

MARINE CORPS CONNECTION

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TIP OF THE SPEAR

MARINES: 'EXPEDITIONARY FORCE 21' TO BE 'FAST, AUSTERE, & LETHAL'



The Marine Corps developed a new "capstone concept," Expeditionary Force 21, that will guide the service for the next decade. The publication outlines a future Marine Corps that is "expeditionary...fast, austere, and lethal," from equipment to training to the mindset of every single Marine. Included in the concept are major investments in rapid-deployment forces, from helicopter-carried jeeps to high-speed boats -- while deemphasizing traditional amphibious vehicles -- that can conduct a new kind of long-range amphibious warfare. While Marine leaders

have talked for years about returning to the service's seaborne and expeditionary roots, "Expeditionary Force 21 marks a significant escalation in this regard," said Army War College professor Nate Freier. "It is an indication of a clean and unmistakable conceptual break from the Marine Corps' most recent warfighting past in Iraq and Afghanistan." [Read more](#)

Also Read: Expeditionary Force 21

Listen to LtGen Kenneth Glueck talk on 'Expeditionary Force 21'



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Marines with Marine Rotational Force - Darwin handle a black-headed python during an orientation brief aboard Robertson Barracks, Northern Territory, Australia. During the brief, the Marines had the chance to handle snakes and crocodiles while learning about the Australian wildlife and environment. This information will come in handy as the Marines will be conducting unilateral training and bilateral training "out bush" with the Australian Defence Force in the Northern Territory and at existing ADF facilities during the six-month rotation. *(Photo by Cpl. James Gulliver)*



IN THE NEWS

MARINES AND FAMILY MEMBERS MARK 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF IRAQ WAR BATTLE



Several hundred Marines and family members gathered April 6 to remember the Marines who fought and were lost in Ramadi, Iraq on the 10 year anniversary of the beginning of the battle. Marines of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines had deployed to Ramadi to aid in Iraq's transition to democracy, to start sports teams for the young and help in the construction of schools and health centers. Instead, Ramadi soon transformed to full-blown urban combat. On April 6, 2004, the first day of fighting, 12 Marines were killed. [Read more](#)

MARINES QUESTION AVAILABILITY OF SHIPS, PERSONNEL FOR ASIA-PACIFIC SHIFT



With a rapidly shrinking force and fewer amphibious ships available, the Marine Corps is questioning whether it can support the strategic shift to the Asia-Pacific region. "We are on our way...to a less than a 300 hundred ship Navy. We are on our way to a 175,000 man Marine Corps. These are the messages we are trying to take to Congress," Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, said April 7 in a speech at the Navy League's Sea, Air, Space conference at National Harbor, Md. The service said it needs 54 amphibious assault ships to do its job. Current plans call for only 38, but that is likely to shrink to 33, he said. [Read more](#)

MARINES LAND IN MOROCCO, DEMONSTRATE CRISIS RESPONSE CAPABILITY



Marines of Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response (SPMAGTF-CR) conducted a training mission in Tifnit, Morocco, April 3, in conjunction with African Lion 14, a combined-joint exercise between the Kingdom of Morocco and the U.S. This training focused on the primary mission for SPMAGTF-CR, which is to provide a highly responsive and mobile force in the defense of lives and defense of Department of State identified high risk facilities. While the Marines are always ready for action, the success of a mission can often be determined by the amount of real-world planning and preparation that is conducted beforehand. [Read more](#)

OP-ED GETS USMC COMMANDANT'S ATTENTION, SPARKS CHANGE FOR WOMEN



Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, reacted swiftly to 2nd Lt. Sage Santangelo's complaint that women are unfairly precluded from trying a second time to pass the prestigious Marine Corps Infantry Officers Course, when men can have a second try. "When [Sage] brought up the point about the inability to recycle...I went back to my folks and said, 'we got to fix this.' So we are," Amos said. The change was sparked by an opinion article Santangelo wrote in the March 30 Washington Post in which she described the tremendous physical ordeal young Marine officers endure in trying to qualify to lead Marine infantry. [Read more](#)

CAPE ELIZABETH MAN HONORS REVOLUTIONARY WAR ANCESTORS



Portland native and former Marine Stephen Lyons researched his family history to find a long list of those who served in the



Revolutionary War. These were George Osborn Sr., Lyons' fifth great-grandfather, and his seven sons, including Michael Osborn, William's brother and Lyons' fourth great-grandfather. Lyons honored them April 8 at Fort Williams Park overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, near the spot where the British Navy invaded nearly 240 years ago. In closing the ceremony, Lyons borrowed from President Ronald Reagan, who said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

APRIL 5, 1947

Five Marine guards were killed and eight wounded when attacked by Communist Chinese raiders near the Hsin Ho ammunition depot in Northern China. This last major clash between Marines of the 1st Marine Division and Communist forces occurred shortly after withdrawal and redeployment plans from China were issued for the 1st Division and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing on 1 April.



MARINE OF THE WEEK

HONOR THE FALLEN: GEN. CARL E. MUNDY JR.



Gen. Carl Epting Mundy, Jr., the 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC), died at his home in Virginia on April 3. "With the



passing of Gen. Carl E. Mundy Jr., America has lost a valiant warrior, a dedicated public servant, and a good and decent man," said Gen. James F. Amos, CMC. "He served with honor and distinction through more than four decades of devotion to country and Corps." Over the course of his 38-year active duty career, he rose to the grade of general and served as the 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps, from July 1, 1991 through June 30, 1995. During his distinguished career, Gen Mundy commanded at all levels,

participated in combat operations in Vietnam, and served as an intelligence officer in Headquarters, III Marine Amphibious Force. [Read more](#)

Also Read: Statement from the Mundy Family

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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