

## TIP OF THE SPEAR

### CORPS WELCOMES NEW MASCOT



The Marine Corps unveiled its future mascot Feb. 15 at the Home of the Commandants in Washington, D.C. Nine-week-old Chesty the Recruit will become Pfc. Chesty XIV later this year, replacing Sgt. Chesty XIII after a six-to-eight week "boot camp." Chesty XIII became one of the most storied dogs in the long history of Marine Corps mascots when he faced off last year with Bravo, a golden retriever owned by the Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta. The growling confrontation earned Chesty a promotion to Sergeant, raising the bulldog's reputation among many of the enlisted and officers at the Marine Corps

barracks . At the end of parade season, the Marines plan to officially transfer mascot duties to the new Chesty. All Marine mascots are named after Lt. Gen. Chesty Puller, the most decorated officer in Marine Corps history. [Read more](#)



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



South Korean Marines and their U.S. counterparts from III Marine Expeditionary Force run on a snow field in Pyeongchang, South Korea, Feb. 7. More than 400 Marines from the two countries participated in the joint winter exercise held for the first time in South Korea. *(Photo by Lee Jin-Man/AP)*



# IN THE NEWS

## AMOS: AFGHANS TAKING CHARGE IN HELMAND



Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, announced Feb. 14 that Afghan troops in Helmand province have taken charge of planning and conducting operations against insurgents. "We don't write plans anymore for an operation. We only write supporting plans," he said. The Marines now have just two infantry battalions in Helmand, down from seven last year. The Afghan National Security Forces have grown to about 27,000. Afghan forces taking charge of their nation's security is a key step in order for all international combat troops to leave Afghanistan by the end of 2014. [Read more](#)

[Also Read: ANA Coordinates, Leads Operation through Trek Nawa](#)

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## SP-MAGTF AFRICA 13 ARRIVES IN ITALY, PREPARES FOR AFRICA



Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force (SP-MAGTF) Africa 13 hit the ground running Jan. 10 when they arrived at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy. SP-MAGTF Africa will be stationed in Italy while teams are rotated to Africa to engage with partner nations. They will conduct theater-security cooperation through multi-lateral training engagements to bolster military capacity, promote regional stability, support crisis response situations, and build mutually-beneficial relationships with partnering African nations and regional security organizations. [Read more](#)

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## OSPREY SUPPORTS AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT IN THAILAND



An MV-22B Osprey conducted a flyby during an amphibious assault



demonstration at Hat Yao, Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 14 as part of exercise Cobra Gold 2013. The exercise is an annual multinational exercise co-sponsored by Thailand and the U.S. to advance regional security by exercising a robust multinational force from nations sharing common goals and security commitments in the Asia-Pacific region. Use of the Osprey significantly strengthens the ability to efficiently and effectively conduct missions that contribute to peace and security. The MV-22 is twice as fast and has four times the range of the CH-46E Sea Knight

helicopter it replaces. [Read more](#)

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## MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS VISITS MARINE CORPS BASES ON OKINAWA



Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government of Japan, visited Marine Corps Installations Feb. 16 and met with key leaders from the Corps including Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific and acting Okinawa Area Coordinator. "I would like to express our appreciation to all the military officers in Japan regarding their efforts to maintain peace and stability in the region," said Kishida. This is Kishida's first visit to Okinawa after assuming his role as Minister for Foreign Affairs in December 2012. [Read more](#)

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## EXECS GET CHANCE TO MAKE TOUGH DECISIONS LIKE MARINES



Corporate executives and business students recently volunteered to go through three days of ethics training at the Marine Corps Base at Quantico, Va. The Marine Corps' Basic School for new officers designed the course to teach business executives how to execute ethical decision-making skills under extreme pressure. Begun in 2011, the course is offered three to four times a year to about 13 executives each time. "The course trains people to the challenges of ethical character, and there's really nobody that does it like the Marine Corps," said Steven Olson, director of the university's Center of Ethics and Corporate Responsibility. [Read more](#)

## EXPANSION OF 29 PALMS MOVES FORWARD



The Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif., was approved for expansion Feb. 12 by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. The next step falls to Congress, which must approve the expansion before prior to the transferring or purchasing of land parcels. The land expansion is required to provide enough room to train an expeditionary brigade-size force of 15,000 Marines, who would encounter more difficult training as they fight and move against targets across more than 50 miles of terrain.

[Read more](#)



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### FEBRUARY 19, 1945

Marines raided the beaches of Iwo Jima. It would take five weeks of intense fighting, costing nearly 7,000 U.S. lives to defeat the well-entrenched, heavily-fortified enemy positions and secure the strategic island.



## SEMPER PARATI

## MASS. MARINE RETURNS TO HOME AFTER MAKING REMARKABLE RECOVERY



Staff Sgt. Michael Stringer returned to his hometown of Lenox, Mass., Feb. 18 for a three day reunion with family and friends--the first since his injury sustained a year ago. Stringer, 30, was severely injured when he attempted to defuse an improvised explosive device while in Afghanistan. He spent three weeks in a medically induced coma at a hospital in Germany and underwent further surgery and rehabilitation in Texas and Virginia. He was awarded a Purple Heart and remains on active duty as a member of the Wounded Warrior Battalion at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C. [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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