



TIP OF THE SPEAR

MARINES TAKE PART IN LARGE NATO EXERCISE



Marines from the Corps' 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company are testing their capabilities alongside service members from other countries as part of Exercise Joint Warrior, NATO's largest exercise for enhancing combat skills. The biannual British-led exercise held off the coast of Scotland involves more than 12,000 service members from the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Holland, Belgium, Estonia, Norway, Sweden and the United States. Joint Warrior involves sea, ground and air forces, and aims to help integrate coalition forces. "I think it's a good

pond. So few U.S. Marines get the opportunity to come here," said Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Clark. **Read more**

opportunity for the lads to come here and see what their sister corps do across the



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 shield their faces as sand is stirred up after the take-off of a CH-53E Super Stallion Helicopter at Range 800 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Sept. 17. The Marines are practicing proper onload and offload procedures to ensure safety while boarding. *(Photo by Lance Cpl. John Tran)*



IN THE NEWS

THE PIVOT TO THE PACIFIC WILL NOT STOP



With the U.S. in the midst of a government shutdown, a halt in the military's shift to the Asia-Pacific has been an area of concern. However, the pivot is a matter of geopolitical necessity because America's economic health is so closely tied to the region, and will not be so easily stopped. President Barack Obama recently cancelled a trip to the Philippines due to the budget, but important conversations are still ongoing. Though the public is concerned that the next rotation of Marines to Darwin, Australia has not yet been deployed, they are not scheduled to until next year, simply because the base is not ready yet. [Read more](#)

COMBAT FITNESS TEST SCORING UP FOR REVIEW



Marine officials plan to review the Combat Fitness Test (CFT) that measures individual's agility, strength and endurance, as soon as 2014 to ensure its scoring system is tough enough. The timed test requires Marines to perform sprints and low crawls, and simulate throwing grenades and carrying casualties. The review will scrutinize data collected on all Marines who have completed the CFT since its inception in 2008. If it's determined that a high percentage of Marines earn perfect or near-perfect scores, Maj. Gen. Tom Murray, commanding general of Training and Education Command said, that could indicate scoring needs to be

adjusted. [Read more](#)

AUSTRALIANS UPGRADING MILITARY FACILITIES FOR MARINES



The Australian government will begin a multimillion-dollar construction project this month at the Australian army's Robertson Barracks and the Royal Australian Air Force Base in Darwin to accommodate future rotations of up to 2,500 U.S. Marines. The project will ensure "appropriate living and working accommodation is available for the U.S. Marine Corps," the Oct. 11 news release states. The Corps' presence in Australia's Northern Territory is expected to increase dramatically starting in the spring as about 1,200 Marines arrive for six months of training in the region. By 2016, the U.S. expects to deploy a full Marine air-ground task

force numbering 2,500 personnel. [Read more](#)

MARINE CORPS REDUCING SAN DIEGO PRESENCE



The Marine Corps expects to reduce its presence in San Diego County by about 6,000 active-duty personnel and 7,800 family members over the next few years. Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps said attrition and slower recruiting was going to result in lowered numbers in San Diego. And while Amos isn't worried about future base closures, local officials are. "When we're trying to fight to keep what we have, but also to continue to have additional investments, it's important for the city to stand up and say we support the military," said Councilman Kevin Faulconer. Locals are also concerned about the economic impact, with a recent

report showing that 22 percent of local jobs had direct or indirect ties to the military. [Read more](#)

1ST ANGLICO TRAINS TO TAKE ASSIST AIR ASSETS



Seventeen Marines with the 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO) began conducting joint tactical air control party maneuvers, Oct. 2, at the Saylor Creek Range during day two of exercise Mountain Roundup 2013. Mountain Roundup is part of the German Air Force Tornado Fighter Weapons Instructor Course Mission Employment Phase, where everyone involved works to provide proficient integrated combined joint forces. "Our bread and butter is our ability to integrate with foreign militaries and other services to provide fire-support and every opportunity

to partner with foreign and joint services is highly valued throughout the ANGLICO community," said Capt. Charles Watt, 1st ANGLICO Supporting Arms Liaison Team officer-in-charge. [Read more](#)

EOD MARINES MEET WITH SINGAPORE NAVY



U.S. Marine explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technicians with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit and 15 Singapore Navy EOD technicians and divers exchanged knowledge about EOD roles and responsibilities aboard the USS Boxer at Changi Naval Base, Singapore, Oct. 4. "Explosive Ordnance Disposal is a community, which regardless of country or government, will actively seek out opportunities to communicate and learn from other bomb disposal experts," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Delmont. The visit provided the two crews to build interoperable and professional relationships, discussing their operations and responsibility ensuring the safety of the maritime traffic and the difficulties occasionally encountered in some of their responses.

[Read more](#)

CORPS FOCUSING ON LIGHTER, SAFER GEAR FOR TROOPS



Marine Corps officials say preserving procurement programs for equipment that directly supports those going into harm's way remains a priority despite the changing fiscal environment. A large focus will be on personal gear to make combat forces safer and more effective, including new tropical-weight uniforms, low-metallic mine detectors and non-lethal weapons. Development of the Marine Corps Tropical Combat Uniform is top of the list, as the Corps shifts to the Asia-Pacific region and prepare for the humid climate. [Read more](#)

CHOSIN FEW RECALL HISTORIC KOREA BATTLE



The "Chosin Few" Korean War veterans gathered in Arizona Oct. 12 to share their battle stories- nearly 63 years later. They earned their name at



the battle at the Chosin Reservoir, which raged on from Nov. 27 to Dec. 13, 1950. During that time, the 30,000 Marines and soldiers with the United Nations under the command of General Edward Almond were encircled by at least 67,000 Chinese troops under the command of Song Shi-Lun. Today, surviving members still come together to commemorate their tour of duty and those they lost. [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

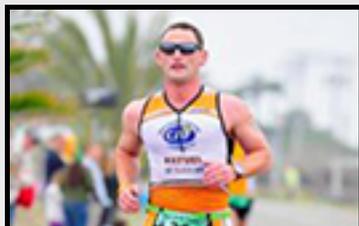
OCTOBER 17, 1820

Archibald Henderson is appointed Commandant, holding the position for 38 years until his death.



SEMPER PARATUS

MARINE AMPUTEE READY TO BECOME IRONMAN



Wounded warrior Eric McElvenny does not let his prosthetic leg stop him from competing -- he uses it as motivation. McElvenny lost a leg below the knee after stepping on an improvised explosive device while on patrol in December 2011. He stood on his first prosthesis two months later, competed in his first sprint triathlon eight months later, and ran his first marathon 10 months later. His next feat is the Ironman Triathlon. "I think



when I was injured, I had to come up with something big," McElvenny said. "There's an obstacle, there's a challenge and I wanted to overcome it, and I wanted to do it in a big way." [Read more](#)



THE CORPS REPORT

The Corps Report Ep. 22 - Updates on Shutdown and Robots on the Range

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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