and on their ability to take proper protective action upon the attack. They also received instruction in personnel and

equipment decontamination.

Sergeant James Forward, regimental NBC NCO, conducted a large portion of the training exercise, “The men have been very receptive to the training,” he said. “They seem to recognize the fact that if they play now they’re going to pay later – with their lives.”

Donning full NBC gear, the Marines were required to travel by foot to various locations on base to check on mock radiation levels and then report them correctly to the command post.

While this exercise was conducted in a controlled environment, these Marines will be able to put their newly acquired knowledge to use during the upcoming week when the 7th MAP conducts a combined arms exercise where special emphasis will be placed on a unit’s ability to conduct operations in an NBC environment.

Barely audible through his field protective mask, Private First Class Albert Espinozza, November Battery, 5th Battalion, 11th Marines said the

NBC training was important to him because the next one (war) was going to be won or lost based on a soldier’s ability to survive an NBC attack.

“I’m learning all I can now because the battlefield is a poor place for on the job training,” he said.

Captain Mike Dossett, regimental NBC officer, plans on holding this type of exercise on a regimental level semi-annually, with individual units encouraged to conduct classes on a weekly basis.

CROSSWORD

"Costume Party"

- Across
- 1 Bikini blast

6 Take in

11 Jokester

14 Anouk of film

15 Biblical gift

16 Trouble

17 Universal opener

19 Spanish uncle

20 Compose

21 Actress Russo

22 Magic show units

24 Kindle Fire fodder

25 Pacifies

26 British comic's talent

29 Pass on

30 Beside

31 Actor Dennis

32 Public order

35 Lodging houses

36 Kama ____

37 Shirt brand

38 Heating fuel

39 Actor Jimmy

40 Italian fountain

41 Grippers

43 Purple shade

44 Actress Charlize

46 Security for a debt

47 Missy Elliott song

48 Theatre name

49 Detox place

52 Cry at fireworks

53 Autobiographer, often

56 Sorority letter

57 Deride

58 Ticket category

59 Yoga class need

60 Row

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- 61 Dixie cakes

13 Lip shine

23 The "I" of T.G.I.F.

24 Almost forever

25 ____ Tower

26 Reagan pal Al

27 Humerus neighbor

28 Huge success

29 Finishing strokes

31 "Medicine woman" of TV

33 Zero

34 Polish language

36 Blended fruit drink

37 Pumped item
- Down
- 1 Metal fastener

2 Two-wheeler

3 Straw in the wind

4 Funnyman Brooks

5 Stein

6 In a crowd of

7 Physics unit

8 Sitcom planet

9 South African city

10 Neck gland

11 Barber's bottle

12 Very similar

- 39 Winter transports
- 40 Electronic cable fastener
- 42 Tablet holder
- 43 Scene
- 44 1400
- 45 Stir
- 46 Numbers game
- 48 Law sch. exam
- 49 Jar
- 50 Cosmos star
- 51 Sciences' partner
- 54 His "4" was retired
- 55 Nuptial agreement

SUDOKU

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	7				8			2

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Difficult

Last week's answers

A	L	I		S	P	R	I	T	E		A	C	M	E
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A	N	T	I		I	C	A	R	U	S		L	Y	E
S	E	E	N		D	E	T	E	S	T		Y	E	S

Sudoku Solution #4135-M

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

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- Get It On Shoppe, 3219 Mission Blvd.
- Main Street Motel, 3494 Main St.
- Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar St.

In National City:

- Dream Crystal, 15366 Highland Ave.
- Sports Auto Sales, 1112 National City Blvd.

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- STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Rd.
- K Smoke Shop, 5865A Adobe Rd.

In Yucca Valley:

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- Puff's Tobacco Mart, 57063 29 Palms Hwy.

In Palm Springs:

- Whispering Palms Apts., 449 E. Arenas Road
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For the complete orders, but not off-limits, check out the Combat Center's official-website at <http://www.29palms.marines.mil>

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Joseph KANGETHE

Seattle, Wa. Corporal, motor technician mechanic, Exercise Support Division, Headquarters Battalion

KANGETHE WAS BORN AND RAISED IN KENYA. IN ADDITION TO SPEAKING KENYA'S NATIONAL LANGUAGE, SWAHILI, HE IS FLUENT IN SEVEN DIFFERENT KENYAN DIALECTS.

>I was born and raised in Kenya.

Growing up in Kenya was very different from living here. I would go to school from 6 in the morning to 6 in the evening. There was public transport but if you missed the bus you had to walk the 10 miles to school.

>I would say I come from a small family.

It's my parents, my younger sister and a younger brother. My sister is 19 and my brother is nine. My sister and I are only a year and a half apart in age so we grew up really close. She's like my best friend.

>By the time I was 12, my parents viewed me as a grown man.

I had my own house. That's how the culture raises you; learn how to depend on yourself and don't rely on your parents. You can find your own food, you can wash your own clothes and you can live your own life.

>In Kenya, it's not like here where the child belongs to the parents.

Back there the child belongs to the whole community. So if I'm in the streets and doing something wrong any stranger can grab me and discipline me and then take me back to my parents and tell them what I did while I'm still crying.

>Growing up, I couldn't stay in the house all day.

I had to go outside and do something. I had goats and sheep when I was nine years old. If you weren't in school, you were taking the animals to graze, or you had to fetch firewood for your family or look for food. There was always something to do outside.

>I used to play sports like soccer and rugby.

It kept me active and it gave me something to do. An idle mind is the devil's playground. If you didn't have anything to do, you'd start thinking about how you can make your life much easier and get yourself into trouble. Playing sports kept me occupied.

>Life was pretty hard,

and parents want the best for their children. So in 2012 when I was 17, my



dad put in for a green card. He came [to the United States] first and then we followed a few months later.

>I was excited when I found out we were coming

because I knew over here I'd have better opportunities. In Kenya, it's a 50/50 chance you either make something of yourself or you don't.

>It was a big culture shock,

a complete 360 from what I was used to. Everything from driving to the food, to the people. I'm still adjusting and it's been five years. It's like living in two different worlds, moving from a third-world country to a first-world country.

>When I got here, I had one year of school to finish out

and it was the most interesting year of my life. Going to school [in Kenya] you're like the most popular kid in school and then you come here and you're nobody, I couldn't even speak English.

>I'm way better now but back then I couldn't

speak a word of English.

I remember my first week of school I didn't speak a word because I didn't know what to say. Sometimes I'd stay hungry because I didn't know what food I was eating. A few months went by, I adjusted to it and made a few friends so I was good.

>When I came over here life was so relaxing for me.

Back in Kenya, I'd be in school for 12 hours. Here, I'd start school at 8 a.m. and get off at 2 p.m. I wasn't used to that and it was too much idle time. So I was home one day and I was thinking about how America saved us. My sister, my younger brother and my parents all have a better lifestyle than we did in Africa. Joining the military was my way of giving thanks to the country and showing my appreciation.

>Even when I was back in Kenya, I was interested in the military.

I've always had a desire to protect people.

>My parents expected me to go to college in

order to pursue a career, so

by choosing to join the military, I was kind of breaking the chain of what my family expected. But they came to the point where they acknowledged that it's my life and I'm going to make the decisions that I think are best for me.

>Before I chose the Marine Corps,

I went to all the other branches and talked to their recruiters and none of them seemed like the right fit. Then one day I was watching television and I saw a Marine Corps commercial and it said, "there are few who run toward the sounds of chaos." The next day a Marine Corps recruiter showed up in my high school in his dress blues.

>My sister was kind of sad about it,

because we grew up so close together. At first, it was hard for her, because I was always her back-up. She also got to a point where she recognized that I had to do what I had to do.

>If there's negative energy, if someone

doesn't believe that I can do something, that

pushes me even harder to get whatever it is done.

>I'm coming up to my four-year mark in June.

I'm not sure yet if I'm going to reenlist but if I do, I'd like to go with a deployable unit so I can actually be on the ground helping people. I know what it feels like to be a little kid wanting somebody to come help you.

>I like the commonness in diversity.

We are the same just from different areas. In the Marine Corps, people come from all over the country or all over the world, but we are common despite our differences, because we wear the same uniform.

>I also like the pride we have in ourselves;

it makes me feel like it's more than just ourselves.

>If I had to give advice to someone, it would

be to believe in yourself.

There's nothing hard in life as long as you believe in yourself. Six years ago when I was in Africa, I had no idea I'd be here right now and here I am. Nothing is impossible.

Interviewed by Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo, photographed by Cpl. Levi Schultz

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Grab A Healthy Lunch

Combat Center gets a running start on Red Ribbon Week

PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES



Participants begin the race during the Red Ribbon Week 5K Fun Run at Desert Winds Gold Course aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 21. Red Ribbon Week is a week of drug prevention education and advocacy to help a drug free youth.

Gunnery Sgt. Natalie Calderon, operations chief, Criminal Investigation Division, speaks with participants about the importance of proper use and disposal of prescription drugs during the Red Ribbon Week 5K Fun Run at Desert Winds Gold Course aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 21.



Combat Center patrons look at the information on prescription drug safety during the Red Ribbon Week 5K Fun Run at Desert Winds Gold Course aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 21.

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Cpl. Jacob Bingham, mortarman, and Maj. Christopher Morten, logistician, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, race for the finish during the Red Ribbon Week 5K Fun Run at Desert Winds Gold Course aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 21.

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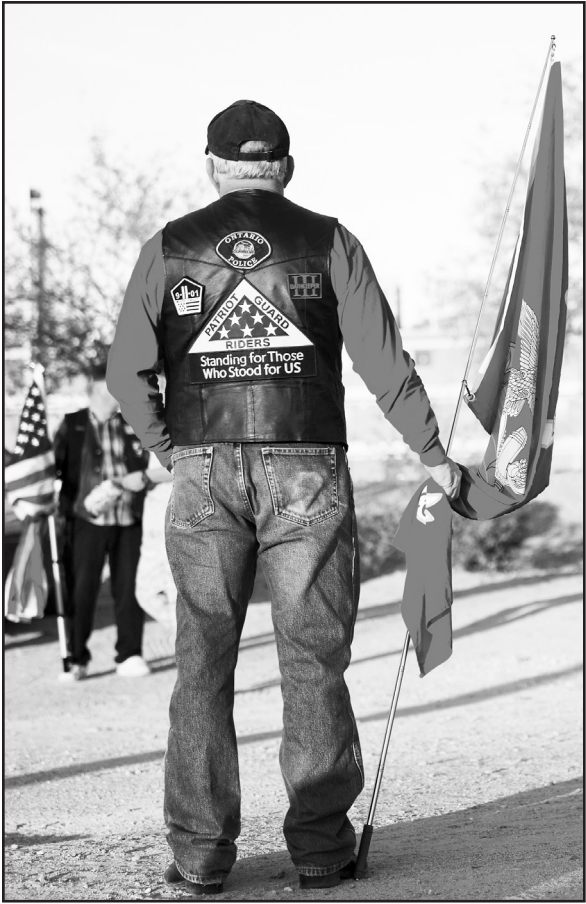
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‘War Dogs’ receive warm welcome

PHOTOS BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO



Lt. Col. Cristopher Steele, commanding officer, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, greets his daughter during the battalion's homecoming at Del Valle Field, Oct. 20. 2/7 was deployed as part of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command.



A member of the Patriot Guard Riders prepares to greet Marines and sailors of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, during the battalion's homecoming at Del Valle Field, Oct. 20.



Sgt. Panchico Matthews Jr., embarkation chief, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, embraces his daughter during the battalion's homecoming at Del Valle Field, Oct. 20.



Families and friends cheer for Marines and sailors of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, during the battalion's homecoming at Del Valle Field, Oct. 20.

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WeekINPhotos

8th Engineer Support Battalion Squad Competition

Photo by: Lance Cpl. Christian Oliver Cach



U.S. Marines with 8th Engineer Support Battalion carry a simulated casualty during a squad competition at Cannon Air Defense Complex, Yuma, Ariz., Monday.




U.S. Marines with 8th Engineer Support Battalion participate in a tug-of-war as part of a squad competition at Cannon Air Defense Complex, Yuma, Ariz., Monday. Squad competitions happen among every unit throughout the Marine Corps to build camaraderie and Esprit de Corps.



U.S. Marines with 8th Engineer Support Battalion carry a tire during a squad competition at Cannon Air Defense Complex, Yuma, Ariz., Monday.



U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rodney Rivera simulates as a casualty while squad members transport him through an obstacle course for a squad competition at Cannon Air Defense Complex, Yuma, Ariz., Monday.



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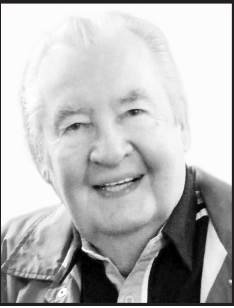
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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt



My favorite love story is also a true one. Soon after he was married, Thomas Moore, the famous 19th century Irish poet, was called away on a business trip. Upon his return he was met at the door not by his beautiful bride, but by the family doctor.

"Your wife is upstairs," said the doctor. "But she has asked that you do not come up." And then Moore learned the terrible truth: his wife had contracted smallpox. The disease had left her once flawless skin pocked and scarred. She had taken one look at her reflection in the mirror and commanded that the shutters be drawn and that her husband never see her again.

Moore would not listen. He ran upstairs and threw open the door of his wife's room. It was black as night inside. Not a sound came from the darkness. Groping along the wall, Moore felt for the gas jets.

A startled cry came from a black corner of the room. "No! Don't light the lamps!"

Moore hesitated, swayed by the pleading in the voice.

"Go!" she begged. "Please go! This is the greatest gift I can give you, now."

TO BE COMPLETED SATURDAY...

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Printing the future: MWSS-372 successfully tests 3-D printing in a field environment

STORY BY
SGT. LAUREN WIGGINS

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz.—A Humvee door handle might not seem like the start of a new era in the Marine Corps, but the Marines of Marine Wing Support Squadron 372 believe that this small piece of plastic is exactly that. Embracing Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert Neller's recent push for Marines to innovate, MWSS-372 is one of the first units to experiment with 3-D printing.

Formally, 3-D printing was known as additive manufacturing (AM), and is the process of joining materials, layer by layer, to construct an object. Usually, manufacturing a part involves milling an object out of a larger, solid piece of material or by pouring liquid material into a preformed mold and waiting for it to solidify.

Recently, Neller published an interim policy on additive manufacturing in the Marine Corps, the entirety of which is in Marine Administrative Message 489/16. In it, he imposes safety protocols for specific situations, such as requiring that a printed part will be used on a configuration controlled system and rendered in a bright color to distinguish it from the original equipment it is used with. However, the Maradmin is also a call for all Marines to explore the potential benefits of 3-D printing; the Marines of MWSS-372 have eagerly answered.

Capt. Marc Blair, combat engineer officer, MWSS-372, spearheaded the project, after he was inspired by what he observed at the Marine Corps System Command Roadshow. There, he attended a presentation on additive manufacturing in relation to the Maradmin that had been published in mid-September 2016. According to Blair, it was purely "by chance, since we were there to look at engineer equipment," not to learn about 3-D printing.

An engineer officer himself, Blair realized that his own unit would be perfect to test out what a 3-D printer could do in the hands of Marines, as there are 72 occupational fields within MWSS-372, all of which may be able to find a way to use the 3-D printer within their area of expertise. After some research and discussion with subject matter experts at the Pentagon, Blair coordinated funding through Installations and Logistics' Next Log Innovation Cell and procured a 3-D printer for MWSS-372.

"I'm nerdy, so to me this is pretty awesome," Blair said. "Imagine what the battlefield could be like in fifteen years [with this new capability.]"

The printer uses a single extrusion head and spool of PLA filament, i.e. black plastic tubing, which feeds into the printer head where it is heated to about 220 degrees Celsius, making it pliable enough to print into the desired object.

"[The printer itself is] a really basic model. It's actually meant for K-12 students in order to get the basics of 3-D printing down," says Capt. Kristina Warren, motor transport company commander, MWSS-372. "There are a lot of limitations because of it, but it's a great opportunity to test the capability in the Marine Corps because it's a lot cheaper."

She added that this printer allows Marine to get used to the idea of 3-D printing, and get some good test products out before the Marine Corps decides if it wants to spend more money. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Matthew Wright, motor transport maintenance officer, MWSS-372, points out that they chose this particular printer because it was the only one available through GSA, and they had to do an open purchase to obtain the filament spool.

Of the entire process, keeping the printer on a level surface so that gravity does not interfere with the printing and cooling of the object is the most difficult part. In fact, the Marines most closely involved in this experiment were surprised that the technology involved was so simple to use.

"It took us almost three hours to put it together initially, mostly due to an abundance of caution and



LANCE CPL. ANDREW HUFF

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mathew Wright, a motor transportation maintenance officer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 372 conducts maintenance on an Invent3D printer during a 3D printer integration exercise at site 50 training area, Wellton, Ariz., Oct. 18.

lack of familiarity," said Warren. "However, once you do it, it's super easy to remember how to do it."

Now that the Marines are familiar with it she is confident that they could put it together in less than an hour. There was no training on how to assemble the printer, merely puzzling over the pictures in the instruction manual and about ten minutes of watching troubleshooting videos on YouTube.

According to Wright, he "jumped at the chance" to get involved with the project because it's "interesting" and "fun." He starting training himself on how to create a virtual model of objects that they might want to print. He watched a few instructional YouTube videos and familiarized himself with Tinkercad.com, a program readily available for free online instruction that was recommended in the printer's instruction manual. Wright estimates that he spent only a few hours figuring out how to create a virtual model.

"All the information is available online, so long as you are willing to put the time into reading it," he explained.

No previous computer programming experience is needed, which means that more Marines in the general population of the Corps should be able to use this technology themselves as no formal school will be needed, Wright explained. Still, he thinks that it would be beneficial to have some sort of formal training, although he believes anyone would be able to use the Tinkercad program and this particular printer.

After he became confident that he could successfully draw a virtual model of whatever plastic piece of equipment was desired, Wright just needed to decide what to print first. Those involved agreed upon a Humvee door handle; after all, this presented a perfect opportunity for a real world test for the printer. According to Warren, door handles get snapped surprisingly often and "the main thing we're looking for in an expeditionary environment is to use [the printer] for maintenance purposes." They were already out in a desert range in support of Weapons and Tactics Instructors Course (WTI) 1-17, and if this was an actual deployment this particular scenario was likely to occur. Why not see if the 3-D printer could solve a problem they were likely to face on their upcoming deployment?

They measured a Humvee door handle by hand, and Wright entered the data into the Tinkercad program. He chose to use a honeycomb pattern to fill the inside of the handle, as he was of the opinion that would keep the handle "strong and lightweight" without "wasting a lot of product trying to make the handle." Wright then transferred that virtual model into a second program

which translates the virtual model into the specific commands that tell the printer what to print, and how to make it.

The advantage of this two-step process is that it means that one virtual model master file can be translated into the specific language to any make and model of printer that is being used. Instead of Marines having to write a different file for each type of printer they might use, the Marine Corps could have one standard file used across the Corps, and merely translate it into commands according to whatever printer is on hand. If one unit develops and tests a successful part on their printer, that design can be sent to other units to begin using immediately with their printers, instead of other units having to design it themselves, says Blair.

Time can seem like a barrier to widely adopting this technology; after all, the printer required about 45 minutes to print just one door handle. However, Warren disagrees that time is a penalty mark against additive manufacturing.

"Being able to quick print a part instead of having to wait for the field supply system could give us some huge capabilities in the long run," Warren said.

Wright agreed, stating that MWSS-372 will not have to wait on the supply system in the event that they need a part that is non-safety related, so they won't have to wait a month to get a part. The speed and expedient nature of 3-D printing parts would be a "big plus while we are out in the field," he added.

"By design, maintenance is unpredictable. By having something where you can customize and print a part instead of having to attempt to predict what is going to break would be huge," Warren said. "While this printer only prints plastic, there are 3-D printers that print metal, and when combined with 3-D scanners, Marines could potentially scan a part and print it right there, instead of waiting for a part to make its way to the field. Additionally, the printer is super compact, super mobile, and good for a field environment, its use isn't limited by a dusty environment and you can set it up anywhere."

There will be, especially in the near future, a delicate balancing act between durability, safety, usability and time considerations. Warren admitted, her biggest concern is testing the long term durability of any part.

"The filament that we have right now is technically biodegradable, so I definitely worry about long term durability, but short term durability, its hard plastic and incredibly durable," Warren said.

While they cannot use any parts for safety related equipment yet, Warren speculates that these parts could be used as a

stop-gap in the field while waiting for a factory-made part to arrive. Networking with other units who have 3-D printers and sharing results will also help refine the process, as pooling knowledge together will help identify what works and what does not with 3-D printing across the Corps.

After seeing the successful replacement of the door handle, MWSS-372 Marines want to do more. Many of them are quick to voice their opinions about how pleased they are with the results of this first, of hopefully many, practical applications of additive manufacturing.

Would they want to use the printer out in the field while on deployment? Absolutely.

Warren says they are looking into ways to use the 3-D printer outside of maintenance in the field. Wright proposes building a terrain model, "so when we get out into an environment you could 3-D print the buildings that you might be entering." Warren notes that the parts they print using this particular plastic filament will be very resilient for where they will be operating out in the field, and both she and Wright are positive that Marines could use 3-D printers for many different applications.

All the Marines agree that MWSS-372 would love to be the first Marine unit to 3-D print on deployment, although Wright adds that the results would be even better if they could take along a 3-D scanner. Warren notes that right now they have to measure the part they want to replicate themselves, and input everything by hand into the program.

"If we had a scanner it would be amazing," Warren said. "Being able to scan something into a program and then print from that image would definitely speed up the process and make more accurate parts."

This group also hopes that if they can prove the utility of 3-D printing in the field, they will be able to procure a printer that has the capability to render objects in other materials, such as metal or rubber. The Marines point out that everything that can break, will break in the field; they would like they opportunity to show that they can print and repair in the field too. Wright would "absolutely" like to take more advanced printers capable of printing in other materials, such as metal, into the field.

"If we could print other types of materials and scan items in as opposed to building them via the Tinkercad program, that would be a huge benefit," Wright said. "There are printers capable of printing a whole bicycle. This is something that is definitely part of the future, and is something that will be around to stay."

It doesn't take much to imagine what 3-D printing could do

for the Corps as a whole. In April, the story of Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina, who went to a museum to retrieve a part needed to get one of their older F/A-18 Hornets back in the air, went viral. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Dunford, even testified about the story to the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee. What if Marines were able to scan jet parts that are no longer available and print them on their own? In fact, General Electric Aviation announced that in 2016 it will introduce the first 3-D printed parts in an aircraft engine platform, which it expects will be both lighter in weight and of higher durability than conventionally manufactured parts. The idea of 3-D printed parts used in Corps aircraft is not terribly far-fetched, in light of this announcement. While he has reservations about putting 3-D printed items in aircraft, Wright does agree that for items that are no longer available through the supply system, it would be a great way to remanufacture those, instead of waiting for someone else to make those parts and send them.

True, there are plenty of concerns that must be addressed, including durability, safety, and cost-effectiveness of 3-D printed parts. But there are also legal considerations to be made, such as whether warranties on expensive equipment would be voided if a part is replaced with a 3-D printed piece, or if intellectual property rights of the original manufacturers would be infringed upon if Marines create virtual models of those parts. Still, Warren is cautiously optimistic that these obstacles can be successfully overcome, and states that it would be wonderful to work with the manufacturers, to get the actual specifications from them and work with them on creating a process for printing their parts in the field. Wright is content to let others determine the legalities of 3-D printing; "If they tell me what I can print, I'll print it," he added.

The MWSS-372 Marines instead focus their attention on the success they have achieved with this one piece of technology in their hands, and turn their thoughts toward what may happen in the future of 3-D printing in the Corps.

"Instead of us being on the back end of technology, and waiting for the commercial side to develop things, us having integration with emerging technologies is the way for us to go as the Marine Corps," Blair said. "We aren't always going to get it 100 percent right, but at least we are sticking ourselves out there and finding which path is going to lead to success."

What do MWSS-372 Marines think can be achieved via 3-D printing? Wright asks, "What can you imagine?"



Combat Center Events

Go to Del Valle Field, today, for the Jack-o-Lantern Jubilee. The event starts at 5 p.m. and is open to all hands. Come in your favorite costume and enjoy games treats and other activities. For more information, call 760-830-5086.

The Frontline Restaurant is scheduled to host a Monster Mash Bingo Bash tomorrow starting at 6:30 p.m. Open to all personnel 18 years old or older. Tickets can be purchased at the door or at OSC29Palms.com. Childcare available by reservation at OSC29RSVP@gmail.com.

Head to Mameluke's Pub Monday Nights from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. for Monday Night Football! Food and drink specials are available. See if your team will make it all the way to the championships. For more information, call 760-830-6610.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Oct. 28
5:30 p.m. – Monster house (NDVD-Free Admission), PG
7:20 p.m. – Storks (3-D), PG
9:20 p.m. – Bridget Jones's Baby, R
11:50 p.m. – Sinister (NDVD-Free Admission)

Saturday, Oct. 29
10:00 a.m. – Coraline (NDVD-Free Admission), PG
12:00 p.m. – Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (NDVD-Free Admission), R
2:00 p.m. – Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children (3-D), PG-13
5:00 p.m. – Snowden, R
7:50 p.m. – Blair Witch, R
9:50 p.m. – Carrie (NDVD-Free Admission), R
11:50 p.m. – Sinister 2, (NDVD-Free Admission), R

Sunday, Oct. 30
11:30 a.m. – Masterminds, PG-13
3:00 p.m. – SNEAK PREVIEW-Doctor Strange, PG-13
5:50 p.m. – Deepwater Horizon, PG-13
8:00 p.m. – Blair Witch, R

Monday, Oct. 31
3:00 p.m. – Hotel Transylvania (NDVD-Free Admission), PG-13
4:40 p.m. – Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters (NDVD-Free Admission), R
6:20 p.m. – Evil Dead (NDVD-Free Admission), R
8:00 p.m. - World War Z (NDVD-Free Admission), PG-13

Tuesday, Nov. 1
5:00 p.m. – Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children, PG-13
7:30 p.m. – Masterminds, PG-13

Wednesday, Nov. 2
5:00 p.m. – Storks, PG-13
7:00 p.m. – The Magnificent Seven, PG-13

Thursday, Nov. 3
5:00 p.m. – When The Bough Breaks, PG-13
7:20 p.m. – Sully, PG-13

Friday, Nov. 4
4:30 p.m. – Storks (3-D), PG
6:30 p.m. – Masterminds, PG-13
8:40 p.m. – Snowden, R



Baseball Academy Is Coming Soon

Local players can sharpen their skills and get a jump on the competition when U.S. Baseball Academy comes to Yucca Valley in January.

USBA is the nation's largest baseball instructional program with 200-plus locations nationwide. Locally, the program will be hosted at Joshua Springs Christian HS from Jan. 22 - Feb. 12. Individualized sessions are available in hitting, pitching, fielding and baserunning for players in grades K-12. Four weeks of instruction from USBA's professional coaching staff is as low as \$99 with this introductory discount.

Weekend sessions fill quickly because of a low player-coach ratio, so parents are encouraged to register now for special pricing. Full details and online registration at www.USBBaseballAcademy.com, or call 866-622-4487.



Nate Parker stars as Nat Turner in "The Birth of a Nation."

NEIL POND

"The Birth of a Nation"

Starring Nate Parker, Armie Hammer and Penelope Ann Miller
Directed by Nate Parker
Rated R

In 1831, 31-year-old Nat Turner led a slave uprising in Virginia that resulted in the deaths of more than 50 white men, women and children, and the retaliation of white mobs and militias that killed some 200 blacks — including many who were not involved in the rebellion.

A literate black man who could read and write, Turner grew up on Bible stories and later held worship services for his fellow slaves. He eventually came to believe that God had finally seen enough of the injustices of slavery, and was calling him to lead a slave army on a march of vengeful, wrong-righting insurrection.

When a solar eclipse darkened the sky over the cotton fields one day, Turner knew he'd seen his sign — he'd gotten his "go" signal. The timing, as they say, was right.

The timing was right for director and star Nate Parker, too, when he opened his movie about Nat Turner earlier this year at the Sundance Film Festival. "The Birth of a Nation" was a smash, a stunner, a shocker. Landing smack in the middle of the #OscarSoWhite controversy — about the lack of diversity among the 2016 Academy Awards nominees — it was a bracing, provocative blast of black-powered, top-to-bottom talent, and a topic, that couldn't be ignored.

And it wasn't. Fox Searchlight forked over \$17.5 million for the distribution rights, a Sundance record, to get the film into theaters by the end of the year.

The film also recently opened the 10th annual International Black Film Festival in Nashville, Tenn., just ahead of its wide theatrical release.

"The Birth of a Nation" is a powerful piece of filmmaking, and a mighty impressive work, especially as Parker's debut as a director. It takes a little-known event from America's shameful past and ele-

vates it to rousing, epic proportions. Both in front of and behind the camera, Parker shows the humanity as well as the horrors of slavery in the antebellum South, and the evils of an entire economic system built upon the systematic exploitation of a population for profit, regardless of the "kindness" or cruelty of any individual master, landowner, merchant or anyone else who benefitted.

Armie Hammer plays Turner's second-generation master, Samuel Turner, whose benevolence is eclipsed by his desire to keep his estate financially secure and reputable — at whatever the cost. Penelope Ann Miller is Samuel's mother, who teaches young Nat to read, which has enormous repercussions. Jackie Earle Haley is a sadistic slave hunter. Gabrielle Union portrays Esther, a slave wife forced to spend an evening as "entertainment" for one of Samuel Turner's drunken guests.

Yes, it's sometimes hard to watch — to see Turner tied to a post and horsewhipped to a pulp, to watch a little

white girl lead a little black girl around with a rope "leash" around her neck, to witness a slave get his teeth get bashed out with a hammer. And a couple of — pivotal — rape scenes are particularly discomforting, given how the movie has reactivated the spotlight on Parker and his screenwriting collaborator Jean Celeste and the charges that were brought against them in 1999 as college students that they raped a fellow student; Parker was acquitted, the charges were dropped on Celeste after he appealed, and the woman who accused them committed suicide.

Different audiences will see this movie through different prisms, quite obviously. Some people won't want to see it at all, for various reasons. Given the inflamed, highly polarized state of affairs across the nation, the Black Lives Matter movement and protests about police treatment of blacks, racial profiling, our national anthem and criminal injustice, the film resonates with a righteous unrest that rings far beyond events that happened 175 years ago.

"They're killin' people everywhere for no reason all than bein' black," says Turner's wife, Cherry (Aja Naomi King).

In so many ways, the timing for Parker's film about Nat Turner feels so right, and so right now.



Composting and Recycling Workshop

Saturday, Oct 29 • 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Yucca Valley Senior Center
57088 Twentynine Palms Hwy (behind the library), Yucca Valley

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- Recycling
- Becoming a Master Composter Volunteer


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



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

Cinema 6



Showtimes Effective 10/28/16 - 11/3/16

Inferno (PG13)	12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
Jack Reacher - Never Go Back (PG13)	12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
The Accountant (R)	12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
Ouija - Origin of Evil (PG13)	12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
Starting Nov. 4	
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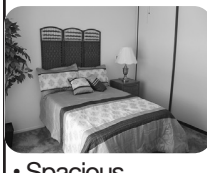
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LANCE CPL. ANDREW HUFF

Sgt. Taylor P. Baker, military information support operations (MISO) specialist with Marine Corps Information Operations Center (MCIOC) prepares to drop sanitized leaflets from a KC-130J Super Hercules during Weapons and Tactics Instructor course (WTI) 1-17 in Yuma, Ariz., Saturday. Baker's leaflets consisted of rice paper and simulated MISO support during FINEX-3. FINEX-3 was the final evolution of Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) course 1-17, a seven week training event hosted by MAWTS-1 cadre which emphasizes operational integration of the six functions of Marine Corps aviation in support of a Marine Air Ground Task Force.



SGT. JESSIKA BRADEN

A U.S. Marine assigned to Special Purpose-Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa provides security as two MV-22B Ospreys prepare to land during an alert force drill at Naval Station Rota, Spain, Oct. 20. The purpose of the drill was to rehearse and assess the SPMAGTF's ability to integrate elements and respond to a time-sensitive crisis. SPMAGTF-CR-AF is designed to provide contingency support to U.S. Africa Command, including tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel, embassy reinforcement, support to noncombatant evacuation operations, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief.

NOVEMBER 2016

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Send your stories and photos to 56445 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, CA 92284. Email them to editor@hidesertstar.com. For information or help, call Stacy Moore at (760) 365-3725, Ext. 238.



CPL. TREVER STATZ

Lance Cpl. Donovan Armstead, a rifleman with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command, posts security during a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel exercise, Aug. 02. SPMAGTF - CR - CC is a self-sustaining expeditionary unit, designed to provide a broad range of crisis response capabilities throughout the Central Command area of responsibility, using organic aviation, logistical, and ground combat assets, to include TRAP and embassy reinforcement.

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