

TIP OF THE SPEAR

NEVER FORGET



Around the nation, servicemembers and citizens alike gathered Tuesday to commemorate the 11th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and to honor the lives lost that day and in the wars that followed. Even while deployed, 1,100 Marines and Sailors of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard the USS New York held a remembrance ceremony, fitting for the amphibious ship that is comprised of 7.5 tons of steel

salvaged from the World Trade Center in New York. Stationed at Norfolk, Va., the USS New York is currently operating in the Navy's 5th Fleet area of responsibility, which includes the Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean. Meanwhile, Marines at Camp Leatherneck in Afghanistan gathered by the flag pole to remember the events of Sept. 11, 2001. "Watching the flag go up during the national anthem gives me a sense of pride," said Gunnery Sgt. Ruben Rivera. "It makes me realize that I'm willing to put my life on the line for everything that flag stands for." [Read more](#)

Watch: Memorial Ceremony at Camp Leatherneck

Also Read: Marines Stand United in San Diego



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Marine Corps MV-22 Ospreys with Marine Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 161, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, fly over the Arabian Sea Sept. 6, 2012. VMM-161 was transferring their aircraft to VMM-261, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, USS Iwo Jima. *(Photo by Sgt. Keonaona C. Paulo)*



IN THE NEWS

MODERN DAY MARINE TO FEATURE CUTTING-EDGE EQUIPMENT



The 32nd Annual Modern Day Marine Military Exposition will be held at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Sept. 25-27. This year's expo will focus on enhanced capabilities for expeditionary forces, including a forward-looking perspective of cutting-edge equipment and systems specifically designed to help Marines fight and win in all terrains. More than 7,000 attendees are expected, as Modern Day Marine provides a unique opportunity to interact with the industry leaders who design and build the Corps' equipment. [Read more](#)

[Modern Day Marine Exposition Website](#)

F-35 PASSES AIRBORNE ENGINE START TESTS



Reaching its latest milestone, the F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter successfully completed the first airborne engine start tests, demonstrating the capabilities of its propulsion system to restart during flight at various altitudes. The series of tests successfully verified the F-35's restart capabilities essential to the short take-off and vertical landing variant of the propulsion system. With these tests completed, the first model is expected to arrive at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Nov. 25.

[Read more](#)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY VISITS MARINES IN JAPAN



Highlighting the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Juan M. Garcia III, traveled to Camp Foster in Okinawa, Japan, Aug. 30, to speak to Marines and Sailors. The initiative is a set of objectives and policies that maximizes each Sailor's and Marine's personal readiness to hone the most combat effective force in the history of the Department of the Navy.

During his visit, Garcia also touched on readiness, retirement, tuition assistance and the Corps' reorientation to the Pacific. "Our new national defense strategy is a Navy and Marine Corps strategy, and it's a Pacific strategy," Garcia said. "Know that your work is being watched and it is appreciated. The nation knows that the work being done out here is vital." [Read more](#)

[21st Century Sailor and Marine Website](#)

TOP MARINE CONTINUES WORK TO CURB SEXUAL ASSAULTS



The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, is working to reduce sexual assaults in the Corps by creating an environment where victims feel comfortable to come forward without facing reprisals. "We are going after this thing with a vengeance. I'm serious about it," he said at the annual Tailhook convention of U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aviators. In July, Amos brought about 70 of the Marine Corps' 85 generals to Washington, D.C., to get them personally engaged in a new campaign against sexual assaults, which includes classes, interactive videos and frank

discussions with military higher-ups about what behaviors constitute sexual assault. "I looked every general officer in the eye ... and I said, 'You are solely responsible for the command climate,'" Amos said. [Read more](#)

WOUNDED WARRIORS 'REACH' FOR THEIR GOALS



Veteran Gunnery Sgt. Felix Rivera is the first Marine to be hired through the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery's Reintegrate, Educate and Advance Combatants in Health Care (REACH) program, an initiative launched in 2011 that gives internships to wounded warriors pursuing a college degree. There are currently 24 Marines and Sailors in the program, choosing from such careers as respiratory therapist, medical or healthcare technician, physician's assistant, nurse and case manager.

After a year in the program, Rivera was hired on Aug. 27 and is now working as a part-time psychiatric technician at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, N.C. [Read more](#)

NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR INJURED MARINE



Twenty-one-year-old Lance Cpl. Caleb Getscher lost both his legs and right arm while serving in Afghanistan last year. When he's not at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., he spends his time at his parents' home in Chaptico, Md., which was not easy to get around with his wheelchair. But thanks to a Patuxent Habitat for Humanity grant aimed at improving the living conditions of veterans, Getscher's mobility has greatly improved after completing an addition to

the home that better accommodates his wheelchair and prosthetic limbs. [Read more](#)

[Patuxent Habitat for Humanity Website](#)

JOINT SUICIDE AWARENESS EFFORT AIMS TO 'HELP A VETERAN'

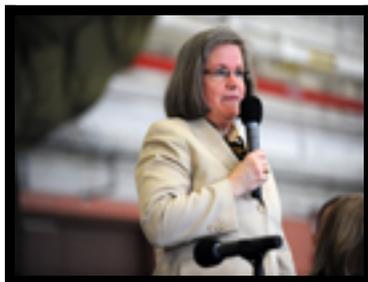


The Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have unveiled the "Stand By Them: Help a Veteran" initiative to help combat the rising rate of suicide among troops by encouraging family members, friends and colleagues of veterans to help them seek mental health care. The awareness campaign asks those who know troubled service members or veterans to call the Veterans Crisis Line for assistance at 1-800-273-8255. The military initiative is just one component of the national strategy

on suicide prevention announced earlier this week by the Obama administration and the National Action Alliance on Suicide Prevention.

[Veterans Crisis Line Website](#)

HOLLY PETRAEUS VISITS KANEOHE BAY, DISCUSSES FINANCES



While servicemembers are protecting our country, the Office of Servicemember Affairs at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is safeguarding their financial assets. Holly Petraeus, head of the office, has visited more than 30 military installations to gather feedback and introduce servicemembers to the bureau and answer their financial questions. Petraeus visited Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, Sept. 5 to address numerous topics, including selling a house before a move and

falling prey to scams. She stressed the importance of being fully aware before making a financial commitment. [Read more](#)

[Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Website](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

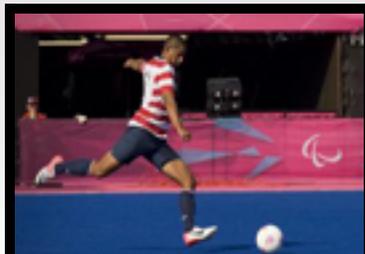
SEPTEMBER 15, 1950

The 1st Marine Division landed at Inchon and began the Inchon-Seoul campaign under the command of Maj. Gen. Oliver P. Smith. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines landed on Wolmido Island in Inchon Harbor and secured it prior to the main landing.



SEMPER FI

MARINE COMPETES AT PARALYMPIC GAMES IN LONDON



Cpl. Rene Renteria is a Marine, but he's also an Olympic athlete. Last week, he competed at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, scoring a goal for the U.S. soccer team in Sunday's match against Great Britain, earning the Americans eighth place. Renteria was just one of three active-duty service members to compete at the Games and is currently assigned to

the Wounded Warrior Battalion at Camp Pendleton, Calif. [Read more](#)

Watch: Paralympic Soccer Coverage

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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