

## TIP OF THE SPEAR

### QDR EMPHASIZES CYBER, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



The Pentagon's latest Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) released March 4 emphasizes the need to protect science, technology, research and development, specifically cyber capabilities. The Department of Defense plans to invest in "new and expanded cyber capabilities and forces to enhance our ability to conduct cyberspace operations and support military operations," the review, which is conducted every four years, states. The QDR's three areas of focus are protecting the homeland, building security globally, and projecting power and winning decisively. "It's continuing the transitions from the wars of the last decade in Iraq and

Afghanistan, to looking at future threats and looking at what our joint force needs to be able to do in the next 10 to 20 years," said Christine Wormuth, deputy undersecretary for strategy, plans and force development. [Read more](#)



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



The Blue Angels, Marine Corps' C-130 Hercules, affectionately known as "Fat Albert," flies over the Silent Drill Platoon at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., March 4. *(Photo by Staff Sgt. Oscar L. Olive)*



## BUDGET PLAN CONTINUES FUNDING FOR FORWARD-DEPLOYED UNITS



The Marine Corps' fiscal year 2015 defense budget proposal released March 4 plans for personnel drawdown while recognizing "new normal" missions, including the fast-deploying Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response and the expanding force of Marine embassy security guards. The FY15 budget will resource 12 new embassy security detachments and provide for the sustainment of existing ones as the Marine Corps completes a total expansion to 35 new detachments by FY2016. The budget also supports the Marines Corps' Pacific rebalancing, with designated funding for the Corps' Unit Deployment Program to

Japan and for operational units based in the Pacific. [Read more](#)

---

## ADDITIONAL MARINES GUARD U.S. EMBASSY IN UKRAINE



Members of the Marine Corps' new Security Augmentation Unit (MSAU) have been dispatched to shore up security at the U.S. Embassy in Kiev, Ukraine, as the country is on the brink of a meltdown following weeks of violent unrest after growing protests over agreements made between the former president and Russian leaders. Members of the MSAU, made up of specially trained Marine security guards, will assist the existing detachment of Marines guarding the embassy. The unit was created as part of the service's response to boost diplomatic security capabilities following the 2012 terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya. [Read](#)

[more](#)

## JAPAN TO CREATE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE MODELED AFTER USMC



The Japanese military plans to create a force of about 3,000 troops modeled after the U.S. Marine Corps and capable of rapidly launching amphibious missions. The new force, which would use amphibious vehicles and V-22 Ospreys, would likely be based out of Kyushu or the Nansei Islands, which include Okinawa. To accelerate its formation, Japan hopes to increase exercises with the U.S. military, such as "Iron Fist 2014," a seven-week amphibious exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif., that is finishing up this week. Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera has said he hopes

Japanese troops can also transfer to Guam, where Marines from Okinawa are being repositioned. [Read more](#)

---

## US MARINES, SPANISH PILOTS CONDUCT BILATERAL SHIP LANDINGS



As part of a larger effort to increase international cooperation, U.S. Marines with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response (SP-MAGTF CR) conducted a bilateral landing with their Spanish counterparts from Maneuver Helicopter Battalion #4 aboard USS Gunston Hall, Feb. 25. The training gave the Marines a dedicated opportunity to practice fundamental skills associated with operating carrier-based aircraft and demonstrate acceptable levels of proficiency. "We did this to expand our bilateral comfort zone," said Capt. Matthew Hayden, a pilot training officer with SP-MAGTF CR. "With the conduct of bilateral training, we better ourselves at

working with a host nation and expose the Spanish to working with U.S. Navy ships." [Read more](#)

---

## LAST OF THE LINE: POST-9/11 TROOP TRANSPORT COMMISSIONED



The USS Somerset, which memorializes the heroic actions of Flight 93's passengers and crew on 9/11, was commissioned during a ceremony at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia, March 1. Thousands of people came from all over the country to witness the historical commissioning of the third and final troop transport built with metal salvaged after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in honor of those victims. "It's an honor to be here in the city of Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love, with you today. It's a particularly meaningful day for the Navy and our Marine Corps team," said Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps. "Make no mistake, this vessel,

along with the other San Antonio Class amphibious ships, represent America's commitment to security throughout the world." [Read more](#)

---

## DEPLOYED MARINES BECOME U.S. CITIZENS



Seven Marines were granted their United States citizenship during a naturalization ceremony held aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Feb. 26. "It is an awesome feeling to officially become a U.S. citizen," said Sgt. Antoine S. Diop. "It has definitely been a long time coming. It feels even better having the ceremony while being deployed because I have this sense of accomplishment and belonging." At the conclusion of the ceremony, each Marine stood with pride and honor as they recited the Pledge of Allegiance because they had not only chosen to serve as one of the few, the proud, but now they were serving as citizens of the United States of

America. [Read more](#)



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

## MARCH 2, 1867

Jacob Zeilin, Colonel Commandant of the Marine Corps from 30 June 1864, was this date promoted to the rank of Brigadier General Commandant, the first time Congress authorized this rank for the Marine Corps. The statute, however, was repealed in June 1874 so that the rank of Commandant would again revert to colonel upon Zeilin's retirement.



## MARINE OF THE WEEK

### GEN. "MAD DOG" MATTIS DELIVERS MOTIVATING SPEECH



Retired Gen. Jim Mattis, one of the Marine Corps' most revered generals, was awarded the 2014 Semper Fidelis Award Feb. 22. In his acceptance speech, Mattis summed up the Marine Corps ethos and experience -- from bar fights to earth's orbit. "It's all the more important today that we hold to our precious legacy of ferocious, ethical combat performance," he said. "For in a world awash in change, Americans need to have confidence in the everlasting character of our Marines." Mattis retired from his post last year as head of U.S. Central Command after a 41-year career. [Read more](#)



## THE CORPS REPORT



The Corps Report Ep. 34 -- Rolled Sleeves Return and Commandant Answers Questions

## 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!***



**EMAIL US**



**MARINES**  
THE FEW. THE PROUD.

Official U.S. Marine Corps Newsletter

To Unsubscribe: {{user('unsubaddr')}}

{{user('senderaddress')}}