

Innovation in ITX: 3/5 trains to future



CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Lance Cpl. Zackary W. Rippin, infantry assaultman, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, operates a Weaponized Multi-Utility Tactical Transport Vehicle (MUTT) during a company assault on Range 400, Nov. 7, as part of Integrated Training Exercise 1-17.

**STORY AND
PHOTOS BY
CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ**

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp

Pendleton, Calif., are putting their own spin on Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center's Integrated Training Exercise. The 28-day exercise is currently the longest-lasting training evolu-

tion that occurs aboard the installation and involves a series of progressive live-fire exercises that assess the ability and adaptability of a force of more than 3,500 Marines and sailors. "Darkhorse," alongside

1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, based out of MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., make up the ground combat element of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force 4 during Integrated Training

Exercise 1-17, which began Oct. 21, 2016. As announced in ALMAR 024/16 Sea Dragon2025, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Robert B. Neller, has designated 3/5 as the Marine

Corps' experimental force. According to the ALMAR, the battalion is being reconfigured, re-equipped, and will receive additional training as it progresses

See **ITX** A6

Combat Center Marines celebrate 241st with uniform pageant

**STORY BY CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ
PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. ANABEL
ABREU-RODRIGUEZ**

For 241 years Marines have served as the nation's force in readiness, always prepared to defend our country and Constitution from America's adversaries. Over the years, Marines have donned many different uniforms to meet the needs of the time and to remain ever-ready to answer the call of duty.

Combat Center Marines celebrated their rich history and the Marine Corps' 241st birthday with the annual Marine Corps Birthday Uniform Pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Nov. 10, 2016. The Combat Center Color Guard carried the colors as the

national anthem, Marines' Hymn and Anchors Aweigh played in honor of the birthday.

During the event, Marines dressed in uniforms from different time periods, dating as far back as 1775, and took turns speaking lines detailing the history and battles that their garb associated with. Navy Corpsmen also received recognition for their years of service alongside Marines throughout history.

"What makes us different as U.S. Marines is our legacy and true understanding of our history in every single

See **Celebrate** A6



LANCE CPL. ANABEL ABREU-RODRIGUEZ

Brig. Gen. William F. Mullen III, Combat Center Commanding General, cuts the Marine Corps Birthday Cake during the Marine Corps Birthday Uniform Pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Thursday. The pageant celebrates 241 years of Marine Corps history and traditions.

Inside the Observation Post

Volume 60, Issue 45

- A2 Combat Center History
- A3 What I've Learned
- A4 Celebrating our heritage
- A5 Welcoming Boy Scouts of America
- A7 Running for CFC awareness
- A8 Recycle: Do Your Part
- B1 Sailor reflects on long career
- B2 Liberty Call



Combat Center welcomes scouts
See page A5

Marine Corps' Top Shot

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Marines with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, conduct a company attack range in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Oct. 21. Bravo Company is participating in Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 1-17 and preparing to support Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

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Reprinted from the Observation Post
Nov. 9, 1984

7th MAB musters for battle during live fire exercise here

The 7th Marine Amphibious Brigade, headquartered here, is preparing to conduct a major exercise in which some 4,100 Marines will use live firepower to attack a simulated enemy.

The climax of the exercise will occur here, Nov. 13-15, in a coordinated live-fire air and ground assault as part of a hypothetical desert campaign.

Marines and equipment from Camp Pendleton and the Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Calif., have joined units currently based here to participate in the Combined Arms Exercise. (CAX)

The 7th Marine Amphibious Brigade (MAB) is a task force organized for mechanized operations in a desert environment. It was formed in 1980 in conjunction with the maritime prepositioning program in order to improve U.S. capability to rapidly project military power throughout the world.

The exercise presupposes that the MAB has landed married up with its equipment which was prepositioned at sea, and moved inland to meet the enemy. Its mission is to interdict enemy supply lines between the mythical countries of Bagdad

and Lavic, actually part of the 932 square-mile Combat Center.

Designed MAB CAX 1-85, the exercise is part of an ongoing program to improve the brigade's ability to accomplish its potential mission through realistic training and evaluation.

The commanding general of the 7th MAB is Brigadier General William R. Etnyre. The 53-year-old, one star general is a native of Kansas City, Mo. He assumed his current assignment July 1983.

The units from Camp Pendleton participating in the exercise include 1st Battalion,

7th Marines, and infantry unit; and 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, an artillery unit. Detachments of several supporting units from Camp Pendleton are also participating.

The infantry and artillery units from Camp Pendleton have joined Regimental Landing Team-27, the 7th MAB's Ground Combat Element, commanded by Colonel Michael P. Downs. Most of the supporting units from Camp Pendleton have joined Brigade Service Support Group-7, the 7th MAB's Combat Service Support Element (logistics),

commanded by Colonel John F. Shea.

The 7th MAB's Air Combat Element, Marine Aircraft Group-70, is commanded by Colonel Christopher F. Defries. The group's aircraft, mostly from El Toro and Tustin include several types of helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. Detachments from several El Toro support squadrons are also participating.

Most of the units not permanently based at the Combat Center arrived here Oct. 21. They will return to their home bases before Nov. 27.

CROSSWORD

"Genre Exercise"

- Across**
- 1 Yankee slugger Roger
 - 6 Sporty Chevy
 - 11 Hard throw, in baseball
 - 14 One of Donald's exes
 - 15 Special Forces unit
 - 16 Director DuVernay
 - 17 Golf locale
 - 19 Sink
 - 20 Its point is to make holes
 - 21 "Sure"
 - 22 Texas leaguer?
 - 24 Money for old age: Abbr.
 - 25 Lower Saxony city
 - 27 Cap'n's mate
 - 30 Braces wearer, jokingly
 - 35 CPR pros
 - 36 Red ink amount
 - 37 Town north of Anaheim
 - 38 Fabled racer
 - 39 Actor Foxx
 - 40 Civil rights concern
 - 41 Soprano's song, maybe
 - 42 Sports event
 - 43 Pound of verse
 - 44 Informal chat
 - 47 Musical interval
 - 48 Israel's Dayan
 - 49 Gives the go-ahead
 - 51 Like some vin
 - 53 Exclusive
 - 55 Grimm character
 - 58 Hurt
 - 59 Crayfish
 - 63 Brooks of "The Producers"
 - 64 Confessed, with "up"
 - 65 Square things
 - 66 Pitches
 - 67 Proceeds
 - 68 Kind of cake or pan

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15						16		
17						18						19		
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51	52							53	54			55	56	57
58					59	60	61				62			
63					64						65			
66					67						68			

- Down**
- 1 Isinglass
 - 2 Declare
 - 3 Brother of Fidel
 - 4 Place to stay
 - 5 Nymph chaser
 - 6 "___ con Dios!"
 - 7 Make an impression
 - 8 Rolodex abbr.
 - 9 ___ lepton (physics particle)
 - 10 Preserve for burial
 - 11 Remove bacteria from, as milk
 - 12 At any time
 - 13 Madrid mouser
 - 18 Cheat
 - 23 Drools
 - 24 Available
 - 25 Vegas attraction
 - 26 Besides
 - 27 Joy on "The View"
 - 28 TV actor Jason
 - 29 Chains of chains, often
 - 31 Run out
 - 32 Actress Marisa
 - 33 Eye drops
 - 34 Deals with
 - 39 Kid
 - 45 Conditional deposit
 - 46 ___ contendere

SUDOKU

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	2			1		7		
6		8		9		5		

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Difficult

Last week's answers

A	S	K	S		F	L	I	P		M	A	U	N	A
M	A	N	E		R	E	B	A		I	F	N	O	T
B	L	O	W	N	O	V	E	R		M	I	D	G	E
L	O	W		E	M	I	T			H	I	R	E	
E	M	I	G	R	E					L	U	C	E	R
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D	A	W	E	S			M	E	S	H		I	N	R

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

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- Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Highway, Yucca Valley
- NYPD Pizza, 260-262 North Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs
- Sam's Smoke Shop, 16520 West Main Street, Barstow
- Teazer's Bar & Grill Nightclub, 14269 Seventh Street, Victorville
- Angelo's Kars, 222 & 226 S. Coast

- Highway, Oceanside
- Denny's Parking Lot, 692 E Street, Chula Vista
- Burger King & McDonald's, 28th Street (parking lots), San Diego
- Club Mustang, 2200 University Avenue, San Diego
- Club San Diego, 3955 4th Avenue, San Diego
- Get It On Shoppe, San Diego
- Main Street Motel, 3494 Main Street, San Diego
- Trolley Stations, Palomar Street & San Ysidro, San Diego
- Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar Street, San Diego
- Dream Crystal, 1536 Highland Avenue, National City
- Sports Auto Sales, 1111 National City Boulevard, National City

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Cody POST

Union, Miss. Corporal, machine gunner, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment

POST IS TRANSITIONING TO BECOMING A DIESEL MECHANIC AFTER HIS FIVE-YEAR MARINE CORPS CAREER. HE ENJOYS THE OUTDOORS, HUNTING, AND OFF-ROADING, AND PLANS TO SETTLE DOWN IN MISSOURI.

>I grew up in the outskirts of St. Louis in a town called Union. Living out in the middle of nowhere was simple. I spent my time playing sports and hunting and hiking out in the woods.

>I love football because of the physical contact. In high school I played tackle on offense and line-backer on defense. I like the competitiveness and the brotherhood that comes along with it. Making a play and celebrating with your teammates is motivating. One of my friends from the team joined the Marine Corps as well and we still keep in contact.

>My Marlin 30-06 rifle is my go-to hunting firearm. I also own a variety of pistols, shotguns, and semi-automatic rifles. I enjoy hunting anything that's in season, usually turkey or deer. If it's big, I want to hunt it.

>My goal is to travel to hunt grizzly bear, Moose, elk or caribou. I'll eventually go on a safari to take down a Jaguar or a Lion. When I hunt, every part of the animal is eaten or used, there's nothing that goes to waste.

>My uncle taught me a lot of fundamentals and the Marine Corps helped expand my shooting knowledge. My favorite guns to play with are the M240 and the .50 caliber [Browning M2].

>Being a gunner is the best job in the Marine Corps. My job is to rein hell on whatever that target is. When you do it all the time, you get really good.

>I come from a military family. My great grandpa was a pilot during World War II and my grandfather was a tank mechan-



ic during the Vietnam War. My father was a mortarman in the Marine Corps and my cousin is an anti-tank missileman.

>As a citizen, I felt it was my duty to join. I just wanted to do my part and answer the call.

>I have a lot of pride being in 1/7 because of our history and great traditions. Some of our legends include Chesty Puller, Johnny B. [Basilone], and Chaos [Gen. Mattis].

>The everyday training we get is the best in the Marine Corps- it's world class. There are

some great training areas here.

>Getting to train with foreign military was one of the highlights of my career. I've been to Jordan twice, and the embassy in Baghdad. I made some good friends, and it was pretty cool getting to teach other people my job. Patience is vital when you're communicating through translators. It was rewarding to see other service members improve their gunnery.

>It's important to have a good relationship with other countries because we get to see and learn from each other first

hand. It builds strength and prepares us if we have to work together in the future.

>I'm going to miss jumping out of helicopters. I'll never get a chance to do that again.

>I'm ready for the transition because the Corps has taught me how to be patient and helped develop my leadership style.

>My girlfriend and I want to settle down in Missouri and get some off-roading toys. I'm a simple guy. I just want to travel the world and live the American dream.

Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Connor Hancock

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STAFF SGT. WALTER F. KLEINE
A Marine part of 1st Marine Division draws a bead on a Japanese sniper with his tommy-gun as his companion ducks for cover in Okinawa, Japan 1945. The division worked to take Wana Ridge before the town of Shuri.



CPL. PETER MCDONALD
A column of Marines and armor of the 1st Marine Division move through communist Chinese lines during their successful breakout from the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. The Marines were besieged when the Chinese entered the Korean War Nov. 27, 1950.

Celebrating our heritage

STORY BY
CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

The Marine Corps was born on November 10, 1775 in Tun Tavern, a small Philadelphia pub. On that day, the Continental Marines were established with the intended purpose of being able to fight for independence on land and at sea. Over the years the Marine Corps has evolved into a force capable of defending its people and providing humanitarian aid to the nation and its allies from air, land and sea, all while maintaining itself as a force in readiness.

“Being a Marine is something I take pride in, and that is instilled in us from day one,” said Sgt. Maj. Abel Leal, former Headquarters Battalion Sergeant Major. “We are warfighters and the way we operate is very unlike the other branches. I’d like to think every Marine has some of our values instilled in them.”

Since the Marine Corps’ inception it has been known as the nation’s force in readiness. Marines are recognized by the way they train, the customs they uphold, and the morals that are instilled in them. Although the organization continues to grow, many of the customs have remained the same. The Marine Corps’ birthday is one of the



LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ
2nd Lt. Margo Smutnick, adjutant, Headquarters Battalion, reads the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. John A. Lejeune’s, birthday message at the Headquarters Battalion Marine Corps Birthday Ball at Caesar’s Palace in Las Vegas, Nov. 21, 2015.

many traditions that Marines take great pride in celebrating annually.

“The ball is a tradition that we celebrate every year,” Leal said. “I bring a family member to the birthday ball because they don’t understand it in the same way [Marines] do. But when they see all the ceremonial events in it; the moment of silence for our fallen brothers, the reading of Gen. John A. Lejeune’s birthday message and the passing of the cake from the oldest Marine to the youngest, they get to share in

the pride that we feel.”

Although tradition is something Marines hold dear, there was a time when the birthday wasn’t always widely celebrated. In 1921, Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune declared November 10, an official Marine Corps holiday. Since then, whether it was a small celebration between fellow comrades while deployed or a grand affair while in garrison, Marines have taken the time to honor the Corps’ illustrious history.

“I love the Marine Corps Birthday,” said Sgt. Maj. Ray



CPL. H. H. CLEMENTS
Marine Pfc. Douglas Lightheart (right) cradles his 30-cal. machine gun in his lap, alongside Pfc. Gerald Churchby on Peleliu Island, September 14, 1944.

Wilburn (ret.), veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. “It doesn’t matter where you are or how many Marines you’re with. Two Marines can celebrate it with a cup of water while deployed and it will still have the same meaning.”

The Marine Corps Ball has been regarded as a time-honored tradition that celebrates the birth of the Corps. It is a night that provides Marines from all generations with a chance to come together, recognize the sacrifices made by those who came before them, and celebrate a proud heritage.

“It’s nice to celebrate the birthday in fancy venues, but we shouldn’t get wrapped up in that,” Leal said. “We should focus on celebrating our birthday for the heritage and tradition that comes with it.”

The birthday is a day that does more than celebrate a beginning. For Marines it signifies much more. The birthday stands for a day when those from all generations, who swore an oath to protect and serve, can join as one to share in the pride of being a United States Marine.

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Combat Center welcomes Boy Scouts of America

Photos by Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo



Noah Allen, Boy Scout, Troop 377, fires a M249 Squad Automatic Weapon at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer, Saturday during the Boy Scout Camp Out for local Boy Scouts of America troops.



Gunnery Sgt. Kenneth R. Ellis III, company gunnery sergeant, 4th Marine Regiment, answers questions for Boy Scouts of Troop 377 at Camp Wilson, Nov. 5, during the Boy Scout Camp Out for local Boy Scouts of America troops.



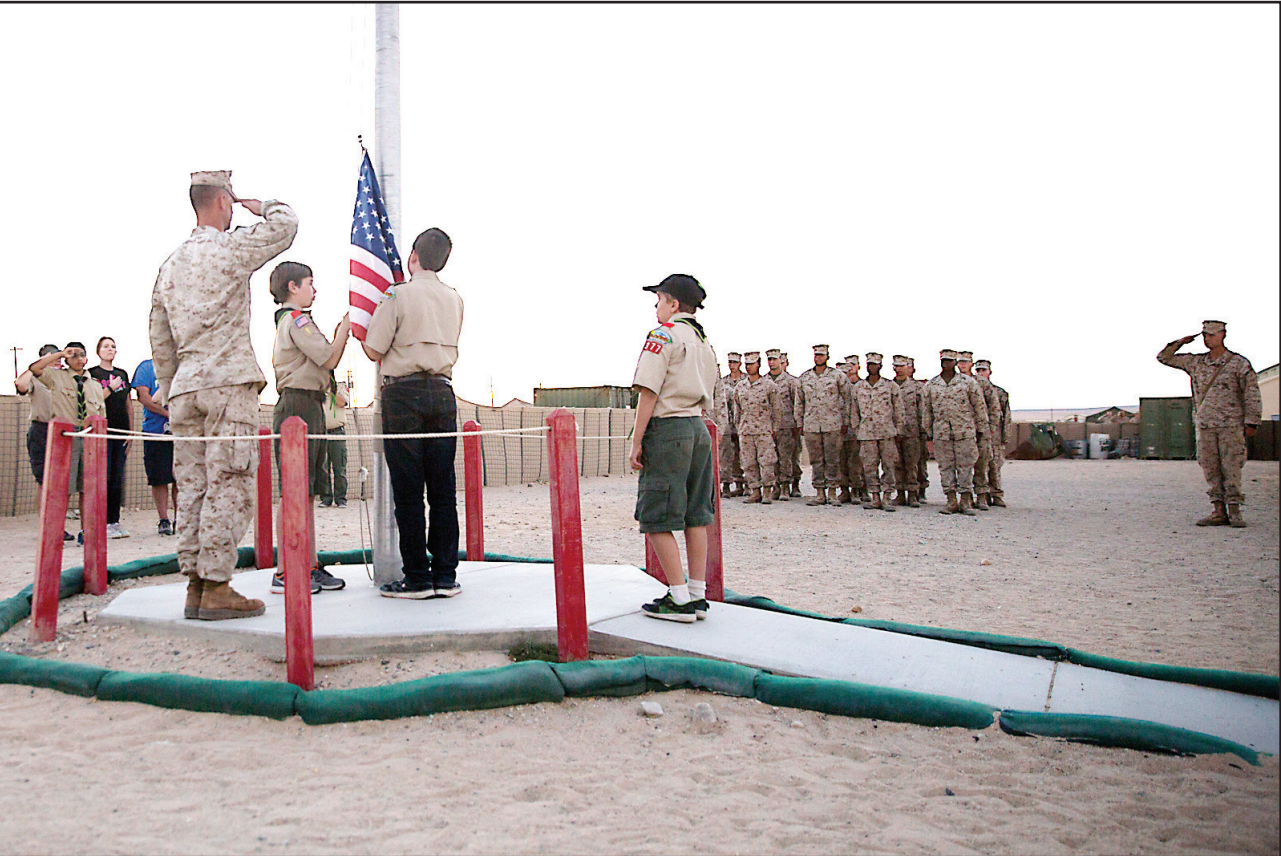
Master Sgt. Todd McKeown, staff non-commissioned officer, Installation Personnel Administration Center, demonstrates the proper way to hold the M16A4 Assault Rifle at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer, Saturday during the Boy Scout Camp Out for local Boy Scouts of America troops.



Jordan Foley, Boy Scout, Troop 377, fires a M249 Squad Automatic Weapon at the Convoy Combat Simulator, Saturday during the Boy Scout Camp Out for local Boy Scouts of America troops.



Local Boy Scouts of America troops take a photo outside a roll-over simulator, Saturday during the Boy Scout Camp Out for local Boy Scouts of America troops.



Scouts retire the colors at Camp Wilson, Saturday during the Boy Scout Camp Out for local Boy Scouts of America troops.

TOUGH MINDED
OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt

REPEATED FOR EMPHASIS

More than 20 veterans in this great nation commit suicide every day. And the number is increasing, especially among female veterans (35 and younger). The LA Times describes it as a harrowing statistic.

Anyway, be that as it is, my work to help others goes on.

I want you to know that I am as totally dedicated as ever to finding homes for the homeless, food for the hungry, and dedicating my efforts and resources to alleviating the stressful conditions endured daily by so many of my community. (Our rates of unemployment, the number of people living below the poverty level, and the increasing number of homeless people in Eastern San Bernardino demands our best efforts to make a positive difference.)

Many of you have helped me in the past and I continue to request your support. We are limited only by the amount of support we receive.

I have no pride in this regard—I'll do about anything for my projects. I know times are tough. Help if you can. If you can't, I understand. No gift is too small—or too large for that matter. Checks should be made out to Dr. Louis Gerhardt. Thank you.

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ITX From A1



CPL. SAMANTHA BRAUN

A Marine with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, runs during a training exercise at Range 400, Nov. 7.

through its preparation for deployment, which places a unique twist on this iteration of ITX.

“Overall, what we are trying to do is inform the future organization and equipping of the GCE, specifically the rifle battalion,” said Lt. Col. Donald Wright, field testing branch head, Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory. “What’s different about this ITX is that [3/5 is] organized a little bit differently, and they’re using some emerging technology.”

Traditionally, the Marine Corps rifle squad is composed of 12 Marines and a

“War is both timeless and ever changing. While the basic nature of war is constant, the means and methods we use evolve continuously.”

~ Excerpt from U.S. Marine Corps Warfighting Manual

squad leader. According to Wright, Darkhorse’s rifle companies are putting new

standards to the test with one company experimenting with 10-Marine squads and another with 14, while the remaining company serves as the controlling factor with the original configuration. Tactical Training Exercise Control Group’s Coyotes, the Combat Center’s exercise controllers, are responsible for evaluating and providing feedback on each company’s performance.

Emerging technology plays a large role in this ITX, with rifle squads having hands-on experi-



CPL. SAMANTHA BRAUN

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert B. Neller, right, speaks with Col. Jay Barger, director of Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, at Range 400, Nov. 7.

mental vehicles as well as unmanned aerial surveillance and ground robotics systems. Marines are using one such vehicle, the Multi-Utility Tactical Transport, or MUTT, for both enhanced logistics capabilities, in transporting ammo and other supplies, and in a weaponized variant, with mounted heavy weapon systems.

“The Marines are adapting very well,” Wright said. “Some of the technology they just received when they got out here, so they

are not fully trained on it but it’s very obvious they have the right attitude. 3/5 is doing everything they can to integrate this technology because they believe in it and they believe it will enhance their operability.”

Wright described these experiments as an ongoing effort “to increase the infantry battalion’s competitive advantage.” Sea Dragon 2025 highlights a three-phase process consisting of exploration, refinement and validation prior to establishment of

new Marine Corps-wide doctrine. This enables 3/5 to serve as the catalyst in testing emerging concepts and weeding them down to only the most practical applications in future war-fighting.

“It’s an ever-evolving process because the situation out there is very fluid,” Wright said. “What we are trying to do is inform the future organization and equipment of the GCE which in turn will drive the future organization and equipment of the MAGTF.”

Celebrate From A1



LANCE CPL. ANABEL ABREU-RODRIGUE

Pfc. Oseas Osio III, artillery technician, Exercise Support Division, stands dressed in the uniform from the War of 1812 at the Marine Corps Birthday Uniform Pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Thursday.



LANCE CPL. ANABEL ABREU-RODRIGUE

Brig. Gen. William F. Mullen III, Combat Center Commanding General, calls forth the Marine Corps Birthday Cake during the Marine Corps Birthday Uniform Pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Thursday.

Marine from the youngest private to oldest general,” said Sgt. Maj. Avery Crespin, battalion sergeant major, Headquarters Battalion. “That’s what these uniforms represent.”

At the conclusion of the event, Brig. Gen. William F. Mullen III, Com-

bat Center Commanding General, performed the traditional cake-cutting ceremony wherein the oldest and youngest Marines each received pieces of birthday cake.

While the ceremony displayed how the Marines’ wardrobe has changed

many times over the years, it reaffirms that the ‘Esprit de Corps’ that defines the Marine Corps as the nation’s most effective fighting force remains the same.

“It’s an honor to be able to represent those who have served before us,”

said Pfc. Oseas Osio III, artillery technician, Exercise Support Division, dressed in a uniform from the War of 1812. “It’s important that we take time on the Marine Corps’ birthday to honor our past uniforms and those who have served in them.”

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Combat Center runs for CFC awareness

PHOTOS BY CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ



Justin Dunning, son of Lt. Col. Peter Dunning, field artillery officer, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, takes the lead during the Combined Federal Campaign Awareness 5k at the Desert Winds Golf Course Nov. 4. According to OPM.gov, the mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.



A Marine runs in the Combined Federal Campaign Awareness 5k at the Desert Winds Golf Course Nov. 4.



Sgt. Damion Dugger, postal clerk, Headquarters Battalion, explains the Combined Federal Campaign during a 5k run at the Desert Winds Golf Course Nov. 4.



Marines participate in the Combined Federal Campaign Awareness 5k at the Desert Winds Golf Course Nov. 4.

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A large black and white portrait of Wes O'Donnell, an AMU alum and veteran. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark t-shirt and earbuds, looking off to the side. The background is a stone wall.

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



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FROM PITTSBURGH TO PERMIT



Sidney B. Jones, Pittsburgh, Pa., native, sits at his home in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 1. At the age of 96, the retired chief petty officer's career with the U.S. Navy spanned 38 years and two major wars.

Sailor reflects on long career, life

STORY AND PHOTO BY
CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Flames flickered across the surface of the frigid waters as plumes of smoke climbed upward, bleeding seamlessly into the night sky. A lone swimmer, heaving line in tow, made his way toward a stranded man through the wreckage of the Soviet oceanographic vessel. Raising himself onto the flot-sam, the U.S. sailor assured the wounded Russian, and they began their arduous swim back to the USS Permit.

According to Sidney B. Jones, our narrative's fearless swimmer, this story was never meant to be told, having been declassified in the 1970s. Now 96 years old, the retired chief petty officer's career with the U.S. Navy spanned 38 years and two major wars.

"My grandfather came across from Wales in 1881," Jones said as he reminisced about his life during an interview at his home in Twentynine Palms, Calif. "He settled in Pennsylvania and joined the reserves; that was the beginning of this Jones-clan fighting wars."

Jones' father, "Casey" Jones, served in the U.S. Army during the Spanish-American War. More than 28 years later, when Jones was 6 years old, his father, then working as a Pennsylvania Railroad conductor, died after being hit by unscheduled freight train on the day Jones' older brother turned 14.

"My mother got a little bit of a pittance of three and a half dollars a month for his service when he died," Jones said. "Growing up, I had a paper route for five years to help my mother get by. Back then, there were no school buses. If it was six miles away you walked; that was OK, we

"I just wanted to get in the war and do my part. If we are going to fight a war, I wanted to get on something that was going to fight it.

didn't know any different."

Jones attended Connelley Vocation High School, where he studied mechanical drawing. There, he felt captivated by the pool and became a Pittsburgh champion swimmer and diver, claiming that he "just couldn't stay out of the water." It was during his high school years that he was introduced to the rigors of military life.

"My first experience with anything military was before the war," Jones said. "Franklin Delano Roosevelt decided he would have volunteers from my high school attend a military boot camp called the Citizens Military Training Corps."

The training camps were held to train additional potential Army reserve officers and upon four years of attendance, citizens were commissioned as second lieutenants. According to Jones, he learned many valuable skills such as how to fire a rifle and to be a marksman.

"It was there that I decided if I joined the military, I was going to go into the Navy," he said.

In 1939, the USS Squalus, a Sargo-class submarine, sank during a test dive due to a mechanical failure. Lt. Cmdr. Charles B. "Swede" Momsen, a salvage and rescue expert, led rescue operations of the remaining crew trapped within the ship. Upon hearing this news, 19-year-old Jones felt inspired to enlist and soon found himself aboard the USS New York, a New York-class battleship utilizing a five-turret

layout and coal for fuel.

"When we went aboard they lined us up. The taller guys and heavier guys were chosen to go into the engine room," Jones recalled. "I had last choice and I ended up in the 7th Division as a gunner's mate. Next thing I knew, I was with a motor boat crew, tight roping a boom in the black of night."

In anticipation of World War II, Jones put in a request to attend submarine school. His request was approved and found himself mulling through blueprints, memorizing every part and system of the USS Permit, a Porpoise-class submarine.

"I was just transferred to the USS Permit after she just came back from being beat up by the Japanese after they hit Pearl [Harbor]," Jones said. "I just wanted to get in the war and do my part. If we are going to fight a war, I wanted to get on something that was going to fight it."

With his experience as a gunner's mate, Jones was used to working with ordnance. Every sailor aboard the submarine held important responsibilities and was required to learn each station, regardless of rate. Jones began as a helmsman and lookout while at battle stations where he discovered his sensitivity to the movement of the ship as well as an ability to "feel the submarine move before it moved." The captain noticed as well, quickly assigning

him to manning the bow planes, control surfaces that allowed the vessel to pitch its stern up and down. This put the responsibility of keeping the ship leveled off at the appropriate depth in the gunner's mate's hands.

"When firing a torpedo and the torpedo leaves, that's a heavy, heavy thing, so you put full dive on the planes and immediately start pulling full rise to level it off," Jones said. "The captain would say, 'I want no more than one and a half foot,' and that's what he got. He didn't want to lose the scope by going under, so he could fire; one, two, three, four and get them over with."

Life on a submarine certainly wasn't smooth sailing, Jones explained. The Permit would go on patrols that could last anywhere from 30 to 60 days and would travel primarily submerged with the exception of nights; for submariners, these nights became their days. Jones recalls the uncertainty and silence of one instance in which the Permit had difficulty eluding three destroyers.

"We would get depth charged to the world's end; it's nerve-wracking and very quiet," Jones said. "You could take your shoes off and walk around in your stockings as to not make any noise. We would often be down there for a few days before we were able to sneak out of it."

In 1944 as WWII began to wind down, Jones left the Navy and made his way back from

California to Pennsylvania by railroad. Reluctant to cut ties, he joined the Navy reserves and traveled to a naval yard in New Jersey and enrolled in a program for men getting out after the end of the war, where he applied for a job removing asbestos from pipes. Eventually, Jones transferred to Long Island, New York, to work as a plumber. As the Vietnam conflict escalated, he was recalled to active duty as a Navy recruiter.

"When Vietnam started, someone broke into the offices at the recruiter stations and threw blood on all the files," Jones said. "So, [the Navy] was looking for volunteers to go active duty recruiting, and I did. They interviewed me, sent me to school, and gave me a quota of five a month."

Jones went on to spend 12 years recruiting earning numerous awards for service, including multiple years of Top Recruiter in New York.

"I'd fall asleep sometimes driving home at night," Jones said. "It was a tough job but I always made my quota; I knew I was doing something for my Navy."

Jones retired from the Navy in his 60s. After many years of faithful service, including an extension past age 60 that required the approval of an admiral, it was time for Jones to focus on serving his family. Jones has seven daughters, 10 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, and currently lives in Twentynine Palms, Calif. Despite his many achievements, the old gunner's mate remains humble.

"I'm no hero," Jones said. "I have a lot of memories, not all of them good. When we'd surface at night for a look around or when my recruits would graduate; those moments stick with you."



Combat Center Events

Come to the musical performance of the Grinch from the Creating Arts Studio (CAC) Dec. 3, from 5:00 – 8:30 PM with a meet and greet immediately following with the great cast. There will also be a final reveal of the Motor Mania Contest Winner. For questions, please call (760) 830-5086.

Sunset Cinema

Friday Nov. 11

12:00 p.m. - Lone Survivor (NDVD - Free Admission), R

2:20 p.m. - American Sniper (NDVD - Free Admission), R

4:50 p.m. - 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi (NDVD - Free Admission), R

Saturday Nov. 12

10:00 a.m. -The Nut Job (NDVD - Free Admission), PG

12:00 p.m. – Storks, PG

2:00 p.m. - Miss Peregrine’s Home For Peculiar Children, PG-13

4:40 p.m. - Deepwater Horizon, PG-13

7:00 p.m. - The Magnificent Seven, PG-13

9:50 p.m. – Masterminds, PG-13

11:50 p.m. - The Girl on The Train, R

Sunday Nov. 13

12:30 p.m. - The Girl on The Train, R

3:00 p.m. - Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life, PG

5:00 p.m. - Kevin Hart: What Now, R

7:00 p.m. - The Accountant, R

Monday Nov. 14

6:30 p.m. - The Birth of a Nation, R

Tuesday Nov. 15

6:30 p.m. - The Accountant, R

Wednesday Nov. 16

5:00 p.m. – Masterminds, PG

7:00 p.m. - The Girl on The Train, R

Thursday Nov. 17

5:00 p.m. – Storks, PG

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Meet some of the very special “Peculiars” - Left to right: Olive (Lauren McCrostie), Bronwyn (Pixie Davies), Millard (Cameron King), the twins (Thomas and Joseph Odwell) and Emma (Ella Purnell). Photo Credit: Jay Maidment.

Tim Burton makes misfits feel welcome in ‘Miss Peregrine’s Home For Peculiar Children’

NEIL POND

“Miss Peregrine’s Home For Peculiar Children”

Starring Asa Butterfield, Eva Green, Ella Purnell and Samuel L. Jackson

Directed by Tim Burton

PG-13

The teenage years can be rough, making kids feel like outsiders, outcasts, oddballs. Wouldn’t it be awesome if there were a place young misfits could feel welcome, safe, protected, understood — and important?

And no, I’m not talking about the chess club.

In “Miss Peregrine’s Home For Peculiar Children,” director Tim Burton creates just such a place— or, more specifically, brings it spectacularly to life from Ransom Riggs’ 2011 young adult novel, a sprawling tall tale of mystery, monsters, a young boy on a tick-tocking, time-looping quest to discover his past, and some very, very peculiar kids.

“Did you ever feel like nothing you do matters?” asks teenage Jake (Asa Butterfield) in the opening scene as a crab scuttles across a footprint on a Florida beach seconds before a wave washes it away. Soon enough Jake himself will be swept across the water on a journey to a magical place that previously existed only in his imagination, fueled by colorful bedtime stories of his beloved grandfather (Terence Stamp), where he’ll find out just how needed he can be.

Visiting a remote, mist-shrouded island off the coast of Wales with his father (Chris O’Dowd), Jake discovers a decrepit old mansion bombed to rubble by German air raids in World War II. But stumbling into a “time loop” leads him back to 1943, just before the raids — when Miss Peregrine, her home and all the “peculiar children” were in full swing.

There’s lovely, lighter-than-air Emma (Ella Purnell), who must use steampunk-ish lead boots and rope tethers to keep her from floating away. Hot-handed Olive (Lauren McCrostie) can set things ablaze with a simple touch. Millard (Cameron King), an invisible boy, likes to

run around naked — not that you’d notice. Tiny Bronwyn (Pixie Davies) has the strength of a brute. Whenever Hugh (Milo Parker) opens his mouth, bees that live in his stomach come swarming out. Sweet-looking Claire (Raffiella Chapman) has a nasty surprise underneath the blonde curls of her hair. Enoch (Finlay MacMillan) has a creepy power to animate inanimate objects — including the dead.

The faces of two “twin cousins” are always covered, in spooky white hoods with holes for their eyes and mouths — for a reason not revealed until close to the end of the movie.

And as the exotic, pipe-smoking Miss Peregrine, Eva Green (Bond girl Vesper Lynd in Casino Royale) superbly channels her character’s enchanted mission with steely British resolve and flinty maternal focus. She can also morph into a bird, a fleet, regal peregrine falcon. How cool is that?!

Samuel L. Jackson is the evil Mr. Barron — no actor mixes campy humor and genuine menace with such unsettling ease or malevolent charm. There’s Allison Janney and Judi Dench. There’s danger, der-

ring-do, adventure, excitement, laughter, young love and a couple of gross-out creature-feature moments that might be too much for little eyes.

But mostly, there’s director Tim Burton’s thematic signature, everywhere. Burton has always had a thing for outsiders and outliers, misfits like Pee-Wee Herman, Sweeny Todd, Beetlejuice and Willy Wonka, and for classic Hollywood quirk. The topiaries in Miss Peregrine’s courtyard — an elephant, a dinosaur, a centaur — look like they could have been the whimsical snip-snip artistry of Edward Scissorhands. And one major scene is a huge nod — an homage, certainly — to the cheesy highlight of a specific 1960s movie (with stop-motion effects by the late special-effects guru Ray Harryhausen) that Burton has admitted is one of his all-time favorites.

Burton even slips into the action for a super-quick, gob-smacked cameo. Blink and you’ll miss him!

So outsiders, outcasts and oddballs everywhere, of all ages, let your freak flag fly—courtesy of Miss Peregrine, and Tim Burton!

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12:00 6:00 9:00
3D 3:00

Hacksaw Ridge (R)
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Reprinted from the Observation Post
Nov. 9, 1984

7th MAB musters for battle during live fire exercise here

The 7th Marine Amphibious Brigade, headquartered here, is preparing to conduct a major exercise in which some 4,100 Marines will use live firepower to attack a simulated enemy.

The climax of the exercise will occur here, Nov. 13-15, in a coordinated live-fire air and ground assault as part of a hypothetical desert campaign.

Marines and equipment from Camp Pendleton and the Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Calif., have joined units currently based here to participate in the Combined Arms Exercise. (CAX)

The 7th Marine Amphibious Brigade (MAB) is a task force organized for mechanized operations in a desert environment. It was formed in 1980 in conjunction with the maritime prepositioning program in order to improve U.S. capability to rapidly project military power throughout the world.

The exercise presupposes that the MAB has landed married up with its equipment which was prepositioned at sea, and moved inland to meet the enemy. Its mission is to interdict enemy supply lines between the mythical countries of Bagdad

and Lavic, actually part of the 932 square-mile Combat Center.

Designed MAB CAX 1-85, the exercise is part of an ongoing program to improve the brigade's ability to accomplish its potential mission through realistic training and evaluation.

The commanding general of the 7th MAB is Brigadier General William R. Etnyre. The 53-year-old, one star general is a native of Kansas City, Mo. He assumed his current assignment July 1983.

The units from Camp Pendleton participating in the exercise include 1st Battalion,

7th Marines, and infantry unit; and 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, an artillery unit. Detachments of several supporting units from Camp Pendleton are also participating.

The infantry and artillery units from Camp Pendleton have joined Regimental Landing Team-27, the 7th MAB's Ground Combat Element, commanded by Colonel Michael P. Downs. Most of the supporting units from Camp Pendleton have joined Brigade Service Support Group-7, the 7th MAB's Combat Service Support Element (logistics),

commanded by Colonel John F. Shea.

The 7th MAB's Air Combat Element, Marine Aircraft Group-70, is commanded by Colonel Christopher F. Defries. The group's aircraft, mostly from El Toro and Tustin include several types of helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. Detachments from several El Toro support squadrons are also participating.

Most of the units not permanently based at the Combat Center arrived here Oct. 21. They will return to their home bases before Nov. 27.

CROSSWORD

"Genre Exercise"

- Across**
- 1 Yankee slugger Roger
 - 6 Sporty Chevy
 - 11 Hard throw, in baseball
 - 14 One of Donald's exes
 - 15 Special Forces unit
 - 16 Director DuVernay
 - 17 Golf locale
 - 19 Sink
 - 20 Its point is to make holes
 - 21 "Sure"
 - 22 Texas leaguer?
 - 24 Money for old age: Abbr.
 - 25 Lower Saxony city
 - 27 Cap'n's mate
 - 30 Braces wearer, jokingly
 - 35 CPR pros
 - 36 Red ink amount
 - 37 Town north of Anaheim
 - 38 Fabled racer
 - 39 Actor Foxx
 - 40 Civil rights concern
 - 41 Soprano's song, maybe
 - 42 Sports event
 - 43 Pound of verse
 - 44 Informal chat
 - 47 Musical interval
 - 48 Israel's Dayan
 - 49 Gives the go-ahead
 - 51 Like some vin
 - 53 Exclusive
 - 55 Grimm character
 - 58 Hurt
 - 59 Crayfish
 - 63 Brooks of "The Producers"
 - 64 Confessed, with "up"
 - 65 Square things
 - 66 Pitches
 - 67 Proceeds
 - 68 Kind of cake or pan

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
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58					59	60	61				62			
63					64						65			
66					67						68			

- Down**
- 1 Isinglass
 - 2 Declare
 - 3 Brother of Fidel
 - 4 Place to stay
 - 5 Nymph chaser
 - 6 "___ con Dios!"
 - 7 Make an impression
 - 8 Rolodex abbr.
 - 9 ___ lepton (physics particle)
 - 10 Preserve for burial
 - 11 Remove bacteria from, as milk
 - 12 At any time
 - 13 Madrid mouser
 - 18 Cheat
 - 23 Drools
 - 24 Available
 - 25 Vegas attraction
 - 26 Besides
 - 27 Joy on "The View"
 - 28 TV actor Jason
 - 29 Chains of chains, often
 - 31 Run out
 - 32 Actress Marisa
 - 33 Eye drops
 - 34 Deals with
 - 39 Kid
 - 45 Conditional deposit
 - 46 ___ contendere

SUDOKU

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	2			1		7		
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Difficult

Last week's answers

A	S	K	S		F	L	I	P		M	A	U	N	A
M	A	N	E		R	E	B	A		I	F	N	O	T
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L	O	W		E	M	I	T		H	I	R	E		
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7	4	5	9	8	1	2	3	6
3	2	6	7	5	4	8	9	1
5	3	4	8	1	7	6	2	9
9	7	1	3	6	2	5	4	8
2	6	8	4	9	5	7	1	3
6	5	7	1	2	9	3	8	4
4	9	3	5	7	8	1	6	2
1	8	2	6	4	3	9	5	7

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WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Cody POST

Union, Miss. Corporal, machine gunner, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment

POST IS TRANSITIONING TO BECOMING A DIESEL MECHANIC AFTER HIS FIVE-YEAR MARINE CORPS CAREER. HE ENJOYS THE OUTDOORS, HUNTING, AND OFF-ROADING, AND PLANS TO SETTLE DOWN IN MISSOURI.

>I grew up in the outskirts of St. Louis in a town called Union. Living out in the middle of nowhere was simple. I spent my time playing sports and hunting and hiking out in the woods.

>I love football because of the physical contact. In high school I played tackle on offense and line-backer on defense. I like the competitiveness and the brotherhood that comes along with it. Making a play and celebrating with your teammates is motivating. One of my friends from the team joined the Marine Corps as well and we still keep in contact.

>My Marlin 30-06 rifle is my go-to hunting firearm. I also own a variety of pistols, shotguns, and semi-automatic rifles. I enjoy hunting anything that's in season, usually turkey or deer. If it's big, I want to hunt it.

>My goal is to travel to hunt grizzly bear, Moose, elk or caribou. I'll eventually go on a safari to take down a Jaguar or a Lion. When I hunt, every part of the animal is eaten or used, there's nothing that goes to waste.

>My uncle taught me a lot of fundamentals and the Marine Corps helped expand my shooting knowledge. My favorite guns to play with are the M240 and the .50 caliber [Browning M2].

>Being a gunner is the best job in the Marine Corps. My job is to rein hell on whatever that target is. When you do it all the time, you get really good.

>I come from a military family. My great grandpa was a pilot during World War II and my grandfather was a tank mechan-



ic during the Vietnam War. My father was a mortarman in the Marine Corps and my cousin is an anti-tank missileman.

>As a citizen, I felt it was my duty to join. I just wanted to do my part and answer the call.

>I have a lot of pride being in 1/7 because of our history and great traditions. Some of our legends include Chesty Puller, Johnny B. [Basilone], and Chaos [Gen. Mattis].

>The everyday training we get is the best in the Marine Corps- it's world class. There are

some great training areas here.

>Getting to train with foreign military was one of the highlights of my career. I've been to Jordan twice, and the embassy in Baghdad. I made some good friends, and it was pretty cool getting to teach other people my job. Patience is vital when you're communicating through translators. It was rewarding to see other service members improve their gunnery.

>It's important to have a good relationship with other countries because we get to see and learn from each other first

hand. It builds strength and prepares us if we have to work together in the future.

>I'm going to miss jumping out of helicopters. I'll never get a chance to do that again.

>I'm ready for the transition because the Corps has taught me how to be patient and helped develop my leadership style.

>My girlfriend and I want to settle down in Missouri and get some off-roading toys. I'm a simple guy. I just want to travel the world and live the American dream.

Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Connor Hancock

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STAFF SGT. WALTER F. KLEINE

A Marine part of 1st Marine Division draws a bead on a Japanese sniper with his tommy-gun as his companion ducks for cover in Okinawa, Japan 1945. The division worked to take Wana Ridge before the town of Shuri.



CPL. PETER MCDONALD

A column of Marines and armor of the 1st Marine Division move through communist Chinese lines during their successful breakout from the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. The Marines were besieged when the Chinese entered the Korean War Nov. 27, 1950.

Celebrating our heritage

STORY BY
CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

The Marine Corps was born on November 10, 1775 in Tun Tavern, a small Philadelphia pub. On that day, the Continental Marines were established with the intended purpose of being able to fight for independence on land and at sea. Over the years the Marine Corps has evolved into a force capable of defending its people and providing humanitarian aid to the nation and its allies from air, land and sea, all while maintaining itself as a force in readiness.

“Being a Marine is something I take pride in, and that is instilled in us from day one,” said Sgt. Maj. Abel Leal, former Headquarters Battalion Sergeant Major. “We are warfighters and the way we operate is very unlike the other branches. I’d like to think every Marine has some of our values instilled in them.”

Since the Marine Corps’ inception it has been known as the nation’s force in readiness. Marines are recognized by the way they train, the customs they uphold, and the morals that are instilled in them. Although the organization continues to grow, many of the customs have remained the same. The Marine Corps’ birthday is one of the



LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

2nd Lt. Margo Smutnick, adjutant, Headquarters Battalion, reads the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. John A. Lejeune’s, birthday message at the Headquarters Battalion Marine Corps Birthday Ball at Caesar’s Palace in Las Vegas, Nov. 21, 2015.

many traditions that Marines take great pride in celebrating annually.

“The ball is a tradition that we celebrate every year,” Leal said. “I bring a family member to the birthday ball because they don’t understand it in the same way [Marines] do. But when they see all the ceremonial events in it; the moment of silence for our fallen brothers, the reading of Gen. John A. Lejeune’s birthday message and the passing of the cake from the oldest Marine to the youngest, they get to share in

the pride that we feel.”

Although tradition is something Marines hold dear, there was a time when the birthday wasn’t always widely celebrated. In 1921, Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune declared November 10, an official Marine Corps holiday. Since then, whether it was a small celebration between fellow comrades while deployed or a grand affair while in garrison, Marines have taken the time to honor the Corps’ illustrious history.

“I love the Marine Corps Birthday,” said Sgt. Maj. Ray



CPL. H. H. CLEMENTS

Marine Pfc. Douglas Lightheart (right) cradles his 30-cal. machine gun in his lap, alongside Pfc. Gerald Churchby on Peleliu Island, September 14, 1944.

Wilburn (ret.), veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. “It doesn’t matter where you are or how many Marines you’re with. Two Marines can celebrate it with a cup of water while deployed and it will still have the same meaning.”

The Marine Corps Ball has been regarded as a time-honored tradition that celebrates the birth of the Corps. It is a night that provides Marines from all generations with a chance to come together, recognize the sacrifices made by those who came before them, and celebrate a proud heritage.

“It’s nice to celebrate the birthday in fancy venues, but we shouldn’t get wrapped up in that,” Leal said. “We should focus on celebrating our birthday for the heritage and tradition that comes with it.”

The birthday is a day that does more than celebrate a beginning. For Marines it signifies much more. The birthday stands for a day when those from all generations, who swore an oath to protect and serve, can join as one to share in the pride of being a United States Marine.

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Combat Center welcomes Boy Scouts of America

Photos by Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo



Noah Allen, Boy Scout, Troop 377, fires a M249 Squad Automatic Weapon at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer, Saturday during the Boy Scout Camp Out for local Boy Scouts of America troops.



Gunnery Sgt. Kenneth R. Ellis III, company gunnery sergeant, 4th Marine Regiment, answers questions for Boy Scouts of Troop 377 at Camp Wilson, Nov. 5, during the Boy Scout Camp Out for local Boy Scouts of America troops.



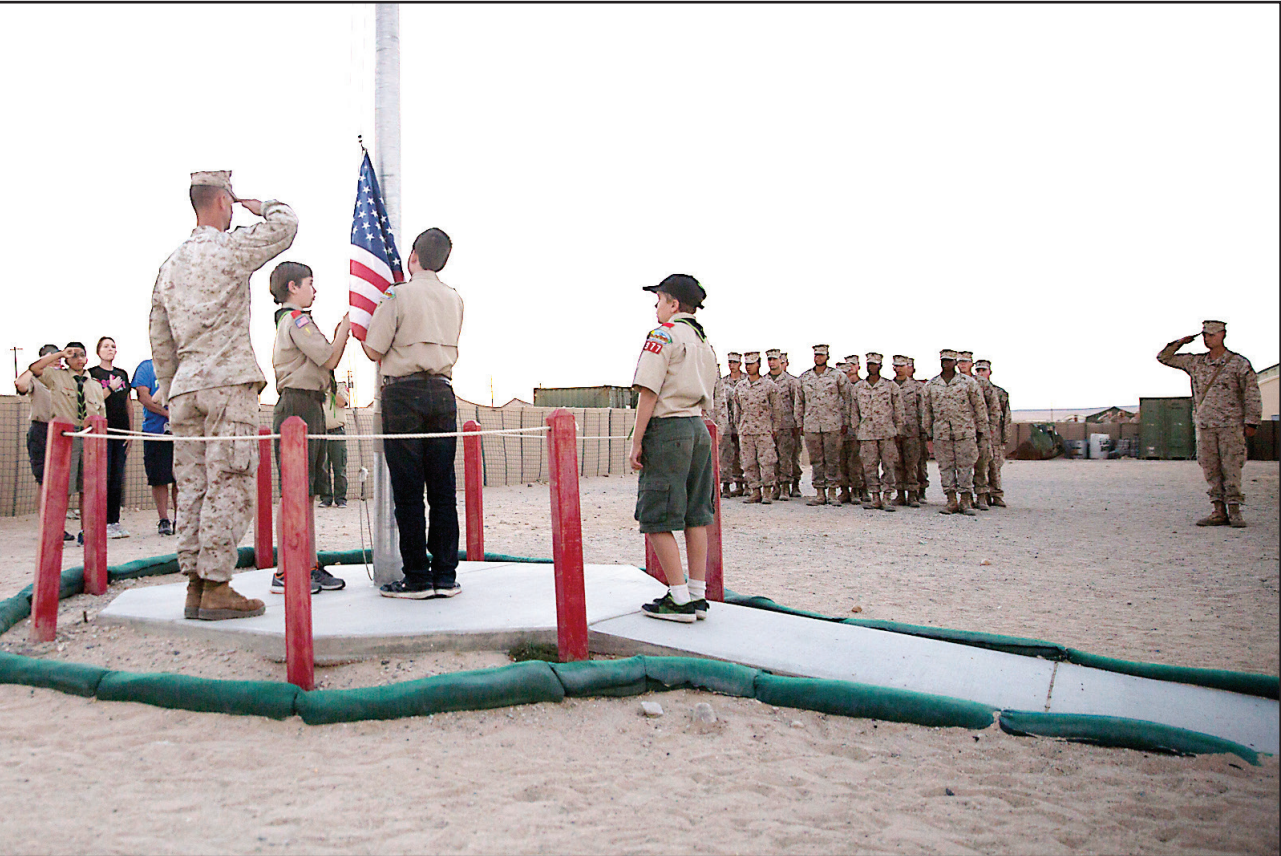
Master Sgt. Todd McKeown, staff non-commissioned officer, Installation Personnel Administration Center, demonstrates the proper way to hold the M16A4 Assault Rifle at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer, Saturday during the Boy Scout Camp Out for local Boy Scouts of America troops.



Jordan Foley, Boy Scout, Troop 377, fires a M249 Squad Automatic Weapon at the Convoy Combat Simulator, Saturday during the Boy Scout Camp Out for local Boy Scouts of America troops.



Local Boy Scouts of America troops take a photo outside a roll-over simulator, Saturday during the Boy Scout Camp Out for local Boy Scouts of America troops.



Scouts retire the colors at Camp Wilson, Saturday during the Boy Scout Camp Out for local Boy Scouts of America troops.

**TOUGH MINDED
OPTIMISM**
by Lou Gerhardt

REPEATED FOR EMPHASIS

More than 20 veterans in this great nation commit suicide every day. And the number is increasing, especially among female veterans (35 and younger). The LA Times describes it as a harrowing statistic.

Anyway, be that as it is, my work to help others goes on.

I want you to know that I am as totally dedicated as ever to finding homes for the homeless, food for the hungry, and dedicating my efforts and resources to alleviating the stressful conditions endured daily by so many of my community. (Our rates of unemployment, the number of people living below the poverty level, and the increasing number of homeless people in Eastern San Bernardino demands our best efforts to make a positive difference.)

Many of you have helped me in the past and I continue to request your support. We are limited only by the amount of support we receive.

I have no pride in this regard—I'll do about anything for my projects. I know times are tough. Help if you can. If you can't, I understand. No gift is too small—or too large for that matter. Checks should be made out to Dr. Louis Gerhardt. Thank you.

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ITX From A1



CPL. SAMANTHA BRAUN

A Marine with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, runs during a training exercise at Range 400, Nov. 7.

through its preparation for deployment, which places a unique twist on this iteration of ITX.

“Overall, what we are trying to do is inform the future organization and equipping of the GCE, specifically the rifle battalion,” said Lt. Col. Donald Wright, field testing branch head, Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory. “What’s different about this ITX is that [3/5 is] organized a little bit differently, and they’re using some emerging technology.”

Traditionally, the Marine Corps rifle squad is composed of 12 Marines and a

“War is both timeless and ever changing. While the basic nature of war is constant, the means and methods we use evolve continuously.”
~ Excerpt from U.S. Marine Corps Warfighting Manual

squad leader. According to Wright, Darkhorse’s rifle companies are putting new

standards to the test with one company experimenting with 10-Marine squads and another with 14, while the remaining company serves as the controlling factor with the original configuration. Tactical Training Exercise Control Group’s Coyotes, the Combat Center’s exercise controllers, are responsible for evaluating and providing feedback on each company’s performance.

Emerging technology plays a large role in this ITX, with rifle squads having hands-on experi-



CPL. SAMANTHA BRAUN

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert B. Neller, right, speaks with Col. Jay Barger, director of Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, at Range 400, Nov. 7.

mental vehicles as well as unmanned aerial surveillance and ground robotics systems. Marines are using one such vehicle, the Multi-Utility Tactical Transport, or MUTT, for both enhanced logistics capabilities, in transporting ammo and other supplies, and in a weaponized variant, with mounted heavy weapon systems.

“The Marines are adapting very well,” Wright said. “Some of the technology they just received when they got out here, so they

are not fully trained on it but it’s very obvious they have the right attitude. 3/5 is doing everything they can to integrate this technology because they believe in it and they believe it will enhance their operability.”

Wright described these experiments as an ongoing effort “to increase the infantry battalion’s competitive advantage.” Sea Dragon 2025 highlights a three-phase process consisting of exploration, refinement and validation prior to establishment of

new Marine Corps-wide doctrine. This enables 3/5 to serve as the catalyst in testing emerging concepts and weeding them down to only the most practical applications in future war-fighting.

“It’s an ever-evolving process because the situation out there is very fluid,” Wright said. “What we are trying to do is inform the future organization and equipment of the GCE which in turn will drive the future organization and equipment of the MAGTF.”

Celebrate From A1



LANCE CPL. ANABEL ABREU-RODRIGUE

Pfc. Oseas Osio III, artillery technician, Exercise Support Division, stands dressed in the uniform from the War of 1812 at the Marine Corps Birthday Uniform Pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Thursday.



LANCE CPL. ANABEL ABREU-RODRIGUE

Brig. Gen. William F. Mullen III, Combat Center Commanding General, calls forth the Marine Corps Birthday Cake during the Marine Corps Birthday Uniform Pageant at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Thursday.

Marine from the youngest private to oldest general,” said Sgt. Maj. Avery Crespin, battalion sergeant major, Headquarters Battalion. “That’s what these uniforms represent.”

At the conclusion of the event, Brig. Gen. William F. Mullen III, Com-

bat Center Commanding General, performed the traditional cake-cutting ceremony wherein the oldest and youngest Marines each received pieces of birthday cake.

While the ceremony displayed how the Marines’ wardrobe has changed

many times over the years, it reaffirms that the ‘Esprit de Corps’ that defines the Marine Corps as the nation’s most effective fighting force remains the same.

“It’s an honor to be able to represent those who have served before us,”

said Pfc. Oseas Osio III, artillery technician, Exercise Support Division, dressed in a uniform from the War of 1812. “It’s important that we take time on the Marine Corps’ birthday to honor our past uniforms and those who have served in them.”

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Combat Center runs for CFC awareness

PHOTOS BY CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ



Justin Dunning, son of Lt. Col. Peter Dunning, field artillery officer, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, takes the lead during the Combined Federal Campaign Awareness 5k at the Desert Winds Golf Course Nov. 4. According to OPM.gov, the mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.



A Marine runs in the Combined Federal Campaign Awareness 5k at the Desert Winds Golf Course Nov. 4.



Sgt. Damion Dugger, postal clerk, Headquarters Battalion, explains the Combined Federal Campaign during a 5k run at the Desert Winds Golf Course Nov. 4.



Marines participate in the Combined Federal Campaign Awareness 5k at the Desert Winds Golf Course Nov. 4.

“AMU HELPED ME REACH HIGHER”

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

A large black and white portrait of Wes O'Donnell, an AMU alum and veteran. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark t-shirt and earbuds, looking off to the side. The background is a stone wall.

Veteran, author, and entrepreneur Wes O'Donnell gained the right tools and confidence from AMU to publish a book, start a healthcare solutions company, and launch a successful digital media group. Join the #1 provider of education to the Armed Forces* and gain knowledge that's relevant to what you do today and what you want to do tomorrow. **Reach higher at www.AMUonline.com/OBSERVATION**

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



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FROM PITTSBURGH TO PERMIT



Sidney B. Jones, Pittsburgh, Pa., native, sits at his home in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 1. At the age of 96, the retired chief petty officer's career with the U.S. Navy spanned 38 years and two major wars.

Sailor reflects on long career, life

STORY AND PHOTO BY
CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Flames flickered across the surface of the frigid waters as plumes of smoke climbed upward, bleeding seamlessly into the night sky. A lone swimmer, heaving line in tow, made his way toward a stranded man through the wreckage of the Soviet oceanographic vessel. Raising himself onto the flotsam, the U.S. sailor assured the wounded Russian, and they began their arduous swim back to the USS Permit.

According to Sidney B. Jones, our narrative's fearless swimmer, this story was never meant to be told, having been declassified in the 1970s. Now 96 years old, the retired chief petty officer's career with the U.S. Navy spanned 38 years and two major wars.

"My grandfather came across from Wales in 1881," Jones said as he reminisced about his life during an interview at his home in Twentynine Palms, Calif. "He settled in Pennsylvania and joined the reserves; that was the beginning of this Jones-clan fighting wars."

Jones' father, "Casey" Jones, served in the U.S. Army during the Spanish-American War. More than 28 years later, when Jones was 6 years old, his father, then working as a Pennsylvania Railroad conductor, died after being hit by unscheduled freight train on the day Jones' older brother turned 14.

"My mother got a little bit of a pittance of three and a half dollars a month for his service when he died," Jones said. "Growing up, I had a paper route for five years to help my mother get by. Back then, there were no school buses. If it was six miles away you walked; that was OK, we

"I just wanted to get in the war and do my part. If we are going to fight a war, I wanted to get on something that was going to fight it.

didn't know any different."

Jones attended Connelley Vocation High School, where he studied mechanical drawing. There, he felt captivated by the pool and became a Pittsburgh champion swimmer and diver, claiming that he "just couldn't stay out of the water." It was during his high school years that he was introduced to the rigors of military life.

"My first experience with anything military was before the war," Jones said. "Franklin Delano Roosevelt decided he would have volunteers from my high school attend a military boot camp called the Citizens Military Training Corps."

The training camps were held to train additional potential Army reserve officers and upon four years of attendance, citizens were commissioned as second lieutenants. According to Jones, he learned many valuable skills such as how to fire a rifle and to be a marksman.

"It was there that I decided if I joined the military, I was going to go into the Navy," he said.

In 1939, the USS Squalus, a Sargo-class submarine, sank during a test dive due to a mechanical failure. Lt. Cmdr. Charles B. "Swede" Momsen, a salvage and rescue expert, led rescue operations of the remaining crew trapped within the ship. Upon hearing this news, 19-year-old Jones felt inspired to enlist and soon found himself aboard the USS New York, a New York-class battleship utilizing a five-turret

layout and coal for fuel.

"When we went aboard they lined us up. The taller guys and heavier guys were chosen to go into the engine room," Jones recalled. "I had last choice and I ended up in the 7th Division as a gunner's mate. Next thing I knew, I was with a motor boat crew, tight roping a boom in the black of night."

In anticipation of World War II, Jones put in a request to attend submarine school. His request was approved and found himself mulling through blueprints, memorizing every part and system of the USS Permit, a Porpoise-class submarine.

"I was just transferred to the USS Permit after she just came back from being beat up by the Japanese after they hit Pearl [Harbor]," Jones said. "I just wanted to get in the war and do my part. If we are going to fight a war, I wanted to get on something that was going to fight it."

With his experience as a gunner's mate, Jones was used to working with ordnance. Every sailor aboard the submarine held important responsibilities and was required to learn each station, regardless of rate. Jones began as a helmsman and lookout while at battle stations where he discovered his sensitivity to the movement of the ship as well as an ability to "feel the submarine move before it moved." The captain noticed as well, quickly assigning

him to manning the bow planes, control surfaces that allowed the vessel to pitch its stern up and down. This put the responsibility of keeping the ship leveled off at the appropriate depth in the gunner's mate's hands.

"When firing a torpedo and the torpedo leaves, that's a heavy, heavy thing, so you put full dive on the planes and immediately start pulling full rise to level it off," Jones said. "The captain would say, 'I want no more than one and a half foot,' and that's what he got. He didn't want to lose the scope by going under, so he could fire; one, two, three, four and get them over with."

Life on a submarine certainly wasn't smooth sailing, Jones explained. The Permit would go on patrols that could last anywhere from 30 to 60 days and would travel primarily submerged with the exception of nights; for submariners, these nights became their days. Jones recalls the uncertainty and silence of one instance in which the Permit had difficulty eluding three destroyers.

"We would get depth charged to the world's end; it's nerve-wracking and very quiet," Jones said. "You could take your shoes off and walk around in your stockings as to not make any noise. We would often be down there for a few days before we were able to sneak out of it."

In 1944 as WWII began to wind down, Jones left the Navy and made his way back from

California to Pennsylvania by railroad. Reluctant to cut ties, he joined the Navy reserves and traveled to a naval yard in New Jersey and enrolled in a program for men getting out after the end of the war, where he applied for a job removing asbestos from pipes. Eventually, Jones transferred to Long Island, New York, to work as a plumber. As the Vietnam conflict escalated, he was recalled to active duty as a Navy recruiter.

"When Vietnam started, someone broke into the offices at the recruiter stations and threw blood on all the files," Jones said. "So, [the Navy] was looking for volunteers to go active duty recruiting, and I did. They interviewed me, sent me to school, and gave me a quota of five a month."

Jones went on to spend 12 years recruiting earning numerous awards for service, including multiple years of Top Recruiter in New York.

"I'd fall asleep sometimes driving home at night," Jones said. "It was a tough job but I always made my quota; I knew I was doing something for my Navy."

Jones retired from the Navy in his 60s. After many years of faithful service, including an extension past age 60 that required the approval of an admiral, it was time for Jones to focus on serving his family. Jones has seven daughters, 10 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, and currently lives in Twentynine Palms, Calif. Despite his many achievements, the old gunner's mate remains humble.

"I'm no hero," Jones said. "I have a lot of memories, not all of them good. When we'd surface at night for a look around or when my recruits would graduate; those moments stick with you."



Combat Center Events

Come to the musical performance of the Grinch from the Creating Arts Studio (CAC) Dec. 3, from 5:00 – 8:30 PM with a meet and greet immediately following with the great cast. There will also be a final reveal of the Motor Mania Contest Winner. For questions, please call (760) 830-5086.

Sunset Cinema

Friday Nov. 11

12:00 p.m. - Lone Survivor (NDVD - Free Admission), R

2:20 p.m. - American Sniper (NDVD - Free Admission), R

4:50 p.m. - 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi (NDVD - Free Admission), R

Saturday Nov. 12

10:00 a.m. -The Nut Job (NDVD - Free Admission), PG

12:00 p.m. – Storks, PG

2:00 p.m. - Miss Peregrine’s Home For Peculiar Children, PG-13

4:40 p.m. - Deepwater Horizon, PG-13

7:00 p.m. - The Magnificent Seven, PG-13

9:50 p.m. – Masterminds, PG-13

11:50 p.m. - The Girl on The Train, R

Sunday Nov. 13

12:30 p.m. - The Girl on The Train, R

3:00 p.m. - Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life, PG

5:00 p.m. - Kevin Hart: What Now, R

7:00 p.m. - The Accountant, R

Monday Nov. 14

6:30 p.m. - The Birth of a Nation, R

Tuesday Nov. 15

6:30 p.m. - The Accountant, R

Wednesday Nov. 16

5:00 p.m. – Masterminds, PG

7:00 p.m. - The Girl on The Train, R

Thursday Nov. 17

5:00 p.m. – Storks, PG

7:00 p.m. – The Magnificent Seven, PG-13

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Meet some of the very special “Peculiars” - Left to right: Olive (Lauren McCrostie), Bronwyn (Pixie Davies), Millard (Cameron King), the twins (Thomas and Joseph Odwell) and Emma (Ella Purnell). Photo Credit: Jay Maidment.

Tim Burton makes misfits feel welcome in ‘Miss Peregrine’s Home For Peculiar Children’

NEIL POND

“Miss Peregrine’s Home For Peculiar Children”

Starring Asa Butterfield, Eva Green, Ella Purnell and Samuel L. Jackson

Directed by Tim Burton

PG-13

The teenage years can be rough, making kids feel like outsiders, outcasts, oddballs. Wouldn’t it be awesome if there were a place young misfits could feel welcome, safe, protected, understood — and important?

And no, I’m not talking about the chess club.

In “Miss Peregrine’s Home For Peculiar Children,” director Tim Burton creates just such a place— or, more specifically, brings it spectacularly to life from Ransom Riggs’ 2011 young adult novel, a sprawling tall tale of mystery, monsters, a young boy on a tick-tocking, time-looping quest to discover his past, and some very, very peculiar kids.

“Did you ever feel like nothing you do matters?” asks teenage Jake (Asa Butterfield) in the opening scene as a crab scuttles across a footprint on a Florida beach seconds before a wave washes it away. Soon enough Jake himself will be swept across the water on a journey to a magical place that previously existed only in his imagination, fueled by colorful bedtime stories of his beloved grandfather (Terence Stamp), where he’ll find out just how needed he can be.

Visiting a remote, mist-shrouded island off the coast of Wales with his father (Chris O’Dowd), Jake discovers a decrepit old mansion bombed to rubble by German air raids in World War II. But stumbling into a “time loop” leads him back to 1943, just before the raids — when Miss Peregrine, her home and all the “peculiar children” were in full swing.

There’s lovely, lighter-than-air Emma (Ella Purnell), who must use steampunk-ish lead boots and rope tethers to keep her from floating away. Hot-handed Olive (Lauren McCrostie) can set things ablaze with a simple touch. Millard (Cameron King), an invisible boy, likes to

run around naked — not that you’d notice. Tiny Bronwyn (Pixie Davies) has the strength of a brute. Whenever Hugh (Milo Parker) opens his mouth, bees that live in his stomach come swarming out. Sweet-looking Claire (Raffiella Chapman) has a nasty surprise underneath the blonde curls of her hair. Enoch (Finlay MacMillan) has a creepy power to animate inanimate objects — including the dead.

The faces of two “twin cousins” are always covered, in spooky white hoods with holes for their eyes and mouths — for a reason not revealed until close to the end of the movie.

And as the exotic, pipe-smoking Miss Peregrine, Eva Green (Bond girl Vesper Lynd in Casino Royale) superbly channels her character’s enchanted mission with steely British resolve and flinty maternal focus. She can also morph into a bird, a fleet, regal peregrine falcon. How cool is that?!

Samuel L. Jackson is the evil Mr. Barron — no actor mixes campy humor and genuine menace with such unsettling ease or malevolent charm. There’s Allison Janney and Judi Dench. There’s danger, der-

ring-do, adventure, excitement, laughter, young love and a couple of gross-out creature-feature moments that might be too much for little eyes.

But mostly, there’s director Tim Burton’s thematic signature, everywhere. Burton has always had a thing for outsiders and outliers, misfits like Pee-Wee Herman, Sweeny Todd, Beetlejuice and Willy Wonka, and for classic Hollywood quirk. The topiaries in Miss Peregrine’s courtyard — an elephant, a dinosaur, a centaur — look like they could have been the whimsical snip-snip artistry of Edward Scissorhands. And one major scene is a huge nod — an homage, certainly — to the cheesy highlight of a specific 1960s movie (with stop-motion effects by the late special-effects guru Ray Harryhausen) that Burton has admitted is one of his all-time favorites.

Burton even slips into the action for a super-quick, gob-smacked cameo. Blink and you’ll miss him!

So outsiders, outcasts and oddballs everywhere, of all ages, let your freak flag fly—courtesy of Miss Peregrine, and Tim Burton!

Cinema 6

Showtimes Effective 11/11/16 - 11/17/16

Hell or High Water (R)
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

Doctor Strange (PG13)
12:00 6:00 9:00
3D 3:00

Hacksaw Ridge (R)
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