February 24, 2017

www.29palms.marines.mil

Vol. 61 Issue 7



Capt. Zachary Weisenfels, officer in charge, Fabrication Laboratory, center, gives Marines a tour of the FABLAB during an open at building 1431, Tuesday.

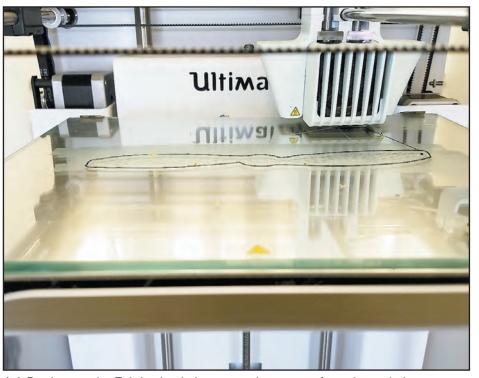
Combat Center's new FABLAB provides tools for innovation

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

In anticipation of its official opening scheduled for April, the Combat Center's Fabrication Laboratory held an open house at building 1431, Tuesday. The FABLAB event showcased the different equipment and capabilities the lab will provide Marines and units aboard the installation.

With more than five 3-D printers, a laser cutter, electrical soldering tools and a selection of wood shop equipment, the shop offers the tools Marines need to create anything from Humvee handles to drones.

"One of the biggest goals here is to [prevent gaps in training]," said Capt. Zachary Weisenfels, officer in charge, FABLAB. "While the unit has a part on order, Marines can make something that will allow a piece of equipment to work while they wait for the actual part to come in. It's not going to last ing Marines access to



A 3-D printer at the Fabrication Laboratory prints a rotor for a drone during an open house at building 1431, Tuesday.

as long as the original, but it will allow them to continue training."

The lab also provides a means for Marines to implement innovative ideas to improve their units and the Marine Corps as a whole.

"We want Marines in here and exploring," Weisenfels said. "By givthis equipment, they are going to be ones who innovate. They may come up with ways to save money or invent an entirely new system."

FABLAB is already making changes aboard the Combat Center. According to Weisenfels, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit and Tactical Training Exercise Control

Group have begun using the lab to create training aides and drones. Once the lab officially opens in April, it will be available for Marines to work on both individual and unit projects.

"We are still working out kinks here and there,' Weisenfels said. "There

See **FABLAB** A6

Seeking Combat **Support Marines** for Special Ops

STORY BY MAJ. NICHOLAS MANNWEILER

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - One of the five SOF Truths is quality is better than quantity. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command is putting this truth into action through its search for talented Marines to fill its critical combat support roles.



MAJ. NICHOLAS MANNWEILER

A Joint Terminal Attack Controller with U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command communicates with a Navy MH-60S helicopter during takeoff as part of Carrier Airwing training conducted by the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center aboard Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev., April 7, 2011.

A Naval Message released Feb. 16 announced the launch of a new effort called the MARSOC Combat Support Orientation Course, or MCSOC. The course is designed to better inform Marines interested in serving a tour of duty at MARSOC as a Special Operations Capability Specialist, or SOCS.

The five-day course, scheduled to run March 20-24, is structured to introduce Marines to the career opportunities available to them at MARSOC while still remaining in their military occupational specialty. Marines will also receive in-depth instruction on strength and conditioning,

See Support A6



MARSOC Marine employs advanced communications equipment during small unit training aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 11, 2010.

Inside the Observation Post

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A2	Combat Center History
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B2	Chosin Few reunion



Commandant of the Marine Corps, See page B1

Gen. Robert B. Neller, visits Marines

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 Sgt. James Skelton.



A U.S. Marine assigned to Alpha Company, Infantry Training Battalion, School of Infantry East, sets up an 81mm mortar during a live fire exercise aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 12. Marines are evaluated in field craft and military occupational specialty tasks under the leadership and supervision of Combat Instructors in order to provide the Marine Corps basically qualified infantry Marines prepared for service in the operating forces.

A2 February 24, 2017 **OBSERVATION POST**



Reprinted from the Observation Post Feb. 24, 1959

Marine Units to Participate in \$ Million Space Exhibit

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

The Marine Corps will display more than a million and a half dollars worth of its later combat equipment as part of the Second Western Space Age Conference andd Exhibit in Los Angeles, March 5-7. The 2d Medium Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion will represent the Base. A group of four Marines from that

unit will leave here on March 3 to start setting up for exhibit. The MAAN Battalion's contribution will feature a launcher, twin missile carrier and two Terrier missiles.

Held at the Great Western Exhibit Center, the exhibition is sponsored primarily by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

The Marine Corps will join the other Armed Forces, non-military government agencies, and some 400 industrial contracters with representative displays.

Among the major items of egipment planned to be shown by the Marines will be the HR-2-S helicopter, the Corps' latest and largest air vehicle used in the new vertical envelopment assault technique. The two-engine craft can carry up to 40 Marine, included crew.

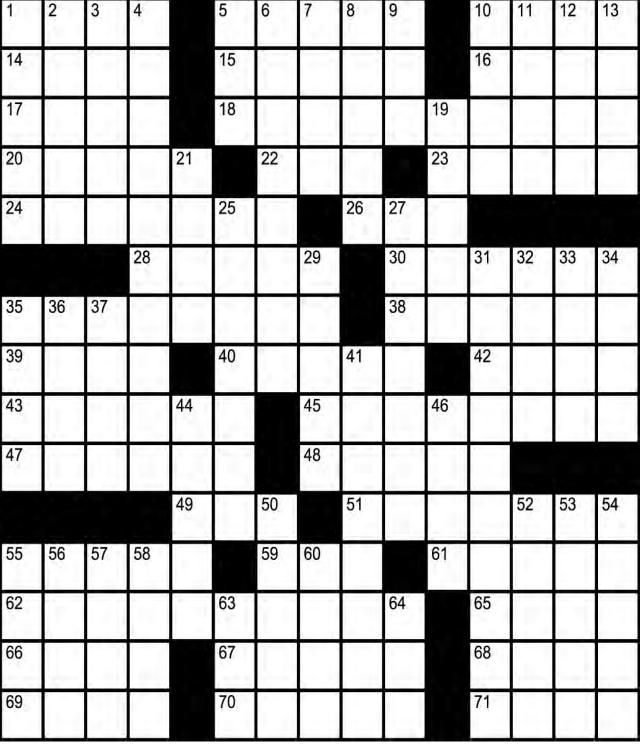
The newest, most modern version of the assault landing craft will also be on display. Known as the LVT-P-5, the amphibian tractor is a greatly improved version of the landing craft used by Marines in Pacific Island landings during World War II.

The Ontos, the highly mobile anti-tank weapon mounting six 106mm recoilless rifles, will give spectators a look at one

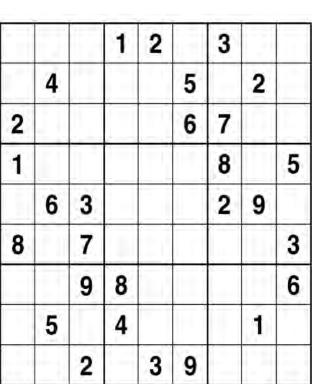
of Corps' most lethal weapon. The 8 1/2- ton truck vehicle generally resembles a tank, but carries greater firepower.

Marine Captain Frank B. Morris, Small Buisness Specialist from Headquarters Marines Corps in Washinton, D.C., is coordinating Marine Corps participation in the event and will be in charge of a conference booth, a part of the overall Marine exhibit.

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Last week's answers

D R G ODGE 0 Ε T

Across

- 1. The "A" of ABM
- 5. Hillsides 10. First-rate
- 14. Oil source
- 15. American symbol 16. "O" in old radio lingo
- 17. Exactly (3 wds)
- 18. Calcium carbonate
- deposited by water 20. Basket material
- 22. Anger
- 23. Daisylike bloom
- 24. Run away 26. Blue
- 28. Cliffside dwelling
- 30. Apt
- 35. Reddish brown color
- 38. Unit of US currency 39. Carrot, e.g.
- 40. "All kidding ____..."
- 42. Halo, e.g. 43. Back

- 45. Supreme legislative body
- 47. Gob
- 48. ___ pole
- 49. Fly catcher
- 51. Vomits
- 55. Clear, as a disk 59. Dusk. to Donne
- 61. Drudge
- 62. Old, noisy car
- 65. "Don't bet ___!" (2
- wds) __ gin fizz
- 66. _
- 67. A saying attributed to
- Jesus 68. ___-Cola
- 69. Fill-in
- 70. Mound 71. Sky box?

- Down 1. Cast member
- 2. Choker

- 3. Blue eyes or baldness,
- 4. Acted/spoke with others
- 5. "Wanna ____?"
- 6. Uncommon items
- 7. Biology lab supply
- 8. Little people
- 9. "Comprende?"
- 10. Little ones
- 11. Final notice
- 12. Corn ____
- 13. Merlin, e.g.
- 19. AM/FM device
- 21. Need a bath badly
- 25. Handle
- 27. Italian for "to the
- tooth"
- 29. Decree
- you up 32. Bummed out

33. 1968 Chemistry

Cpl. Julio McGraw

Lance Cpl. Dave Flores

31. Device that wakes

34. "-zoic" things 35. Bikini parts

Nobelist Onsager

- 36. Gift on "The
- Bachelor" 37. Bit
- 41. Large headed nail
- 44. Part of a spur
- 46. Catches on
- 50. Chance
- 52. Asian capital
- 53. Boot
- 54. Bristles
- 55. At one time, at one
- 56. Rattling sound made while breathing
- 57. Bit
- 58. Increase, with "up" 60. "Cogito ____ sum"
- 63. ___ Grove Village, III.
- 64. Amigo
- 5 9 2 3 6 8 4 3 2 5 4 9 7 6 1 8 5 2 8 4 3 9 7 6 8 9 7 2 5 1 4 6 3 2 3 6 9 5 7 1 8 4 7 5 8 3 6 2 9 1 4 5 3 2 1 8 4 9 7 3 2 5 1 8 6 4 9 9 3

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 - Ysidro, San Diego • Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar Street, San
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OBSERVATION POST FEBRUARY 24, 2017 A3

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Michael Essex, Mass. Main battle tank repairer/technician, corporal, Combat Logistics Company 13

ELDRIDGE

ELDRIDGE HAS BEEN TRAINING IN TAEKWONDO FOR TEN YEARS AND IS A FIRST DEGREE BLACK BELT. HE HOPES TO BECOME AN EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TECHNICIAN.

>There are a lot of lessons in Martial Arts besides just fighting. Taekwondo definitely taught me to keep pushing no matter how hard things get. It puts me in a hyper-focused mindset, especially during spar-

>Martial Arts isn't all about physical attacks; there's a lot of philosophy that comes with it. Students are taught about the principles like perseverance and indomitable spirit, similar to the Marine Corps.

>I definitely wouldn't be as calm as I am now if it weren't for Taekwondo. I used to act on impulse and now I think things through before taking action. It helped give me the perseverance I needed to commit to the Marine Corps.

>I always wanted to join the military. My uncle was a Marine and my grandfather was in the Army. I just knew I wanted to serve, do something that mattered and make an impact.

>Growing up, I had a background in mechanics and enjoyed working on my own vehicles, so I wanted to do combat vehicle repairs for the Marine Corps. I figured I might as well expand my knowledge and bring what skills I can to the table.

>Working on tanks was entirely different. They have different engines, turbines, etc. It still helped knowing my way around a toolbox.

>I've met some great people in this [military occupational specialty]. During some of the lowest moments, you get to know who people really are. Whether it's dealing with bad weather in field or stressful moments, vou build bonds over it.

>Going to the gym helps relieve stress and allows me to use my anger to my benefit. I read a lot on my free time. I read a lot of history, physics, science, and biographical books. Reading keeps your mind active and keeps you up to speed. about 25 various swords including Those who don't read history are claymores and katanas. Some of them they help save a lot of lives and that's get me down.



doomed to repeat it. This is especially important in the military.

> l also try to study the basics of various languages. To me, it's more valuable to know enough to get by in multiple languages than to only be fluent in one or two. I could get by speaking Spanish, German or French.

>l've been collecting weapons

are sharpened and some I mainly use for display.

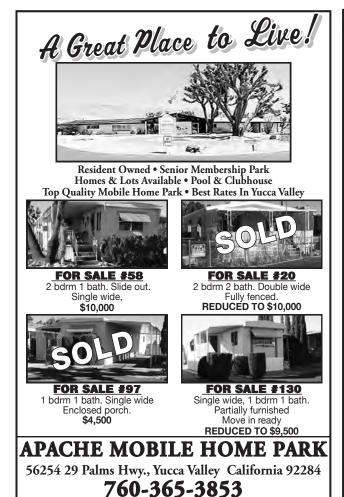
>I'm a huge Patriots fan. Seeing them win the Super Bowl recently was very meaningful. They're not in it for themselves. They're a great group of guys and they see how much the team means to the people of New England, where I was born.

> plan on re-enlisting and since I was 14 years old. I have want to become an [explosive a noble cause. If I like it, I'll definitely stay in and try to make a career out of it. If I can't, I'd like to be a part of a bomb squad in a police department.

>The Corps and martial arts both changed me for the better and improved my ability to stay committed.

>Being stationed out here made me appreciate what I have more. I learned to take life one day at ordnance disposal technician] because a time and to not let the little things

Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Connor Hancock



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A4 February 24, 2017 OBSERVATION POST

Photos by Cpl. Thomas Mudd

LAVA DOGS BUR



MV-22 Ospreys descend to drop off Marines with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, during their final exercise of Integrated Training Exercise 2-17 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Feb. 15. ITX is designed to prepare units for combat under the most realistic conditions possible while focusing on battalion and squad level training.



Gun during their final exercise of Integrated Training Exercise 2-17 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Feb. 15.



Marines with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, redeploy an M240B Medium Machine Gun as part of a simulated defense during their final exercise of Integrated Training Exercise 2-17 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Feb. 16.

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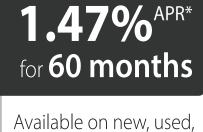
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FEBRUARY 24, 2017 A5 OBSERVATION POST

THROUGH-ITX-



Marines with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, fire a Browning M2 .50 Caliber Machine Gun during their final exercise of Integrated Training Exercise 2-17 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Feb. 15.



Marines with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, conducted preventive maintenance to a Browning M2 .50 Caliber Machine Gun before conducting a simulated assault during their final exercise of Integrated Training Exercise 2-17 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Feb. 15.



A Light Armored Vehicle 25 with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion fires an M242 Bushmaster 25mm Chain Gun as part of a simulated defense during their final exercise of Integrated Training Exercise 2-17 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Feb. 16.



Marines with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, fire an M240B Medium Machine Gun as part of a simulated defense during their final exercise of Integrated Training Exercise 2-17 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Feb. 15.



Marines with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, fire M4 Carbines from a defensive position during their final exercise of Integrated Training Exercise 2-17 aboard Marine Corps

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A6 February 24, 2017 OBSERVATION POST

FABLAB From A1



Sgt. Stephen Witherow, antitank missile gunner, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, experiments with electrical soldering at the Fabrication Laboratory during an open house at building 1431, Tuesday.

are no requirements at this time. If you want to come in and learn [computer-aided design], that's what we

are here for. Eventually, once word gets out it will be in order of precedence. We are ultimately providing the tools necessary for the Marines to explore and through exploration we will innovate."



A drone created at the Fabrication Laboratory sits on display during an open house at building 1431, Tuesday.

Support From A1

advanced MOS-specific skills and other topics related to successful support to special operations activities. A series of interviews, aptitude tests, graded physical events and mental performance discussions will help MARSOC identify the best-qualified candidates to Manpower Management Enlisted Assignments for possible assignment to the command.

MARSOC's Special Operations Capability Specialists are divided up into eight specialties: special operations fire support specialists; SOF communications specialists; SOF multipurpose canine handlers; SOF explosive ordnance disposal; SOF signals intelligence specialists; SOF geospatial intelligence specialists; SOF counterintelligence / human intelligence specialists; and SOF all-source intelligence specialists. The Naval Message gives a complete listing of the MOSs which fall under each SOCS field. Interested Marines must be at least a corporal, be free of any pending legal or administrative proceedings, must be in a full duty status, must be eligible for the security clearance appropriate to their MOS and must be eligible to execute orders per Manpower guidelines.

Marines interested in attending MCSOC are directed in the Naval Message to submit required details about themselves by email to the course organization mailbox from a .mil or .gov email account. Follow-on materials will be sent prior to course registration. Those selected to attend will be funded by MARSOC for travel expenses, billeting and messing. Marines who receive orders to MARSOC will undergo six challenging and dynamic weeks of training prior to receiving follow-on advanced technical training for their assigned SOCS field. All SOCS personnel must complete Special Operations Forces Level I Training, the Special Operations Training Course and the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Level C course. Technical training provided to SOCS is between four and 14 weeks in duration. The result is a highly qualified Marine uniquely skilled in special equipment support, intelligence and fire support who will eventually return to the Marine Corps operating forces or

Marines with Marine Special Operations Company Charlie, 1st Marine Raider Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, process intelligence and set up a visual tele-communication feed after a simulated direct-action night raid during a company level exercise along the state line between Arizona and California, Oct. 20, 2015.

supporting establishment armed with unique experience and insights gained from conducting special

operations. Special Operations Capability Specialists deploy with Marine special operations companies and their teams, filling vital

roles as the organic SOF fire support specialists, fused intelligence sections, the robust communicaeach company headquarters and as SOF multipurpose canine handlers. This combination of specialists and their capabilities is

unique within the special variety of operating environments.

"Combat support Marines should consider MCSOC an opportunity to 'look before you leap.' A MARSOC tour as a combat support Marine is a tough and demanding time with unique requirements and

frequent deployments. operations community and MCSOC will give interallows the MSOC to con- ested Marines the chance duct the full spectrum of to learn what a tour might tions capability built into special operations in a wide look like, understand the training pipeline upon assignment, and dialogue together with MARSOC senior combat support leaders and MMEA if the career and personal/ family timing is right for them," said Colonel J.D. Duke, commanding officer of the Marine Raider Support Group.

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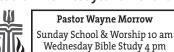
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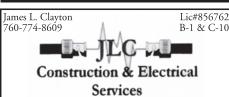
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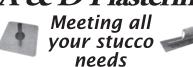
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A8 FEBRUARY 24, 2017

OBSERVATION POST

WeekINPhotos

Exercise Jaded Thunder: VMFA(AW)-224



U.S. Marines with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 224, run preflight checks on an F/A-18D Hornet during exercise Jaded Thunder 17 at Salina, KS., Feb. 21.



An F/A-18D Hornet with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 224, taxis on a runway during exercise Jaded Thunder 17 at Salina, KS., Feb. 21.



U.S. Marines with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 224, run preflight checks on an F/A-18D Hornet during exercise Jaded Thunder 17 at Salina, KS., Feb. 21.



An F/A-18D Hornet with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 224, takes flight during exercise Jaded Thunder 17 at Salina, KS., Feb. 21. VMFA(AW)-224 participated in Jaded Thunder, a joint service exercise, to complete training requirements and prepare for future deployments.



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February 24, 2017

Commandant discusses his 'Seize the Initiative' message



Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Robert B. Neller (center), speaks to Marines from Marine Corps Support Facility New Orleans, Feb. 16. The CMC visited the Marines of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North to discuss his "Seize the Initiative" message. The message provides six resolutions for Marines to follow in 2017 to improve readiness so they will be ready and relevant to respond to future challenges.

STORY BY SGT. IAN FERRO

FORCES MARINE RESERVE, New Orleans, LA — The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Robert B. Neller, visited Marines at Marine Corps Support Facility Orleans on Feb. 16 to discuss his recently published message to the force, "Seize the Initiative."

The message summarizes the commandant's thoughts on what Marines accomplished in 2016 and gives his guidance on his expectations for 2017 and beyond. Specifically, it provides six resolutions for Marines to follow. According to the commandant Marines need to; improve readiness, modernize the force, become smarter, take better care of themselves, protect what they have earned and have more

During his visit, Neller discussed his intentions to modernize the force, its tactics and equipment.

"Most of our current vehicles, equipment and gear are worn. We are operating artillery and tanks that are older than most of you here today," he said. "We have to modernize. It is not going to happen overnight, but we will come up with ways to do it."

Modernizing the force is necessary, he explained, to more effectively address future threats. He explained how he believes future wars will be fought and his intentions to modernize the Marine Corps not only as a lethal fighting force on the battlefield, but also in cyberspace.

"We have created a system of fighting that revolves around the access and use of a network. We have to figure out how to be more resilient and how to protect this network, and be able to attack the enemy's network," stated Neller. "There is going to be an ever increasing demand for people who can do this. I think, eventually, there will



Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Robert B. Neller, discusses his "Seize the Initiative" message with the Marines of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North during his visit to Marine Corps Support Facility New Orleans, Feb. 16.

be a specific MOS for people who can do that type of work."

His greatest point of emphasis was readiness and the role individual Marines play in improving our overall readiness.

"If I call you tonight at midnight and said I need you to pack all your gear and be ready to deploy tomorrow morning, would you be ready or not?" he asked the Marines. "I challenge you all to be ready, right now."

He also explained that in order for Marines to be ready, they need to become smarter individuals, to take better care of their bodies, and to protect what they have earned.

"We need to drink less, read more, and PT smarter,' he said. "We need to police our ranks better and hold ourselves and our fellow Marines accountable. We must do a better job of looking out for each other."

He quoted conversations with Marines who received



Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Robert B. Neller (center), arrives at Marine Corps Support Facility New Orleans, Feb. 16.

non-judicial punishments. Alcohol emerged as a common denominator in many disciplinary incidents.

"As I was talking to them, they told me it was their fault," he said. "When I asked them what happened, most of their stories begin with 'well, we were drinking tequila'."

Neller also talked to the Marines about his intentions and plans for Marine Forces Reserve.

"In my mind there is only one Marine Corps," he said. "If you study the history of our Corps, every time we went to war, it was as the Marine Corps."

He explained the only reason the Reserve Marine Forces do not deploy as often as he wants them to, is due to the current lack of funds. However, he proceeded to address his plans of total force expansion and the Department of Defense's intent to increase the number of Marines.

Prior to questions, he closed with a final encouraging message for all Marines to hear.

"You are United States Marines," he said. "You have done something that less than one percent of the American population had the courage to attempt. Be proud of that."

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6:50 p.m. - Hidden Figures, PG

9:30 p.m. – Underworld: Blood Wars, R

11:50 Split, PG-13

Saturday, Feb. 25

11:00 a.m. - Monster Trucks, PG

1:30 p.m. - Live By

Night, R 4:20 p.m. – Patriots

Day, R 7:00 p.m. - Sleepless,

9:10 p.m. – Split, R 11:50 p.m. – xXx: The Return of Xander Cage, PG-13

Sunday, Feb. 26

12:00 p.m. - The Bye Bye Man, PG-13 2:20 p.m. - xXx: The

Return of Xander Cage,

PG-13 5:00 p.m. - A Dog's Purpose, PG

7:30 p.m. - Resident Evil: The Final Chapter,

Monday, Feb. 27

6:30 p.m. - Split, PG-13 Tuesday, Feb. 28

5:00 p.m. - Monster Trucks, PG-13 7:20 p.m. - xXx: The Return of Xander Cage,

Wednesday, March 1

5:00 p.m. - Hidden Figures, PG

PG-13

7:40 p.m. - Sleepless,

Thursday, March 2

5:00 p.m. - Hidden Figures, PG-13

7:40 p.m. - Underworld Blood Wars, R

Friday, March 3

5:30 p.m. - Split, PG-13 8:30 p.m. - xXx: The Return of Xander Cage, **PG-13**

11:00 p.m. - Resident Evil: The Return of Xander Cage, PG-13

Chosin Few hold reunion aboard Combat Center



From left, Lester O'Neil, Harold Barber, and John Attensia, veterans of the Korean War who fought in the battle of the Chosin Reservoir, gather for dinner and a reunion aboard the Combat Center, Feb. 15. They are members of the "Chosin Few," a group that comes together biannually to reconnect and remember their fallen brothers in the intense battle.

Lost & Found \(\xi \)

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