

TIP OF THE SPEAR

TENNESSEE NATIVE AWARDED SILVER STAR



Six days before losing both of his legs to an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan, Cpl. Christian Brown performed heroic actions under enemy fire deserving of the third-highest military honor. Brown was awarded the Silver Star May 3 in a ceremony aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., for carrying a Marine more than 300 meters under heavy volumes of enemy fire in Kajaki, Afghanistan in 2011 so the wounded Marine could be evacuated. "I would have to say I'd always do it all over again no matter what," he said. Brown is the 42nd Marine to receive the Silver Star for heroic actions in

Afghanistan. [Read more](#)



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Staff Sgt. Mark Zambon, who lost both legs to a bomb blast, practices yoga at the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Zambon attends yoga classes regularly at Naval Medical Center San Diego. "The powerful meditative aspect of the practice helped still my mind and to be present in the moment and so very refreshed," he said. *(Photo by Frank Richard/Big Expeditions)*



IN THE NEWS

PRESIDENTIAL SQUADRON LANDS OSPREY



The Marine One helicopter squadron (HMX-1) hosted an MV-22B Introduction Ceremony May 4, formally welcoming the Osprey to its fleet. HMX-1 is the unit responsible for flying President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, cabinet members and other VIPs. The Osprey will be used for "greenside" missions, supporting White House travels by shuttling essential equipment, the president's staff, and media. The new HMX-1 Osprey will replace the medium-lift capability provided by the CH-46 Sea Knight, which has been in service since the early sixties. [Read more](#)

[Also Read: HMX-1 Arrives For White House Support](#)

MORE OSPREYS HEADED TO OKINAWA



This summer the Marine Corps will deploy a second squadron of the MV-22 Ospreys to Okinawa, Japan, announced Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and his Japanese counterpart Itsunori Onodera, April 29, at a joint press conference. The tilt-rotor aircraft, which can fly like a plane and take off and land like a helicopter, will come from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 26. Hagel said the new squadron -- consisting of 12 planes in all -- will "increase our capabilities in the region." The first squadron of Ospreys deployed last fall. [Read more](#)

UNMANNED HELICOPTER KEEPS MARINES OFF DANGEROUS ROADS IN AFGHANISTAN



The K-MAX unmanned helicopter is proving to be a valuable asset to Marines in Afghanistan. During the past 16 months the two K-MAXs that were sent to Afghanistan as an experiment have delivered 3.2 million pounds of cargo and flown more than 1,000 missions. The test was supposed to last just six months, but the Corps extended it indefinitely in March, citing success in delivering cargo and keeping Marines off dangerous roads. It has provided real-world proof that remotely piloted aircrafts are useful for much more than just surveillance and missile strikes. [Read more](#)

CORPS SEEKS ENERGY EFFICIENCY



The Marine Corps is exploring a host of energy efficient initiatives to reduce energy dependence and increase self-sufficiency. "Because of our thirst for liquid fuel, we're not as light and agile as we once were, putting both our Marines and our expeditionary capabilities at risk," said Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James Amos, when he launched the new energy strategy in 2011. Marines have already deployed portable solar panels to power radio batteries and are now developing solar panels that can be attached to uniforms. [Read more](#)

MILITARY WORKING DOG IN THE RUNNING FOR 'HERO DOG'



A retired Marine Corps military working dog named Lucca is a contestant in the 2013 American Humane Association Hero Dogs Award Contest, held May 7 to June 30. If she wins, up to \$6,500 will go to the United States War Dog Association. Lucca served in the Marines for six years, retiring in 2012 due to injuries sustained while serving in Afghanistan. During her service, Lucca located explosives and was directly responsible for the arrest of four insurgents. She now lives at Quantico, Va., with her handler, Gunnery Sgt. Chris Willingham. [Read more](#)

[Cast your vote](#)

FROM THE BATTLEFIELD TO THE BEEHIVE: QUANTICO MARINES TURN HOBBY INTO BUSINESS



Marine Capt. Justin Strickler and Chief Warrant Officer James McWilliams established "Honeycomb Heroes" in 2011, turning their unusual skill of beekeeping into a business. Strickler and McWilliams completed a workshop at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., where they learned the keys to a successful business, garnering some quick interest. "After our pitch, everyone wanted to invest in our business," McWilliams said. "Some of the students even followed us out to our car to buy honey." In the future, the pair hopes to expand business and give back to the community. [Read more](#)

VIETNAM VET AWARDED FOR HEROISM 50 YEARS LATER



Former Pfc. Robert L. Rimpson was awarded the Bronze Star Medal May 4 -- 50 years after his combat actions in Vietnam. On Aug. 18, 1965, Rimpson and his squad members advanced on an entrenched enemy when they received intense small arms fire. They cleared the trench line and moved to assist a nearby unit. Rimpson, who suffered shrapnel wounds from enemy mortar fire, delivered suppressive fire on the enemy position, which in turn enabled helicopters to land and evacuate casualties. [Read more](#)

OLDEST LIVING MARINE CELEBRATES 106TH BIRTHDAY



Walter Walsh, the oldest living Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Agent, Olympian and Marine, celebrated his 106th birthday May 4. In 1938, after a stint in the FBI, Walsh joined the Marines. By World War II, Walsh joined the front lines as lieutenant colonel in the First Marine Division. Following a brief return to the FBI and the 1948 Olympic Games in London, Walsh served another 20 years in the Marine Corps as a shooting instructor until retirement. [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

MAY 8, 1808

Marine Barracks, Charleston was established under Lt. Pinckney and 22 Marines. Five years later they were ordered to serve in the War of 1812.



SEMPER PARATUS

DECORATED WWII GENERAL LEAVES LEGACY



Gordon D. Gayle, a retired Marine Corps brigadier general who received the Navy Cross after a fierce World War II battle in the Pacific and later directed an influential study of tactics and battlefield planning, died April 21 at the age of 95. Gayle's Navy Cross award citation said he led his Marines "across fourteen hundred yards of open ground, swept by intense enemy mortar, artillery and machine gun fire." Gayle's other military decorations included two awards of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart. [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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