May 26, 2017 Since 1957 Vol. 61 Issue 20



Lance Cpl. Gregory Ybarra, a UH-1Y crew chief with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 469, provides cover fire for Marines from 3rd Marine Regiment during a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel training mission as part of Integrated Training Exercise 3-17 at the Combat Center, May 17.

3rd MAW assists 3rd Marines

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. DAVID BICKEL

The trap exercise consisted of 3rd Marines recovering a simulated casualty from an aircraft mishap with the help of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 469, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, each helping according to their capabilities.

"Anytime we are flying, we set up a contingency plan...that's where the TRAP team comes into play" said Capt. Joshua Gornto, a HMLA-469 UH-1Y pilot. "Today we had rescue vehicles, which were Ospreys carrying personnel with 3rd Marines, rescue vehicle escorts provided by HMLA (469) and finally a combat air patrol provided by VMFA-314. All these forces worked together to find the casualty, perform the extraction, and deliver them safely back home.'

Integration is the primary element both the GCE and ACE are work-

ing toward in ITX 3-17. Both the aviation combat element and the ground combat element work hand-in-hand, allowing both sections of the Marine air-ground task force to accomplish a mission as a team.

"This training is extremely important," said Gornto. "It's a really great opportunity to work out all the kinks before both elements get deployed together. No element can work on its own."

Without the ACE, the GCE would be forced to take longer routes, face terrain challenges which don't affect aircraft, and leave themselves vulnerable to long range enemies only visible from the air.

"We can get ground guys where they need to be to engaging the enemy a lot faster than any ground vehicle can," said Cpl. Austin Kinser, a VMM-363 tiltrotor crew chief. "We can drop troops on top of mountains and provide suppressive fire while

See **TRAP** A5



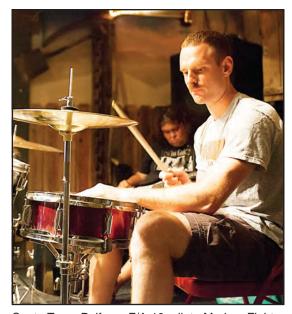
MV-22 Ospreys with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 363 wait as Marines with 3rd Marine Regiment asses a simulated casualty situation during a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel training mission for Integrated Training Exercise 3-17 at the Combat Center, May 17.

3rd MAW pilot finds battle rhythm

STORY AND PHOTO BY LAUREN KURKIMILIS DEPUTY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Dinner time was bustling with locals and tourists at the Joshua Tree Saloon Tuesday night. A local band played a mix of music ranging from folk to jazz, and at the front of the dining room a familiar scene played out. A group of Marines, visiting the Combat Center for Integrated Training Exercise 3-17, sat around a long table, eating and joking as they enjoyed a bit of down time. A commotion raised amongst them as they all focused their energy on one man. It was apparent that a dare had been promulgated.

Once the coercion reached its peak, a mustached-Marine stood and swiftly crossed the dining room, hardly noticed by the unsuspecting guests. He approached the small stage at the back of the restaurant and stepped up to the lead singer, a gentleman with white hair, a guitar and a wide-brimmed hat. What happened next caused the group of Marines to erupt in a roar of indiscernible shouts. The Marine griped a set of drumsticks and sat behind the vacant drum set, poised for an impromptu performance.



Capt. Tony Pelfrey, F/A-18 pilot, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, plays the drums at the Joshua Tree Saloon, Joshua Tree, Calif., Tuesday.

Capt. Tony "Two-Short" Pelfrey, F/A-18 pilot, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, meshed seamlessly with the band members as they collectively delivered a five-song performance.

Pelfrey operates the twin-engine supersonic, all-weather carrier-capable multirole combat jet, the F/A 18 Hornet, which is designed as both a fighter and attack aircraft. His unit, VMFA 314 is serving as a component of the Air Combat Element during ITX 3-17, which began May 5, 2017 and will conclude June 2, 2017.

When Pelfrey is not gracing strangers with his musical talents, his comrades say he enjoys tapping on things, DIY furniture construction, hunting and off-roading, but his aspirations don't end there.

"His life goal is to become the next American Ace," they added.

NREA rescues injured tortoises



MC1197 tests his new prosthetic in the office of Dr. Tom Boyer, veterinarian and reptile specialists, Pet Hospital of Penasquitos, located in San Diego, Calif., May 19. Biologists with NREA discovered two imperiled desert tortoises in late March after they had been attacked by what was presumed to be coyotes. They were found and rescued within a week of each other; one having lost one limb and the other having lost both front limbs.

STORY BY LANCE CPL. NATALIA CUEVAS PHOTOS BY JAMES KEVER

Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs aided two injured desert tortoises in being outfitted with 3D-printed prosthesis May 19.

Biologists with NREA discovered the two imperiled members of the threatened species in late March after they had been attacked by what was presumed to be coyotes. The biologists rescued the tortoises within a week of each other; one having lost one limb and the other having lost both front limbs.

"I work with caring people who acknowledge that we

See NREA A5

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. Matthew Callahan.



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Josue Fuentes of Purcellville, Virginia, a field artillery canon crewman assigned to Fox Battery, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) watches a herd of camels pass by his artillery position, putting the entire gun line in a check-fire until the animals pass at an indirect firing range outside Camp Buehring, Kuwait April 23. The Marines are in Kuwait for a sustainment training evolution. The 24th MEU is currently deployed with the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group in support of maritime security operations designed to reassure allies and partners and preserve the freedom of navigation and free flow of commerce in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

A2 May 26, 2017 **OBSERVATION POST**



Reprinted from the Observation Post May 24, 1968

\$894,000 Supply Bldg. Dedicated Today

Dedication of the \$894,000 Supply Operations Building, here, is scheduled for 3 p.m., today, with an open house and static display of equipment slated from 4-8 p.m. The formal dedication will be open to the public, and all high desert and Southland residents are invited to attend. The new building is located one-half mile inside the

main gate on the right-hand side of De Valle Road, the Base's central roadway.

Guest speaker for the ceremony will be BrigGen. James E. Herbold, Jr., Commanding General of Marine Corps Supply Center, Barstow. Also, the list of military and civilian dignitaries includes Representative Jerry L. Pettis and Col. H. E.

Garner, Commanding Officer may tour the new building and of 5th Force Service Regiment. A full honor guard ceremony and gun salute for BrigGen. Herbold is scheduled to kick off the ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony. Following remarks by the guest speaker, and Congressman Pettis, and BrigGen. Regan Fuller, Commanding General, visitors

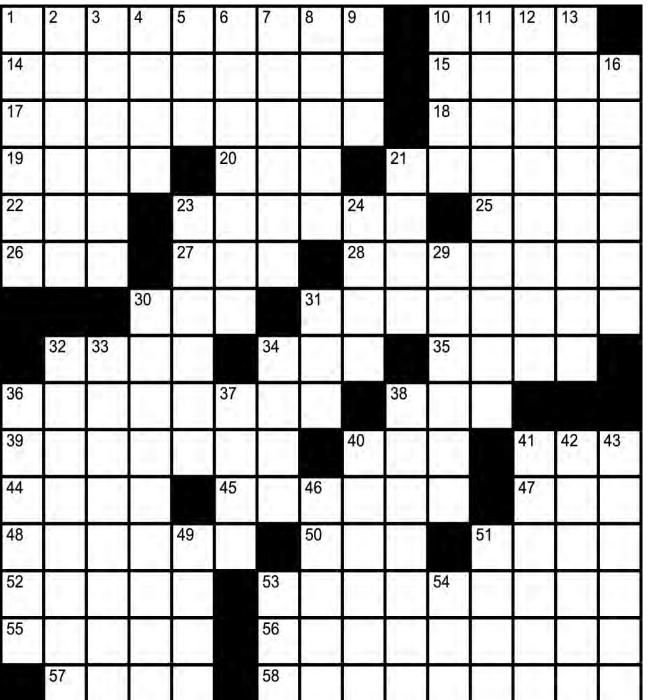
inspect the equipment display.

Included in the display will be the 1050 remote access device computer, used by Supply officials to keep track of materials stored in the new building. The computer is connected to the main 360 computer at the Data Processing Installation.

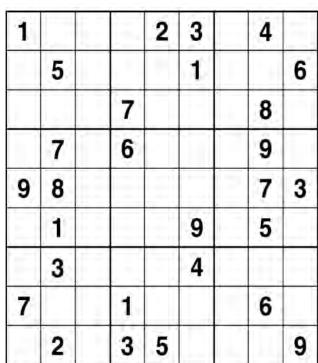
Construction of the building began last year, and is the first of three projected phases in the changeover to the Marine Corps Unified Materiel Management System (MUMMS).

The 100,000 square foot building will consolidate six storage lots and supply warehouses under one roof.

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



Difficult

Last week's answers

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Across

- 1. Music genre
- 10. Says "When?"
- 14. An amine used in the immune system
- 15. Russian alternative 17. A 17th or 18th cen-
- tury dance
- 18. ___ Bowl
- 19. Thailand, once
- 20. "Fancy that!"
- 21. One who suspends an action, at law
- 22. Big ___ Conference
- 23. Cantonese food
- similar to appetizers
- 27. Cable network
- 30. Branch
- 32. Game piece

- 28. The stalk of a leaf
- 31. Comforted
- 25. Hack 26. "C'___ la vie!"

Public Affairs Chief - Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo

- 56. Soothing

- 34. Block 35. Colored
- 36. One who hunts
- 38. ___ Master's Voice
- 39. Teeth, adapted for cutting
- 40. "Wheels"
- 41. Computer monitor, for short
- 44. Agitated state
- 45. Begin
- 47. "Fantasy Island"
- prop
- 48. Schemes or tricks 50. Same old, same
- old 51. Bombard
- 52. Say "Li'l Abner,"
- 53. Temerarious
- 55. Break off
- 57. Medical advice,

- often
- 58. Hot or cold drinking

containers

- Down
- 1. Modest 2. Monet subject
- 3. Cockeyed
- 4. Check
- 5. "Casablanca" pianist
- 6. A 20th century
- movement in poetry
- 7. Auteur's art
- 8. Chilean range
- 9. "Malcolm X" director
- 10. Kuwaiti, e.g.
- 11. Arousing
- 12. Hole in a board
- 13. Educated 16. Called attention to
- repeatedly
- 21. Call from the flock 23. Coercion

Lance Cpl. Natalia Cuevas

- 24. "Once ___ a time..."
- 29. Casual top
- 30. Heights relative to
- sea level
- 31. Jail, slangily
- 32. Mole, for example
- 33. Provocative
- 34. In need of resup-
- ply, maybe
- 36. Radiator output
- 37. Forest growth
- 38. Pride
- 40. Links
- 41. U-shaped metal rod
- 42. Experience again 43. Descriptive names
- 46. Garbage
- 49. Chipper
- 51. 100 centavos 53. "Can't Help Lovin'
- Man"
- 54. Beaver's work
- 5 3 6 9 2 1 7 8 3 2 9 8 7 5 1 4 6 9 2 6 3 7 8 1 4 5 5 3 9 2 4 8 6 1 7 3 1 9 5 2 7 6 8 5 7 3 4 9 2 8 6 7 3 2 5 8 4 9 6 1 8 6 5 2 3 7 4 9 1 8 3 6

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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,

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- 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,
- Teazer's Bar & Grill Nightclub, 14269

• Angelo's Kars, 222 & 226 S. Coast

- Barstow
- Seventh Street, Victorville

Highway, Oceanside

• Denny's Parking Lot, 692 E Street, Chula

- 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 • 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

OBSERVATION POST May 26, 2017 A3

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Acam Modesto, Ca. 21, Lance Cpl., Administrative Specialist, IPAC

SEVILLA-SANCHEZ GREW-UP IN A ROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD AND THROUGH PERSEVERANCE AND SELF-MOTIVATION JOINED THE MARINE CORPS.

LLA-SANCHEZ

>I grew up in a rough neighborhood in Modesto, California. Where I grew up, there was little chance for any of us to succeed and we had to make our own opportunities. We played sports and did well enough for college, studied hard or we let the streets take us and we joined gangs.

>Both of my parents came to the United States from Mexico and I am the older of two siblings.

>My parents are old fashioned and they made me work at a young age to teach me to get ready for life because nothing in life is ever given.

>I always looked up to my parents but there was one person I looked up to during high school. His name was Edward; he was like a big brother to me and taught me a lot about life.

>Gangs were a big issue and it was hard not to get involved in that life. When I started going down that path, I remember he stepped up to me to fight and asked me, "Are you a man that makes his own decisions or a coward?"

>At that point I realized what was going on in my life and I didn't want to be part of a life style that I felt was being forced on me.

>I chose to not live my life like that because I started realizing all the poor decisions that the people my age were making around me.

>A good release for me is basketball. The first time I played I knew nothing about the sport and I made a fool of myself. I completely sucked but that motivated me to get better.

> l also enjoy listening to rap music. Some people scoff when I say that but everyone likes their own thing. > l like it because I can relate to it. I don't like many of the mainstream rappers but I do like underground rappers because the way they use words is clever and they all have a story to tell, they just tell it in their

>Ever since I was a little kid I wanted to be the best at everything and I wanted to join the military. When you're a child, it's just a dream, just like wanting to be an astronaut, doctor or lawyer and things change.

own artistic way and not for the sole

reason to make money.

>From almost getting sucked into gang life to not receiving a basketball scholarship, I saw very little hope for my future.

>Admittedly though, I focused on sports too much and let my grades slip. It isn't that I'm not smart it's just I didn't put effort into school work and that was by far the dumbest decision I have made and I regret it want to be the best that I can be. I'm on life.

but live and learn. I'm currently going to school and I ultimately I want to work in the medical field.

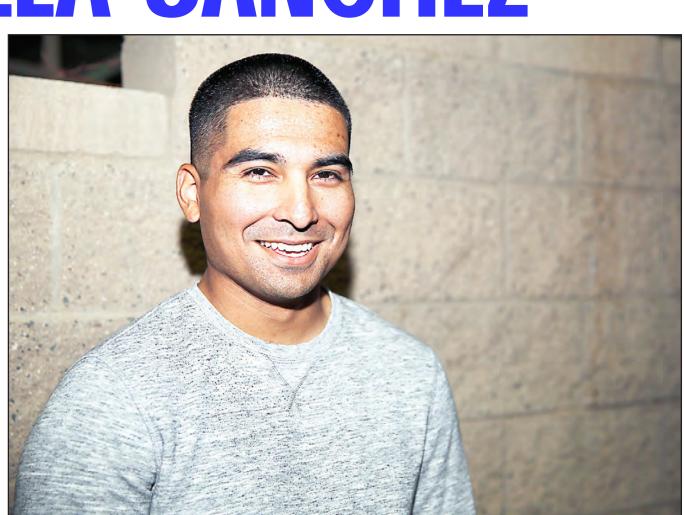
>I felt like there was little hope for me at the time but I saw a commercial for the Marine Corps and I thought why not. Because of basketball I was in really good shape and I had nothing to lose.

>Although I wish I could have signed for a different job, I have learned a lot. I have mostly learned how to deal with people from different parts of the country and with different backgrounds.

>My Marine Corps career isn't perfect and my life isn't perfect but I always competitive which is a trait I get from my dad.

>In Latin American culture we are really hard headed and prideful but sometimes you need someone to check you. My mom is always there for me no matter what and if something I do doesn't make sense or I make a stupid decision she has no problem telling me how it is.

>If I could go back and see a younger version of myself and if there is any advice I want to pass to my siblings it's that knowledge is power and to do what it takes to become successful. I know I am and I will always have that outlook





Keep up with the Combat Center on Twitter @thecombatcenter

Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Julio McGraw





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A4 May 26, 2017 OBSERVATION POST

Combat Center rides for freedom



CPL. THOMAS MUDD

The Combat Center Behavioral Health Branch hosted the third annual Substance Abuse Awareness Ride for Freedom, Freedom to Ride motorcycle event began aboard the Combat Center, May 19.

The ride began aboard the Combat Center and was approximately 70 miles one way. Participants left the base and took California Highway 62 to U.S. Interstate 10, which they followed until they reached their objective at Riley's Apple Farm.

"We hold this ride to raise awareness amongst Marines and sailors about driving or riding under the influence," said Carleen Dickson, alcohol abuse prevention specialist, Behavioral Health Branch. "Our goal is to help make the roads safer for our service members and promote safe driving."

Approximately 50 riders participated in the event ranging from junior enlisted to commissioned officer.

"Most people don't get to go on a ride with this many people in it," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Fuqua, culinary specialist, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital. "Coming out here lets people who have motorcycles find more riders. At the beginning we were told about some of the terrible things that have happened because people don't pay attention and that was really eve opening."





Above, Combat Center personnel park their bikes next to the Protestant Chapel aboard the Combat Center during the Behavioral Health Branch's Substance Abuse Awareness Ride for Freedom, Freedom to Ride Motorcycle Ride, May 19. The Behavioral Health Branch held the event to promote safe and sober driving.

Left, Combat Center riders drive down California Highway 62 during the Behavioral Health Branch's Substance Abuse Awareness Ride for Freedom, Freedom to Ride motorcycle event, May 19.

Bottom left, Combat Center patrons ride down U.S. Interstate 10 during the Behavioral Health Branch's Substance Abuse Awareness Ride for Freedom, Freedom to Ride motorcycle event, May 19.

Below, Combat Center Riders leave the Combat Center during the Behavioral Health Branch's Substance Abuse Awareness Ride for Freedom, Freedom to Ride motorcycle event, May 19.







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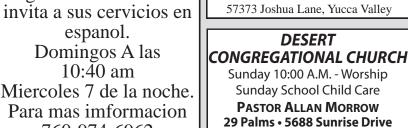
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OBSERVATION POST May 26, 2017 A5

TRAP From A1

move in to recover the casualty. When they complete the mission, we can get them out of there twice as fast than if they were relying on ground transportation."

In the event of a downed aircraft, the GCE of the TRAP team will assess the situation, recover casualties then attempt to recover the aircraft.

"As a pilot, when you're in a situation where your aircraft went down, you want the confidence boost knowing that a TRAP team will be on its way and the ground Marines will get you out of there safe," said Gornto. "It allows pilots to focus on what they have to do in a crash scenario without worrying about how they are going to get out of there."

TRAP training exercises, like many other training evolutions during ITX, build more than just a cohesive MAGTF; they build comradery and confidence between the ACE and the GCE.

"ITX allows both elements to trust each other when they are forward deployed," commented Gornto. "When we go in country and go live, I have complete faith that both elements will do exactly what they were supposed to do. That's trust."



Lance Cpl. Gregory Ybarra, a UH-1Y crew chief with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 469, scans the desert for potential threats during a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel training mission as part of Integrated Training Exercise 3-17 at the Combat Center, May 17.



Lance Cpl. Gregory Ybarra, a Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 469 UH-1Y crew chief, stands by to provide cover fire during a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel training mission for Integrated Training Exercise 3-17 at the Combat Center, May 17.

NREA From A1

need to protect our environment, and the creatures that live in it, for quality of our habitat because that influences our quality of life," said Dr. Brian Henen,

ecologist, NREA. NREA brought the desert tortoises, monikered with the names MC3402 and MC1197, to Dr. Tom Boyer, veterinarian and reptile specialist, Pet Hospital of Penasquitos, located in San Diego, Calif. Boyer is one of the only reptile specialists in Southern California. When the tortoises arrived, Boyer and his staff worked diligently to amputate and suture closed their ailing limbs and other than these injuries they were in good

health; they were well-hydrated, well-nourished and tested negative for the Upper Respiratory Track Disease Syndrome, also known as Mycoplasmosis, that has been a problem for the threatened species.

Without the use of all four legs, and without any form of prostheses, the tortoises would be forced to drag their shells everywhere they went, wearing it down over time. With their newly-affixed prostheses, they are able to push themselves around on bearing-equipped plastic hemispheres that can rotate a full 360 degrees.

"3-D printing was integral because the bearing we placed in there is small," Boyer said. "The bearing

we used is anchored by a bolt that is very thin and so we needed epoxy to attach the bolt to the bottom of the tortoises' shells."

The prostheses were originally imagined as a wheel mounted on the bottom off the shell, however Boyer thought they might become tangled with sand, weeds and other things found on the desert floor, which would render the wheels useless and thus the tortoises with greater limitations on their mobility.

"The prosthesis is now ready for field trials," Boyer said. "I don't know yet if it will be completely effective but [the Combat Center] is a great place to see how well the tortoises and their new prostheses do."



Dr. Tom Boyer, veterinarian and reptile specialists, Pet Hospital of Penasquitos, located in San Diego, Calif., fits MC3402, nicknamed Lt. Dan, with prosthesis, May 19. Biologists with NREA discovered two imperiled desert tortoises in late March after they had been attacked by what was presumed to be coyotes. They were found and rescued within a week of each other; one having lost one limb and the other having lost both front limbs.

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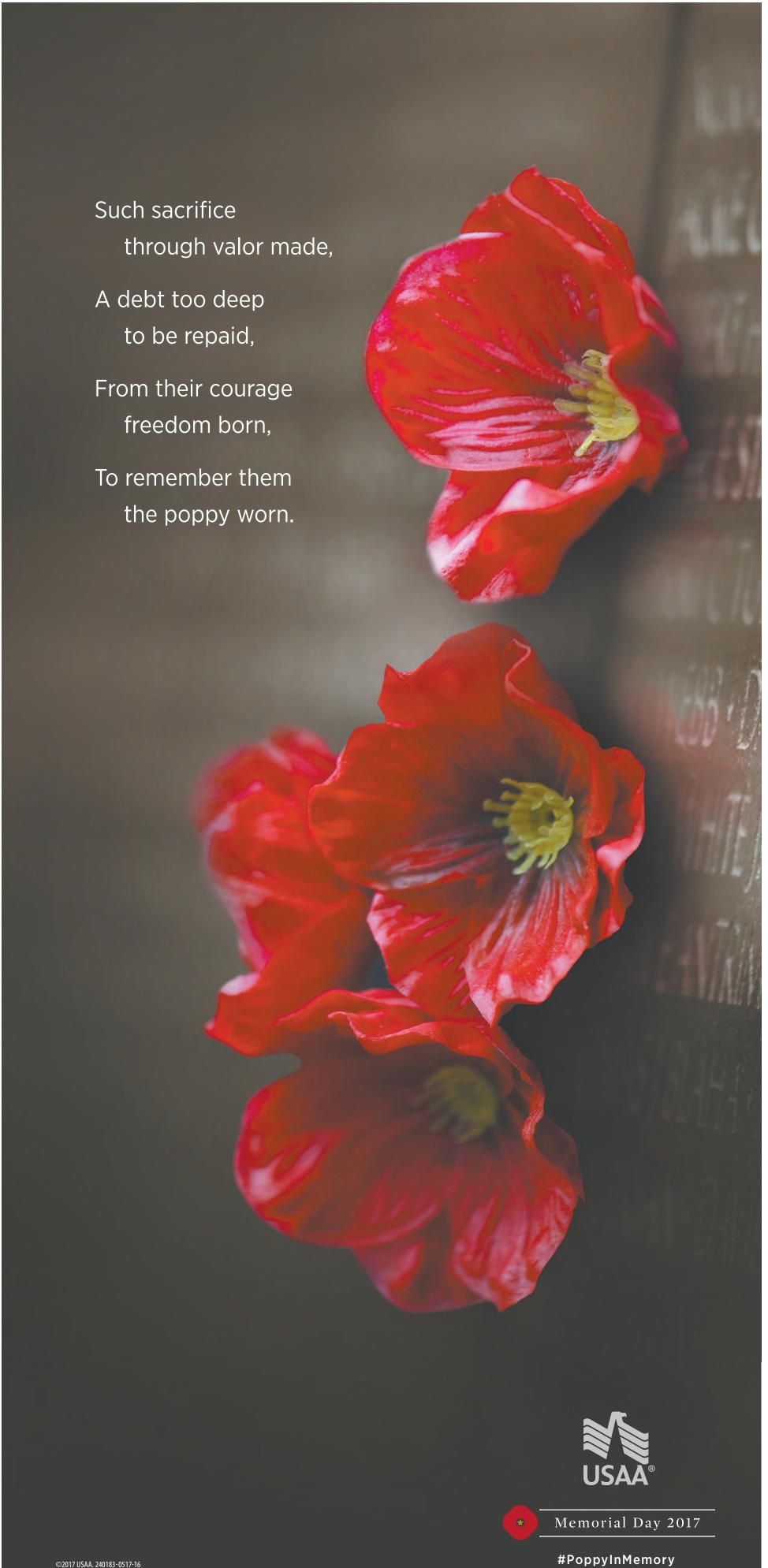
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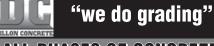
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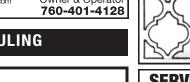
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May 26, 2017 Since 1957 Vol. 61 B

Five Finger Death Punch rocks out at the Combat Center

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. CHRISTIAN LOPEZ

Hundreds of Combat Center patrons gathered at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, May 19, to listen to heavy metal music performed by Five Finger Death Punch during Marine Corps Community Services' annual We Salute You Celebration.

Five Finger Death Punch was the sole performer and during the concert the band played songs well-known amongst their fans like "Bad Company" and newer songs such as "Wrong Side of Heaven" and "Under and Over."

"This helps boost morale among our Marines, sailors, and their families and it helps us show them how

Five Finger Death Punch's performance was incredible. It is nice to see the different bands and artists who take the time to play for service members around the world."

~ Lance Cpl. Devin Andews

much we appreciate them," said Jill Weber, marketing special events manager, MCCS.

Many Marines who attended the event said it was great to see the heavy metal band light up the stage with energy and excitement at the Combat Center.

"Five Finger Death Punch's performance was incredible," said Lance Cpl. Devin Andrews, combat videographer, Combat Camera, Headquarters Battalion. "It is nice to see the different bands and artists who take the time to play for service members around the world."

Above, Zoltan Bathory, rhythm guitarist, Five Finger Death Punch, performs for Combat Center patrons during the We Salute You Celebration at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center, May 19. Marine Corps Community Services hosted the event to provide entertainment to Marines and sailors aboard the Combat Center.

Right, Combat Center patrons listen to Five Finger Death Punch perform at the We Salute You Celebration at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, May 19.

Below, Jason Hook, lead guitarist, Five Finger Death Punch, performs for Combat Center patrons during the We Salute You Celebration at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center, May 19.

Bottom right, Five Finger Death Punch performs for Combat Center patrons during the We Salute You Celebration at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center, May 19.









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Friday - May 26 5:30 p.m. The Promise, PG-13 8:30 p.m. How To Be A Latin Lover, PG-13 11:00 p.m. Unforgettable, R

Saturday - May 27 12:00 p.m. Smurfs: The Lost Village, PG 2:30 p.m. The Zookeeper's Wife, PG-13 5:30 p.m. The Fate of The Furious, PG-13 8:30 p.m. The Circle, PG-13 11:00 p.m. The Promise, PG-13

Sunday - May 28 12:00 p.m. Unforgettable, R 2:30 p.m. Going In Style, PG-13 5:00 p.m. The Circle,

PG-13 8:00 p.m. How To Be A Latin Lover, PG-13

Monday - May 29 12:00 p.m. How To Be A Latin Lover, PG-13 3:00 p.m. The Fate of The Furious, PG-13

Tuesday - May 30 6:30 p.m. The Zookeeper's Wife, PG-13

Wednesday - May 31 5:00 p.m. Unforgettable, R 7:30 p.m. The Promise, PG-13

Thursday - June 1 5:00 p.m. Smurfs: The Lost Village, PG 7:30 p.m. Going In Style,

Friday - June 2 5:00 p.m. How To Be A Latin Lover, PG-13 8:00 p.m. Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2 (3-D), PG-13 11:00 p.m. The Fate of The Furious, PG-13



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How to Apply: Full job description and position requirements may be obtained with the job application. Applications and job description are available at City Hall, 6136 Adobe Road, Twentynine Palms (760) 367-6799 and on the City's website at www.29palms.org.

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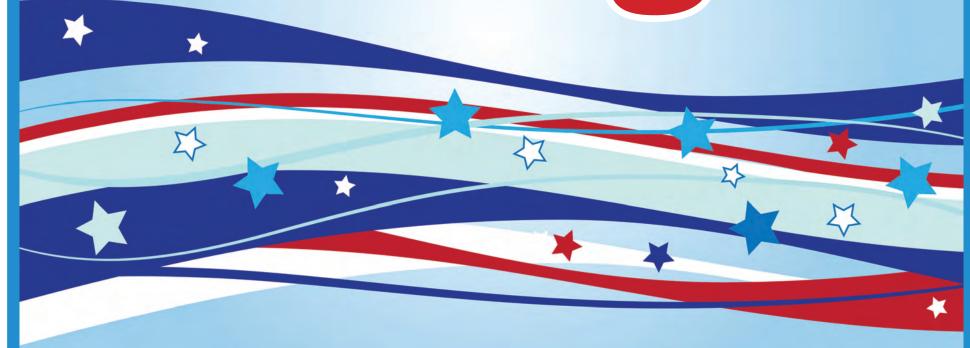
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