



M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tanks with 1st Tank Battalion cross into the Combat Center during Exercise Desert March, Monday. The exercise was made to test the battalion’s capabilities in handling a long distance movement as well as test the battalion’s capabilities of logistically supporting the battalion throughout the exercise.

# Exercise Desert March tests 1st Tanks

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
CPL. THOMAS MUDD

The Marines of 1st Tank Battalion conducted Exercise Desert March, March 23-27, moving approximately 400 kilometers between the Combat

Center and the U.S. Army’s National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, Calif.

“The purpose of the exercise was to test our ability to logistically support a long-range movement through two different installations,” said

Capt. Adam Link, assistant operations chief, 1st Tanks. “We conduct movements through the Combat Center and keep our skills sharp, the exercise also provides Marines an opportunity to navigate through unfam-

iliar terrain.” Two tank companies with approximately 90 vehicles participated in the exercise. While aboard Ft. Irwin, Marines conducted other types of

See **Desert March** A6



An M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank travels from Ft. Irwin, Calif., to the Combat Center during Exercises Desert March, Monday.

## Combat Center Tax Center remains open for business

CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Combat Center patrons are reminded that the filing deadline for federal and state taxes is April 18. As the deadline draws near the Tax Center, located in building 1525 on Fourth Street, will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

“Our mission is to provide free tax preparation services for the Marines, sailors and their dependents,” said 1st Lt. Louis Glinzak, officer in charge, Tax Center. “The goal is to help service members by providing them with the service of tax preparation and getting them in and out as fast as possible so they can better focus on their individual missions without this weighing on their mind.”

The center provides free tax return preparation assistance to service members, dependents and retirees. The Marines there are trained and certified through the Internal Revenue Service

“The goal is to help service members by ... getting them in and out as fast as possible so they can better focus on their individual missions without this weighing on their mind.”

~ 1st Lt. Lewis Glinzak

and California State Franchise Tax Board. With the new facilities centrally located on base, getting to the center is more convenient for service members and their dependents.

The cost-free returns and convenient location are some of the advantages in preparing taxes on base. Unfortunately if a client has not seen a tax preparer by 6 p.m. on April 18, the center will not be able to see them that day. To make an appointment, one must serve in a demanding billet or have a complicated return. For those who require assistance after the center has closed, there will be services in building 1514 to assist them year round.

To be prepared for a tax interview, clients should bring, at a minimum, their wage statements, military identification and Social Security cards. For more information on the Tax Center or to make an appointment, call 760-830-4TAX.

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The backward laces trick The top 13 priceless pranks for April Fool’s Day See page B1

## Marine Corps’ Top Shot

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



A UH-1Y Venom prepares to taxi into position after conducting night-time cold weather operations aboard Fort Drum, N.Y., March 17. Marines assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269, Marine Aircraft Group 29, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, conducted close air support at night with live ordnance to simulate real world operations in a forward position.



# Desert March

From A1

training, including counter improvised explosive device and breaching and bridging operations.

“Moving to a new location gives us the opportunity to conduct training in a new environment,” Link said. “We also got to use land navigation and prepare for if we are ever asked to perform a movement like this during a deployment.”

The battalion used the five day long exercise to demonstrate how to best handle new situations and their ability to overcome any problems they could encounter during long-range movements.

“This was a good test for the new Marines who don’t usually get to go on any long-range movements,” said Staff Sgt. Justin Waitman, platoon sergeant, 1st Tanks. “The ability to just go somewhere different and add some unknowns to the equation for the Marines is a good way to see how well they would be able to adapt to their situation. They have done well in tackling the challenges that have been presented to them.”



1st Tank Battalion waits for a train to pass while traveling from Ft. Irwin, Calif., to the Combat Center during Exercise Desert March, Monday.

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Reprinted from the Observation Post  
March 29, 1961

# Hawk fired here — first time 1st LAAM Battalion fires eight missiles

Marines of the 1st Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion successfully fired eight HAWK missiles for the first time here in an exercise that commenced last Wednesday.

The 17-foot-long missiles were launched against remote controlled aircraft flying at 3000 feet and at speeds of 220 miles an hour.

First locating the target on radar was “B” Battery’s Tactical Control-Assistant, Gunnery Sergeant W. A. Houston. He pointed out the target on radar to his Battery and Tactical Control Officer, 1st Lieutenant R. C. Yezzi.

After the two Marines identified the drone as a simulated unfriendly

aircraft the order was given for the radar to “lock on”. Lt. Yezzi then assigned the target to a firing section which could best handle the firing mission.

Fire Control Operators, Gunnery Sergeant K. C. Carter and Staff Sergeant W. D. Cleland, waited for the missile range to be declared safe for firing.

As the target appeared in the range, the order was given to commence fire. A cloud of dust appeared behind the solid-fuel propellant missile as it started for the target. Traveling at supersonic speed the HAWK found and destroyed its target.

After the drone had been

destroyed members of KD-28 stationed at Brown Field, San Diego prepared another drone to be fired. After using two JATO bottles to help boost the propeller driven craft into the air, Lieutenants {junior grade} D. R. Ashley and R. L. Redman flew it by remote control.

Witnessing two firing events were Major General Samuel S. Jack, Commanding General, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and Brigadier General Lewis J. Fields, Commanding General Force Troops and Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms. Also viewing the firing were Republic of Korea Marine officers who are visiting Marine Corps installations in the United States.

## CROSSWORD

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67						68					69			
70						71					72			

- Across**  
1. During  
5. Physicians, surgeons, et al.  
9. Practice  
14. Pink, as a steak  
15. Its quarter says “Birthplace of Aviation Pioneers”  
16. Charity, often  
17. Funeral establishment involving cremation  
19. Exams  
20. Victorian, for one  
21. Ceiling  
23. Takes a seat  
24. Frameworks to get to another level of a building  
28. Golf ball support  
29. Transport to Oz  
30. Character  
32. “Aladdin” prince  
33. A local resident  
36. Kindly disposition
43. Cancel  
44. Density symbol  
45. Classic theater name  
48. Act of ceding  
52. “Tarzan” extra  
53. Inward curvature of the legs  
56. “The Turtle” poet  
58. Toni Morrison’s “\_\_\_ Baby”  
59. Ring bearer, maybe  
60. Less cordial  
62. Long, narrow, wooden sled  
67. Job  
68. Almond  
69. Biblical birthright seller  
70. Mails  
71. Brawl  
72. \_\_\_ terrier
- Down**  
1. Parenthesis, essentially  
2. Fold, spindle or mutilate
3. Anger  
4. Abase  
5. Weak-minded old person  
6. “Look here!”  
7. About  
8. Nutritious beans  
9. “Silent Spring” subject (abbrev.)  
10. Some deer  
11. Undisturbed  
12. A, B or C  
13. Rent payer  
18. “Mi chiamano Mimi,” e.g.  
22. Pasta choice  
24. Aria, e.g.  
25. Beethoven’s “Archduke \_\_\_”  
26. Baked, in Bologna  
27. Aforementioned  
29. What “it” plays  
31. Big \_\_\_ Conference  
34. Away
35. Jalopy  
37. Chain letters?  
38. Adam’s apple spot  
39. Bond, for one  
40. Ashtabula’s lake  
41. Like show horses  
42. “My boy”  
45. Loses it  
46. Cochise, for one  
47. Cut  
49. Barely make  
50. Catch  
51. A twilled woolen fabric  
54. Movie about cowboy life  
55. Small, bulbous plants with showy spring flowers  
57. Drove  
61. \_\_\_ gestae  
63. “My man!”  
64. Inquire  
65. “Uh-uh”  
66. “So \_\_\_ me!”

## SUDOKU

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Last week’s answers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	O	F	F	S		U	G	L	Y	
12	F	L	U	E		13	S	E	A	E
15	F	U	N	E		16	R	A	L	P
17	S	I	T		18	D	O	G		19
20	A	C	I	D		22	B	E	D	C
28	G	E	N	E	S		30	S	I	L
32	A	R	G	A	L		33	S	O	R
						36	F	A	R	M
40	P	Y	A		43	M	O	U	E	
48	A	O	N	E		50	U	L	N	A
53	D	U	N	G		54	B	E	E	T
						57	E	R	E	
61	P	L	E	N	T		62	I	F	U
66	T	I	T	T	E		69	G	A	Z

9	1	5	7	2	6	4	3	8
7	3	6	4	5	8	1	9	2
8	2	4	1	9	3	6	5	7
2	6	8	9	4	1	3	7	5
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4	5	3	6	7	2	9	8	1
5	4	7	2	1	9	8	6	3
6	8	1	5	3	4	7	2	9
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## OFF-LIMITS ESTABLISHMENTS

MCIWest off-limits establishments guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations. This order applies to all military personnel.

**Off Limit Establishments as of Oct 25, 2016**

- Adobe Smoke Shop, 6441 Adobe Road, Twentynine Palms
- STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Road, Twentynine Palms
- Puff’s Tobacco, 57063 29 Palms Highway, Yucca Valley
- 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
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- 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
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- Dream Crystal, 1536 Highland Avenue, National City
- Sports Auto Sales, 1111 National City Boulevard, National City



WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Diana

Los Angeles, Ca. Petty Office 1st Class, Preventative Medicine Technician, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms

RUDOLF

RUDOLF HAS SERVED IN THE NAVY FOR 15 YEARS. AT THE END OF HER ACTIVE SERVICE, SHE HOPES TO PURSUE A CAREER IN EDUCATION.

**>For the first four years** of my life I was raised in Colima, Mexico. It's a tiny little town that actually resembles the towns in those old Western movies, except its tropical. Colima is known for its agriculture so there were a lot of coconuts, mangoes and guavas. I had a great childhood, a lot of climbing trees and roaming around.

**>My siblings and I** went to Mexico to be taken care of by my grandparents while my parents were working here in the states. My grandparents had 10 children, my dad being the eldest. So we grew up with aunts and uncles around us at all times.

**>Climbing trees is** the first memory I have. I think of Colima as the fresh air, the openness, the groves and just being care free.

**>I came back to the states** when I was 7, so I had to learn the language. I think that was a major hurdle, learning English. Everything else I feel like I was a little bit ahead in when it came to academics.

**>During my formative years,** I developed a love for the arts. I loved making murals or whatever cool project I could get my hands on.

**>We had a great** music program at school and that's how I was introduced to playing the violin. I started playing the violin in third grade and I carried on until high school.

**>I took the** ASVAB when I was in high school. At the time, the test was presented to us as an aptitude test for a future job, not military related. I took the test and the Marine Corps called me and I thought "Oh no!" It was completely overwhelming. But the Navy recruiter got his foot in the door because he came to visit and I was able to have a face to face with him.

**>The hook was him asking me** about how I was going to pay for college. He showed me what the military had to offer and it was great, I thought to myself "I'll be able to go to school."

**>My recruiter told me** about the job option of Hospital Corpsman and I didn't consider it as an option because I don't like blood or bodily fluids. He



assured me I could work in the medical office filing records and doing the administrative stuff. I thought that was great and that's how I ended up a corpsman.

**>I absolutely love** being a corpsman. My life is a series of happy accidents. One thing about the military is that you have a community of mentors who want to see you succeed. I got over the blood and bodily fluids by the time we had clinicals. Over a period of two weeks they would stick us anywhere in the [Veterans Affairs] hospital working with real patients under the nurse's supervision.

**>That's where I got my** first sense of pride that what I was doing mattered. I was assigned to an elderly ward and they had a lot of stories and wisdom to share. Us being there made a difference in their lives. That's when I thought I'm in the right place.

**>When 9/11 happened** I shipped out in January of 2002. It shook all of us as a country. It made me realize that this

is bigger than all of us and it gave me a different outlook on what it meant to be in the military.

**>In 2002, we started** having back to back deployments. As an E-1 they sent me to an administrative research center for E-5's and above. I went there fresh out of school and it was my introduction to being a Preventive Medicine Technician. [Marines] were deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan and that was my first big role; to ensure their training and supplies were good to go.

**>They Navy has taken me** everywhere. I just keep re-enlisting because why not? It's been a really good time. While stationed at [Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.] I went on a [Marine Expeditionary Unit] and it was wonderful. We did a lot of training but we also stopped at the ports of Spain, Morocco, Djibouti, and Kuwait. If I have a favorite deployment, it's definitely the MEU.

**>[Directorate of Public Health] is** a very small directorate. Because of that

we count on each other more than most. When we are missing one sailor, we really feel it. The importance of everyone knowing each other's job is paramount; that's what teamwork is about.

**>My husband is also in** the Navy. He is stationed in El Centro, Calif. He makes the drive to Twentynine Palms every Friday because there is actually more to do up here. He loves being here and I do too.

**>We have completed nearly** all the hikes in [Joshua Tree National Park.] I have family in Lancaster and Los Angeles, so when we aren't exploring and being tourists we are with family.

**>The desert has a** lot to offer. If we can go and explore, that's what we are doing. If we are really bored we just walk around the desert.

**>My first five years** in the Navy I was really into getting my schooling done so I took a bunch of classes because I still didn't know what I wanted to do when I grew up. But when I became a PMT everything happened so fast and it was very tricky to have a stable schedule. Once I got here I did some soul searching and decided to get the most out of my education. So I'm jumping back on that train and when I re-enlist that will be my focus until I retire at my 20 year mark.

**>I recently decided that** after the Navy I would like to pursue a career in education, preferably one in the arts.

**>One thing that** I've honed in on as a leader is knowing my sailors. I know their strengths. I'm very competitive; whenever any accolades are up for grabs I push them to obtain them. But I don't put them in anything I don't feel they would succeed at. But even if we don't win they get a great experience out of it so there's really no loss.

**>If I could go back** to when I first started and give myself advice, it would be to do things to the best of your ability. Try everything, because even if you fail you still get experience out of it. Your worst enemy is yourself and that's something I repeat to anyone who's under me. You're representing something bigger than you, so be the best you can be.

Interviewed by Lance Cpl. Dave Flores, photographed by Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo

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# Retired Sgt. Dakota Meyer teaches Hiring Our Heroes

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CPL. NATALIA CUEVAS

Dakota Meyer, retired sergeant and Medal of Honor recipient, visited the Combat Center, March 22, as part of his Hiring Our Heroes Tour.

Meyer received the Medal of Honor for his actions on Sept. 8, 2009, during the Battle of Ganjgal in Afghanistan. Meyer works with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's "Hiring Our Heroes" initiative and Toyota to advocate for employment opportunities for veterans.

The Combat Center was one of Meyer's many stops on the tour. While aboard the installation, he spoke to Marines in Sergeants Course about transitioning out of the military and into civilian jobs.

As part of the initiative, Meyer attends hiring fairs, leads workshops and talks to employers to help veterans and transitioning service members market their military experience to civilian employers. The Combat Center was one of several military installations Meyer is slated to visit.



Dakota Meyer, retired sergeant and Medal of Honor recipient, speaks to Marines in Sergeants Course aboard the Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., as part of the Hiring our Heroes, March 22. Hiring Our Heroes tour, a program created by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, was launched in 2011 as a nationwide initiative to help veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses find meaningful employment opportunities.



Dakota Meyer, retired sergeant and Medal of Honor recipient, visits the Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., March 22, as part of the Hiring Our Heroes tour. Hiring Our Heroes, a program created by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, was launched in 2011 as a nationwide initiative to help veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses find meaningful employment opportunities.



Felicia Gilliam, mother of retired sergeant and Medal of Honor recipient Dakota Meyer, speaks to Marines in Sergeants Course as part of the Hiring Our Heroes tour aboard Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., March 22. Hiring Our Heroes, a program created by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, was launched in 2011 as a nationwide initiative to help veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses find meaningful employment opportunities.

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# Graduate Recognition Ceremony

The 14th Annual Graduate Recognition Ceremony is quickly approaching!

The ceremony will be held at the Protestant Chapel, building 1541, on May 18 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Any graduate who wishes to participate should contact Erin Keeran at the Education Center at 760-830-6881.


## CONGRATULATIONS

This is an opportunity to recognize and honor all of the Marines, sailors, family members and civilians aboard the Combat Center who have completed certificates and/or degree programs between Sept. 1, 2016, and Aug. 31, 2017.

Registration is required to participate; the registration deadline is May 10.

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# Dunham Mess Hall stirs up the competition

STORY BY CPL. JULIO MCGRAW PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. ALYSA JESSE

Dunham Mess Hall competed for the Maj. Gen. William Pendleton Thompson Hill Memorial Award aboard the Combat Center, March 4.


Established in 1985, the WPT Hill award recognizes the efforts made by food service specialists by identifying the best mess halls throughout the Marine Corps. The winners of the award are scheduled to be announced in April.



Master Gunnery Sgt. Derrek Steele, staff non-commissioned officer in charge, Food Service Detachment, Fort Lee, Va., and Sodexo employees check the quality of the food during the Maj. Gen. William Pendleton Thompson Hill Memorial Award competition at Dunham Mess Hall aboard the Combat Center, March 4. Established in 1985, the WPT Hill award recognizes the efforts made by food service specialists by identifying the best mess halls throughout the Marine Corps.

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# Combat Center celebrates April Fool's Day

COMPILED BY LANCE CPL. NATALIA CUEVAS

*Pranks courtesy of April Fool Zone*

Combat Center patrons will have to think twice when around friends and family this April Fool's Day. Below are fun pranks to pull this Saturday.

## 1) Mint Chocolate Chuckle

Buy a box of Oreos, pull apart the two cookies, take off the white cream, neatly place the toothpaste on a cookie, put the cookies together and present them to your victims.



## 2) Toilet paper panic

Take a marker and draw a spider on toilet paper. Make sure the creepy crawler is hidden.



## 3) Donut Disappointment

Buy a box of donuts from your favorite donut establishment. Remove the donuts for your own consumption later. Place some Brussels sprouts (or other non-delicious food of your choice) into the box. Leave the (closed) box on the counter for your victims to find!

## 4) Drippy

Use a pin to make a few small holes in a plastic disposable cup. The holes should be near the top, just below the rim. Offer a drink to your victim and watch while the liquid dribbles out onto their shirt when they take a drink.



## 5) Clean and Green

Take a new bar of soap and use a screwdriver to hollow out a pocket on the bottom. Make sure to save the soap shavings. Pour some Kool-Aid powder into the pocket. Mix some water with the shavings and mold them over the powder, smoothing it over. Give it time to dry. After that, switch your victim's current bar of soap with the rigged one. After a while of showering, your victim will suddenly become very colorful!



## 6) Ice Age

Go into the bathroom while your victim is taking a shower. Pretend to be brushing your teeth or something, and then casually switch the topic of conversation to dinosaurs. Ask your victim if they know what killed the dinosaurs, and when they say "What?" throw a cup of ice over them and shout, "THE ICE AGE!!"

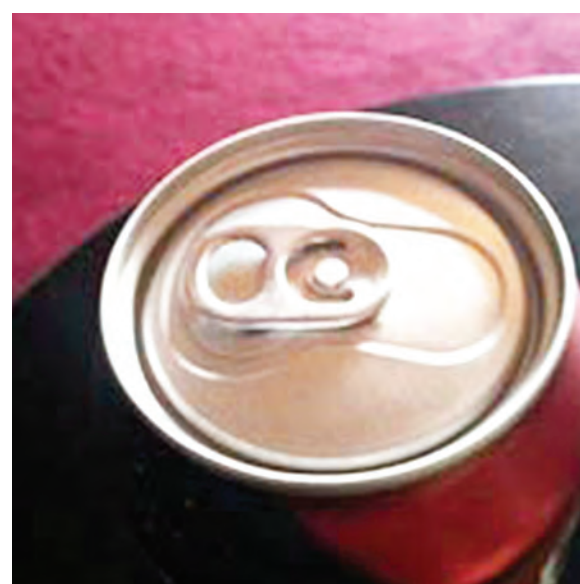
## 8) Bound Gag

For this joke, you'll need tons of rubber bands. Put about 100 of them around your victim's cell phone or desk phone, then call them!



## 9) Won't Pop

Offer to get your victim a soda. But before you hand it to them, secretly rotate the tab so it's in the opposite-of-normal position. When they try to pop the tab the can won't open and they will have a moment of confusion!



## 7) Have You Seen?

Find an embarrassing picture of your victim (an old yearbook photo, baby photo, driver's license photo or just an ugly picture). Enlarge it and turn it into a missing person poster. Print out a bunch of copies and post them prominently where their friends or co-workers will see them!

## 10) There's Only One

Go into your victim's closet and take one of each of their shoes. Hide the shoes and then laugh while they frantically try to find a match!



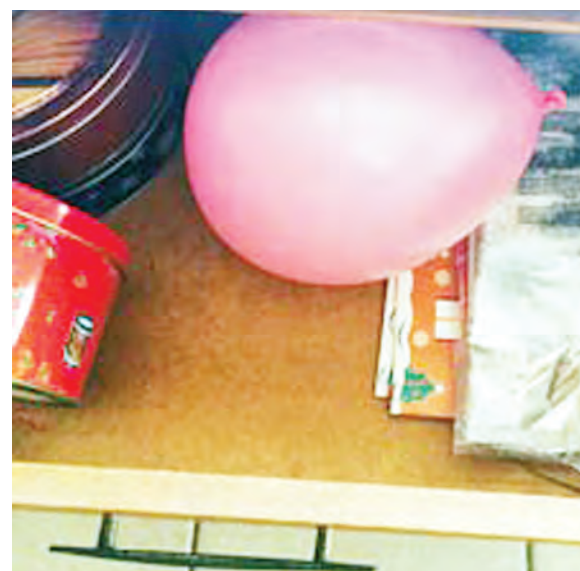
## 12) All Laced Down

Take your victim's lace-up shoes and remove the laces then put them back but put them backward, so that they tie near the toe of the shoe! Be sure to make them extra tight.



## 13) Pop it Open

Blow up a balloon and put it into your victim's drawer. Then, tape a tack or pin just inside the top ledge (pointed toward the balloon) — so that when they open the drawer the pin will pop the balloon and give them a scare.



## 11) Hold the mayo!

Empty and clean a mayonnaise jar, leaving the label intact. Put some vanilla pudding into the jar. Go to a place where people are around and start eating out of the jar. Make sure the label is facing people.







March 30, 2017

C1

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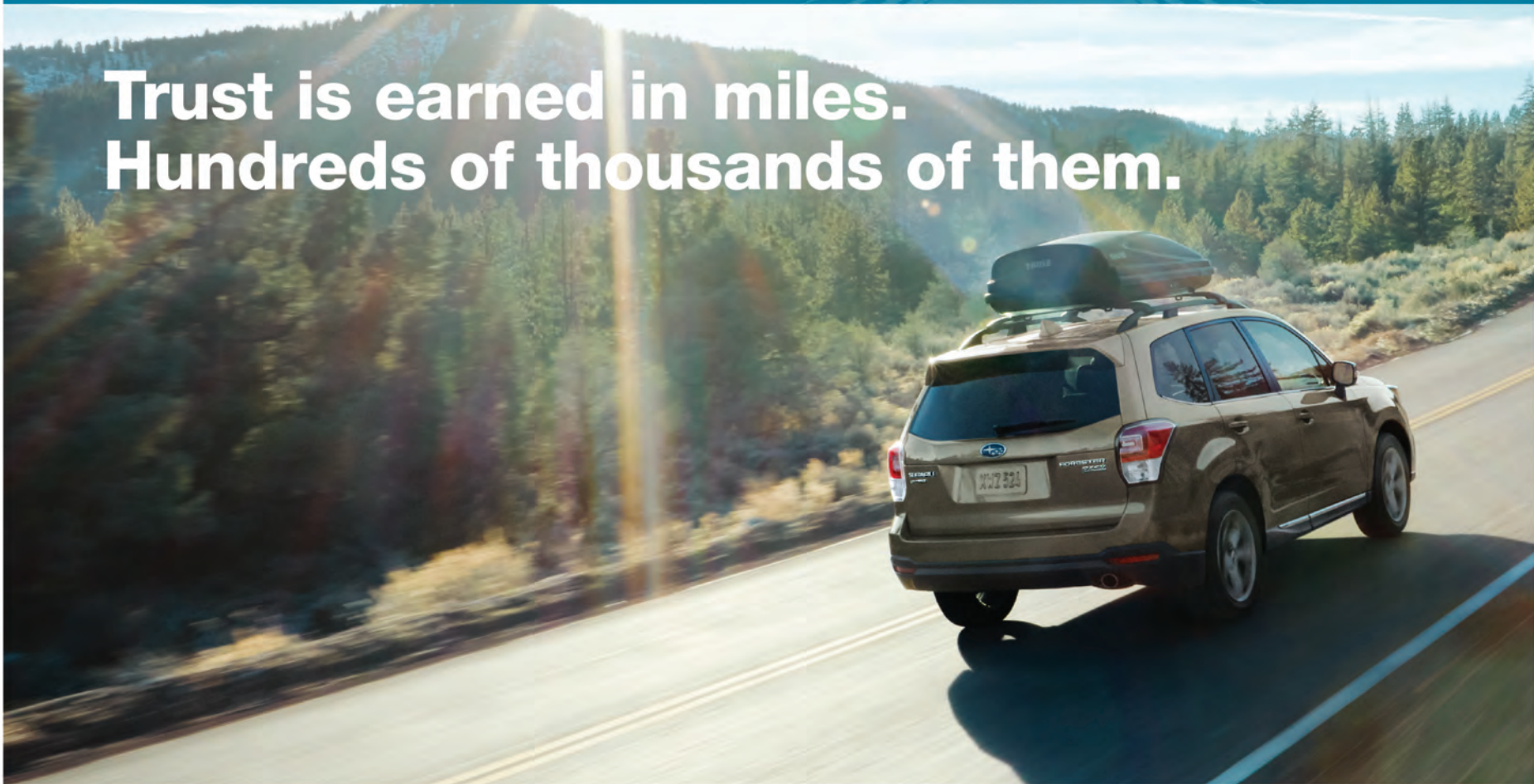
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