

## TIP OF THE SPEAR

### CORPS IS GOING SLEEVES UP



Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos and Sgt. Major Micheal Barrett, announced that Marines will transition to sleeves-up status when wearing desert cammies in non-combat areas, effective March 9. The decision stems from the leaders' talks with corporals and sergeants across the service in an effort to "Reawaken" the soul of the Corps. "Many of you have let us know how important your identity as a Marine is to you and the Marines you lead. I can't tell you how many times we have been asked the persistent question 'Commandant, are we ever going to return to sleeves up?'" Amos stated. "I've thought a lot about this

over the past 2.5 years; I realize that it's important to you. Sleeves up clearly and visually sets us apart. We hear you Marines!" [Read more](#)

**MARADMIN: Marine Corps Combat Utility Policy Change**



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Rct. Thomas Minnick Jr., Platoon 1014, Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, lifts a 30-pound ammunition can during his combat fitness test Feb. 11, at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. The recruits had two minutes to lift the can above their heads and lower it below their chins as many times as possible. The Combat Fitness Test, a combined assessment of combat readiness and physical fitness, is a graduation requirement for recruits and an annual training event for Marines. Minnick, an 18-year-old from Pittsburgh, is scheduled to graduate Feb. 28. *(Photo by Cpl. Octavia Davis)*



## IN THE NEWS

### CULMINATING EVENT STRENGTHENS INTEROPERABILITY AT COBRA GOLD



Marines from the Republic of Korea, Kingdom of Thailand and United States marked the end of Cobra Gold 2014 with a combined arms live-fire exercise Feb. 21. The Royal Thai and U.S. Marines spent the week training alongside each other in preparation for the event, which demonstrated the capabilities of the combined forces involved. "Cobra Gold is a combined joint exercise," said Royal Thai Rear Adm. Tanin Likitawong. "This kind of exercise is about enhancing the understanding of how each country works to keep this region in peace and stable." [Read more](#)

### MARINES IN HELMAND HELP GEORGIANS BECOME FIGHTING FORCE



As dozens of Marines across Helmand province assist Afghan forces, a small group of Marines -- the Georgian Liaison Team -- teaches, advises, mentors and participates in operations with the 750 soldiers of the 31st Georgian Light Infantry Battalion. The battalion is part of the task force charged with security of the sprawling Camp Leatherneck and Camp Bastion complex. The Georgians plan the missions with the Marines' advice and support, and the Marines go out with the Georgian troops, assisting at "friction points" wherever necessary. "I'm not here to take the fight to the enemy. I'm advising them on how to take the fight to the enemy,"

said Sgt. Angel Jacquez. [Read more](#)

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## SOTG CONNECTS THE PIECES FOR THE 11TH MEU



The Special Operations Training Group (SOTG) recently conducted combined arms raid training for Marines of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard Camp Pendleton Calif., Feb 20. Special missions branch orchestrated a series of events that recognizes the realism Marines may encounter abroad. The capture of high value targets and individuals are among some of the factors SOTG instructors incorporate into the training. "Once these Marines complete all of their required training, they will be ready for almost any situation that may arise overseas," said instructor Staff Sgt. Eric Schmutzer. [Read more](#)

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## SCHOLARSHIPS PLEDGED TO CHILDREN OF FALLEN BOMB TECHNICIANS



The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation has pledged up to \$30,000 in post-high school scholarship support to each of the seven children who lost their Marine fathers in an explosive ordnance disposal blast in November aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Upon graduation from high school, these children -- today all under the age of ten -- will be eligible for funding from the Scholarship Foundation's Heroes Tribute Scholarship Program for the Children of the Fallen, which can be used toward accredited community colleges, universities and vocational/technical schools. "Words cannot express our gratitude

for honoring such a loving father and husband," said Andrea Summers, widow of SSgt Eric Summers.

[Read more](#)

[Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation Website](#)

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## MARINES TO TRAIN WITH EQUIPMENT STORED

## UNDERGROUND IN ARCTIC



About 440 North Carolina-based Marines will move prepositioned gear out of caves in Norway for the first time in years during Cold Response 2014, a multinational exercise aimed at cold weather military training. The 11-day exercise will bring together nearly 15,000 troops from across Europe and Canada beginning March 10. While there, the Marines will move equipment out of six climate-controlled caves in central Norway. The service stores vehicles, ammunition, generators and engineering equipment there, in partnership with its host nation. It's known as the Marine Corps Prepositioning Program-Norway, and dates back to the Cold War.

The equipment will be used during the exercise and will be returned when training is complete. [Read more](#)

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## MARINE CORPS TO SUPPORT AFGHAN ELECTRONIC ATTACK MISSIONS FROM QATAR



Though combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq are winding down, the Marine Corps' EA-6B Prowler, capable of attacking and jamming enemy radio, communications and radar operations, will continue to carry out electronic attack. The aircraft was designed to suppress enemy air defense so Marine aircraft could traverse hostile airspace in relative safety. While continuing support in the Middle East, the Prowlers main mission is to be ready to support any contingencies or operations which may need electronic attack in the Central Command Area of Responsibility. "We are excited to be back at Al Udeid Air Base and look forward to providing electronic

attack for U.S. and coalition forces in the area," said Marine Capt. Keith Hibbert. [Read more](#)

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## REMEMBERING COL. GERALD RUSSELL, DECORATED MARINE COMMANDER



Gerald Russell, one of only two surviving Iwo Jima battalion



commanders, died Feb. 24. One of the most decorated Marines in the war and among its youngest battalion commanders, Russell served 28 years in the Corps and was known to many simply as "the colonel." He went on to teach at Penn State and become a respected pillar in his community, noted for his volunteer work with Toys for Tots, Special Olympics and Centre County United Way. In addition to his military service, academic career and decades of philanthropy, Russell was involved with the Olympics as a military representative to the 1968 Summer Games in Mexico City and a

member of the U.S. Olympic site selection committee. [Read more](#)



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### FEBRUARY 24, 1991

The I Marine Expeditionary Force and coalition forces began a ground assault on Iraqi defenses in the final chapter of Operation Desert Storm. The 1st and 2d Marine Divisions stormed into the teeth of Iraqi defenses while heavily armored allied forces attacked the Iraqi defenses in Iraq from behind. In 100 hours, U.S. and allied forces defeated the Iraqi Army.



## MARINE OF THE WEEK

### FOUR MARINES AWARDED FOR BRAVERY BATTLING TALIBAN



For six days and nights in June 2012, a platoon of Marines took constant fire from Taliban insurgents in one of the most hotly contested areas of Helmand province in Afghanistan. The platoon held its own despite taking direct fire and grenade attacks. In the end, two of the platoon's Marines were killed and one was seriously wounded. On Feb. 25 Lt. Gen. John Toolan, commanding general of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, recognized four of the platoon's Marines for what commanders called their initiative, courage, undaunted judgment and dedication to duty. Toolan awarded Silver Stars, the nation's third highest medal for valor, to 1st Lt. Kenneth A.

Conover, and Sgt. Kenneth Rick. Staff Sgt. Joshua R. Brodrick and Sgt. Nicholas Brandau received Bronze Stars with a "V" designation. "They wear these awards for some of the Marines that didn't come back after the fighting," said Toolan. "They wear those awards for every Marine to remember them."

[Read more](#)

## 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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