

TIP OF THE SPEAR

CORPS' NEXT-GEN VEHICLES COULD FEATURE REMOTE WEAPONS SYSTEMS

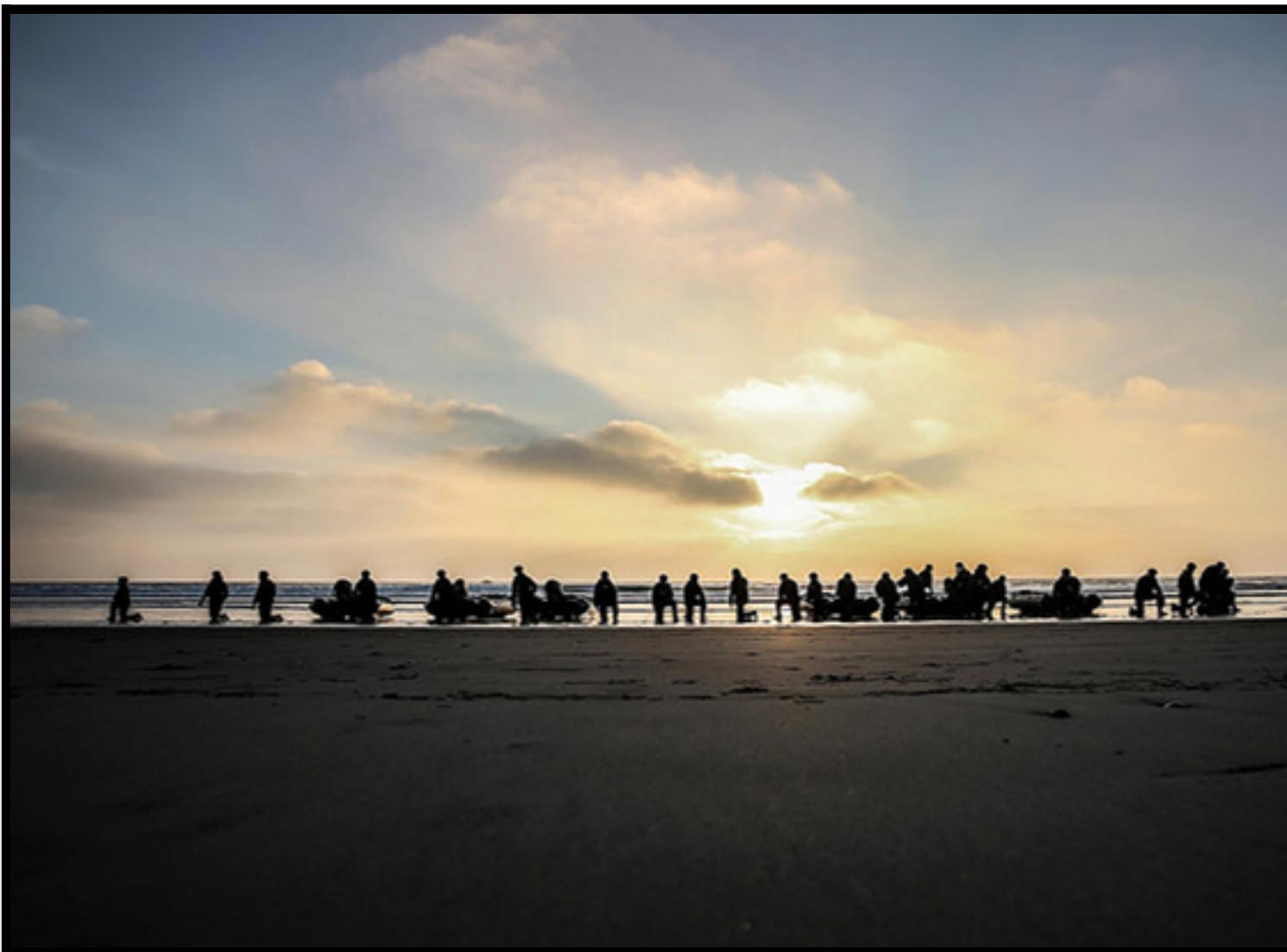


The Marine Corps is working to include remote weapons systems (RWS) in future vehicles now in development. This includes GunPACS, which combine the Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station II -- a color daylight camera with up to a 45-degree field-of-view, a thermal imager for night and obscured conditions, and a laser rangefinder -- with additional electronics, that include an improvised explosive device jammer and Boomerang III, an acoustic sensor that can determine the geographic origin of incoming enemy fire. The requirements that will determine

whether or not they are included are under development now, said Col. Sean Gibson, a spokesman for Marine Corps Combat Development Command. "Government sponsored technology demonstrations and evaluations have been conducted to better understand RWS performance," he said, "Future work will serve to explore means to mitigate [situational awareness] loss and effectively integrate RWS technology into existing and planned vehicles." [Read more](#)



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

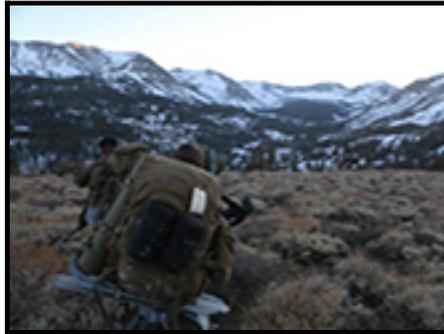


Soldiers with the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force conduct an amphibious insertion using combat rubber reconnaissance crafts during Exercise Iron Fist 2014 aboard Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Calif., Jan. 29. Iron Fist is an amphibious exercise that brings together Marines and Sailors from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, other I Marine Expeditionary Force units, and soldiers from the JGSDF, to promote military interoperability and hone individual and small-unit skills through challenging, complex and realistic training. *(Photo by Cpl. Emmanuel Ramos)*



IN THE NEWS

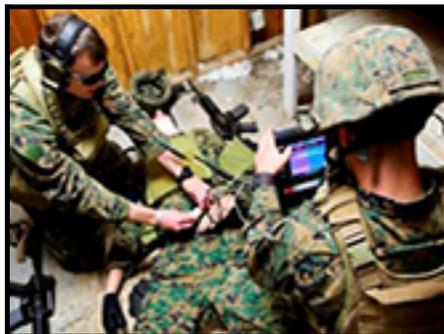
MARINES TRAIN FOR COLD-WEATHER OPERATIONS



Marines and Sailors with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (MLG) conducted cold-weather mobility training aboard the Mountain Warfare Training Center Jan. 14 to 28, in preparation for the upcoming NATO exercise Cold Response in March. "We're getting back to the support competencies in the Marine Corps that we've lost in the last 10 to 12 years. That's the ability to go just about any place in the world and operate in environments like this and have the skill sets we need to be successful," said Brig. Gen. Edward D. Banta, the commanding general of 2nd MLG. These skills are not only invaluable for training during Cold Response, but any future

operations in cold weather. [Read more](#)

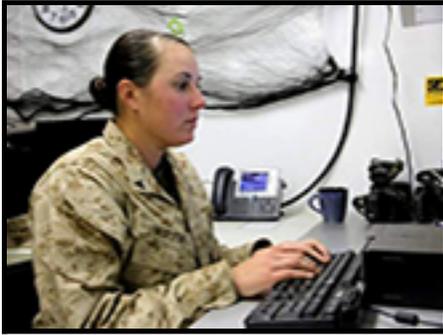
DIAGNOSTIC TELEMEDICINE DEVICE TESTING



The Marine Corps' Field Medical Training Battalion conducted operational and informational tests on the Tempus Pro, a tactical telemedicine device, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 22 to 23. The device attaches to a point of injury on the patient and then broadcasts vital signs to a battalion aid station or an assisting physician who then guides and helps the injured corpsman. The technology is designed to provide monitoring functions, patient record data collection and sharing, as well as voice and video capabilities. The recent trial was intended to see how the device would work in a controlled setting and whether the Tempus Pro

makes sense for use by the military. [Read more](#)

CORPS RESTORES TUITION ASSISTANCE MONEY



After months of reduced funds and uncertainty about the future, a robust Tuition Assistance (TA) Program is back. Due to ongoing budget uncertainty relating to sequestration, less than a third of the money that was expected was available for tuition assistance during the beginning of 2014. President Barack Obama signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 on Jan. 18, which includes funding for all Defense Department programs and flowed more money into the TA pipeline. Marine officials predict that there will be enough to provide tuition assistance to about 26,000 Marines, including 1,000 officers, the same number of Marines who took

advantage of the program last year. [Read more](#)

WOUNDED WARRIOR OVERCOMES CHALLENGES



Following five combat deployments, Gunnery Sgt. Pedro Aquino was diagnosed with a severe case of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and had difficulty walking due to a compressed spine. Aquino joined the Wounded Warrior Battalion West (WWB-W) where he found ways to cope with his PTSD and received the medical attention he needed for his back. With the help he received at WWB-W, Aquino has reintegrated to an operational unit. Even with the challenges he still faces, Aquino wakes up and puts his uniform on every morning to serve the country he loves. "It is commendable that he was able to make it back to the fleet," said Gunnery Sgt. Joanna

Mendoza, adding that he still inspires and motivates Marines with his invincible spirit. [Read more](#)

NEW MARINE IMMIGRATES TO AMERICA FROM IRAQ



When Pvt. Ali Mohammed and his family were forced to leave their home country of Iraq they sought refuge in the United States, where Mohammed found a lifestyle worth fighting for. Mohammed grew up in Baghdad during the initial surge of Operation Iraqi Freedom and his sister was an interpreter for the U.S. Marines. After their move,



Mohammed enlisted in the U.S. Marines and shipped out to Iraq Nov. 4, 2013. "What he saw as a kid gave him a stronger will to complete training and become a Marine," said Staff Sgt. Christian Fuentes, a senior drill instructor. "It shows he has a strong character to want to better himself and his family." [Read more](#)

FEMALE MARINE ENTERS PRO MMA WITH KNOCKOUT



San Diego native Sgt. Misha Nassiri entered the professional MMA world with a knockout during a mixed martial arts competition in Valley Center, Calif., Jan. 18. Nassiri trained in martial arts nearly her entire life, starting with karate at age 3. She joined the Marine Corps Sept. 7, 2010 and quickly discovered that the dedication, discipline and hard work necessary to be a professional fighter mirrored many standards of the Marines. "She leads from the front and has a fast paced and aggressive leadership style," said 1st Lt. David Foran, "She provides her Marines with a good example and I think a lot of that stems from her MMA training." [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

FEBRUARY 2, 1944

The 4th Marine Division, as part of the first assault on islands controlled by the Japanese before the start of World War II, captured Namur and eight other islands in the Kwajalein Atoll.



MARINE OF THE WEEK

SOCHI-BOUND MARINE VET STRIVES FOR GOLD IN PARALYMPICS

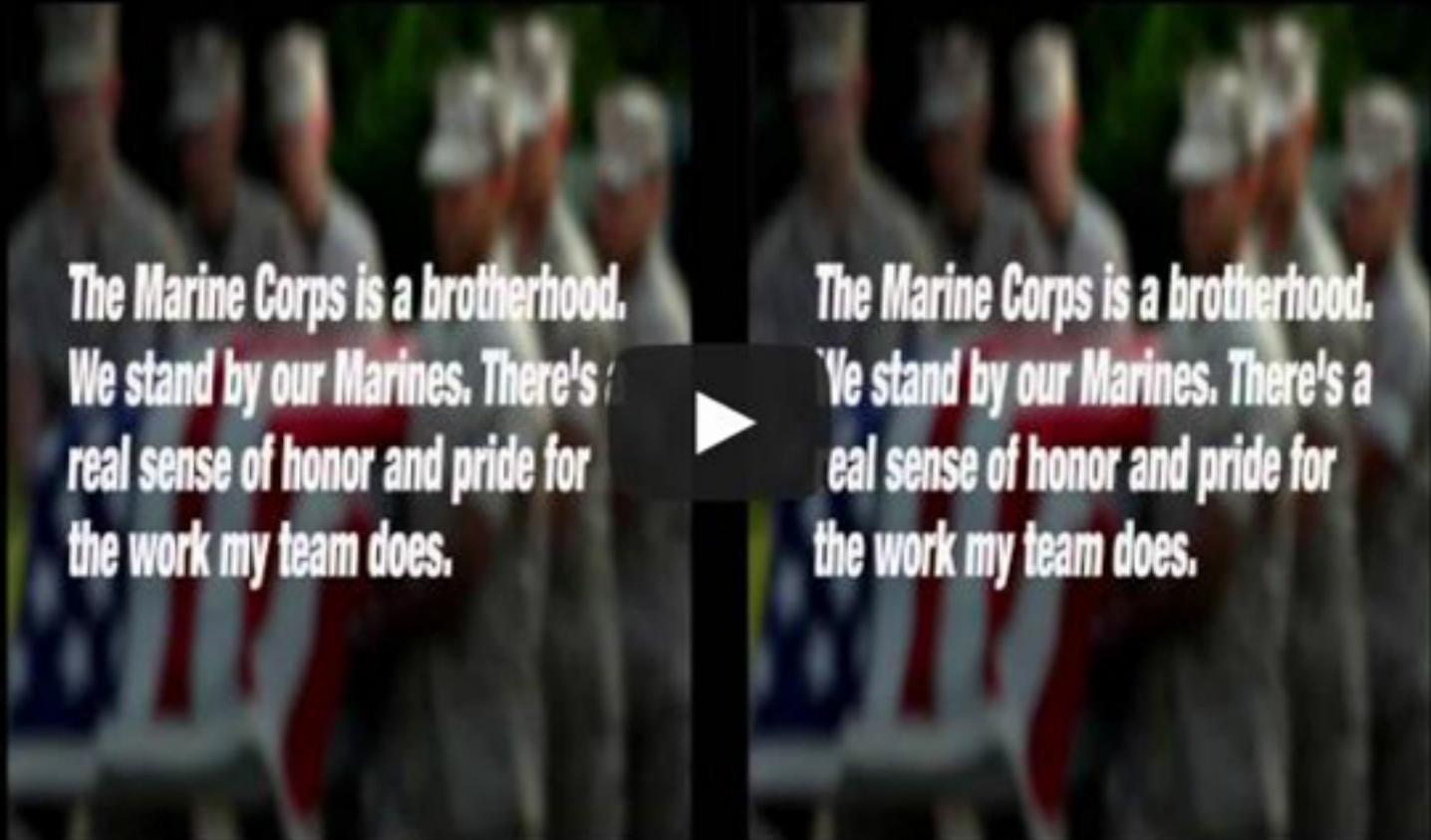


Omar Bermejo joined the Marines in 2000, completed four deployments in Iraq over his nine years of service, and lost his arm in a motorcycle accident upon his return in 2008. After the accident Bermejo said he was trying to live with who he was going to be -- what he called the new Omar -- and began skiing as a part of his physical therapy. He's now going to the 2014 Paralympic Games in Sochi as part of Team USA Paralympic Nordic skiers in biathlon, a combination of cross country skiing and marksmanship. "Everything that I've done up to this point, all my training every single second that I've put on to this has paid off. If I can put all that effort together and

win one race and get the gold that would be one of the happiest days of my life and I would feel very whole," said Bermejo. [Read more](#)



THE CORPS REPORT



The Corps Report Ep. 32 -- Religious Uniform Standards & Banned Pre-workout

OUR MISSION

*In the words of Lt. Gen. Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, "The United States does not need a Marine Corps... the United States wants a Marine Corps." As America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness, the Marine Corps is deployed across the globe, standing ready to respond to any crisis. The Marine Corps Connection is your one-stop source for the latest Marine Corps news and is published weekly by the Division of Public Affairs at Headquarters Marine Corps. **Stay connected to your Marines!***



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