



## TIP OF THE SPEAR

### WAVES OF ROK, U.S. MARINES ROLL ONTO BEACH

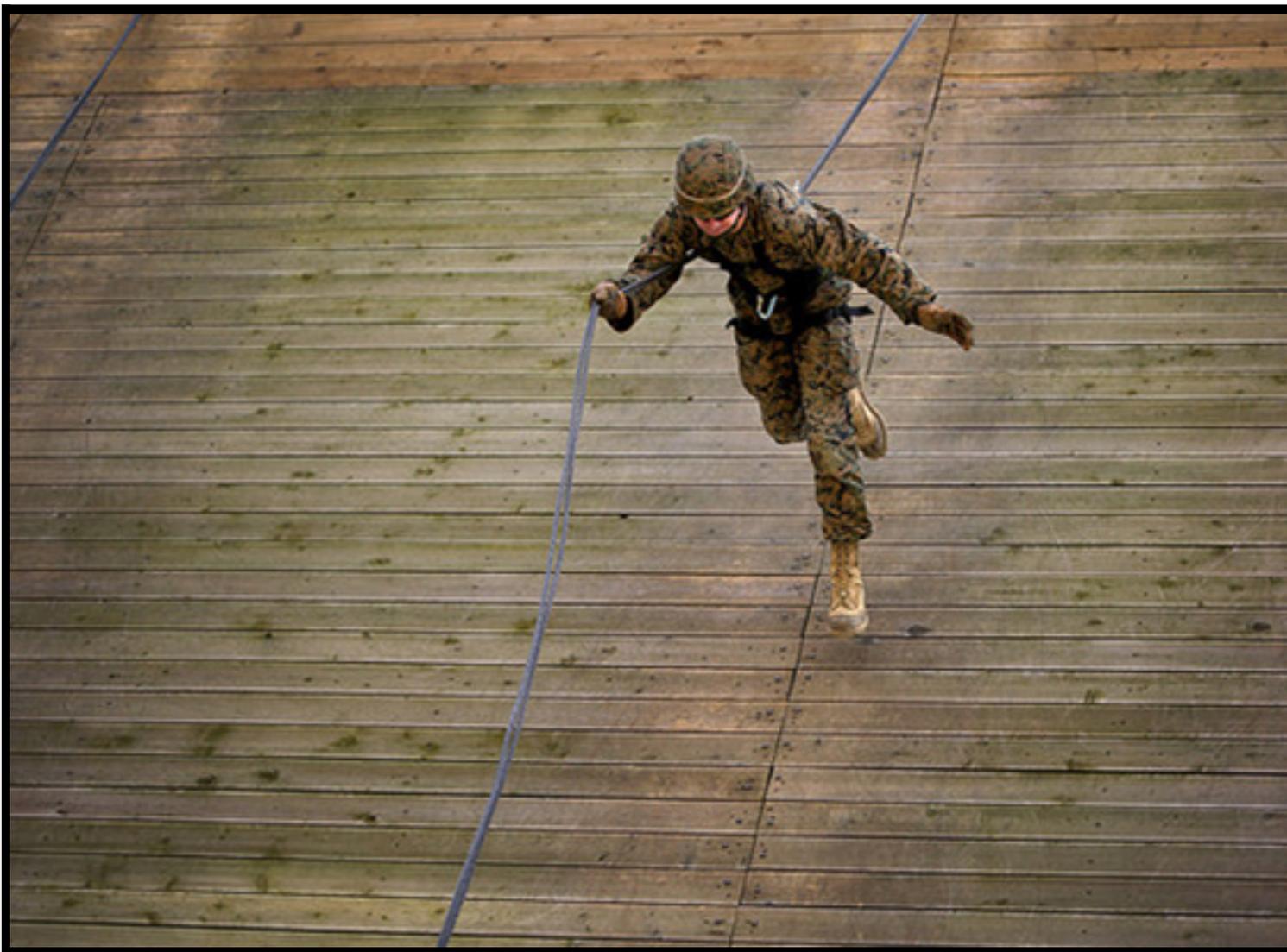


United States Marines joined Republic of Korea (ROK) and Australian armed forces to demonstrate combined amphibious landing capabilities during Ssang Yong 2014 in Pohang, ROK. Ssang Yong 14 incorporates more than 13,600 U.S. and ROK Navy-Marine and Australian Army forces, and effectively demonstrates the unique abilities of forward-deployed Marine Air-Ground Task Forces with allied partners. The day's exercise began with simulated explosives rounds detonating a few feet from the shoreline as U.S. Marine AV-8B Harriers and MV-22 Ospreys provided air support. As wave after wave of amphibious assault vehicles approached

the beach, a thick smoke screen was deployed to conceal the exact scale of the oncoming force. Waiting to engage the Marines on the beach were Marines, both U.S. and ROK, acting as the opposition force to add intense realism to the training, which commanders view as vital to mission readiness. [Read more](#)



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Justin A. Green rappels down a 50-foot tower March 18 during the first day of the three-day Mountain Warfare Training Course at the Mountain Warfare Training Center in Pohang, Republic of Korea (ROK). During the training, ROK Marines instructed U.S. Marines in Australian rappelling which is used as a military assault technique where the Marine faces down the descent and is positioned to fire a weapon downwards. *(Photo by Lance Cpl. Cedric R. Haller II)*



## IN THE NEWS

### COMBATING SEXUAL ASSAULT



In observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin E. Dempsey released a video message to the Department of Defense community April 1. "April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, but stopping sexual assault is something we must focus on every day," Hagel said. "Sexual assault is one of the worst crimes a person can commit." This year marks the tenth annual awareness month, with the theme "Live Our Values: Step Up to Stop Sexual Assault." [Read more](#)

**Also Watch: SecDef and CJCS Sexual Assault Awareness Month Message**

### AMOS, RETIRED GENERALS: MARINES NEED MORE AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS



The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, was joined by 20 retired Marine generals as he called for a minimum of 38 amphibious warships to meet the Corps' ongoing expeditionary mission March 27. Calling them the "Swiss Army Knives" of the sea, the group of retired three- and four-star generals wrote to the Senate Armed Services Committee, calling on its members to provide supplemental Overseas Contingency Operations funding to pay for readiness and reset of the Navy's current amphibious fleet and to invest in future construction. The Marines say their minimum requirement of amphibious ships for forcible entry is 38, well over

the current fleet size of 29. [Read more](#)

## MARINES TEACH ALLIES AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE



The U.S. Marine Corps may be shrinking, but American allies in the Pacific are building their own amphibious forces and training them to fight alongside U.S. troops. Australia recently ordered one of its army battalions to begin amphibious training, while Japan is preparing to field a 3,000-strong amphibious force as rapidly as possible to defend offshore islands. And the Japanese military is trying to establish full-scale amphibious operational capability as soon as possible. In June, a company of Japanese soldiers will train with U.S. and Australian troops during Exercise Southern Jackeroo at Puckapunyal, a military training area in the Australian

state of Victoria. Japan and Australia have become much closer to each other through trilateral cooperation with the U.S. recently. [Read more](#)

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## LAVS STAY AFLOAT IN CAPABILITIES TEST



Marines with 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) Battalion tested the amphibious capabilities of 10 Light Armored Vehicles at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 26. The training's main goal was to test the vehicles' ability to swim for short distances with a full combat load. The Marines used specially designed ballasts to add weight to the vehicles and simulate the extra weight of Marines, their gear and ammunition. Not only was the goal accomplished to stay afloat and swim the vehicles, but the exercise also helped 2nd LAR Marines gain confidence by giving them hands-on experience. [Read more](#)

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## CHANCE MEETING LEADS TO RECOGNITION FOR DJIBOUTIAN SOLDIERS, CLOSURE FOR PILOTS



It has been nearly eight years since two Marine Corps helicopters collided off the coast of Djibouti and fell into the Gulf of Aden, killing



eight Marines and two airmen. Two of the pilots who survived the horrific accident swam to shore, where they were rescued by four off-duty Djiboutian soldiers. The local men carried them to safety and got them on a medevac flight. They were all finally reunited this week. "They didn't have to do what they did; they did it without being told. It demonstrates the partnership and relationship between our two countries," said Maj. Heath Rupper, a survivor of the accident. "They totally exemplified everything the two nations stand for." [Read more](#)

[more](#)

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## MARINE CORPS MARATHON TO SEE CHANGES IN 2015



As 2015 marks the 40th anniversary of the Marine Corps Marathon, race director Rick Nealis is planning for "bigger" changes. These include a modified lottery system, expansion of the military program, and different location of the party. But not all the details have been solidified. "Bigger could be more entertainment, special people coming in as guest speakers, more bang for your buck for what you get back," Nealis said. "Can we be a little bit bigger? Yes. What does that mean? Does it mean 32,000 [finishers] and we only grow a couple thousand? Am I hoping to get 40,000? I need a couple more months of planning to work those details." [Read more](#)



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### APRIL 5, 1947

Five Marine guards were killed and eight wounded when attacked by Communist Chinese raiders near the Hsin Ho ammunition depot in Northern China. This last major clash between Marines of the 1st Marine Division and Communist forces occurred shortly after withdrawal and redeployment plans from

China were issued for the 1st Division and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing on 1 April.



## MARINE OF THE WEEK

### MARINES BOND WITH AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS



Marine Rotational Force-Darwin (MRF-D) met with staff members of a local primary school to plan for their continued mentorship program with the students of Gray Primary School, March 28. MRF-D Marines will lead a similar program in three to five other schools throughout the Northern Territory while they are on break from conducting bilateral training with the Australian Defence Force and partnered nations in the region. "We found that it was the relationships they built with the students that were really valuable," said Sue Beynon, the principal of Gray Primary School. "The students always looked forward to the Marines coming, because it was when they had some one-on-one time with a really positive male role-model." [Read more](#)



## THE CORPS REPORT



The Corps Report Ep. 36: Marines Head To Australia and Driver Safety

## OUR MISSION

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