

# MARINE CORPS CONNECTION

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## TIP OF THE SPEAR

### MARINE CORPS READY TO RESPOND IN PACIFIC



The Marine Corps remains positioned to address threats coming out of North Korea, including support of an evacuation, said Gen. John Paxton, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, at the Sea-Air-Space expo luncheon April 9 in National Harbor, Md. "The Marine forces in the western Pacific are what we call 'Fight Tonight Force,'" he said. "If something were to happen on the peninsula, they would be one of your immediate crisis response forces." The III Marine Expeditionary Force is poised to respond to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions in the western Pacific. They are bolstered by

Aircraft wing, both based in Okinawa, Japan. [Read more](#)

the 3rd Marine Division and 1st Marine



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



An AV-8B Harrier from Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 214 performs a vertical take off from the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer, which is underway conducting training off the coast of Southern California. *(Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Oscar N. Espinoza)*



# IN THE NEWS

## MARINES, PHILIPPINES STAND 'SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER'



More than 300 service members with the III Marine Expeditionary Force and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) kicked off the 29th annual Exercise Balikatan April 5. Balikatan, meaning "shoulder-to-shoulder," is a bilateral military exercise conducted by AFP and U.S. forces to strengthen regional partnerships and increase military interoperability and readiness. The exercise instills camaraderie between the forces through shared training and cooperation, further enhancing a joint capability to respond to real-world operations. [Read more](#)

## SPMAGTF-AFRICA PREPARES UGANDAN FORCES FOR SOMALIA MISSION



Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa 13 recently trained a Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) logistics company for its upcoming deployment in support of the African Union Mission in Somalia. "We're here to help Ugandans increase their military capabilities," said 1st Lt Gordon Adams. "It's all about making sure they're fully prepared to defend themselves internally and to also conduct missions abroad in support of their own interests and those of the U.S." Training included AK-47 assault rifle instruction; setting up expeditionary warehousing and supply areas; and transporting equipment from port cities in Somalia to

the front lines. [Read more](#)

## AFRICAN LION 13 KICKS OFF IN MOROCCO



Exercise African Lion 13 began April 6 as a joint force of Marines, airmen, Sailors, and soldiers conducted a maritime offload at the port of Agadir,



Morocco. The multi-lateral exercise involves more than 1,400 U.S. servicemembers, and approximately 900 Royal Moroccan Armed Forces. The task force is conducting military-to-military engagements in various exercises that build military partner-nation capacity. Familiarization and training includes: command post exercise, live-fire and maneuvering, peace keeping operations, intelligence capacity building seminar, humanitarian and civic assistance, amphibious operations, aerial

refueling, and low-level flight training. [Read more](#)

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## IED COST MARINE HIS LEGS, BUT NOT HIS SPIRIT



Two years ago, Staff Sgt. Mark Zambon was on his fourth combat deployment as an explosive ordnance disposal technician, when an improvised explosive device severed his legs and shattered his arm. Determined not to let his injuries crush his zest for life or end his career as a Marine, Zambon continues to push himself every day. On prosthetic limbs, he climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and paid tribute to two lost comrades by burying their dog tags atop the mountain and then doing a headstand. "We have to live life fully -- because that's what they would want us to do," he said. Zambon is currently taking a course at Camp Pendleton to be

eligible for possible promotion to gunnery sergeant. [Read more](#)

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## CHESTY XIV OFFICIALLY A MARINE



The Marine Corps' new mascot, Chesty XIV, was made a full Marine April 8. With the entire Marine Barracks Washington force watching, Gen. James Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, promoted the young bulldog from recruit to Private First Class. PFC Chesty XIV will assume duties this summer during evening parades at the Barracks. Top Marine officers implored the new mascot to carry the tradition of Sgt. Chesty XIII, while their wives are hoping the puppy is better behaved. His predecessor is well-known for his battle with Bravo, former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta's golden retriever. [Read more](#)



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### APRIL 10, 1959

Lt. Col. John H. Glenn, Jr. was named as one of the original seven Project Mercury astronauts selected for space training. The seven astronauts, all volunteers, were selected by NASA from an initial group of 110 leading military test pilots. Three years later, on Feb. 20, 1962, Lt. Col. Glenn would become the first American to orbit the Earth.



## SEMPER PARATI

### MARINES GO BALD FOR A CAUSE



Marines of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) shaved their heads to show support of a 10-year-old they have never met. First Lt Scott Fink, a member of the deployed 15th MEU, shaved his head in honor of his cousin Jaykob Kobylarczyk. Kobylarczyk is undergoing chemotherapy for an inoperable brain tumor. One of the side effects of the treatment is hair loss, and in an act of camaraderie, Fink's comrades followed suit. "They did it without any knowledge in support of him," said Fink. "It was a pretty awesome experience when I walked up there and saw them all." [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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