



CPL. CLARENCE A. LEAKE

An M1A1 Abrams Tank, with Delta Company, 1st Tank Battalion, conducts offensive and defensive tactics during Large Scale Exercise 16 aboard the Combat Center, August 18, 2016. LSE is an assessed Marine Air Ground Task Force exercise focused at the Marine Expeditionary Brigade level and composed of all four elements of the Marine Air Ground Task Force with live, virtual and constructive elements.

# Combat Center to train elite fighting force with LSE-17

CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Since its inception in 1952, the Combat Center’s mission has been to effectively train Marines to become a more lethal and effective fighting force. From August 11 – August 25, 2017, the Combat Center will host a two week-long Large Scale Exercise. The highly-specialized and diverse situations presented by this training combine up to three infantry battalions with aircraft support, ground troops and live-fire.

In order to adhere to the Marine Corps’ current and progressive service-level training requirements, the Combat Center must provide ample space for Marines to train for real-life scenarios in an LSE training environment. Through regulated training, conducted in realistic environments, under realistic circumstances, the Corps ensures that its forces maintain the highest levels of proficiency and readiness for worldwide deployment.

LSE is an assessed Marine Air Ground Task Force exercise focused at the Marine Expeditionary Brigade level and composed of all four elements of the Marine Air Ground Task Force with live, virtual and constructive elements. It is designed to challenge commands across the spectrum of the MAGTF and will focus on improving the warfight-



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Marines with Delta Company, 1st Tank Battalion, repair an M1A1 Abrams Tank during Large Scale Exercise 16 aboard the Combat Center, August 18, 2016. LSE is an assessed Marine Air Ground Task Force exercise focused at the Marine Expeditionary Brigade level and composed of all four elements of the Marine Air Ground Task Force with live, virtual and constructive elements.

ing skills of senior commanders and their staffs, develop a common understanding of MAGTF doctrine and enhance the capabilities within a joint and combined operating environment with appropriate exercise control and training.

For the fifth iteration of LSE, 2nd Marine Division will act as the command element and lead more

than 4,500 Marines and sailors with II Marine Expeditionary Force. Participants of LSE-17 include a composition of forces from 2nd MarDiv, Regimental Combat Team-8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing and II MEF Information Group.

See **Training A6**

# Combat Center to utilize TSUA during LSE 17

STORY BY CPL. DAVE FLORES

Since World War II, the Marine Corps has consistently integrated the elements of air, ground, and sea into their combat operations, to create a three-dimensional joint fighting force, unique only to the Corps.

the Federal Aviation Administration, temporary special use airspace is airspace that is designed and activated for special events, for a specific period of time.

“Operating in special use airspace, permanent or temporary, adds a level of safety by completely segregating military air-



LANCE CPL. BECKY CALHOUN

Sgt. Austin J. Otto, a crew chief with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 363, participates in an MV-22 Osprey tail gun shoot during Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 3-17, on Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., May 15.

With the expanding capabilities of Marine aircraft and artillery over the last several decades, it became necessary for the Marine Corps to obtain additional land and airspace in order to adequately train Marines with advancing technology in realistic combat scenarios. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2014 was signed into law, changing the boundaries between the Combat Center and the Bureau of Land Management. The establishment of special use airspace over and adjacent to the newly acquired lands allows Marines to train like they fight as an integrated Marine Air Ground Task Force.

“Special use airspace is where activities otherwise hazardous to non-participating aircraft can be accomplished,” said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Meeker, regional airspace coordinator, Marine Corps Installation West.

Similar to SUA, temporary special use airspace allows Marines and the military aircrafts they use to operate in a more realistic training environment, under the military air controllers, as a part of the MAGTF.

According to Meeker, who coordinates and oversees new and existing airspace in cooperation with

craft from non-participating aircraft,” said Meeker. “We have restricted areas and also inform the public aviation community that military flight operations are occurring in a specific area.”

The TSUA is able to effectively segregate hazardous military training from the local aviation community, whether it be from ground-based live fire or aviation activities. The increased awareness of segregation supports a safer environment for both civilian and military aviation professionals.

According to Meeker, Civilian pilots are informed of SUA conditions through a variety of methods; public outreach targeting airfields within a 100 nautical mile radius of the intended airspace through mass-emailing via the FAA, daily entries in the Notices to Airmen publication, daily NOTAMs during the exercise and the MCAGCC website.

The Combat Center’s usage of the TSUA is essential to the training of the MAGTF. For more information on the Shared Use Area or TSUA visit [www.29palms.marines.mil](http://www.29palms.marines.mil), under the G5 Government and External Affairs tab and select airspace.

More photos on page A6

## Inside the Observation Post

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Library hosts tech lab for youth  
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 Lance Cpl. Amy Phan.



Marines with Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, fire a Carl Gustav rocket system during Exercise Talisman Saber 17 on Townshend Island, Shoalwater Bay Training Area, Queensland, Australia, July 21, 2017. BLT 3/5, the Ground Combat Element for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, is exploring state-of-the-art concepts and technologies as the dedicated force for Sea Dragon 2025, a Marine Corps initiative to prepare for future battles. Talisman Saber is a biennial exercise designed to improve the interoperability between Australian and U.S. forces. The 31st MEU is taking part in Talisman Saber 17 while deployed on a regularly-scheduled patrol of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.







WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Kyle

Braham, Minnesota lance corporal, PMO, 22

RAMTHUN

LANCE CPL. KYLE RAMTHUN, PMO, VISITS DIFFERENT SCHOOLS EVERY YEAR TO TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT D.A.R.E., WHICH STANDS FOR DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE AND EDUCATION. HE EXPLAINS THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF DRUGS AND THEIR EFFECTS ON THE BODY AND MIND.

> **I grew up** in Braham, Minn.; it was a small town with a community atmosphere; everyone got along. I had the opportunity to go to the basketball state tournament.

> **Playing basketball** allowed me to go to many different places as a teenager. I also played football, but I wasn't as good at it as I was at basketball.

> **I lived with** my mom, my stepdad, Brian, and my four brothers. My oldest brother is Dean; my second oldest is David, who is in the medical field; my third oldest is Daniel, who served in the Marine Corps; my youngest brother, Dylan, is a sophomore in high school.

> **My role model** is my mom. She is my best friend and the one I always look up to. I always stuck to her hip as a kid until I joined the Marine Corps.

> **I joined** the Marine Corps because I saw the joy it brought my brother. It is the best decision I've ever made. When I was recruited, Provost Marshals Office was my first choice for my [military occupational specialty]. If I could choose my MOS again I would definitely choose to work in PMO.

> **I work in** Physical Security for PMO. What that means is that I handle anything that involves the protection of the assets that are within this installation.

> **I'm a D.A.R.E. teacher**, which means that I teach kids about drugs.

> **D.A.R.E. stands for** Drug Abuse Resistance and Education. The D.A.R.E. program is a ten-week program in which I go to a school and I give the kids a total of ten lessons.

> **I teach** first through seventh grade. After the lessons, they have to write an essay about what they learned in order to graduate. I've read some of the kid's essays and a lot of them learn a great deal from my lessons. Sometimes kids come up and thank me for teaching them about drug abuse and its negative effects.

> **I've been going to school** using tuition assistance. I'm working toward a degree in business management and marketing. After the Marine Corps, I'm thinking of going to work for a homeland security business. After I get enough money, I want to be able to start my own business.

> **Advice I would give** to junior Marines is that 'knowledge is power', be it in or out of the Marine Corps. You can use tuitions assistance to get a degree while in the Marine Corps so that when you are out, you can start up your own business or work for a company that you always wanted to work for.

> **The thing I will miss** the most about the Marine Corps is the people. By facing adversity and good times together we are able to build camaraderie that will never falter; you won't find that kind of brotherhood anywhere else.



Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Natalia Cuevas



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# Partying in style

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. NATALIA CUEVAS

Wives of Marines with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, enjoyed a fun night in building 1707 aboard the Combat Center, Saturday. The event included music, snacks and card games that could be played with fake money. Marines with 1/7 hosted the

spouses' dance so the wives of Marines and sailors who are currently on deployment could enjoy each other's company and create a network of support as they await their loved ones' return.



Clockwise from top left:  
(1) A roulette wheel was available at the Spouses' Dance in building 1707 aboard the Combat Center, Saturday. Marines with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment hosted a Spouses' Dance for the wives of 1/7 Marines currently on deployment, which included music, snacks and card games that could be played with fake money.  
(2) Wives of the Marines and sailors with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment play craps during the Spouses' Dance in building 1707 aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.  
(3) A dealer explains how to play blackjack during the Spouses' Dance in building 1707 aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.  
(4) Wives of the Marines and sailors with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment play blackjack during the Spouses' Dance aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.  
(5) A roulette table is available at the Spouses' Dance in building 1707 aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.

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# ‘America’s Battalion’ attends training at MCMWTC

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
PFC. MARGARET GALE

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, Bridgeport, Calif., — Infantrymen with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., participated in Assault Climber’s Course as part of Mountain Training Exercise 4-17 August 1, 2017 aboard Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport.

MTX is a service level training exercise focused on missions in a complex environment. Marines learn how to maneuver in high altitude, mountainous and cold weather environments, which better prepares them to provide support to their parent units. ACC contains the following three phases: Mountain endurance exam, knots and rope systems and free climbing on cliff faces.

Throughout the five-week MTX, Marines take part in four evolutions, which include a river crossing with a single rope bridge, cliff assaults, rappelling and movements to contact. The culminating event combines all four evolutions during a night climb exercise.

“It’s great to showcase what we are capable of as Marines, not only out in the training area but while forward deployed,” said Capt. Brandon Bocian, commander of company G, 2/8. “Coming to [MCMWTC] benefits the Marine Corps because we have an opportunity to train in terrain that we might encounter in country.”

The incorporation of regional, joint and service-level training in MTX provides the tactical integration of a MAGTF, which consists of a ground combat element with one task organized maneuver battalion, a limited aviation combat element, and a logistics combat element comprised of a combat logistics detachment. During the exercise, 2/8 received the opportunity to implement tactics as the GCE of the MAGTF.

“The course was very challenging,” said Cpl. Ryan Boswell, squad leader, 2/8. “I’ve learned a lot about my abilities as a Marine and overall I think it was a great learning experience that enhances the readiness of my Marines and our unit.”



Marines from 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, observe the mountain they are about to scale during Mountain Training Exercise 4-17 aboard Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., August 1. Marines with 2/8, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., conducted the training in preparation for an upcoming deployment.



Lance Cpl. Aidan Blansfield, machine gunner, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, sets up security during Mountain Training Exercise 4-17 aboard Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., August 2.



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, hike during Mountain Training Exercise 4-17 aboard Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., August 2.



Pfc. William Brooks, machine gunner, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, sights in his M240B during Mountain Training Exercise 4-17 aboard Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., August 2.



Marines from 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, hike to a potential climbing route for their night climb during Mountain Training Exercise 4-17 aboard Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., August 1.

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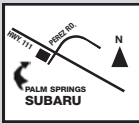


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# Shadow Mountain Branch Library hosts tech lab for children

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY PFC. MARGARET  
GALE

The Combat Center's Shadow Mountain Branch Library hosted a technical seminar called Space Maker Lab that allows children of military families from Tuesday through Thursday to learn how to develop application programs for mobile devices.

Shadow Mountain Branch Library, located in bldg. 692, is new to the Combat Center community and conducted the class to help foster excitement about the future of technology in children from military parents and open their minds to positive opportunities.

The three-day-long class is taught to school-aged children who know how to use an e-mail account. The average age of participants is 13 to 15 years old.

During the class, students learn about computer operations, programming and how to create applications. To graduate, students must receive a passing grade on the tests they took throughout the course and upload an app they created to the Google store.

"The idea is to spark innovation and get the children interested in science," said Maj. Terry Traylor, commander, Fardgo, N.D. U.S. Military Entrance Processing Command. "Children are able to come to [the Combat Center] and learn to cope, lead and build apps."

Marine Corps Community Services is the primary sponsor for the lab, but it is also supported by students at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School here and the Fabrication Laboratory.

"With the help of our sponsors, we are able to offer a hands-on class and

get children closer to the device," Traylor said.

The students are able to create applications which give them full authority over their final product and can be used as a recreational tool for their age group.

"I'm excited to graduate tomorrow," said Bryce Gussman, student, MSL. "It's fun and I'd recommend it to other kids."

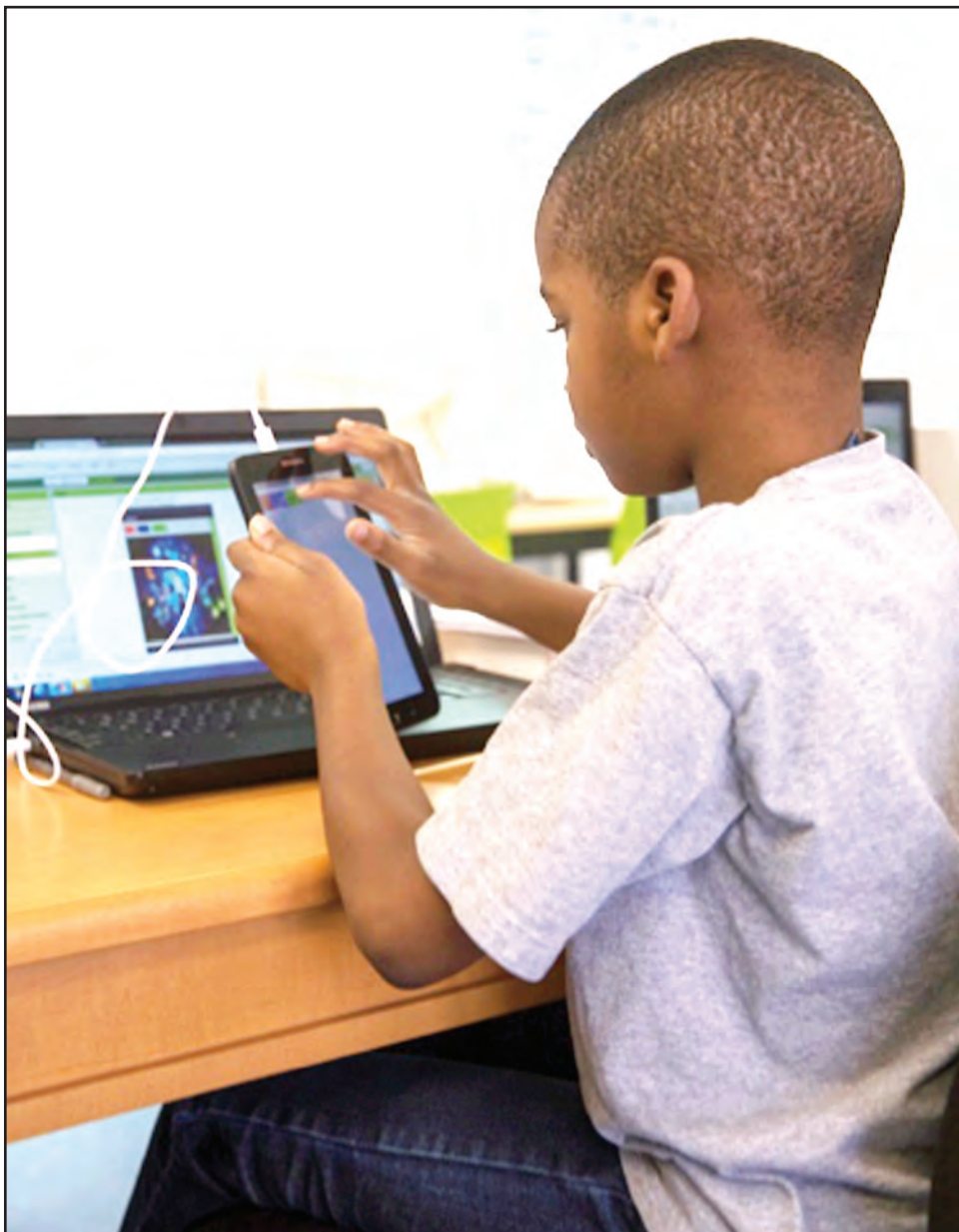
The library is open from Monday to Friday 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is closed on holidays. Shadow mountain provides additional programs on the last Wednesday and Friday of every month such as, Electronic Snap Circuit, Building Robotic Lego with Technology and Super Building Set, along with a summer reading program. For more information about the library's programs and initiatives, call 760-830-4265.



Alimat Adeniyi, branch manager, Shadow Mountain Branch Library, reviews previous work with Taylor Fourier, student, Maker Space Lab, at the Shadow Mountain Branch Library aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Wednesday. The library conducted the lab to foster excitement about the future of technology in children from military parents and open their minds to positive opportunities.



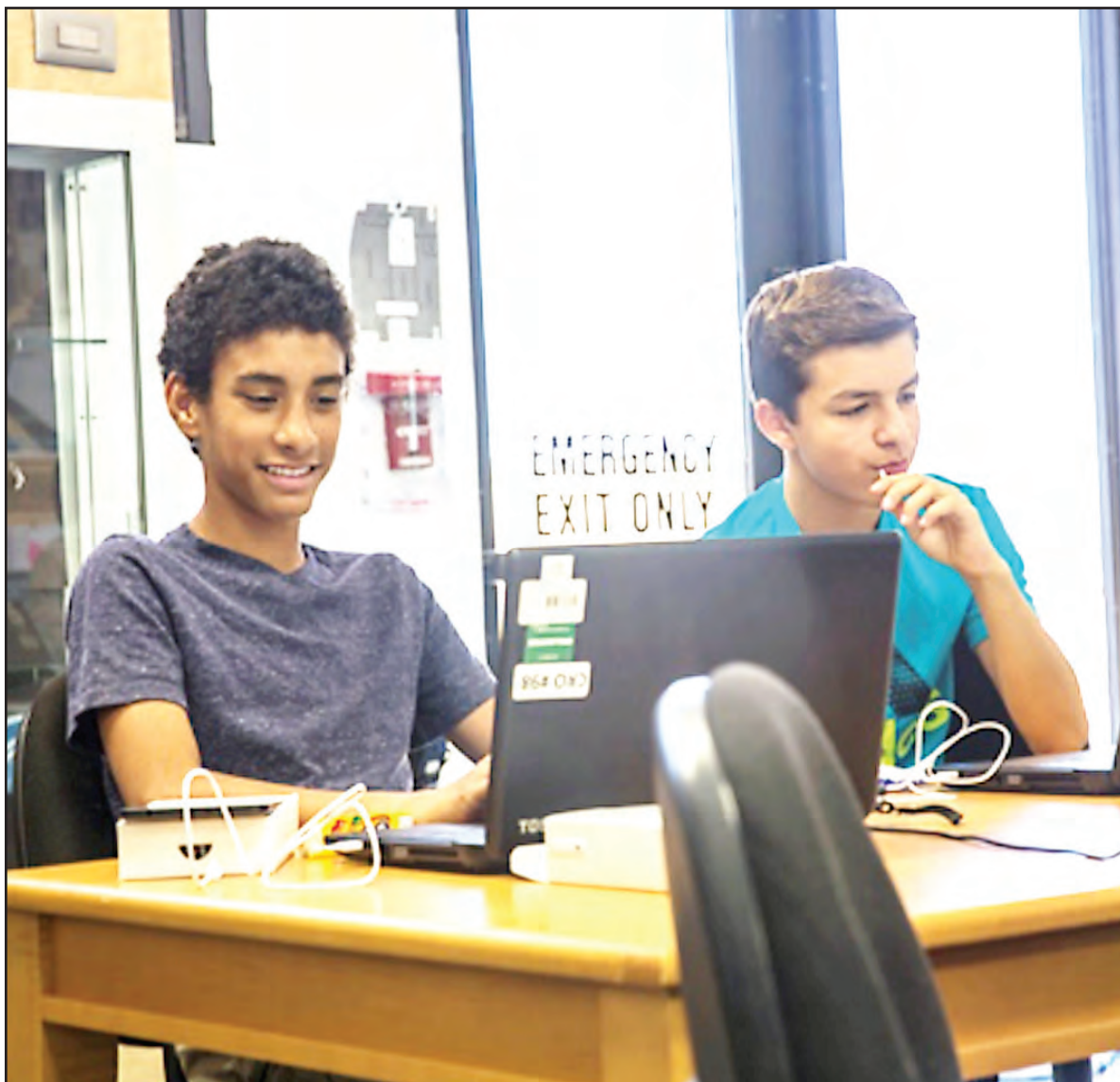
Moses Key, student, Maker Space Lab, shows his understanding of the class with two thumbs up at the Shadow Mountain Branch Library aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday.



Michael Adeniyi, student, Maker Space Lab, transfers a photo to his mobile device at the Shadow Mountain Branch Library aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday.



Students in the Maker Space Lab receive assistance on troubleshooting from instructors at the Shadow Mountain Branch Library aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday.



Jayden Pena and Bryce Gussman, students, Maker Space Lab, conduct research for the development of a meme at Shadow Mountain Branch Library aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday.



Sunset Cinema

Friday, August 11

6:30 p.m. — Marines Got Talent Show (FREE)

10:30 p.m. — The House, R

Saturday, August 12

12:00 p.m. — Baby Driver, R

2:30 p.m. — Despicable Me 3 (3-D), PG

4:50 p.m. — Spider-Man: Homecoming (3-D), PG

8:00 p.m. — Free Concert at Victory Field (Theater Closed)

Sunday, August 13

12:00 p.m. — Despicable Me 3, PG

2:10 p.m. — Spider-Man: Homecoming, PG13

5:20 p.m. — War for the Planet of the Apes (3-D), PG13

8:20 p.m. — Wish Upon, PG13

Monday, August 14

6:30 p.m. — Baby Driver, R

Tuesday, August 15

6:30 p.m. — The Big Sick, R

Wednesday, August 16

6:30 p.m. — The House, R

Thursday, August 17

6:30 p.m. — Transformers: The Last Knight, PG13

Friday, August 18

5:00 p.m. — Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets (3-D), PG13

7:50 p.m. — War for the Planet of the Apes (3-D), PG13

10:30 p.m. — Wish Upon, PG13

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# BEAT THE HEAT

## head to the pool

Beat the heat this summer by heading to one of the many pools aboard the Combat Center. The Officer's Club pool has lifeguards that are available to assist children who have trouble swimming. The family pool, located on Cottontail Road, offers swim lessons for non-swimmers. For swimmers who wish to swim competitively, the family pool also offers "team-ready" classes, which teach competitive strokes, starts, turns, and finishes.

The family pool will be hosting a

back to school party on Friday, August 11 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. There will be a barbecue and a chance to win prizes. On August 18, the pool will host a dive-in movie, showing "The Little Mermaid" at 8 p.m. On August 25, they will be showing "Moana" at 8 p.m.

The swim team will start after Labor Day, and is open for all swimmers between the ages of 5 and 18 years old.

The Training Tank is currently closed for renovations, and is expected to re-open in October.

### Officer's Club pool hours

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri

- Lap Swim: 5 a.m. to 7 a.m.
- Unit Training: 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- Open Swim: 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Mon-Fri

- Lap Swim: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sat/Sun

- Open Swim: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Closed Wednesdays

### Family Pool hours

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri

- 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sat/Sun

- 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed Tuesdays

For more information on the Officer's Club pool, call 760-830-7250. For more information on the Family Pool, call 760-830-6727. For more information on the Training Tank, call 760-830-6212.

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