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## MARINES SEE PROGRESS IN AFGHANISTAN



As Afghan forces take the lead in Helmand province, Maj. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, Regional Command-Southwest commander, recently toured the Helmand province of Afghanistan to assess progress. "Talk to me about police, talk to me about army units. And I don't want, you know, 'these guys are perfect.' ... I want a very accurate snapshot," Gurganus told one of his subordinate commanders. Reporting on the Nawa, Marjah and Garmser districts, Lt. Col. E.J. Healey, the battalion commander for 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine

Regiment, noted that governance, poppy eradication and construction of infrastructure, such as precincts and headquarters buildings Afghan forces need, are all on track.

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# NEWS

## CORPS LAUNCHES ETHICS STAND-DOWN

Commanders and their senior enlisted advisors will conduct an ethics stand-down across the Corps per orders from Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps. Outlined in Marine Administrative Message (MARADMIN) 362/12, the stand-down should give Marines "a deepened understanding of our ethos, and be better able to recognize and explain ethical challenges. The end state desired is a lasting, positive ethical culture and climate." The stand-down comes after the Commandant toured the Corps to personally speak to Marines on heritage and core values. "This stand-down will highlight the role of command leadership as the primary ethics instructors for their respective units," said Col. William Mullen III, president of Marine Corps University. "It should enable Marines to engage in ethical decision-making processes and participate in ongoing discussion and debate."

**MARADMIN**



## IOC OPENING TO FEMALES



This July's Infantry Officer Course (IOC) is anticipated to be the last all-male class prior to females attending the rigorous, physically demanding course in the fall. The Fiscal Year 2011 National Defense Authorization Act directed the Secretary of Defense and the Service Secretaries to "review laws, policies and regulations that may restrict the service of female members." As part of a measured,



deliberate and responsible quantitative research study, the Marine Corps is conducting an assessment at IOC using volunteer female officers upon graduation from The Basic School. Female officers will complete the same exact program of instruction as their male counterparts during IOC. All officers will be subject to the

same training standards during the research study.

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## JAVELIN THRUST 2012

Bringing together more than 5,000 active duty and Reserve Marines, Javelin Thrust is the Marine Corps' largest annual training exercise. The month-long exercise is in full swing at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., with Marines from 1st Expeditionary Brigade (MEB), as well as Reserve Marines from units across the country. "We have active and reserve component forces working together in a Marine Air-Ground Task Force, which is great training for both forces," said Brig. Gen. James Hartsell, the 1st MEB deputy commanding general. Javelin Thrust

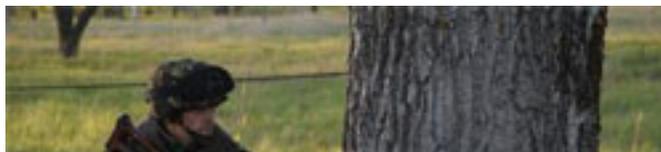


fulfills the reserve Marines' annual training requirements, while also giving 1st MEB the rare opportunity to command and control a reserve force in a difficult desert environment.

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## BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE TRAINS ROMANIANS



In a tactics exchange with Romanian soldiers, Marines with 3rd Platoon, Ground Combat Element (GCE), Black Sea Rotational Force 12 (BSRF-12) set up



multiple scenarios aimed at preparing Romanian soldiers for what they might encounter in battle, including ambushes, sniper attacks and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). "This training is a great opportunity to exchange information about our tactics and enhance interoperability for future missions," said Staff Sgt. Kirby G.

Fanus, platoon sergeant, 3rd Platoon, GCE, BSRF-12. The week-long training was part of the BSRF's six-month deployment that includes training with 19 nations throughout the Black Sea, Balkan and Caucasus regions. The BSRF is a Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force with crisis response capabilities deployed to the region to enhance interoperability and promote regional stability.

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## SMALL UNMANNED SYSTEM, BIG IMPACT



Small in size, the RQ-21A Small Tactical Unmanned Aircraft System (STUAS) has big implications for Marine intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. The RQ-21A is fitted with radar, a high-definition camera and infrared capabilities, all of which allow for more comprehensive intelligence. Like its predecessor, the RQ-21A doesn't need an airfield or a runway to launch. "[It] is notable because it enables the Marine Corps to adapt more rapidly to

enemy capabilities as they evolve," said Maj. Michael Shand, Headquarters Marine Corps Unmanned Aerial Systems Requirements Officer. The acquisition will be instrumental in furthering the intelligence and expeditionary capabilities of the Marine Corps. Currently the Corps has eight of the unmanned aircraft system and plans to acquire a total of 100 by 2017.

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## CORPS TAKING HOLISTIC APPROACH TO FITNESS

Rolling out later this year, the Marine Corps Fitness Improvement Tool (MCFIT) will help Marines maintain fitness in a comprehensive way. The program will assess Marines' health using mind, body, spirit and social fitness guidelines.

Spearheaded by Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Joseph Dunford, MCFIT will also help Marines recover from the stresses of combat. "The Marines in particular are trained to compartmentalize their emotions, which is completely necessary when they're in a place of combat...but when they come home they need to adjust back to their normal life," said Rachel Saboski, a psychiatrist at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, N.C.

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## COMMANDANT TO SPEAK AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB



Gen. James F. Amos will deliver the keynote address as part of the National Press Club's luncheon speaker series Aug. 28 in Washington, D.C. His remarks will focus on the role of the Marine Corps as America's crisis response force and the impact a decade of war has had on the Corps. Following his presentation, the floor will open for questions. The event is open to National Press Club members, as well as the public. Tickets are \$19

for press club members, \$30 for guests of members and \$37 for general admission; and lunch is included in admission. For those unable to attend, the event will be broadcast on C-SPAN.

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## HEROES

## WARRIOR RETURNS HOME TO A HERO'S WELCOME

Lance Cpl. Marcus Haney arrived home in California to his own personal battalion of friends, family and Patriot Guard riders, who gathered to greet the wounded Marine at the Sacramento International Airport July 2. "It feels amazing to have all these family and friends around here supporting me and my family, and I'm just astonished right now," he said. The 24-year-old was shot in the leg during his deployment to Sangin Valley, Afghanistan, and is recovering at the Naval Medical Hospital Center in San Diego, Calif. At the hospital, Haney met and held his three-month-old son, Hunter, who was born while the Marine was deployed overseas.

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## TRANSITION

### BELTING OUT THE PAIN OF WAR



For Christian Ellis, only the powerful sounds of opera could soothe his soul when he returned from Iraq. The 29-year-old veteran Marine machine gunner put pain to paper and created what is believed to be the first-known opera written about war in Iraq. "When I sing, it's like this identity that I've been looking for comes out and takes over," he said. "I honestly forget my fears. I forget my guilt, my regrets, the pain, the betrayal, the struggles." The opera depicts Ellis' struggles while he was deployed to Iraq, including the loss of his best friend in battle. The opera made its Internet debut July 9 and will now be marketed to opera houses. "Fallujah" was developed by City Opera Vancouver in British Columbia, Canada with the help of a playwright, a composer, nine actors and an 11-member orchestra in a performance laboratory.



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## SEMPER FI

### 70 YEARS LATER, WWII VET GRADUATES



Just shy of turning 18 years old, Vincent "Jim" Giarmo was eager to enlist in the Corps. It was 1942 and he'd just witnessed the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He convinced his parents to let him leave high school without graduating and packed his bags for boot camp. But on June 29, in front of a crowd of 4,000, the retired Marine accepted his long-overdue diploma with the graduating class at Monroe High School in Michigan. Giarmo served as a mechanic for Corsiar planes during World War II. When the war ended, he enrolled in vocational school and worked as a welder at the Ford Motor Company Plant in the suburbs of Detroit.

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