



## LIVING MARINE TO RECEIVE MEDAL OF HONOR

Removed from an ambushed platoon of Marines and soldiers in a remote Afghan village on Sept. 8, 2009, his reality viciously shaken by an onslaught of enemy fighters, Sgt. (then-Cpl.) Dakota L. Meyer simply reacted as he knew best -- tackling what he called "extraordinary circumstances" by "doing the right thing ... whatever it takes." Nearly two years later, the White House announced Friday, Aug. 12, the 23-year-old Marine scout sniper from Columbia, Ky., who has since left the Marine Corps, will become the first living Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor in 38 years. Retired Sgt. Maj. Allan Kellogg, Jr. received the medal in 1973 for gallantry in Vietnam three years earlier. Meyer is the second Marine to receive the medal for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan. Cpl. Jason Dunham was awarded the medal posthumously for covering a grenade with



his body to save two Marines in Iraq in 2004. President Barack Obama will present the award to Meyer at the White House, Sept. 15. "The award honors the men who gave their lives that day, and the men who were in that fight," Meyer said. "I didn't do anything more than any other Marine would. I was put in an extraordinary circumstance, and I just did my job."

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[Learn More About Dakota Meyer on Medal of Honor Website](#)



## HEROES

### MARINE WAS EPITOME OF BRAVERY IN WAR

Sgt. Daniel J. Patron's parents describe him as "selfless, brave and gutsy." This truth about his life is so clear in the circumstances of his death. Sgt. Patron joined the U.S. Marine Corps because terrorists had attacked his country on Sept. 11, 2001. The commitment he made did not fade with time. Sgt. Patron could have left the military in July, following his third tour of duty in a war zone. Instead, he chose to add a few



months to his deployment to do the most dangerous work in the military in perhaps the most dangerous environment. Sgt. Patron was killed Saturday, Aug. 6, while defusing a roadside bomb in Helmand province, Afghanistan. As The Independent of Massillon, Ohio, reported, Sgt. Patron helped to dedicate the war memorial at his high school alma mater in 2006. If there is any comfort today for those who loved him, perhaps it is in the fact that at this dedication, he was able to see how much respect and honor his community gives to those who pay the ultimate price in war. Because of that experience, he surely knew, as well, that his community would rally around those he loved.

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# NEWS

## MARINE OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN



It has been approximately five months since Camp Lejeune Marines with II Marine Expeditionary Force took control of Marine operations in Afghanistan. In an exclusive interview with The Daily News recently, Maj. Gen. John Toolan, the commander of Marine Forces in Afghanistan and the Regional Command-Southwest coalition, said those months have seen continued casualties and hard fighting, but an increasingly independent and

self-governing Afghan people. A significant milestone came on July 20, when NATO forces turned the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah over to Afghan control. Though the transition caused a predicted insurgent backlash including a suicide vehicle that killed 10 Afghan officers outside a police compound, Toolan said the move was a success, and he hopes that turnover dates for other key regions in southern Afghanistan will be set in the near future. "Keep in mind that we've got about three years left here," Toolan said Wednesday. "I think we're on pace for successful transition to the Afghans before military forces have to leave."

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## LT. GEN. HUMMER TAKES CHARGE OF LARGEST COMMAND IN THE MARINE CORPS

Lt. Gen. Steven A. Hummer assumed command of Marine



Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North Aug. 10 during a ceremony at Marine Corps Support Facility New Orleans. "Marine Forces Reserve has absolutely been in on the last 10 years," said Hummer, referring to Reserve Marines' participation in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom as well as theatre security operations across the globe. "They are an operational



Reserve in every aspect of the definition." The ceremony was unlike most customary changes of command where the flag is passed from the outgoing party to the incoming party. Instead, Sgt. Maj. Kim Davis, MarForRes Sergeant Major, and Master Chief Petty Officer Eric E. Cousin, the MarForRes command master chief, passed the flags of MarForRes and MarForNorth directly to Hummer, symbolizing his assumption. "I promise you that I will be your best advocate," Lt. Gen. Hummer said, adding, "Laissez le bon temps rouler, let the good times roll." Marine Forces Reserve, which is composed of approximately 100,000 Marines and 183 training centers throughout the U.S., is the largest command in the Marine Corps and is the first force-level command for Hummer.

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## MARINES TAKE BREAK FOR 'FAMILY DAY'



It is common for Marines and their families to deal with back-to-back deployments and tough training schedules. The Corps realizes this and makes sure they get the occasional breather. Marines with 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, gathered for a day of fun in the sun at Onslow Beach aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. Aug. 5. Recently back from



Afghanistan, 1/10 hadn't skipped a beat. Straight from a combat zone, they had gone right back to training; it was time to take a break. Barbeque smoke filled

the air while the latest hip-hop songs blasted through loud speakers. The sweltering heat of the summer sun glazed the crowd. Smiling children lined up to splash in the cooling waters of a waterslide. If it got too hot for the adults, the beach was nearby. Lt. Col. Robert Hallett, commanding officer, 1/10, who came on deck in the beginning of July and was enthusiastic about the event. He made it a point to let people know how deployments can build new friendships and strengthen families with the right resources. Taking a break from day to day operations was a key factor to combat readiness, he said. "It's a nice opportunity to communicate, talk, share ideas, just relax and spend time together," said Hallett. "The Marine Corps is so busy here lately, it's actually just kind of nice to kick back, relax and forget about the daily grind every once in a while."

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## ANTI-TERRORISM BATTALION: DETECT, DETER, DEFEND

A unique unit prepares to take its place in the continued war on terror as they train aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. That unit is Company F of the Anti-Terrorism Battalion, a Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force made up of Marine reservists from states across the U.S. AT Battalion's primary mission is to rapidly deploy specially trained and sustainable forces to detect, deter and defend against terrorism while partnering with allied nations, as well as to respond to crises in the event of a terrorist attack. "We will be deploying somewhere in the Middle East to work alongside our allied nations to teach them how to prepare for combat and best employ their weapons systems by training them in basic infantry skills and tactics," said Maj. James Burchfield, commanding officer, Co. F, AT Bn., attached to



2nd Marine Division. Along with the basic infantry skills and tactics being taught during the deployment, Co. F will work alongside

allied nations to help prepare each nation for combating insurgent forces and terrorism.

"This deployment is important because it shows our nation's commitment to their nation and helps prepare their military for combat operations as well as fosters good faith and good will between the two nations," said 1st Sgt. Billy Kruthers, company first sergeant, Co. F, AT Bn.

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## 11TH MEU TRAINS AT SEA



The 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit started a 12-day exercise on Aug. 10 with the Navy's Amphibious Squadron Five aboard amphibious ships, working together at sea for the first time since the unit formed a complete Marine air-ground task force in May. After embarking USS Makin Island and USS New Orleans docked in San Diego, the services are expected to sail out from the Pacific coast to plan and conduct training missions from

the sea, landing a variety of aircraft and landing craft on Pendleton's shores, and operating as far inland as Yuma, Ariz. The exercise is also the first time the unit has gone to sea since assuming operational control of Battalion Landing Team 3/1, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268 (Reinforced) and Combat Logistics Battalion 11. "We have taken full advantage of several opportunities to train with our Navy counterparts over the last several months," said Col. Michael R. Hudson, the 11th MEU's commanding officer. "This iteration of training is specifically focused on our staff's ability to plan and execute together from ship, as a well-oiled, synchronized, blue-green team." During this two-week period, the MEU will conduct supporting-arms live-fire training -- controlling helicopters, firing howitzers and dropping ordnance from AV-8B Harriers. The unit will also train to wrest seagoing vessels from pirates and conduct amphibious assaults, helicopter-borne raids, personnel recovery, humanitarian aid and noncombatant evacuations.

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## CORPS WORKS TO RETAIN BRIGHTEST

The Marine Corps' Manpower, Plans and Policy Division, Headquarters Marine Corps, announced changes to the Enlisted Career Force Controls Program Aug. 2 with Marine Administrative Message 433/11. "All Marines must be on top of their 'A' game [with these changes]," said Gunnery Sgt. Brian C. Walmer, staff non-commissioned officer in charge, Sergeants Course, Okinawa Staff Non-commissioned Officers Academy. "The days of doing just enough to get by are long gone." Though all Marines on active duty will be affected, the sergeants will notice the changes most, he said. Accorded to [MARADMIN 433/11](#), "A significant change to the ECFC Program is a change to the service limitations of sergeants. Effective immediately, the service limitation for sergeants is 10 years or two failed selections to staff sergeant."

These service limitations will not affect existing service contracts, but will affect those currently looking at re-enlisting. "Some Marines are [now] at risk of not being able to re-enlist for the amount of time they desire, or worse yet, many will be forced to separate," said Sgt. Odalys V. Lopez, career planner, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "This change is really going to show Marines how important it is to remain competitive with their peers for promotion and retention."

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## 'MARINE V-22 IS SAFER THAN HELOS'



*Is the V-22 worth the lives and treasure it has cost America?  
The answer by reporter Richard*



*Whittle -- the man who literally wrote the book on the Osprey -- is a resounding yes.*

Once upon a time, the evil ogres of the military-industrial complex spawned a mutant flying machine, a freakish helicopter-airplane hybrid so dangerous

and costly it deserved to die. Yet tribes of pork-addicted toadies and blind intellectual dwarfs shielded the beast from knights in shining armor who sallied forth tirelessly -- heavily armed with GAO reports -- to slay it. That's the fairy tale the V-22 Osprey's bitterest critics like to believe, but the facts about the tiltrotor transport, which the Marines fought a quarter of a century to get into service, tell a far happier story. By the time the Marines first put the Osprey into service in Iraq in 2007, though, it had cost more time, money and lives than any other piece of equipment the Corps has ever bought -- 25 years, \$22 billion and 30 deaths in crashes during its development. The Osprey was a very ugly duckling. This ugly duckling is turning out to be a swan.

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## COMBAT CENTER WINS FEDERAL ENERGY AWARD

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, located at Twentynine Palms, Calif., received the 2011 Federal Energy and Water Management Award for the installation's achievements in renewable energy generation as part of an awards initiative of the Federal Energy Management Program. The program's awards recognize effective use of innovative technology, processes, and financial practices that institutionalize



energy and water conservation within federal government organizations. "The Combat Center continues to explore new ways to initiate strategies resulting in energy savings and

utilization of sustainable renewable energy sources," said Gary Morrisett, the utilities and energy manager for the Combat Center. The 2010 energy report stated that the Combat Center's energy intensity was reduced by 28 percent from 2003 levels, and water intensity was reduced by 64 percent compared to 2007. The Combat Center also reduced energy consumption by over 15 percent and water consumption by over 61 percent compared to fiscal year 2009 levels. The total energy and water reductions saved \$1.1 million in 2010.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

### MARINE CORPS MUSEUM GETS HISTORIC HAMMER

An unusual piece of history has been entrusted to the National Museum of the Marine Corps; twenty-eight pounds of steel, to be exact. "The sledge," as its last private owners called it, is the head of one of the sledgehammers that Marines used to batter the doors of abolitionist John Brown's hideout at Harpers Ferry, W.V., on the eve of the Civil War. Officials at the museum in Triangle, Va., received the rare artifact with delight and fanfare



on Wednesday, Aug. 10, from the West Virginia family who had preserved it since 1914. Four generations of the Rissler family - ages 7 to 94 - were on hand for the ceremony beneath the soaring "mast" of the museum's distinctive atrium. Eighteen Rissler family members came from Charles Town, as well as North Carolina and Maryland, to participate in the hand-over. Here, Alice J. Rissler is seen shaking hands with one of the ceremonial guards in period uniform at Wednesday's ceremony. Having four generations attend such an event was a first for the five-year-old museum, Director Lin Ezell said. "To the whole Rissler family, we are so grateful for what you've done and the decision you've made," she said. An important addition to the museum's Civil War collection, the artifact will be put on display in the museum's "Defending the New Republic" gallery as soon as a special case can be built, Ezell said.

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## EVENTS

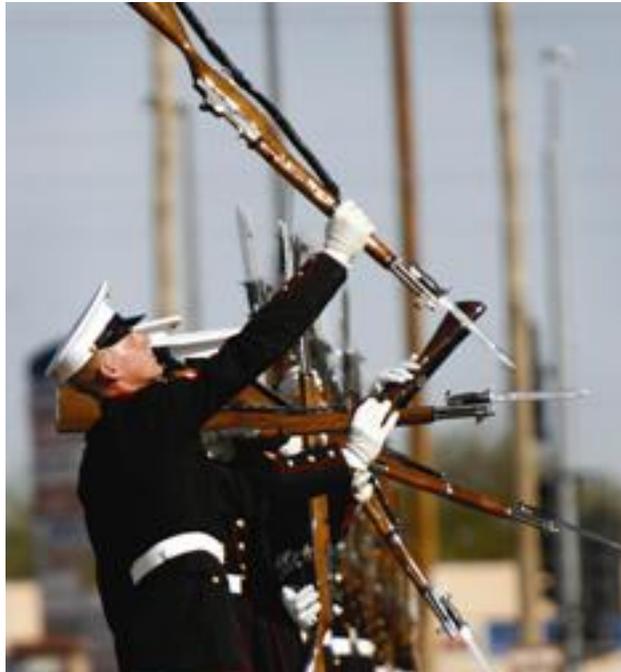
### PUBLIC HAS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN MARINES, AUG. 27

The Montford Marines will visit the Washington, D.C., area Aug. 25-28. They will be in D.C. to celebrate the 69th Anniversary of the first Marines arriving at Montford Point. During this visit, there will be an Evening Parade, Town Hall discussions, and visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC). Members of the community interested in meeting the Montford Marines can attend a gathering at the NMMC on Aug. 27 at 1 p.m.

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### SILENT DRILL PLATOON TO PERFORM, REMEMBER



The Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon is scheduled to perform in Nyack, N.Y., on Sept. 10, as part of a memorial performance by a local orchestra in commemoration of the events of Sept. 11, 2001. The Anita Brown Jazz Orchestra will perform a rendition of "Stand: A Symphony for Jazz Orchestra," an original piece of music to commemorate the events of Sept. 11. This free event is open to the public and will commence at 2 p.m. at the Nyack Memorial Park. For more information on this performance, please contact Anita Brown at [ABrownJazzOrch@aol.com](mailto:ABrownJazzOrch@aol.com). If you have questions about the Silent Drill Platoon, please contact the Marine Barracks Washington Public Affairs Officer, Capt. Lisa Y. Lawrence, at (202) 433-6660 or (202) 439-9120 or via email at [lisa.lawrence@usmc.mil](mailto:lisa.lawrence@usmc.mil).



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## YOUNG MARINES TO HOLD SEPT. 11 MEMORIAL 5K



The Young Marines of Davidson County, N.C., will hold a Sept. 11 Memorial 5K run the day prior on Saturday, Sept. 10, as a fundraiser to help send the group to Hawaii in December to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the attacks at Pearl Harbor. Young Marines nationwide have been invited to Honolulu, where for the first time the city will hold a parade to honor the Pearl Harbor survivors and all World War II veterans. Young Marine units from across the country will participate together in a wreath

laying ceremony at the USS Arizona Memorial. Jerry Foy, Davidson County Young Marines Unit Commander, said the trip to Hawaii is an incredible opportunity for the Young Marines to be a part of history. "It would be a once in a lifetime [opportunity] in my opinion for these youngsters," he said. The race starts at 9 a.m. with race-day registration opening at 7:30 a.m. For more information and instructions on pre-race registration, please visit the Young Marines' website at [www.davidsonym.org](http://www.davidsonym.org).

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