



MARINES AIM TO AVOID POSTWAR IDENTITY CRISIS



Considered to be a quick-reaction force, the U.S. Marine Corps is planning for a reorientation after the war in Afghanistan ends. Marine Commandant Gen. James F. Amos said he sees renewal in the region where Marines experienced their most devastating losses and most heroic victories - the Pacific. A Wall Street Journal article states that the reorientation is in part because of the coming contraction of the defense budget, in part because of the shifting balance of power in the

world, and in part because of a historical fear embedded in Marine Culture. "For the past decade it [the Marine Corps] has been a second land army, so now you hear Gen. Amos talking about its role in the future, and as a crisis-response force," Mr. Harrison said. In meetings with Marines, Gen. Amos said it was his intent, post-Afghanistan, to return the Corps to its mission as a crisis-response force in the Pacific. The commandant envisions keeping about 20,000 Marines stationed at Pacific Ocean bases, plus another 3,000 at an air station in Japan. About 5,000 Marines are based in Hawaii, tens of thousands more in

California. Shifting back to the Pacific would be in line with U.S. strategic objectives. Military planners note that the region is an economic center of gravity, 80% of the world's shipping passes through the geographic area covered by the U.S. Pacific Command and preserving power in the region is a national-defense priority. According to Gen. Amos, the Marines have particular advantages when it comes to projecting U.S. power: "We step very lightly, and, if invited, we come with a lot of our own stuff," he said in an interview.

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'MARINE WEEK' PUTS LOYALTY ON DISPLAY

According to a St. Louis Post Dispatch Editorial, more than 600 Marines landed in St. Louis for the 3rd Annual Marine Week, which took place from June 20 to June 26. An article by the StLouisToday.com described Marine Week as a brilliant program. Marine Lt. Col. Peter Conlan said the young men and women relish the chance to explain to the public what they do, why they joined and, in the process, to show that "we know who we serve." The Marines did a little showing off on



Saturday afternoon when they held an amphibious assault simulation at the Gateway Arch. Tom Bradley, the National Park Service superintendent, said, "We tried to make it more passive than the Marines wanted it," but added, "You can't stop these guys. I'm glad they are on our side." The week of events highlighting the U.S. Marine Corps are centered in downtown St. Louis on the Arch grounds, at Soldiers Memorial and at the site of Ballpark Village.

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HEROES

MARINE TO GET POSTHUMOUS AWARD FOR VALOR

Sergeant Lucas Pyeat, a Newport Marine,

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will posthumously receive the National Intelligence Medal of Valor on June 29. Pyeatt, who was killed in Afghanistan, was 2004 graduate of Woodside High School and joined the Marines in 2007. His family will accept the medal during a ceremony at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence in Washington, D.C.

Established in 2008, the medal recognizes courage in action among members of the intelligence community. It is the second only to the intelligence Cross. Pyeatt was a signals intelligence team leader. He was

leading a patrol when he died in the southern province of Helmand. He was assigned to the 2nd Radio Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

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MARINE HONORED WITH BRONZE STATUE



Sergeant Foster Harrington, a fallen Marine, was honored at Fort Whiting On June 23. Harrington, with the Third Force Reconnaissance Company, was killed in action in Iraq. His fellow marines wanted to pay tribute to his heroic actions. The P.L. Wilson Detachment Company Marine Corps League commissioned and unveiled a life-sized, life-like bronze bust of Harrington. "When that bust was unveiled, it was like bringing home an

old friend. You can read citations on walls and look at photographs of the fallen, but this project is really about bringing that person back to life in that community so the generations to come can not only read that citation but take a look and see who Sgt. Harrington was in the likeness that's there in the bust," said Cal Walters, the Assistant Division Vice Commandant, Southeast Division and the Jr. Past Commandant of the P.L. Wilson Detachment of the Marine Corps League. Harrington was a Marine Corps Combatant Diver and Marine Parachutist. Accompanying the bust is a citation signed by the president, a flag

to show dedication to our country and a form that Harrington filled out when he checked out equipment to head to Iraq. All are memories of an honorable man. The bust and memorial are a true representation of what Harrington lived and died for.

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NEWS

AFGHAN 'NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH' WITH GUNS



After the President's announcement to withdraw troops from Afghanistan, Gen. David Petraeus met with the President to discuss how many troops should be withdrawn and whether Afghans can take over the fight. The North of the district of Marjah in Helmand Province, an area of Afghanistan that was the scene of major combat a year ago, is now a test case for whether peace can hold in the country. Marines are working with locals who know the area and know the enemy. "It's

basically like a neighborhood watch with guns," explained Marine Sgt. Jon Moulder. The men who are part of the Interim Security for Critical Infrastructure (ISCI) are chosen by tribal elders, paid \$150 per month and patrol with the Americans. Most Marines interviewed in northern Marjah say the ISCI program makes the area safer. "They found a lot of Improvised Explosive Devices that we probably never would have found. ... So they're very proactive in the area with keeping security [and] talking to the elders," Sgt. Thomas Whorl said. The nationwide effort will be to recruit thousands of local defense forces, which parallels a program called the Sons of Iraq, which Petraeus used to help turn around the insurgency when he was the top commander in that country.

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COMMANDERS RESET MARINES' TRAINING



A group of 10,000 Marines took part in a massive exercise known as Mailed Fist, designed to reacquaint a force used to ground combat in Afghanistan and Iraq with its basic amphibious mission. "We haven't done a wing exercise in 10 years, a big one like this, noting that deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan have consumed much of the effort for the wing's 17,300 Marines and 400 aircraft," said Maj. Gen. Jon Davis, commander of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station in Havelock, N.C. The exercise, stretching from

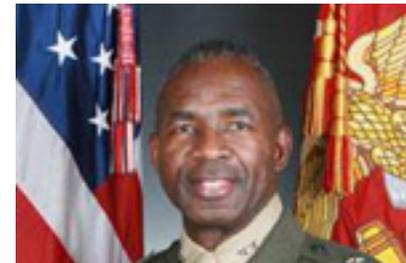
Northern Virginia to Florida, also includes flying Marine Harriers and other aircraft under austere conditions like those they might find on a foreign shore, and training air controllers to handle large-scale operations. The demands of the long wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, Davis noted, have forced Marines to rely on bigger trucks and armored vehicles and other, heavier equipment that isn't particularly suited for the basic amphibious mission. The Mailed Fist exercise, he explained, helps Marines learn to travel lighter and fight lighter.

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[Also Read: Unique Training Exercise for Marines \(CBS WNCT\)](#)

DIVERSITY AS NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUE

On June 22, Maj. Gen. Ronald Bailey spoke about the diversity in leadership at St. Louis University. "When we can pull from all backgrounds, it allows the military to be innovative," Bailey said. "From that perspective, we improve and we get better." Bailey will soon assume command of the 1st Marine Division in Camp Pendleton, Calif., which is one of the most prestigious divisions in the world. During his speech, he



mentioned the Marine Corps' leadership traits tie in directly to the future of diversity. Nationally, about 71 percent of all students graduate from high school on time with a regular diploma, but barely half of African-American and Hispanic students earn diplomas with their peers. "That is a challenge and a problem for our nation," he said. "When we talk with African-American, Latino and Asian and other minority communities, we are talking about the tangible and intangible of what the Marine Corps brings to this nation."

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STRAIGHT TALK FROM TOP ENLISTED MARINE ON 'DON'T ASK' REPEAL

Sgt. Maj. Micheal Barrett, newly selected as the Corps' top non-commissioned officer, joined the Commandant on a recent visit to Marine bases in the Pacific. Barrett has an extensive military resume, having performed combat service in Iraq and Afghanistan. He most recently completed a tour in Afghanistan as the sergeant major of I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward). During his visit, Barrett touched on several issues of importance to the Corps , including



Marines who fail to meet height and weight standards , the service's new automatic rifle , and the war in Afghanistan. Barrett also directly addressed the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" on a visit to a base in South Korea. "Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution is pretty simple," he told a group of Marines at the base. "It says, 'Raise an army.' It says absolutely nothing about race, color, creed, sexual orientation." He continued, "We're magnificent; we're going to continue to be Let's just move on, treat everybody with firmness, fairness, dignity, compassion and respect. Let's be Marines."

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NO CHANGE IN VIEWS OF MARINES AS MOST PRESTIGIOUS BRANCH



Americans have once again named the Marine Corps as the most prestigious branch of the armed forces, according to the latest Gallup poll. Thirty-six percent named the Marines as most prestigious in 2001, while forty-six percent do today. Additionally, Americans believe that the U.S. Army and Marines are the most important to national defense, followed by the Air Force and Navy. This differs from the years prior to the start of the Iraq war,

when Americans named the Air Force as the most important branch of the armed forces.

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BRITNEY SPEARS MEETS WITH MARINES OF HMLA-169 "VIPERS"



In April, Marines of the HMLA-169 "Vipers" made a YouTube video lip-syncing to Britney Spears' "Hold It Against Me." The video spread quickly and became an internet sensation, and caught the attention of Spears. This past week, Spears invited the Marines to her Anaheim, Calif. performance with free tickets and a backstage photo op. After the concert, Spears tweeted, "So honored to meet the marines of HMLA-169 'Vipers' who made that amazing HIAM video. Britney,"

Marines. The video, which has had over three million hits, shows the Marines taking turns lip-syncing to the song.

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ATSDR LAUNCHES HEALTH SURVEY OF MARINE CORPS PERSONNEL AND CIVILIANS



The Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR) recently began a health survey regarding diseases that may be associated with chemical exposures related to water at Camp Lejeune. The survey will be distributed to more than 300,000 individuals who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune, or Camp Pendleton, before 1986. Camp Pendleton was

chosen for comparison purposes. The ATSDR survey is in response to a congressional mandate, and results will be used to guide the Federal Government in its next steps to serve Marines, civilian workers, and their families. "We hope everyone who receives a survey will complete it. High levels of response will lead to the most accurate findings, said Christopher J. Portier, Ph.D., director of ATSDR and the National Center for Environmental Health at ATSDR's sister agency the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Findings are expected to be released in early 2014, and every participant will receive a summary of the final report. The identity of participating individuals will be protected.

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[Click here to visit the Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking water site](#)

THANK YOU

A SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR TWENTYNINE PALMS MARINES SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN



Three Marine veterans from Palm Desert are taking action to help Marines currently deployed in Afghanistan. The Marines are



exposed to extreme temperatures and have limited supplies, which led Palm Desert resident James Sullivan to begin collecting donated socks and wipes to send to Marines stationed out of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms. The Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce is among the donors. "I think it is a feel

good, that we can be part of their mission over there and that we can help and support them and let them know we care," Barbara deBoom, CEO of the Palm Desert Area Chamber, told KPSP Local TV. The supplies were sent to the Marine base in Twentynine Palms, where they will then be shipped to Afghanistan. The \$4,000 shipping cost was also covered by donations, and the supplies should arrive by the 4th of July. Sullivan and his friends also recently sent portable shower devices to Marines in Afghanistan. "Our Marines over there don't have privy to fresh water or sanitation or anything like that," said Sullivan. "So little things like babywipes and socks is a need they have, so we can't do enough for them."

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LOCAL CHIROPRACTOR HELPS WOUNDED MARINE

When Chiropractor Bob Hoagland read about the serious injuries sustained by Marine Cpl. Farrell Gilliam, he felt compelled to help his fellow Burroughs High School alumni. Hoagland reached out to the 22-year-old recovering Marine, and also collected donations from fellow alumni to purchase a bass guitar for Gilliam. The guitar, a replica of the one Paul McCartney played with the Beatles, was meant to encourage Gilliam during his recovery. Hoagland recently took the motivation one step further, by teaching Gilliam to fly in Hoagland's 1948 Ercoupe, an airplane not dependent on foot controls. Hoagland has high hopes for Gilliam's future in aviation. "(Flying) just gives him something to look forward to," Hoagland said. "He could get a pilot's license if he wanted." Gilliam, who was injured in an IED explosion in January, has been making tremendous



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progress on his road to recovery. He was fitted with prosthetics on June 13th and stood for the first time. Gilliam and his family have expressed gratitude for Hoagland and others who support wounded Marines, and Hoagland now hopes to form a team of volunteer chiropractors to assist soldiers in Afghanistan or Iraq. He currently provides free medical care to military personnel out of his home.

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