

## TIP OF THE SPEAR

### FIVE CAMP LEJEUNE MARINES RECEIVE HIGHEST NON-COMBAT AWARD FOR HEROISM



Five Marines were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal June 3 for their heroism while assigned to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) during Exercise African Lion '12. The Exercise was a bilateral training event held in Morocco, April 11, 2012. Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Alvarez, Sgts. Daniel Beers and Christopher Ewain, and Cpls. Michael Pearson and Steve Hanson were the first to respond when a 24th MEU aircraft crashed. The Marines put their lives in danger as they entered the downed aircraft,



were mortally wounded. "These Marines acted with courage, skill and precision that saved lives," said Col. Frank Donovan, the former commanding officer of 24th MEU. A sixth Marine, Sgt. Merritt Huntley, was not present during the ceremony due to training commitments; he will be awarded the medal at a later date. [Read more](#)

administered aid and attempted to rescue the crew. During the mishap, two Marines sustained severe injuries while two others



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Navy Corpsman James Hyten, a native of Indianapolis, Ind., and medical technician for Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, based out of Camp Lejeune, N.C., carries a Marine during the Integrated Training Exercise at Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., May 27. The battalion sent four convoys over two days to train Marines on resupply operations and to provide realistic "local-national" training for the Marines before CLB-6's upcoming deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. *(Photo by Cpl. Paul Peterson)*



## IN THE NEWS

### MARINE SERGEANT MAJOR NAMED TOP ENLISTED LEADER IN AFGHANISTAN



Sgt. Maj. James Booker will become the senior enlisted leader for U.S. Forces Afghanistan and the International Security Assistance Forces, commanded by Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, in Kabul. Booker currently serves under Lt. Gen. Steven Hummer as the sergeant major for Marine Corps Forces Reserve and Marine Corps Forces North, out of New Orleans. Booker earned the Silver Star, the nation's third highest valor award, for heroism in Iraq in 2004 while serving as the sergeant major of 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, out of Camp Pendleton, Calif. [Read more](#)

### WAR'S FALLEN GET MEMORIAL AT PENDLETON



More than 200 service members, veterans, friends and family gathered at Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 6 for a memorial stone dedication to honor the 89 members of the 5th Marine Regiment lost during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. "Generations of Marines will come here to this very spot and remember the great deeds and warrior bonds they had with their fallen comrades," said Col. Roger Turner Jr., commanding officer of the regiment. Afterward, onlookers crowded the memorial to take photographs, make keepsake rubbings or lay a hand on the cool, smooth stone. [Read more](#)

**Also Watch: Gen. Kelly Dedicates OEF Memorial**

## 45 YEARS LATER, FALLEN MARINE HONORED BY CLASSMATES



Members of the Mater Dei High School class of 1967 gathered June 5 to honor classmate Lance Cpl. Thomas McBride -- a Marine killed in Vietnam 45 years ago. The class of '67 planted a tree in McBride's honor in 1992. A plaque was dedicated at the same time, but was lost when the tree was relocated; at its 45th reunion, the class voted to buy a new plaque. Several veterans unveiled the new addition, which features a picture of McBride and a portion of a poem. "It is humbling to think that my brother had an influence on their lives and that they care after all these years," said Catherine Jefferson, McBride's younger sister. [Read more](#)

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## COLUMBIA NATIVE BECOMES US CITIZEN IN TRIPOLI



Sgt. Jeison Mendoza, a mortarman with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa and Colombia native, became a citizen of the United States June 4 while deployed to Tripoli, Libya. It was the first time the ceremony was performed in Libya since World War II. "It feels like I reached one of the biggest goals of my life," said Mendoza. "I wanted to feel and become a proud American." Mendoza came to the U.S. while still in grade school and enlisted in the Marines when he turned 18. [Read more](#)

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## JAPANESE TROOPS EXPAND EXPEDITIONARY CAPABILITIES IN CALIFORNIA



Japanese troops will converge on California's southern coast in the next two weeks as part of a military exercise led by U.S. Marines and Sailors; it is aimed at helping Japan's Self-Defense Force operate in stronger coordination with the U.S., and to better respond to crises such as natural disasters. Strengthening Japan's amphibious capabilities is vital as the U.S. focuses more attention on developing an Asia-Pacific strategy. "Most Asian countries welcome -- even if quietly stated -- a more capable

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(Japanese force) that is also closely allied to U.S. forces." said Col. Grant Newsham, Marine liaison to the Japanese military. [Read more](#)

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## MARFORCYBER FOCUSES ON TACTICS



As the battlefield expands to cyber space, Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command (MARFORCYBER) is focusing on the tactical level of cyber operations, supplying reach back support to deployed forces. "We're more focused at the tactical level, the tactical edge of cyber operations, in supporting our forward-deployed commanders, and that's what we should do," said MARFORCYBER commander Lt. Gen. Richard Mills. It's an important capability, which Mills says will become increasingly important and effective for deployed commanders in the future. [Read more](#)

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## BOY SCOUT, MARINES REPAINT PRESCHOOL



Marines and Sailors at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan cleaned and repainted Sugi Noko Preschool in Kin Town June 1 alongside Gid A. Merz, a 14-year-old Life Scout with Boy Scout Troop 102; the volunteer initiative was part of Merz's Eagle Scout service project. It served as an opportunity for Merz to demonstrate leadership qualities while executing a task for the benefit of the community -- an important step in attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. "When I heard about this service project, I wanted to be a part of it," said Sgt. Nathan Campbell, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "It's important to do things like this to demonstrate our care for the community." [Read more](#)



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

## JUNE 10, 1898

The 1st Marine Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Robert W. Huntington, landed on the eastern side of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The next day, Lt. Herbert L. Draper hoisted the American flag on a flag pole at Camp McCalla where it flew during the next eleven days. Huntington later sent the flag with an accompanying letter to Commandant Charles Heywood noting that "when bullets were flying...the sight of the flag upon the midnight sky has thrilled our hearts."



## SEMPER PARATUS

### 3RD MARINE REGIMENT HONORS 119 FALLEN HEROES



The 3rd Marine Regiment honored 119 of their own killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan with a memorial run and ceremony, June 6. Of the runners, 119 Marines and Sailors wore the dog tags of fallen service members and a black shirt that bore the words, "All gave some. Some gave all. In memory of our fallen brothers." At the ceremony that followed, each name of the deceased was called; the Marine wearing the dog tags of the fallen hero ran up to the pedestal where a pair of combat boots and a M16A4 service rifle stood in the middle with a desert Kevlar helmet sitting on top. The Marine then placed the fallen dog tags on the pistol grip.

"The best thing you can do is honor (the life) they lived," said Cpl. Jose Leey. [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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