



Lt. Col. Philip C. Laing, outgoing commanding officer, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, relinquished command to Lt. Col. Rafael A. Candelario II, oncoming commanding officer, 3rd LAR, by handing off the battalion colors during the 3rd LAR change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center, June 15.

## Wolf Pack receives new commander

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
 LANCE CPL. NATALIA CUEVAS

Lt. Col. Philip C. Laing relinquished command of 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion to Lt. Col. Rafael A. Candelario II, during a ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, here, June 15.

During the ceremony, the outgoing and incoming commanders performed the transfer of the battalion colors, which symbolizes the transfer of responsibility and authority of the Wolf Pack. The ceremony allowed the Marines to be introduced to their new commander while saying farewell to their old commander.

The off going battalion commander, Laing, took command over 3rd LAR in May of 2015. He previously served with 1st LAR, 2nd

See **Wolf Pack** A6

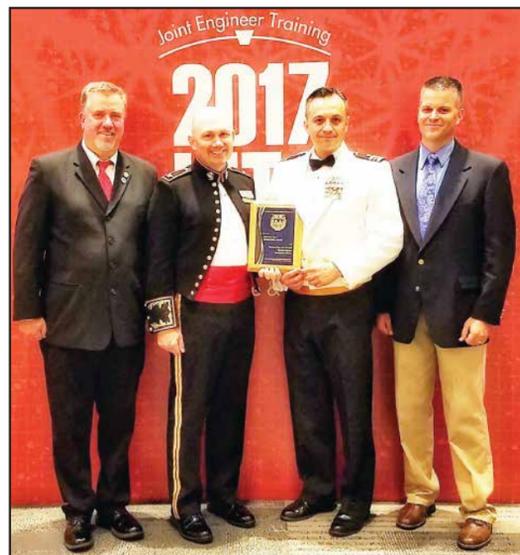


Lt. Col. Rafael A. Candelario II, oncoming commanding officer, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, gives his remarks during the 3rd LAR change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center, June 15.

## G-4 awarded for outstanding efforts

STORY BY CPL. DAVE FLORES

The Combat Center's G-4 Installations and Logistics, always strives to improve life on the base through proving support services responsive to exercise forces; tenant and resident commands; Marines, sailors and their families. Representatives from the Combat



COURTESY PHOTO

Center, to include Col. Jay Wylie, assistant chief of staff, G-4, traveled to Columbus, Ohio, May 25, to receive the Society of American Military Engineers Award for Sustainability for the construction of the Child Development Center at the 2017 Society of American Military Engineers Joint Engineer Training Conference.

Center, to include Col. Jay Wylie, assistant chief of staff, G-4, traveled to Columbus, Ohio, May 25, to receive the Society of American Military Engineers Award for Sustainability for the construction of the Child Development Center at the 2017 Society of American Military Engineers Joint Engineer Training Conference.

The Child Development Center earned the award because it reached 'Net Zero' status, meaning they were able to reduce energy demand through passive design efforts and provide a densely vegetated xeriscape.

See **Awards** A6



COURTESY PHOTO

Lt. Cmdr. Juan Chavira, director, Public Works Division, speaks about the hard work and effort put in by the Village Center Demolition Project Team at the PWD building aboard the Combat Center, June 8. Staff members received awards for their efforts put forth in the multiple projects completed aimed toward improving the quality of life for Combat Center patrons.

## PMO introduces online registration

STORY BY LANCE  
 CPL. NATALIA CUEVAS

Part of the Provost Marshal's Office's mission is to make the registration process go smoothly. PMO recently launched an online registration site, which will allow Combat Center patrons to register their vehicles and weapons online.

PMO created this tool for Combat Center patrons who don't get the chance to go to the Visitors Center during working hours. The registration site allows patrons to register or deregister vehicles and weapons, as well as arrange sponsorship for visitors.

"We are moving to a more technological era," said Cpl. Ryan Rivas, unit information officer, PMO. "We figured we should develop something that would give us a head start in that direction while making the registration process more convenient for Combat Center patrons."

A Common Access Card is needed to access the website. Those who choose to register their vehicles or weapons online will go onto the site, choose the items they want to register, and fill out the form provided. The registration office will then alert the user once the form is reviewed and either accepted or denied. According to Rivas, reasons for denial might include, but are not limited to, requirements not being met or incomplete information.

For access to online registration visit <https://eis.usmc.mil/sites/pmo29/pages/home.aspx>. If further assistance is required, contact the Visitors Center at 760-830-7700.

## 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. Rodion Zabolotniy.



U.S. Marine Cpl. Daniel Ramech, a Marine Corps Instructor of Water Survival with Headquarters Regiment, 1st Marine Logistics Group, observes a water survival advanced course aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 14. MCIWS teaches Marines how to improve their abilities in surviving and saving others in water.



Reprinted from the Observation Post  
June 24, 1966

# Summer Session Underway for Reservists

Five Marine Reserve units, representing 547 men, arrived at MCB, Twentynine Palms, over the weekend for their annual two week summer training session. This is only a small percentage of the 6,500 men that will be training here this summer.

The 5th 155 Howitzer Battery, from Spokane, Washington is commanded by Capt. Richard G. Fronen. The unit's training schedule calls for

regular firing missions, safety and survival in the desert and the art of living and working under hot, dry conditions. Arriving here from Eugene, Oregon was Company B, 5th Engineer Battalion, under the command of Maj. H. E. Summers. The 122-man reserve unit will be carrying a full work schedule while stationed here. They will be indoctrinated in such things as desert survival, mines, NBC, drill, demolitions and a number

of night problems.

Returning for another two week summer training session was the Treasure Island, San Francisco based Headquarters Battery, 14th Marines. The 212 men, under the command of Maj. Robert A. Bonadio, spent two weeks in training here last year.

The first week of the unit's training will primarily deal in the operation of Marine Corps weapons, while the second

week of training will concentrate on the unit's main job, firing of the "big guns."

Maj. Malcolm S. Underwood is commanding the 97 men of the 1st 105 Howitzer Battery and Maj. Frederick A. Smith is in charge of the 8th 105 Howitzer Battery. Both units are based at Richmond, Virginia.

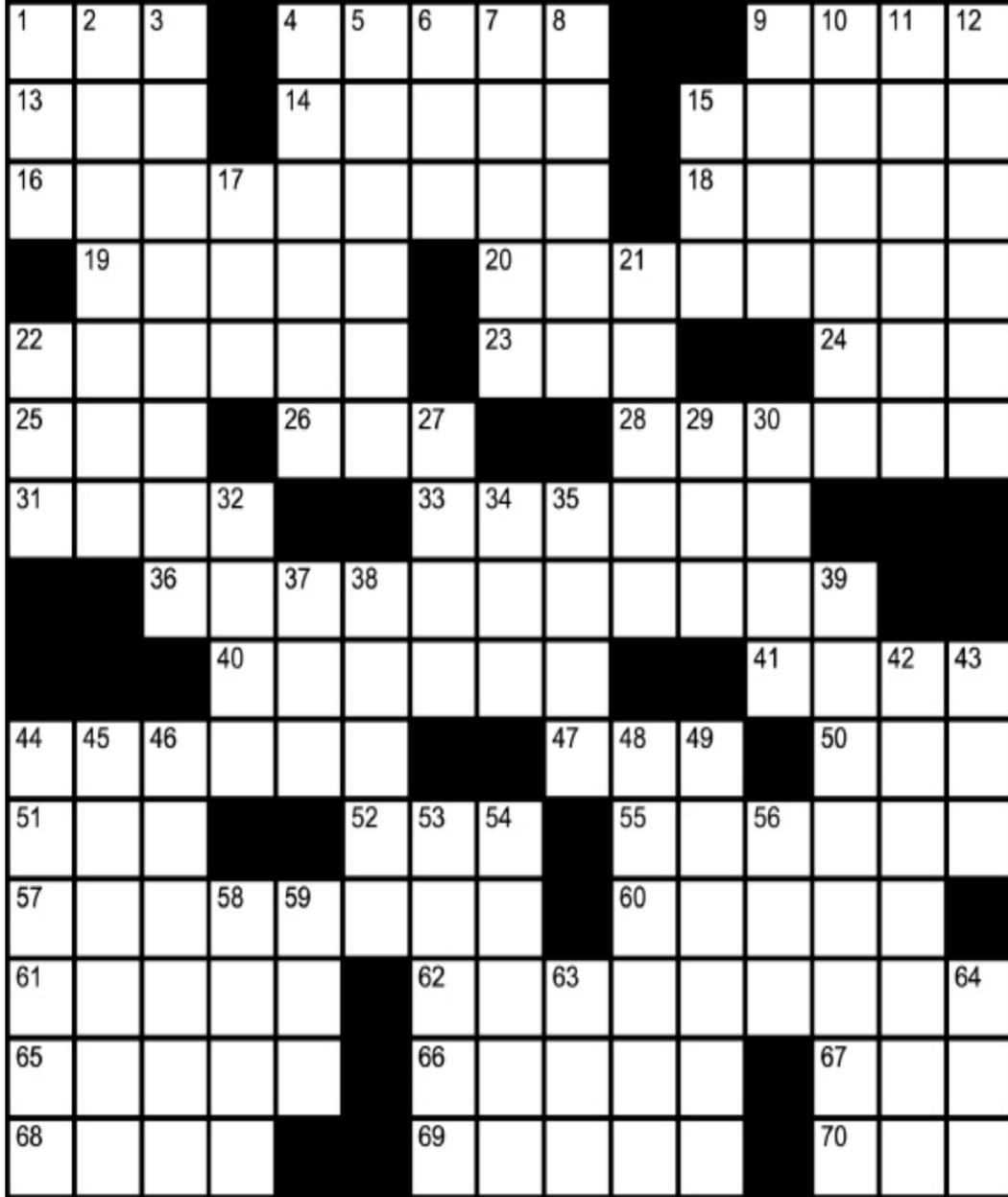
The first week's training will find the two batteries in the field putting to use their knowledge of field reconnaissance.

The second week will be utilized for artillery fire in the field.

The five reserve units will wrap up training on July 2 to enable the men to celebrate the July 4th holiday at home.

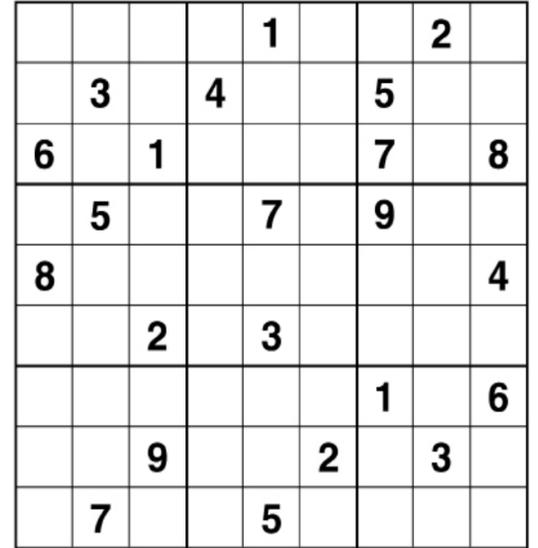
The Marine Corps Reserve celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. It was formed by an act of Congress during World War I, in 1916. The Reserve, now 45,000 strong, was called upon in both World Wars and the Korean Conflict.

## CROSSWORD



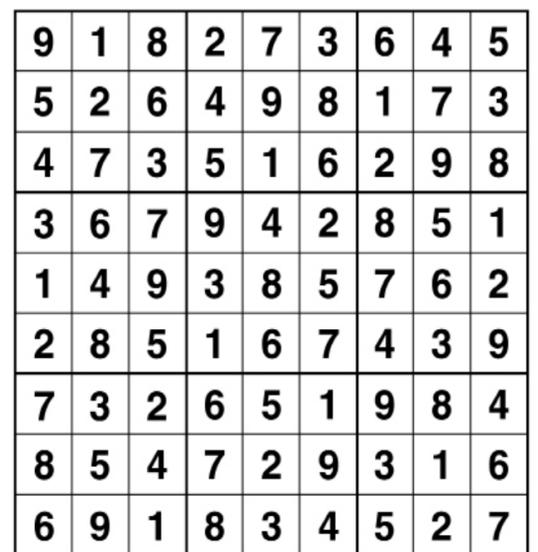
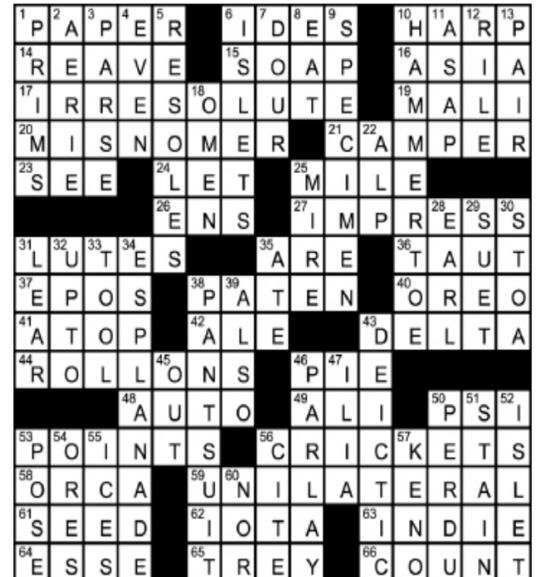
- Across**
- Something to chew
  - Explode
  - Love handles, essentially
  - "\_\_\_ moment"
  - Be bombastic
  - Garlicky mayonnaise
  - Device to thaw frozen goods
  - A fold or ridge
  - Accused's need
  - Dangerous fibrous minerals
  - Mythical beast
  - Grassland
  - "The Three Faces of \_\_\_"
  - Baseball's Master Melvin
  - "\_\_\_ the fields we go"
  - Like some cows
  - Not us
  - Simply
  - A new sibling my marriage
  - Through the postal service
  - Home, informally
  - Appearance
  - "Chicago" lyricist
  - Absorbed, as a cost
  - \_\_\_-eyed
  - Consumes
  - Novice
  - Technologically advanced
  - As a whole
  - "Enigma Variations" composer
  - Magnetic mineral
  - Stinky
  - Arab leader
  - Nancy, in Nancy
  - Icelandic epic
  - Top competitors, often
  - African antelope
- Down**
- Atlantic catch
  - Discover
  - Tom Brady
  - An injury; informally
  - Bearish
  - Backstabber
  - Appropriate
  - Brusque
  - Unit of Middle East currency
  - Hang around
  - Bay
  - Not fair
  - "Tarzan" extra
  - Fix, in a way
  - It holds water
  - "I" lid
  - Casting need
  - "Is that \_\_\_?"
  - Blue hue
  - Charades, essentially
  - "\_\_\_ we having fun yet?"
  - Fries, maybe
  - Amniotic \_\_\_
  - Church donation
  - One who is not strong
  - Rich waxy cheese
  - Golf ball support
  - Cleave
  - Dirty
  - Classified
  - Pickled
  - Errors
  - High points
  - "Naughty you!"
  - \_\_\_ grass
  - Maori war chant
  - "Don't give up!"
  - "Fancy that!"
  - Australian runner

## SUDOKU



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Last week's answers



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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
- 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

# Rapheal Trammell

Atlanta, Ga. Corporal, food service specialist, Headquarters Battalion

## TRAMMELL

**>My mom was the only one who** raised me. I didn't meet my father until recently at 20 years old. My mom didn't really have a job so I was in and out of foster care and we moved around a lot so I attended different schools.

**>My mom is better now,** but she's been on drugs all her life. It was really hard for me growing up not having certain things you need in school because I never had the money for it. It was either I was going to go out and do something bad to get the money or I was going to fail the class. But I did everything I could possibly think of just to graduate.

**>I have two older brothers** and one little sister. My oldest brother is 7 years older than me. I never really grew up with him because he was raised by my grandmother. When he was born and we were younger my mother was real heavy on the drugs so she couldn't take care of us. My other brother is two years older than me and my sister is two years younger than me.

**>My little sister and I** didn't get along growing up. But as we got older we realized we're grown adults and that we're all we've got so we were going to be there for each other. My second oldest brother and I do everything together, we're very competitive.

**>The neighborhood I grew up in** was a bad neighborhood. Drugs, stealing, the worst things you can think of happened and that was normal.

**>Of course you have** a good and a bad side to every place you go but I'm from the real bad side. I know people who grew up and they go through their whole life and didn't do anything but move a street down. Before I joined the Marine Corps I'd never left Atlanta.

**>I really don't want to** go back home all the time but that's where my family is. I have to go visit them. The more distance you put in between somebody the more you realize how much you miss them. It's true; you don't miss somebody until they're gone. I call them all the time and they're always there for me when I get sad or just need somebody to talk to. They don't ask me for anything. People said, "they're going to use you for your money because you're in the military" but with them it's not like that.

**>Nobody from my family has** graduated from high school. I'm not just talking about immediate family, I'm talking about extended family. I think my grandmother might have graduated but when it comes to my aunts and uncles, I have about 9, none of them graduated and none of their kids graduated. My graduating high school exceeded the expectations of my parents. Most people from my neighborhood would give up and think "okay I've graduated high school, I'm done" but I wanted to go further.

**>I was the only one from** my graduating class who joined the military but I was also in the bottom of my graduating class. I used to have to fight for my life. I used to get jumped a lot because I was really protective when it came to my family.

**>I just felt like you couldn't** really do anything in life without at least a high school diploma. School was a good place to be. If I didn't go to school, where would I be? I've never been to jail, because I was in school. I wasn't 100% focused on school but I knew I had to graduate and I knew I had to do everything in my power to graduate. I saw people



dropping out all the time and I saw where their lives were going. I knew that's not where I wanted to be.

**>I don't drink, I don't** smoke cigarettes, I don't do any of that. I don't drink because I had bad experiences with my mom when she was drunk. I choose not to do those things because I want to be in control of my life.

**>My teachers wanted me to** do well but they didn't want me to go to the Marine Corps. My friends all wanted to be football stars and they all had good grades. But the people around me would tell me you're not going to be anything. My classmates were laughing when we took our graduation photos they said "it doesn't really matter because you're not going to graduate anyway." No one really supported me, they just thought I was going to fall into the bad habits of everyone else.

**>I did have some good** role models and one of them was my recruiter, I really wanted to be like him. I swear he turned my life around 180. In twelfth grade I was to the point where I probably would've done something really bad because of the way I was living; around guns, violence and drugs all the time.

**>I was in school walking** down the hallway when he saw me and thought I was skipping class. He asked me what I was going to do with my life. No one ever approached me as a man and asked me really heart felt questions and I respected him for that. He was a father figure in my life.

**>Before I met my** recruiter, I had already determined that the military was not an option. But the way he explained it to me made me aware of my options and the things I could do in the Marine Corps. He didn't really pressure me to join, but he did let me know that the military would be a good option for where I wanted to be in life and my mindset.

**>My recruiter made it possible for** me to go to my prom. He said prom is one of the most important moments in your life, you only get one. So he helped me figure out a way to fund it. He didn't have to do any of that. He helped me out a lot and we still keep in touch.

**>I think differently than** the people I'm around and the

people my age. I remember growing up and being the kid who didn't have certain things. I looked around at all my friends and I thought "why do they have cars and how can their parents buy them nice clothes" and I just felt like that was normal. Growing up I started realizing small things like the lights being off or us not having food was a result of the way my mom chose to live her life. I'm not blaming her, she gave us shelter and did the best she could but when I was growing up I knew everything around me played a part in the person I was going to become, whether it was positive or negative.

**>I don't blame my mom** for the way I grew up because I talked about my upbringing with my recruiter a lot. You start forgetting all the negative stuff that happens in life and you only remember the positive. Even though she was doing what she was doing, we had a roof most of the time, she got food even if it was just a bag of noodles and we survived this long because of her. When I see her, I see her as my mom. I only have one mother and she raised me and took care of me when I couldn't take care of myself. I feel like I owe her the whole world.

**>My environment made me** who I am. No one had to teach me that, it was just me. I felt like I was different from them, I don't know what it was. Maybe it's my thought process but I felt like I wanted more out of life and I didn't just want it for myself, I wanted it for my family too. So I knew I had to do something different, whatever that might be.

**>I was told the** Marine Corps is the hardest thing you could possibly. I thought to myself "why try those easy branches when I can try something else." I love challenges, even if it's just racing, even if it's a question, and I felt that the Corps was the ultimate challenge at that part of my life.

**>It's the 'prove people wrong'** part that I love about a challenge. Graduating guide in boot camp is what gave me that drive. That serious face, that always pushing my limits.

**>Re-enlisting wouldn't be a** bad idea but I don't want that to be my only option. I'm putting in a lot of work for if I do want to get out but I'm still going to put in a re-enlistment package. If I do re-enlist, I'll become an officer.

**>In my lifetime I want to** become successful in everything I do. I want to reach a point where myself and my family don't have to worry about anything. I know I'll reach that point, it's just a matter of time and the decisions I make.

**>Something I've learned** in the Marine Corps is to be the best I can be. Look in the mirror and see what you can improve on a daily basis. I just try to be better and better each day.

**>If I could give advice** to someone it would be to be whatever you want to be no matter what anybody thinks about you. If you've met your life goals and feel like you'll be accomplished in life, do it. Nobody can stop you; the only person who can stop you is you.

To view Trammell's full story, visit

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3508460/ive-learned-rapheal-trammell>

Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Medina Ayala-Lo

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# MARFORRES kicks off ITX 4-17

As summer comes into full swing, Marines from the Reserve Fleet Marine Force kicked off Integrated Training Exercise 4-17, June 14.

The 29-day training cycle focuses on the application of combined-arms maneuver warfare aboard the Corps' largest training installation. As the battalions and squadrons progress through training they integrate, forming a cohesive unit through planning, briefing, rehearsals, execution and debriefing.

The ITX allows the units to practice scripted exercises as well as afford commanders the ability to employ forces on their own. This training provides a cause-and-effect decision-making balance to ensure that all the required objectives are met. This allows units to not only highlight their successes, but learn from their mistakes and leave the installation better-prepared to protect our nation in every clime and place.



LANCE CPL. IMARI DUBOSE

Col. Thomas E. Prentice, commanding officer, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, conducts reconnaissance of the training area aboard the Combat Center, Tuesday.



LANCE CPL. IMARI DUBOSE

Marines with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773, Marine Aircraft Wing 49, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing prepare a UH-1Y Huey for take-off for a battlefield reconnaissance mission with Col. Thomas E. Prentice, commanding officer, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, aboard the Combat Center, during Integrated Training Exercise 4-17, Tuesday. The scouting mission was in preparation of the 25th Marine Regiment final battalion exercise during ITX 4-17.



LANCE CPL. IMARI DUBOSE

Marines with 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, participate in the Tactical Training Control Exercise Group Mechanized Assault Course and Air Assault Course during Integrated Training Exercise 4-17 aboard the Combat Center, Monday. Marines with 2/25 used the TTCEG to prepare for their FINEX, the final training sequence for ITX. ITX 4-17 is a live-fire and maneuver combined arms exercise.



LANCE CPL. STANLEY MOY

A CH-53E from Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 772, Marine Aircraft Group 49, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Forces Reserve, extracts Marines from the training area after a rehearsal for the Air Assault Course during the 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, MARFORRES, final battalion exercise of Integrated Training Exercise 4-17 at Camp Wilson aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday. ITX is a Marine Air Ground Task Force integration training exercise featuring combined arms training events that incorporate live fire and maneuver.

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LANCE CPL. STANLEY MOY

Marines of Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, rest on a CH-53E after performing the Air Assault Course during the final battalion exercise of Integrated Training Exercise 4-17 at Camp Wilson, aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday. ITX is a Marine Air Ground Task Force integration training exercise featuring combined arms training events that incorporate live fire and maneuver.



CPL. DALLAS JOHNSON

Marines with Air Operations Co., Marine Wing Support Squadron 471, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Forces Reserve, approach the side of a simulated, downed aircraft in a training exercise during Integrated Training Exercise 4-17, aboard the Combat Center, Saturday. The purpose of the exercise was to familiarize the Marines with what would happen in a real-life scenario.



LANCE CPL. IMARI DUBOSE

Maj. Jacob Schwam, pilot, and LtCol. Julian Rivera, commanding officer with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773, Marine Aircraft Group 49, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Forces Reserve, prepare a UH-1Y Huey for take-off to conduct a training area scouting mission with Col. Thomas E. Prentice, commanding officer, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, MARFORRES, aboard the Combat Center, during Integrated Training Exercise 4-17, Tuesday.



LANCE CPL. STANLEY MOY

A CH-53E from Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 772, Marine Aircraft Group 49, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Forces Reserve, lands to extract Marines from the training area after a rehearsal for the Air Assault Course during the 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, MARFORRES, final battalion exercise of Integrated Training Exercise 4-17 aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday. ITX is a Marine Air Ground Task Force integration training exercise featuring combined arms training events that incorporate live fire and maneuver.



LANCE CPL. IMARI DUBOSE

Col. Thomas E. Prentice, commanding officer, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, conducts reconnaissance of the training area aboard the Combat Center during Integrated Training Exercise 4-17 on a UH-1Y Huey belonging to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773, Marine Aircraft Group 49, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, MARFORRES, Tuesday.

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# Wolf Pack From A1

LAR, School of Infantry West and 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment.

Laing commented on how he enjoyed his time with 3rd LAR Marines.

"Having the opportunity to work with 3rd LAR is a great privilege and honor," Laing said. "It's been an honor to have worked with legends."

The oncoming battalion commander, Candelario, previously served as the regimental operations officer, regimental executive officer, and the acting regimental commander of 5th Marines.

"I know this transition will be easy," Candelario said. "I know the Marines who worked under Lt. Col. Laing will walk like him, talk like him and act like him; they will emulate a great Marine."



The 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Color Guard presents the colors during the 3rd LAR change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center, June 15. During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Philip C. Laing, outgoing commanding officer, 3rd LAR, relinquished command to Lt. Col. Rafael A. Candelario II, oncoming commanding officer, 3rd LAR.



The 1st Marine Division Band performs during 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion's change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center, June 15. During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Philip C. Laing, outgoing commanding officer, 3rd LAR, relinquished command to Lt. Col. Rafael A. Candelario II, oncoming commanding officer, 3rd LAR.



The 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Color Guard presents the colors during the 3rd LAR change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field aboard the Combat Center, June 15. During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Philip C. Laing, outgoing commanding officer, 3rd LAR, relinquished command to Lt. Col. Rafael A. Candelario II, oncoming commanding officer, 3rd LAR.

# Awards From A1



COURTESY PHOTO

Xeriscaping is a style of landscaping that reduces water consumption by utilizing plants that require little to no irrigation and is mainly used in regions where reliable fresh water sources are not abundant.

In addition to the Combat Center receiving the SAME Award, Lt. Cmdr. Juan Chariva, director, Public Works Division G4, presented members of PWD with a letter of recognition from Combat Center Commanding General, Brig. Gen. William F. Mullen III, June

8, 2017, for the effort put forth in executing many of their projects. Recipients of the awards were Veronica Hatch for the Support Excellence Award, Marjorie Trandem for the Annual White Collar Employee Service Award and the 29 Palms FEAD Office Star Award, and lastly Lieutenant Luke Feist, assistant public works officer, PWD, with the presentation of the Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal for meritorious service during his tour as utilities branch head.

Lt. Cmdr. Juan Chavira, director, Public Works Division, addresses PWD following award presentations to multiple members of the PWD staff at the PWD building aboard the Combat Center, June 8. Staff members received awards for their efforts put forth in the multiple projects completed aimed at improving the quality of life for Combat Center patrons.

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# Stay cool, hit base pool

Gunnery Sgt. Todd B. McKeown, administration chief, Headquarters Battalion, performs sprint drills during a High Intensity Tactical Training session at the Combat Center Training Tank, July 23, 2015. McKeown is utilizing the front crawl stroke, the most commonly used stroke during freestyle competition events.

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

Twentynine Palms is renowned for its sweltering temperatures as summer reaches its peak. During this time of year, Combat Center residents find ways to keep cool and stay active in the rising temperatures.

Whether it is children enjoying their summer vacation or Marines looking for a way to cool off while on liberty, escape from the heat can be found at the various swimming facilities on base. Swimming offers a great aerobic workout and is an exercise that challenges the swimmer, by requiring the use of the whole body.

"In the pool, you can get more of a muscle workout," said Staff Sgt. Theodore C. Hutchins, aquatic staff non-commissioned officer in charge, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. "In the water, you are working more muscles than you would at the gym focusing on only one muscle in the same amount of time."

Learning to swim is something that can be



Cpl. Austin McGregor, administrative specialist, Headquarters Battalion, demonstrates swimming with a rifle to other Marines during a High Intensity Tactical Training Session at the Combat Center Training Tank, July 23, 2015. The HITT course challenged Marines with rigorous exercise in the pool to enhance operational fitness and optimize combat readiness.

done at any age or fitness level. Lifeguards assist in swimming clinics held at the training tank for children learning how to swim or Marines who may need help with their stroke.

"The most important thing is becoming comfortable in the water," Hutchins said. "Young Marines who need help swimming can come to

the lifeguards to try to strengthen their swimming. We also have time reserved for unit training, so if company or platoon commanders want to come in and schedule training for their Marines they can."

For swimmers who already have the basics down, different drills can be found online that

will help them to further develop their swimming. Investing in equipment such as a snorkel, paddle and fins can also help to bring training to the next level.

"As lifeguards we offer different training courses and water sports for those looking to improve their swimming," Hutchins said. "A lot of the time, its

people who don't understand their swimming limits or capabilities that are most at risk in the water."

Safety in the water should be the priority at all times and patrons should never swim alone without lifeguards. Sunblock and proper hydration are paramount and should be stressed even on cooler days with less sun.

**Pool hours**

- Frontline Restaurant**
- Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.: Lap Swim, 5 a.m.-7 a.m.
  - Mon.-Fri.: Lap Swim, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
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  - Sat. and Sun.: Open Swim, noon-5 p.m.

**Family Pool**

- Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri.: 1-6 p.m.
- Sat. and Sun.: noon to 5 p.m.

"Hydration is the biggest key as well as sunblock to stay safe during the summer. Wearing shirts or anything to protect you from the sun is important," Hutchins said. "Often swimmers will come out here thinking they'll be really good but sometimes it's the opposite and they are really struggling. It's up to us lifeguards to ensure we keep our eyes on them."

Regardless of an individual's swimming ability, a trip to the base pool can be a refreshing and effective way to stay cool and fit during the hottest time of year.



Cpl. Kyle Fierro, radio technician, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, practices the breaststroke at the Combat Center Training Tank, July 27, 2015.



Anthony Barba, 8, son of 1st Sgt. Roberto Barba Jr., first sergeant, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, practices swimming the backstroke during swimming lessons held at the Combat Center Training Tank, July 27, 2015.



Staff Sgt. Theodore C. Hutchins, aquatic staff non-commissioned officer in charge, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, oversees swimmers as he performs duties as a lifeguard at the Combat Center Training Tank, July 27, 2015.



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# 1st Tanks holds Family Day

at Luckie Park

The Marines of 1st Tank Battalion came together at Luckie Park, Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 14, for a unit field day and family day. The unit held the fun-field day to boost morale and encourage camaraderie amongst the Marines, sailors and families. During the field day Marines faced each other in activities like tug-of-war, sack races and egg toss. After, they displayed the battalion's trophy and shared a barbecue dinner.



Marines of 1st Tank Battalion participate in a sack race during the battalion's Family Day held at Luckie Park, Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 14. The battalion held the family day to promote camaraderie and bring the battalion's families closer together.

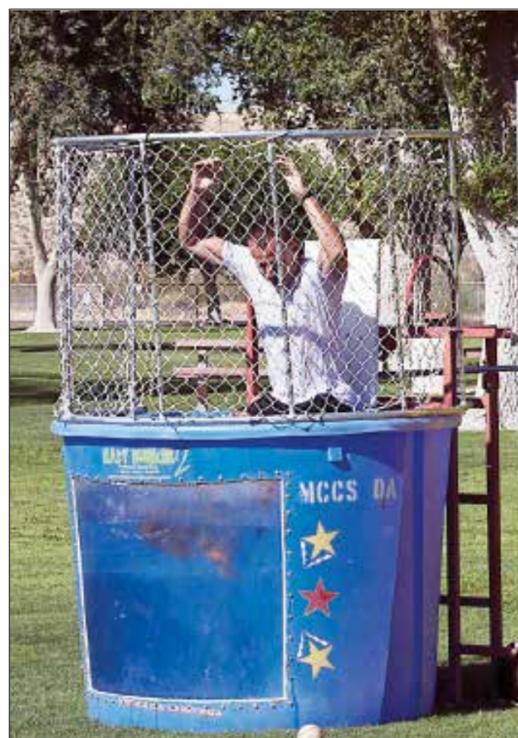


Marines of 1st Tank Battalion battle each other in a Tug of War during the battalion's Family Day held at Luckie Park, Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 14.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
Cpl. Thomas Mudd



Lt. Col. Christopher Meyers, battalion commander, 1st Tank Battalion, explains the importance of the battalion's Family Day to his Marines at Luckie Park, Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 14.



Lt. Col. Christopher Meyers, battalion commander, 1st Tank Battalion, falls into a dunk tank during the battalion's Family Day held at Luckie Park, Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 14.

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