



- 21-Minute Guns Salute 3A
- Lejeune High's girls soccer seniors 5A
- 2nd MEB-A 10 years later: Part 9 8A

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020 WWW.CAMPLEJEUNEGLOBE.COM

# The Marines have landed: SPMAGTF-CR-AF 20.2 takes over



U.S. Marines with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa 20.1, Marine Forces Europe and Africa, secure a cargo bundle during external lift training at Morón Air Base, Spain, March 25. Marines conducted the training to increase helicopter support team proficiency by expeditiously moving cargo and equipment. SPMAGTF-CR-AF is deployed to conduct crisis-response and theater-security operations in Africa and promote regional stability by conducting military-to-military training exercises throughout Europe and Africa.

### **1ST LT. GRACE JENKINS**

Sigonella, Italy

Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force -Crisis Response - Africa 20.2 ("20" for the fiscal year, "2" for the 2nd rotation of the year) has begun its rotational deployment, ready to respond to crises, protect U.S. citizens and carry out security assistance activities

bat element arrived May 11 and immediately began a 14-day quarantine period. Prior to release from quarantine, medical professionals of the 20.2 rotation collected nasopharyngeal specimens to screen for COVID-19. In accordance with Sicilian decrees, all arriving personnel must be tested for the virus. The swab tests

The new logistics com- Germany to test for the

SARS-CoV-2 virus. SPMAGTF-CR-AF is a contingent of over 700 Marines and Sailors located in Spain and Italy. The force is positioned to quickly respond to a broad spectrum of missions that range from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to providing military support to U.S. embassies and part-

The unit is a self-debile crisis response force allocated to U.S. Africa Command ready to respond to missions in both permissive and uncertain environments. These missions include contingency operations, theater security cooperation, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel, enabling operations and other missions as directed.

As a way to give back ploying, and highly mo- to the host nations, U.S. Marines and Sailors volunteer their free time to service the local communities in both Spain and Italy through community relations events. Most recently these events included video chats with local Sicilian school students in order to discuss American culture and preparing the Naval Air Station Sigonella High School

graduation ceremony. The United States is grateful to the governments and citizens of Spain and Italy for allowing us to station this important security reaction force at Morón Air Base and Naval Air Station Sigonella. These bases are strategically positioned, and have the critical infrastructure necessary to host SPMAGTF-CR-AF Marines and Sailors.



Photo by Cpl. Nello Miele

Lt. Col. Daniel Rosenberg, commanding officer of the Logistic Combat Element of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Crisis Response – Africa 20.1, Marine Forces Europe and Africa, speaks to locals during a community relations event in Modica, Italy, Jan. 27. SPMAGTF-CR-AF is deployed to conduct crisis-response and theater-security operations in Africa and promote regional stability by conducting military-to-military training exercises throughout Europe and Africa.



U.S. Marines and U.S. Navy Sailors with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Africa 20.1, Marine Forces Europe and Africa, and members of the Uganda People's Defence Force celebrate a job well-done in Camp Singo, Uganda, Feb. 7.

# Long Shooting, Leading, and LAVs

BY LANCE CPL. BRIAN BOLIN JR.

2nd Marine Division

Even with the official integrated of women serving in combat roles put in place by the U.S. Military in 2013, there are still numerous Military Occupational Specialties in the Marine Corps that are male dominated. Beating the odds, one Marine surpassed the expectations of her billet, rank, and unit.

U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Nicholle Miller, the intelligence officer with 2d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion (LAR), 2d Marine Division (MAR-DIV), earned recognition from the II Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) command staff and a spot in 2d MARDIV history as the first female officer to serve with any LAR battalion in the Marine Corps.

"I don't think of myself as the first female anything," said Miller. "I'm just another officer. I'm here to do a job and support my battalion as best I can."

A native of San Francisco, California, Miller always wanted to join the military. She applied

for a scholarship through Oregon State University's Naval Reserve Officer Corps Program when she decided to join the Marine Corps, and she soon began her studies towards a Bachelor of Science degree as a sociology major.

"When I spoke to recruiters from other services, they didn't have the same enthusiasm about what they did or the service that they joined," recalled Miller . "I didn't feel the same draw to them as I did to the Marine Corps."

After commissioning in 2013, Miller served as an air intelligence officer with Marine Air Group (MAG) 26, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing until 2018 when she checked into 2d LAR. While serving with 2d LAR, she participated in numerous field exercises and a deployment with Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response Africa where she took part in Operation Oak and Steel, gathering and managing intelligence for day-today operations.

"A lot of what I do as an intelligence officer is training and getting Ma-



Capt. Nicholle Miller poses for a photo on top of a Light Armored Vehicle-25 at Camp Lejeune, May 6. Miller is the first female officer to serve with an LAR unit in the Marine Corps

U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Nicholle Miller, the intelligence officer for 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion (LAR), 2d Marine Division poses for a photo.

rines ready to go out and support whatever mission they're a part of," said Miller. "Another part of what intel does in the field is collecting data from recon missions and telling the commanders where the enemy is so they get a better battlespace picture."

Aside from her intelligence skills, Miller made a name for herself in longshot marksmanship as well. In 2018, she and the MAG 26 shooting team won the Wirgman Trophy for small unit marksmanship excellence at the Eastern Division Competition. This earned her team a spot on the Eastern Division Rifle Team where they won the Inter-Division Rifle Team Trophy. From there, Miller received an invitation to augment the Marine Corps Shooting Team for their summer season but had to turn down the opportunity due to an upcoming deployment.

"It was a tremendous opportunity and I had a blast," Miller noted. "I believe that if you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life."

Miller intends to serve her country as long as she finds fulfillment in her daily work, but eventually plans to become a security manager in the civilian sector.

"I plan on staying in until I stop having fun, and I'm still having fun," said Miller with a smile.

"The feeling I get when I can help a Marine and get them to where they need to be is unmatched."

Miller motivates herself through the pride she has in her work and the motivation of her Marines. Her work in intelligence systems earned her a challenge coin and recognition from Lt. Gen. Brian D. Beaudreault, the commanding general of II MEF. Similarly, she motivates her Marines by caring for their wellbeing and ensuring they are mission ready at all times.

"I have a strict opendoor policy that if a Marine needs to talk, I never say no," said Miller. "If a Marine is overloaded and stressed, I'll give them the

day, and the rest of the Marines will divide and conquer the work they needed to get done that day. I'll move mountains to help my Marines."

Between her performance at work, on the range, and in the field, Miller contributes an exceptional amount of readiness to the Marines of 2d LAR and continues to excel in every aspect of her Marine Corps career. Regardless of being the first female officer in LAR, she is determined to make history again and again.

"At the end of the day, I'm here to be a Marine officer," Miller said sincerely. "I'm here to lead Marines, nothing else."

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\* Identifies a new business added since the last update of the Bulletin.

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**Commanding General** MCIEAST-MCB Camp Lejeune Maj. Gen. Julian D. Alford

**Communication Strategy** and Operations Director Nat Fahy nat.fahy@usmc.mil

Media and Digital Engagement Officer in Charge 1st Lt. Andrew Martino

andrew.martino@usmc.mil

Media and Digital Engagement Chief Staff Sgt. Jennifer Poole jennifer.poole@usmc.mil

> Managing Editor Pat Gruner

pgruner@camplejeuneglobe.com

**Graphic Designer** 

Shelly Fierro sbukoskey@camplejeuneglobe.com

**Sports Writer** Calvin Shomaker cshomaker@camplejeuneglobe.com

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### Lejeune Marines adjust training, bring virtual Lance Corporal **Seminar during COVID-19**

### BY CPL. KARINA **LOPEZMATA**

Marine Corps Installations

Across the Marine Corps, units have adjusted to meet training requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic and Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is no exception.

Marines with Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Installations East-Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune developed an opportunity for junior Marines to meet professional military education (PME) promotion requirements through virtual learning. U.S. Marine Corps Staff

Sgt. Hubert Robertson, assistant training chief, and Sgt. Christopher Whitby, watch chief with the Provost Marshal's Office, both with H&S Bn., collaborated on the idea for the online classroom for Marines attending the Lance Corporal's Leadership and Ethics Seminar on May 4, 2020.

must still complete the MARINENET "Leading Marines" courses.

Prior to attending the

online seminar, Marines

"It is still following the same, proper steps

to get into the course as it would be if you were going to the classroom course," Robertson said. "The only difference is the classroom is online."

Having access to the training allows Marines to complete the PME without impacting operations or interfering with their normal schedule.

"Because of this pandemic, Marines are not able to do certain things such as accessing in-person, group courses. The online course will not only help them advance in PME, but as Marines as well," Whitby said. "As an instructor, it is super important for us to grow the Marines and grow the organization. We need to make the Marines better and more prepared."

The online course allows the Marines to complete the seminar within four days with a fifth day added for graduation day. Marines are able to also access a digital workbook that provides the same information as the workbook in the classroom. Future courses will consist of 10 to 20 Marines with two instructors.

"It was not a surprise when I was told Sgt. Whitby was going to be an instructor for the upcoming seminar. His leadership and high level of motivation is the perfect fit for teaching this younger gen-eration of Marines," said 2nd Lt. Dillon Russell, a platoon commander with PMO. "Giving Marines the opportunity to continue their personal and professional education, despite this pandemic, will better them and the Corps as a whole."

Marines enroll in the virtual seminar and access the course through Google drive by any personal electronic device using an email and password given to the Marines prior to beginning the seminar.

"Staff Sgt. Robertson's level of energy is a huge source of inspiration for those around him. It's no surprise to me at all that he would come up with such an efficient way of mission accomplishment," said Col. Amy R. Ebitz, commanding officer, H&S Bn. "He is a mentor to many and developed this online course as a way to ensure that Marines would have the opportunity to complete their PME in this constrained environment. Where some see challenges, he sees opportunity."



U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Hubert Robertson, left, S-3 assistant training chief, and Sgt. Christopher Whitby, right, watch chief with Provost Marshal Office, both with Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Installations East-Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, pose for a photo at building 8 on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, May 13. Robertson and Whitby collaborated together and presented a new digital classroom for Marines attending Lance Corporals Leadership and Ethics Seminar.



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21-Minute Guns Salute on Camp Lejeune, May 25.

2nd Marine Division holds

21-Minute Guns Salute on

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# 2nd MEB completes deployment in support of national COVID-19 response



2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade Marines and Sailors return to Marine Corps Air Station New River, May 19, after providing Department of Defense support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the whole-of-nation COVID-19 Response.

U.S. Marine Maj. Gen. Stephen M. Neary, 2nd Marine Expedi-

tionary Brigade commanding general, conducts COVID-19 screening procedures.

### BY CAPT. MATTHEW FINNERTY

II Marine Expeditionary

Marines and Sailors with 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, who formed the command element for U.S. Northern Command's COVID-19 response in the Northeast United States, returned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., May 19, 2020.

The Task Force Northeast Command Element coordinated U.S. Northern Command-assigned medical support in the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont as well as the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The task force provided command and control

for Title 10 forces in the region, facilitated logistical and medical supply requirements, and increased medical capacity with U.S. Army Urban Augmentation Medical Task Forces, a U.S. Navy Expeditionary Medical Facility, and U.S. Air Force Re-

serve medical personnel. "Our task force's expeditionary capabilities supported local, state and federal agencies as part of a whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Maj. Gen. Stephen M. Neary, TF Northeast commanding general and 2nd MEB general. commanding "Our ability to rapidly deploy and employ a joint team from across the military services with unique, mission-enhancing support serves as a testament to the professionalism and readiness of the U.S. military."

The Marines and Sailors from 2nd MEB arrived in the TF Northeast area of responsibility April 10 after official notification and a rapid deployment process of less than 96 hours. The small team of less than 50 service members deployed from Camp Lejeune aboard MV-22b Osprey aircraft from the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing to travel more than 700 miles to Fort Devens, Massachusetts. Once established in the region, 2nd MEB served as the core of the task force with active and reserve support from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

"Task Force Northeast synchronized geographically dispersed organiza-

tions with diverse experiences and expertise to set conditions for our states and territories to sustain their recovery," said Col. Edward J. Healey, chief of staff, TF Northeast and 2nd MEB. "Working with civilian, government and military organizations in a dynamically changing operational environment like this one required capabilities from across the Department of Defense."

During the past two years, 2nd MEB executed numerous training events and exercises to hone its ability to command and control U.S. and international military forces from NATO allies and partners. Lessons from working with other nations to bridge language barriers, navigate cultural nuances, and accomplish the collective mission transferred to more effective support for local, state and federal requirements.

"Across the United States and Europe, 2nd MEB consistently rehearsed our ability to globally deploy, employ and redeploy an expeditionary command and control element," said Col. Garrett L. Benson, TF Northeast and 2nd MEB assistant chief of staff for operations. "The experience we gained and successes we achieved while working with our European allies and partners better prepared us to provide support during this pandemic.'

The Marines' experience on overseas Exercises Trident Juncture 18, Baltic Operations 2019, Trident Jupiter 19.1 and Maritime Prepositioning Force Exercise 20 all contributed to 2nd MEB's ability to rapidly deploy to support the whole-of-government response to COVID-19. Those same experiences also helped prepare the command to work shoulder-to-shoulder with Americans to save lives.

"As the U.S. continues combatting COVID-19 and 2nd MEB completes our portion of the national response, which brought together so many selfless Americans, we will ensure we return a healthy force and remain postured to respond to the next mission," said Neary. "Even during this pandemic, the Marine Corps stands ready to answer the nation's call and support our allies and partners abroad."

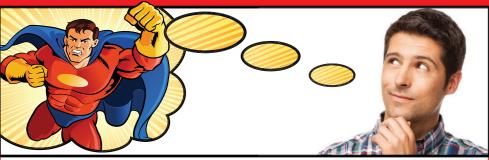
# **Onslow Beach reopens**



Photo by Lance Cpl. Isaiah Gomez

U.S. Marines with Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune patrol Onslow Beach to enforce social distancing and limit the spread of COVID-19 on MCB Camp Lejeune, May 16. With the safety of Marines, Sailors and families a continuing priority, MCB Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River have begun a measured approach to reopen some non-essential services while remaining within Department of Defense, federal, state and local guidelines.





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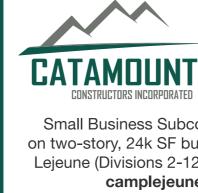
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Sports

A conversation with two Marine Corps boxers



WWW.CAMPLEJEUNEGLOBE.COM
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

# Meet Lejeune High's girls soccer seniors

# Honoring Lejeune's spring sports seniors

BY CALVIN SHOMAKER
Sports Writer

The 2020 Lejeune High School girls soccer team had tremendous potential. When the season was suspended on March 13,

the Lady Pups were dominating their opponents and had an undefeated record of 3-0.

The Lejeune offense had netted 18 goals in just three

outings, including 12 from senior Georgia Lee, and senior goalkeeper Kayla Lazaro had given up just one goal to the oppositions. No doubt, Coach Charles Teegarden and his team had their sights set on a deep

playoff run this spring.

Despite the unfortunate cancellation of the season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these seniors ended their high school careers in rare fashion with an undefeated season. Things didn't go as planned, but the Lady Pups accomplished what they could, while they could.

These seniors will never get to play another soccer match for LHS, and maybe never again experience team sports quite like they did at LHS, but they will leave behind an indelible impact on the school and its soccer program which will be felt for years to come.



The Lejeune High School girls soccer team poses for a photo at a practice in February.



### **Kaitlyn Day**

- Plans to attend Campbellsville University to play soccer and pursue a career as a middle school English teacher
- Favorite LHS memories include meeting her best friends and playing soccer for Coach Teegarden



### Savannah Gomez

- Plans to attend New Mexico State University to major in athletic training
- Favorite LHS memories include making friends through soccer and yearbook



### **Marie Kristensen**

- Plans to attend UNC Wilmington for one year before continuing her education in Norway and pursuing a career as a nurse
- Favorite LHS memories include making friends and playing basketball and soccer



### Kayla Lazaro

- Plans to attend Campbell University to major in English Education on an Army ROTC Scholarship before pursuing a career as an Army Officer
- Favorite LHS memory was doing the LHS talent show with her mom



### Lu Le

- Plans to attend Virginia Commonwealth University to major in visual arts before pursuing a career as a museum curator
- Favorite LHS memories include playing three years of soccer and bonding with teammates



### **Georgia Lee**

- All-Conference in 2019
- Plans to attend Abilene Christian University to major in special education
- Favorite LHS memories include going to states for track, scoring six goals in a match and playing for great coaches



### **Ashley Tagle**

- Plans to attend the University of Delaware as a
   World Scholar to major in human services
- Favorite LHS memory is the great friendships made



Photo by Ken Buday LHS seniors Georgia Lee, left, and Ashley Tagle (No. 11) celebrate Lee's goal during a match against Southwest Onslow in

Photos by Globe Staff or Lejeune Yearbook

April, 2019

# ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



### LANCE CPL. ANISSIA THOMPSON

### **Sport:** Boxing MOS: 0671, Data Systems Administrator **Quick Facts:**

- G-3 with II MEF Headquarters
- · Key West, Florida native by way of Jamaica
- Started boxing in December, 2019
- · Won first-ever match by TKO in the first round

### Q: HOW DID YOU BECOME A MA-**RINE BOXER?**

A: I was sitting in Coach Cline's office at the ID Center waiting for him to come in. I was looking at all the pictures and the boxing gloves, and I felt motivated. When I joined the Marine Corps, I heard about all these sports and boxing was one that I really wanted to get into, but I didn't know how. He said, 'Why don't you come to the gym sometime?' I went, and I liked it.

### Q: WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST **ABOUT BOXING?**

A: For me it's physical and mental. It pushes me, and Coach gives us all the opportunities to be a leader. It challenges us. I love becoming stronger and feeling accomplishment within myself.

### Q: WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORT-ANT ATTRIBUTE A BOXER MUST

A: Tenacity. Every day is a learning curve. You learn new techniques of defense and offense, new exercises, and when you get in a ring you have to be on your feet and be a quick thinker.

### Q: WHAT ARE YOU TRAINING

A: I just want to be stronger and get hit less. I want to go out there know-

ing that I am doing it right and that I am going to come out on top.

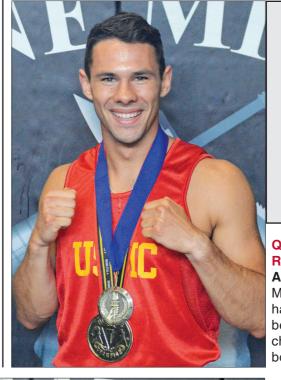
### Q: IS THERE A QUOTE OR A MOTTO THAT HELPS YOU THROUGH TOUGH

A: You have to want it as much as you want to breathe.

### Q: WHAT HAVE YOU BENEFITED MOST FROM BEING ON THE MARINE **CORPS BOXING TEAM?**

A: The opportunity and great mentorship. It's great interacting with everyone from different sides of the Marine Corps and sharing that experience together as Marine Corps boxers.

### LANCE CPL. LIAM GROGAN



**Sport:** Boxing MOS: 0311, Infantry Rifleman **Quick Facts:** • G-3 with Headquarters Divi-

- sion
- 2019 International Champion vs. British Royal Marines in Virginia Gauntlet at MCB Quantico
- Buffalo, New York native
- · Has boxed for about six years

### Q: HOW DID YOU BECOME A MA-**RINE BOXER?**

A: I was at a gym sparring and Coach Michael Cline took a look at me. I had a lot of things that needed to be worked out, and he took that and changed it. He took me from a good boxer and now is making me great.

### Q: WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST **ABOUT BOXING?**

A: I like to compete. I am a competitive person. It's a great sport, it keeps you in good shape and it's fun.

### Q: WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORT-**ANT ATTRIBUTE A BOXER MUST** HAVE?

A: You have to be driven. You have to really want to motivate yourself, and you also need to be coachable.

### Q: IS THERE A QUOTE OR MOT-TO THAT HELPS YOU THROUGH **TOUGH TIMES?**

A: The strong get stronger and the weak get weaker.

### Q: WHAT ARE YOU TRAINING

A: I like to be conditioned. I want to always be ready for a fight. I'm always U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Anissia Thompson, left, and Lance Cpl. Liam Grogan, right, pose for a training to support the Marine Corps. Whenever I step into that ring, I am representing the Marine Corps and I

don't want to let them down. When I put that USMC boxing shirt on and go into that ring, I'm not only fighting for myself but I'm fighting for the Marine Corps, my teammates and coach.

### Q: WHAT HAVE YOU BENEFITED MOST FROM BEING ON THE MARINE **CORPS BOXING TEAM?**

A: I never thought I'd have this opportunity when I joined the Marine Corps. I kind of put boxing on the backburner, but once I got here I was grateful enough that the coach saw something that he liked. That international win was something I'll probably never experience ever again. I'm thankful and blessed to have that opportunity that coach gave me.

If you'd like to nominate an area athlete for Athlete of the Week, email cshomaker@camplejeuneglobe.com. Nominations must have connections to the local military community.

photo with the Marine Corps Boxing Team's head coach Michael Cline, a retired sergeant major.



For more information on games, tryouts, special events and exercise classes around MCB Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, check out Sports on Tap each week. To add your activity, call (910) 451-7421. Availability is limited to space. To add your event to our website calendar, visit

www.camplejeuneglobe.com.

### \$5 Fridays Archery Day Pass

Fridays through July 3, 10:00 a.m., to 4:00 p.m., McIntyre-Parks Recreational Shooting Complex,

### R-100 Old Sawmill Rd, MCB Camp Lejeune

Special does not include a bow rental. Event is open to all authorized patrons and their guests. Remember to use proper social distancing measures as required by the base and MCCS. For more info, call (910) 451-3889 or visit www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/

### Globe & Anchor Championship

Saturday, June 13, 9 a.m. to June 14, Paradise Point Golf Course, MCB Camp Lejeune

This 36-hole stroke play event is scored by both gross and net. Cost is \$25 per golfer plus cart and greens fee. The tournament is open to the public and a USGA handicap is required. Register by June 10. For more information, call (910) 451-5445.

### Customer Appreciation Day Every Thursday, all day, Paradise Point Golf Course, MCB Camp Lejeune

Enjoy an 18-hole round of golf for just \$23 with a cart included each Thursday. Golfers should be aware of the course's social distancing rules implemented. For more info, visit www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/ golf or call (910) 451-5445.

### Paradise Point Open

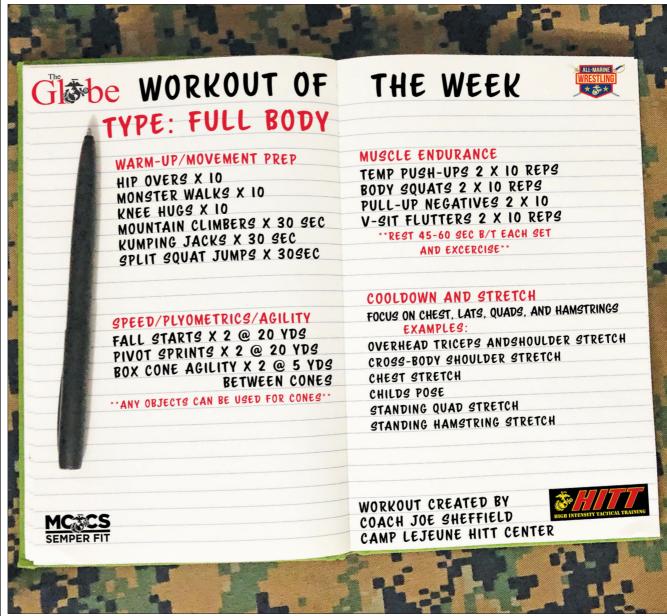
(910) 451-5445.

Saturday, July 11, 9 a.m. to July 12 Paradise Point Golf Course, MCB Camp Lejeune

Register by July 8 to compete in this event consisting of two 18-hole rounds scored by stroke play, gross and net. USGA handicap required. Cost is \$25 per golfer plus cart and greens fee. For more info, call

# Workout of the Week

Courtesy of the All-Marine Wrestling Team, Camp Lejeune High Intensity Tactical Training and MCCS Semper Fit



To see U.S. Greco-Roman National Team member Capt. Peyton Walsh demonstrate this week's full body workout with the help of former All-Marine wrestler and HITT instructor Joe Sheffield, visit the Camp Lejeune Globe Facebook page, click the "Videos" tab and find the video titled Workout of the Week (Full Body).

# Help Keep Local Business Going.

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WWW.CAMPLEJEUNEGLOBE.COM THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

PART 9

# 10 years later, 2nd MEB-A remembers service in Afghanistan



Sgt. Mason L. Crawford, squad leader, Guard Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, calls firing commands in Pashto, and observes Sayed Alim of the Afghan National Army, as he fires on targets near Forward Operating Base Geronimo, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Dec. 14, 2009. Marines drilled ANA soldiers in marksmanship and conducted patrols alongside them during their time in Afghanistan.

### BY PAT GRUNER

Managing Editor

From May 29, 2009 to April 12, 2010 the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade was deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Over the course of that year, Marines would establish expeditionary installations, train Afghan police and soldiers, take back Taliban-controlled strategic hubs and lay down for posterity new operating procedures for the U.S. Marine Corps.

### Part 9: "The little BHG that could"

A good Brigade Headquarters Group (BHG) is essential to any MEB undertaking. Ensuring that Marines and Sailors are fed and have facilities was especially important in the deserts of Afghanistan, where a sharp, well-fed mind could make a difference in a combat situation. However, as an ad hoc unit, the staff of Task Force Belleau Wood, the BHG attached to 2nd MEB-A, saw a need to provide other services to Camp Leatherneck and Camp Dwyer.

"We liked to call ourselves the little BHG that could," said Col. Brian Russell, operations officer

for U.S. Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command. Russell served as the Executive Officer for 5th Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment before serving in the same role for the BHG. "We were at Twenty-nine Palms in January of 2009 shooting artillery when I got the call to get back to Jacksonville. We had to go to Afghanistan as a BHG. The first question we asked was, 'What's a BHG?'"

5-10 was a quick study, however, and Russell reported to now-retired U.S. Marine Corps Col. Chris Naler, the commanding officer of the BHG. Naler had three missions in mind - keeping Marines fed and facilities cleaned, securing installations and ensuring a system of governance for the bases. That meant appointing a "camp commandant" for Leatherneck.

"Capt. Kieran O'Neil was the mayor of Leatherneck," Russell explained. "O'Neil and his band of merry men kept things flowing and made sure Marines were policing themselves. It's a lot easier to keep the Port-A-Johns in order and the chow moving when Marines are taking care of themselves."

Dwyer was another story, having been established prior to the MEB's

surge into Afghanistan. To maintain security, 5-10's Romeo Battery was appointed to assist British allies with the transition of command. Fox Battery was appointed to Leatherneck. Naler describes the process of keeping up with expansion as a daunting task.

"As the camp expanded from March 2009 when our Advon arrived... the camp was nothing but a good idea as the dust blew from Bastion 2 west to what would become Camp Leatherneck. Our mobile defense and presence in surrounding nomadic villages and eventual build and manning of PB Boldak 9kms south of LNK, kept the enemy from penetrating our Dwyer camp."

The artillery Marines at Dwyer found an interesting task of ensuring the transi-

tion from the Brits. "We were moved to establish security at what would become Dwyer," recalls Lt. Col. Matthew Hawkins, Regimental XO, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. Hawkins was the battery commander for Romeo. "We were building what would become the AC-130 landing zone and worked under a British cavalry and reconnaissance battalion. Dwyer was used for our push into

Garmsir and Nawa. Initially, 30 or 40 Marines were in a platoon flown down to Dwyer to start transferring control from the British. We ended with about 140 handling security... At the time, it was one of the few bases we had further north. In terms of logistics and supplies, we relied on the Brits initially. There was also an excellent group of Navy Seabees. When the MEB surged, the U.S. resumed control."

Hawkins recalls a particularly fruitful traffic stop conducted by a sergeant early on in his time at Dwyer.

'On a transit route that led from the Pakistan/ Afghanistan border to most major population zones, we stopped a small pickup truck," Hawkins said. "Turns out, they were transporting what I would call 'pre-cursors,' chemicals or what have you, to what could be bombs or other IEDs they were trying to move into those populated areas. The vehicle was having some sort of issue and the young NCO's took note. It really showed us that we were in the right area. ... All the things we were able to accomplish, I would put on the NCO's we worked with as well as support from leadership. That's what we saw throughout that deployment - sergeants and corporals doing exceptionally well and maintaining security for our Marines and installations."

Working with allies, especially at Leatherneck, was essential to mission success.

"We knew going in we would have to coordinate with the UK and Royal Air Force (RAF) to maintain security," Russell said. "We built a very early relationship with the RAF and, by the end of the deployment, had established a combined ops center with them. The Afghan National Army camp was a sort of tri-camp with Leatherneck and Bastion, and their guys served

as garrison support units. We worked extensively with them in the field.'

Danish advisors also assisted with ANA forces in an advisory role. A plaque depicting the alliances that made the MEB's mission possible, thanks in part to the BHG, can still be seen at at the Follow Me Bar at the Paradise Point Officers Club on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

Naler looks back on the work of 2nd MEB-A and TF Belleau Wood with pride.

"Yes, I am still proud of the success of our command and the variety of missions we designed, pioneered and successfully executed," Naler said. "We would have not been successful without our partnered and coalition forces. Ironically, I teach twice a year in Germany at the NATO school Oberammergau and my case study is this deployment and good and bad experiences of our mini-coalition."



**Courtesy Photo** 



# Happy 40th anniversary wishes to these movies

ED CAVARIIC

More Content Now

As the days and nights without movie theaters slog along, and the only way to see the paltry number of new releases is on the stream, in the living room, we film critics - feel free to call us film addicts - are desperately searching for ways to scratch that infernal itch.

So, we focus on old movies. We catch up on ones we missed, we revisit ones we loved, and we make lists, for you: Best science fiction films, best teen angst films, best films with car chases featuring AMC Gremlins, best films starting with the letter Q ("Q: The Winged Serpent?" "Quadrophenia?" "Quest for Fire?").

Today's exercise is the first of a three-part series that will celebrate big anniversaries. Today, we focus on movies that, in 2020, have turned or will turn 40 years old, along with totally subjective suggestions to either see them or avoid them. Between

"Raging Bull"

cable TV, internet library services, and streaming platforms, they're all available for viewing.

MOVIES FROM 1980 TO WATCH AND WATCH AGAIN:

"Airplane!" - The best, rudest, silliest disaster movie ever made. A passenger plane is in trouble. Serious actors play goofily against type to save it. Joke targets include nuns, suicide, drug abuse, and inflatable dolls.

"9 to 5" - Alas, there's still a need for a dark revenge comedy about women in an office being humiliated and demeaned by their unapologetically sexist boss because, unfortunately, the issue is still relevant today.

"Stardust Memories"
- Woody Allen's self-deprecating black-and-white comedy about how insignificant his own early comedies are and how foolish the adoration of celebrity can be still is one of his best, oddest, and most overlooked films

"The Empire Strikes Back" - It's still the best

ary ng avail-**ND** 



"Airplane

"Star Wars" movie. End of discussion.

"The Stunt Man" - A right place-right time (or is it wrong place-wrong time?) scenario has a guy who's on the run from cops stumbling into a job as a movie stuntman, then discovering that his dictatorial director has no

qualms about putting him in danger.

MOVIES TO EXPERIENCE AT LEAST ONCE:

"Altered States" - Ken Russell directs the Paddy Chayefsky science-fiction novel about sensory deprivation, hallucinatory drugs and evolution. "The Elephant Man"

- David Lynch tells the true story of John Merrick, a kind and intelligent, but horribly disfigured and reviled man whose life is turned around by a doctor. "Heaven's Gate" - This

gorgeous, sprawling, three-and-a-half-hour tale of a late 19th-century war between cattle owners and immigrant farmers failed at the box office, and is still berated as being "boring." But not by me.

"Mad Max" - In post-apocalyptic Australia, a good cop loses his partner and his family to a vicious motorcycle gang. The rest of this bleak, gritty, mesmerizing movie is about the sweet taste of revenge.

"Melvin and Howard" - It's a dramatic and comedic telling of the unlikely relationship between Howard Hughes and Melvin Dummar, who claimed to be the rightful heir to the Hughes fortune.

"Raging Bull" - Martin Scorsese's look at the fiery life of boxer Jake LaMotta isn't the most pleasant of moviegoing experiences, but Robert De Niro, in the title role, certainly deserved his Best Actor Oscar.

"Used Cars" - Before Robert Zemeckis made effects-driven movies, he did some quirky comedy-dramas, like this one about politicians, used car salesmen, "accidents" and turf wars. MOVIES THAT ARE OVERRATED THAT, IF YOU HAVEN'T AL-READY SEEN THEM, SHOULD BE AVOIDED:

"The Blues Brothers" -It's a sloppy, erratic mess from beginning to end

"Caddyshack" - Has there ever been a stupider movie? (Sorry if I've offended you.)

"Can't Stop the Music" - All disco, all the time. Please stop the music.

"Xanadu" - Or, as I like to call it, "Xanadon't."

Editor's note: More Content Now, is a media news service providing a variety of lifestyle, niche and partner content for GateHouse publications. The opinion of the writer does not constitute the views or endorsement of the Department of Defense, the U.S. Marine Corps, or Gate House Media.



[United Artists]

# You are right where you are supposed to be CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN BY IT. JG MICHAEL BOWEN MCAS NEW RIVER MCAS NEW RIVER

Few Sailors and Marines lie awake in their racks at Boot Camp. Maybe for the first time in their lives, exhausted recruits find that they can sleep on command, in any position, at any time of day or night, almost like turning off a light switch. It's not uncommon to hear two comrades-at-arms comparing stories over chow about the most unlikely occasion during which they caught a few winks. Some can even boast the gold standard—snoozing while standing in formation.

However, after the feverish pace of Boot Camp ends, sleep can be harder to come by. Marines and Sailors at their first command finally have a chance to slow down, to "take out

their soul and look at it."

In those early months after Parris Island or Great Lakes, when the pace of life slows, there is more time to miss family, to miss home and to wonder where you'd be or what you'd be doing if you had never signed on the dotted line and raised your right hand. Dwelling on this can make sleep, which was once so easy to steal, a little harder to come by.

Everyone second-guess-

little harder to come by.
Everyone second-guesses the choices they've made from time to time.
From purchasing a vehicle to getting married, we wonder what would have happened if we had gone left instead of right. On those nights when we're particularly bothered and sleep won't come, we might wonder if we

are really where we are

innosed to be

supposed to be. The Bible teaches that wherever we are, it is where we're meant to be. Paul said that God, our creator, chose when in history we would be born and where we would dwell. He did this so that we would seek God and live in him. We don't always know in the moment "why" we are in the present situation, but we can trust that God is sovereign over it and it was orchestrated "for our good."

I think about Joseph, who found himself betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery in Egypt. After rising up the slave ranks, he was wrongly accused and tossed into

jail, where he spent many

years, perhaps wondering

why his life had gone the

way it did. But in time, circumstance led him to be found by the king and raised up to govern Egypt through a tumultuous time in her history. He didn't know at the time of trial what God was doing, but looking back on the winding road, he could say "God meant it for good, and to save his people."

Let us, then, be encouraged, trusting that wherever we are, it is the right place. That whatever stirred in us the desire to join up was a God-given motive. That it was not a detailer or monitor that dropped us here at random, but the Almighty who carefully set us in a

should come easier.

time and place that would render the most good.
With this in mind, sleep

# COVID-19

All updates involving MCIEAST and NMCCL will be posted here:

- www.lejeune.marines.mil/
- www.newriver.marines.mil/
- www.med.navy.mil/sites/ nhcl/Pages/default.aspx



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# MORE INFO

For additional guidance on COVID-19, please visit www.coronavirus.gov

# School board approves 2020-2021 calendar

### STAFF REPORTS

Onslow County Board of Education board members have unanimously approved a revised calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. The calendar revisions were made in response to Senate Bill 704 which was signed into law by Governor Cooper, May 4. Included in the bill, were provisions affect-

ing school calendars for the upcoming academic year. Changes required districts to develop plans for remote learning. Calendars were required to set aside five days for remote learning.

The first day of school has been moved to Aug. 17. Semester course exams will be completed on Friday, December 18, and the last day for students will be May 28, 2021, the Friday before Memorial Day.

The district's two yearround schools, Clyde Erwin Elementary and Northwoods Elementary, to a traditional calendar for the 2020-2021 school year.

"Due to the large number of questions surrounding fall school re-entry, staff recommended making the move from year-round to

traditional for the upcoming school year," said Brent Anderson, OCS chief communication officer.

"The change will give our families a definite start date for school and make preparations for the fall more effective and efficient for district and school staff as we work on plans for safely reopening in the fall."

Parents who chose to

attend either Clyde Erwin Elementary or Northwoods Elementary through the district's magnet process will be given the opportunity to work with their child's school if they wish to make a change to their decision because of the calendar revision.

"While it was not an easy process, we wanted to move forward with a deci-

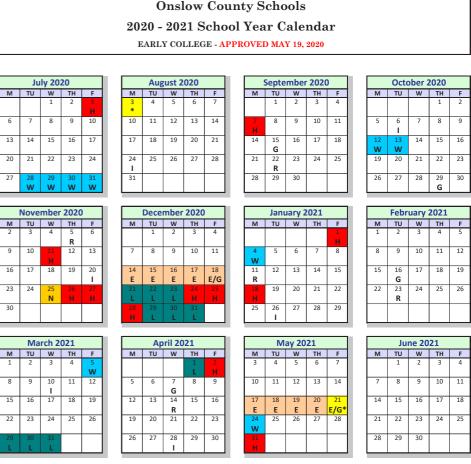
sion to allow our parents. staff, and community time to prepare," said Dr. Barry Collins, OCS superintendent. "We appreciate their support and understanding and know that having a date for the planned start of school gives everyone, especially our military-connected families, time to make important decisions for the fall."



Remote Workday (RW) - Virtual for students and workday for staff.

 ${\sf Make-up\ days\ may\ be\ \underline{Teacher\ Workdays},\ \underline{Leave\ Days},\ \underline{Remote\ Professional\ Development\ Days},}$ 

Remote Workdays or Professional Development Days. Additional days to be determined as needed



Holidays - No school for students and all staff. Teacher Workday - No school for students. Leave Day - No school for students and 10-month staff

**Remote Instructional Days** 

Remote Professional Development Day (RPD) - Virtual for students and half-day professional development workday for staff. Remote Workday (RW) - Virtual for students and workday for staff.

No Days - No school for students and all staff.

Make-up days may be Teacher Workdays, Leave Days, Remote Professional Development Days, or Remote Workdays. Additional days te be determined as needed

First Day for Students Holiday Leave Day Exam Day Remote Day (RW) No Day

### Children craft comfort banner for NMCCL employees

G End Grading Perio



A banner made by the children of Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune emergency department employees hangs at NMCCL, May 20. The banner was hung in the employees' workspace to provide a sense of comfort and gratitude amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Vigilance urged for survivors amid COVID-19 pandemic

### Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits may be forfeited without proper vigilance amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

BY PAT GRUNER Managing Editor

DIC is a tax-free monetary benefit generally payable to a surviving spouse, child or parent of service members who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training or to survivors of veterans who died from their service-connected disabilities. However, the cause

of death must be in some way linked to service-connected disabilities in order for a survivor to receive DIC.

"The problem is, in certain areas, due to (COVID-19), a lot of people like morticians or coroners may not be familiar with military protocol," said Lou Alers, retired

affairs officer, Marine

"If a cause of death is

Corps Installations East.

listed only as 'COVID-19' then a spouse will not be eligible for DIC. Veterans will still receive military honors but survivors will not be eligible for DIC." Alers explained that

COVID-19 presents a worrisome hurdle.

"For instance, if the cause of death was a heart attack: In the military, if the service member was treated for high blood pressure or

had hypertension, type 2 diabetes or so on while they served, then you can tie it back to the service." for the spouse.

Alers elaborated. "If it is only listed as COVID-19, then nothing can be done Spouses are urged to closely review paperwork associated with the deceased's passing, particularly the death certificate,

and speak with profes-

sionals if they see an

issue with the certificate. "All retirees should ensure that their loved ones know that you can have more than one contributing factor on causes listed on a death certificate," Alers said. "During these unknown times we must be extra keen and aware of all paperwork. It will impact the lives of those that remain behind... Spouses should be prepared to look at and re-

view the death certificate to fix it (after first review) rather than taking it home and sending it through all these channels before you hear that Veterans Affairs does not connect it as service related.'

For more information about the VA's approach to COVID-19, visit https://www. va.gov/coronavirus-veteran-frequently-asked-questions/.

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