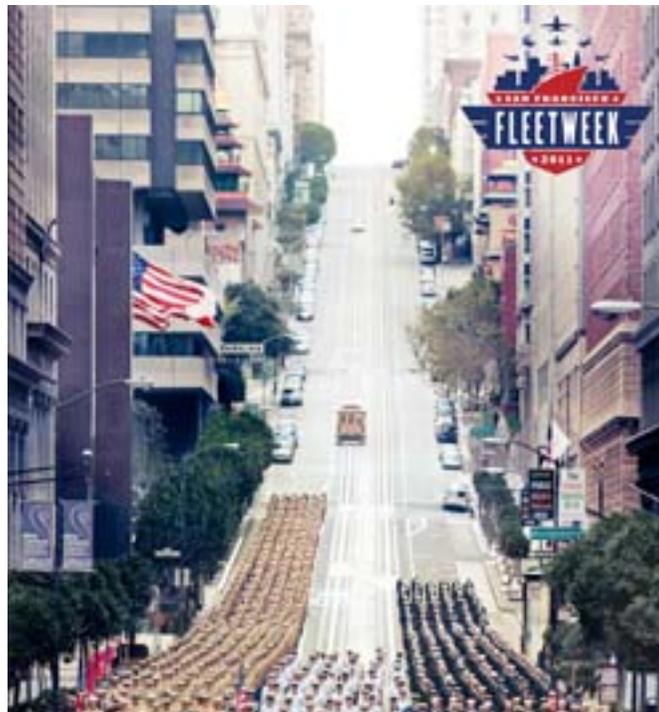


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MARINES, SAILORS HELP PLAN FOR THE 'BIG ONE'



According to *Sign On San Diego*, the big one hits San Francisco. Hospitals overflow with casualties. Drinking water and fresh food grow scarce, roads are blocked by rubble and the city's great bridges are impassable. San Francisco is an island of crisis in need of assistance from maritime services equipped to operate offshore. Enter the Marines, Navy and Coast Guard. Planning for a major earthquake and motivating the public to prepare was the bracing undercurrent this year at San Francisco Fleet Week, a week-long event that ended Tuesday. About 8,000 San Diego-based Navy Sailors and Marines participated. "It is very complex from the organizational command and control side, and when you add the chaos and the confusion and the damage to life as well as



to property that would come about, this is a challenging problem," said Marine Maj. Gen. Melvin Spiese, commander of the 1st

Marine Expeditionary Brigade. "If we don't work and think through it now, our ability to meet the needs of people in dire straits is going to be really limited and complicated. What we don't want to do is have to introduce ourselves and exchange business cards in the midst of a crisis," Spiese said.

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49ERS HONOR MARINES, SAILORS IN SAN FRANCISCO FLEET WEEK

On Oct. 9, the 49ers welcomed hundreds of service members to watch the home team play the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Its a pretty good deal, said Lance Cpl. Joshua Merchison, an airframes mechanic with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364. The fact that they gave us tickets lets us know how much the people of San Francisco appreciate us. It was a great feeling knowing what you are doing isnt



unnoticed, he said. Though the game didnt display much of a competition and ended in a score of 48-3, a win for the 49ers, it featured some live performances by the 1st Marine Division Band and Airman 1st Class Megan Hokaj, a vocalist with the Air Force Band of the Golden West, during the halftime tribute to the nations forces. Fans all across the stadium stood and thanked service members for their service, and asked to take photos with them throughout the game. While the service members enjoyed the halftime show, young men and women lined up on the field and swore an oath of enlistment to serve in the Marine Corps and Navy.

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HEROES

MARINE CORPS COMMANDANT VISITS DOVER TO EXPERIENCE MORTUARY MISSION



Earlier this month, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, traveled to Dover Air Force Base, Del., to tour the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs. Along with his wife, Amos traveled to see the mortuary and better understand the care provided for fallen service members and their families. "It was important to come out and see how our fallen angels were cared for and how their gear was cared for," the Commandant said. "Dignified is precisely the right

term." While he was there, Amos also took time to meet with each of the Marines that serve at the mortuary. At the end of the day, the impact on the Command was clear. "I wanted to say thank you. I'm completely wowed by what I've seen today," He said "Absolutely professional -- top notch. It's done honorably -- it's done professionally and I just can't imagine if I had to sit down and try to think about ways that I might improve or do it better."

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ELITE DOG HANDLER HONORED AT CAMP LEATHERNECK



A memorial service was held in honor of Staff Sgt. Christopher Diaz at a chapel aboard Camp Leatherneck in Helmand, Province. Diaz, a native of El Paso, Texas,



and a military working dog handler assigned to II Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group (Forward), Task Force Belleau Wood, died Sept. 28 after being wounded while rushing to the aid of a comrade during combat operations in Helmand province. As a working dog handler, he achieved unparalleled

professional success, including being selected to attend an advanced training program for several months in Israel. After completing the course, Diaz was one of only a handful of dog handlers in the Corps to have the qualifications he possessed. His skill and professionalism led to him being chosen to support reconnaissance and Special Forces in some of the most dangerous places in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Diaz was where he was supposed to be and when, said Lt. Cdr. Steven Coates, II MHG (Fwd.) chaplain. I am not suggesting it was the right time for him to die, only that it was the right season for him to serve.

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NEWS

AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY ROCKS DESERT IN FIRST ARTILLERY SHOOT



Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers with 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, recently fired their first artillery rounds in Helmand province, putting to use their newly acquired skills for the first time since their unit was formed in May. Upon unit formation and initial artillery training at the Kabul Military Training



Center, the soldiers worked side-by-side training under the

guidance of Marines with the Combat Support Advisory Team attached to 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, and select Marines with Charlie Battery, 1/12, in order to increase their proficiency and skill. One of the ANA's biggest improvements made was in the Fire Direction Center, where Marines compute a target's range, direction and precise target location when a request for fire support comes in. With the Marines' help, who often had to instruct the ANA soldiers without the assistance of translators, the ANA were able to bring their mission processing time from 10-15 minutes down to six. "When we trained the ANA, they were excited and paid attention to the training," said Lawrenceville, Ga., native Staff Sgt. Mitchell H. Hamilton, an advisor with the CSAT. "Even with the lack of interpreters at times, it was amazing to see how fast they caught on." After setting up the four Soviet-made 122 mm howitzer D-30 artillery cannons at the training area, the ANA and Marines sent their first volley of high explosive dual purpose artillery rounds down range. Excitement erupted from the ANA soldiers as they saw all of their training pay off. "I was happy when we shot because we put in practice and it shows we understand what we have learned," said Afghan Sgt. Mowladad Wafa, a recorder with one of the gun sections. "I was happy to hit the target - so far we've had a successful shoot."

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[See Also: Regional Command Southwest press conference](#)

F-35B COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL INITIAL SHIPBOARD VERTICAL LANDING ABOARD USS WASP



On Oct. 3, the Navy and Marine Corps team made aviation history as the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) test aircraft BF-2 landed safely on USS Wasps (LHD-1) flight deck, the first at sea vertical landing for the Marine Corps F-35 JSF version. The first vertical landing is part of the initial sip trials for the F-35, which started on Oct. 3 and are expected to last two weeks. The tests are schedules to collect data on the aircrafts ability



to perform short take-offs and vertical landings on a ship at-sea, as well as determine how the

aircraft integrates with the ships landing systems, deck and hangar operations. "The first at sea vertical landing is a huge milestone, said Marine Corps Col. Roger Cordell, military site director for F-35 test and evaluation at Naval Air Station Patuxent River. We're still early in this test period, and we expect to learn a lot more, but this is a great step toward delivering the capability to the fleet."

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31ST MEU, STATE DEPARTMENT CONDUCT NON-COMBATANT EVACUATION EXERCISE



In response to rising danger to civilians in the area, Marines with the 31st Expeditionary unit, with assistance of the Embassy of the Ryukyu Kingdom, evacuated American citizens on Oct. 7. The scenario was part of a Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) exercise, conducted during a certification exercise for the 31st MEU. The training prepares the expeditionary unit for contingencies that may arise in the Asia-Pacific. Department of State workers volunteered to role-play

as U.S. Embassy workers in the Ryukyu Kingdom and came from a wide variety of areas including the Consul General, U.S. Embassy of Manila, U.S. Embassy Bangkok and U.S. Embassy Korea. For Daniel Piccuta, the role-player Ambassador, this type of exercise is a unique opportunity to coordinate between the tactical level of the Marines on the ground and the strategic level of the embassy. I've seen embassies have coups and request NEOs, but I've never actually experienced Marines arriving and extracting civilians, said Piccuta. For me, this is the final piece of the puzzle without actually living through it. The 31st MEU is the United States force in readiness for the Asia-Pacific region and remains the country's only continuously forward deployed expeditionary unit.

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MARINE CORPS TRADEMARK AND LICENSING



A recent video by the Marine Corps Trademark and Licensing office talks about the importance of registering products and buying products that are officially approved by the Marine Corps. The Trademark and Licensing office is constantly registering new trademarks, with at least 40 new ones in the pipelines. The revenue generated, which is about \$1 million to date goes to running the licensing office, as well as troop morale, welfare and recreation.

The Military Merchandise helps

increase public awareness of the Marine Corps, and challenges them to be part of the elite military groups like the Marine Corps. "It is important for consumers to buy products with the Marine Corps Trademark and Licensing tag," Philip Greene, Trademark Counsel said. "Just like an NFL product, the tag tells the consumer that that is an official product licensed by the Marine Corps."

[Click here to watch video](#)

CAMP PENDLETON EXPANDS HELP FOR WAR WOUNDED



The Marine Corps has announced two new efforts at Camp Pendleton, Calif., to help wounded and injured Marines and Sailors. According to the *Los Angeles Times Blog*, on Oct. 6, the \$29-million, 30,000 square-foot Warrior Hope and Care Center opened to provide counseling and reconditioning for Marines and



Sailors. The facility has space for chaplains, education specialists, representatives of the Department of Veterans Affairs and family-readiness employees.

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PARTNERSHIP IS WIN-WIN FOR SPOUSES, EMPLOYERS



Since June, the Military Spouse Employment Partnership has worked to successfully connect highly qualified, job-seeking military spouses with employers who are ready and eager to hire them. Earlier this week at the Association of the U.S. Army 2011 Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C., Robert L. Gordon III, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy, said that the partnership is about finding a good fit for spouses and employers. The program now encompasses 96 corporate partners who

have committed to aiding spouses in finding and identifying portable jobs -- a key component for the 1.2 million military spouses who work outside the home. The program also seeks to provide equitable pay -- at the conference this week, Gordon made it clear that military spouses aren't seeking preferential treatment, but they just want a level playing field and the same job consideration as their civilian counterparts. Meanwhile, the Military Spouse Employment Partnership benefits the employees as well -- they are looking for skilled, loyal workers with the ability to team-build and organize while working in diverse settings, and that is exactly what their finding through the program. Military spouses wanting to utilize the program to find a job should visit www.msejobs.com.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT CAMPAIGN SUPPORTING MILITARY FAMILIES

The entertainment industry's Inter-Guild Joining



Forces Task Forces released new public service announcements (PSAs) in response to First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden's Joining Forces program, a national initiative to support and honor America's service members and their families. The new PSAs, which were written, directed and produced by members of the Task Force, tell real stories about America's military families and call on all Americans to give back to ensure service members and military families have the support they have earned. The PSAs feature a call to action from the First Lady to encourage Americans to get involved to support military families by visiting www.joiningforces.gov. This website's resources

were recently revamped to include thousands of additional opportunities for Americans to volunteer in their own communities.

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Watch PSA with Steven Spielberg

Watch PSA with Tom Hanks

Watch PSA with Oprah Winfrey

DID YOU KNOW?

L.I.N.K.S FOR MARINE FAMILIES



Knowing that it is often easier for a Marine to adjust to life in boot camp and subsequent training, the Lifestyle Insights Networking Knowledge Skills (L.I.N.K.S.) program is being held at installations across the country to help Marines families adapt to the military lifestyle. [The L.I.N.K.S. program] is a peer to-peer mentorship program which teaches children and teens to be



happy about being a part of the family and to help everyone better understand the Corps, said Julia

Gwynn, the Beaufort Air Stations L.I.N.K.S. program trainer. Spouses learn through the program how to be independent dependents. The program pulls the resources of family readiness officers, career planners, chaplains, active duty Marines and experienced spouses to help new Marines and their families acclimate to the Marine Corps lifestyle. The Beaufort Air Station also has a junior mentoring team, which has children and teenage mentors who talk to other children about coping with deployments and other obstacles such as frequent family moves.

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EVENTS

THE JEREMY STAAT FOUNDATION

In conjunction with his foundation, Jeremy Staat, a former NFL player for the Pittsburgh Steelers who currently serves as a Marine, is working to raise awareness for several veteran causes. In the coming weeks, he will embark on a cross-country journey from the Wall of Valor in Bakersfield, Calif., to the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. Traveling by bike, he will stop along the way at many veterans memorials, schools, community centers and sporting events. In his own words: My overriding purpose is to raise awareness of and support for our Nation's Veterans, Veteran organizations, Veteran suicide awareness, and to promote Veteran centers on all college campuses throughout our Nation, he said. Given the fitness qualities that bike riding imparts, I have a secondary motive of drawing attention to the increase in childhood obesity, and most importantly how this epidemic can be prevented through good lifetime fitness activities, specifically bike riding. Riding alongside Staat is Wesley Leon Barrientos, another Iraqi War veteran who lost both his legs in Iraq to a roadside bomb. Our goal is to reach the Vietnam Memorial Wall by Memorial Day Weekend 2012 for the 25th year anniversary of Rolling Thunder and the 30th year



anniversary of the Vietnam Memorial Wall. "I will be encouraging fellow veterans, wounded veterans, and others who are able, to ride along with," Staat said.

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