

TIP OF THE SPEAR

KENTUCKY MARINE TO PLAY INTEGRAL ROLE AT PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION



Sgt. Timothy A. Spreder, the 35th Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps, will carry the presidential colors during the 57th presidential inauguration Jan. 21. Spreder will carry out the duties while standing on the platform at the U.S. Capitol as President Barack Obama takes the oath of office for a second term. "I'm not nervous at all about standing on the platform during the inauguration," said Spreder. "I'm truly honored to be a part of this ripple in American history." His job contributes to the grand military tradition of supporting the



appearance of the colors being carried by other Color Guard Marines. He has held his current position as Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps since Jan. 6, 2012. [Read more](#)

presidential inauguration that dates back to 1789. Spreder is also responsible for overseeing the maintenance and



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Recruits of Company C, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, pull themselves up the rope at the end of the obstacle course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., Jan. 3. The exhausted recruits are forced to climb a rope after going through the course twice, which focuses on building upper-body strength. *(Photo by Lance Cpl. Bridget M. Keane)*



IN THE NEWS

FIRST FEMALE GENERAL PAVED THE WAY



Margaret Brewer, 82, a retired brigadier general and the first woman to hold the rank of general in the Marine Corps was laid to rest Jan. 14. During Brewer's early years in the Corps, women were restricted primarily to support roles, including clerical work, communications and personnel. "She served during an era when many thought that women had no place in the Corps, but she proved critics wrong time and again," said Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos. Brewer led the Marines' public affairs division later in her career. She died on Jan. 2 from Alzheimer's disease. [Read more](#)

Also Read: Brig. Gen. Brewer Remembered

SPECIAL-PURPOSE MAGTF AFRICA DEPLOYS



Marines and Sailors with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Africa deployed Jan. 8 from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. Scheduled for a six-month deployment, the 150 Marines and Sailors are tasked with conducting theater security cooperation and limited crisis response missions, as well as training African partner nations in support of U.S. Africa Command. The Special-Purpose MAGTF began pre-deployment training at Lejeune in August 2012 in partnership with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. [Read more](#)

JAPANESE CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN SECOND ANNUAL HOMESTAY PROGRAM WITH MARINE FAMILIES



Twenty-four children from Oshima Island, Japan bid farewell to their Marine host families Jan. 14, following a four-day stay at Okinawa, as part of the Youth Cultural Exchange Program. The program began shortly after an earthquake and tsunami devastated mainland Japan in March 2011. It aims to give children affected by the disaster an opportunity to enjoy their summer holiday in a stress free environment, while their communities recover from the aftermath. The Marines' focus this year was to help Japanese and American children share their diverse cultures. [Read more](#)

CMC UPDATES READING LIST



Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, released the newest version of his professional reading list Jan. 2. Four books labeled "Commandant's Choice" are now a requirement for all Marines; other titles are listed as must reads, depending on an individual's rank. Additional books are recommended reading in categories including aviation, logistics, counterinsurgency, roots of maneuver warfare and wounded warriors. [Read more](#)

[Also Read: Commandant's Professional Reading List](#)

PRESERVING CAMP PENDLETON HISTORY



As Camp Pendleton in San Diego, Calif., hosts training for Marines and Sailors, the Camp Pendleton Historical Society works to preserve the history of the land. Training at Camp Pendleton dates back to World War II. Prior to that, the 125,000 acres served as a home to Native Americans, the location for the first ever Christian baptism and as part of a huge cattle ranch recognized under the flags of Mexico and the United States. The Marine Corps presence is the latest chapter in the rich history of the land, with some 40,000 Marines continuing to train at Pendleton for military operations. [Read more](#)

PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT IS GIFTED NEW HOME



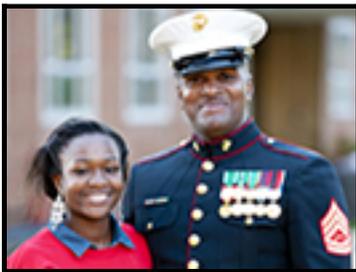
Sgt. Joshua Bouchard received the keys to his remodeled Massachusetts home Jan. 12. Bouchard lost his left leg and was paralyzed when a bomb exploded under his vehicle in Afghanistan in 2009. The house is outfitted with appliances and other features to accommodate his needs, including extendable kitchen cabinets, eye-level appliances, smooth flooring that flows from room to room and special shower and bath features. The project was spearheaded by Homes for Our Troops, a Taunton-based nonprofit organization that builds homes across the country for severely injured veterans. [Read more](#)

WAL-MART LAUNCHES VETERAN HIRING EFFORT



Wal-Mart announced a plan Jan. 15 to hire every veteran who wants a job. The initiative will begin May 27 and continue through the next five years. The plan is among the largest hiring commitments for veterans in history, and is expected to lead to the hiring of more than 100,000 people. "We all believe that no one who serves our country should have to fight for a job once they return home," said first lady Michelle Obama. "Wal-Mart is setting a groundbreaking example for the private sector to follow." To be hired, veterans must have left the military in the previous year without a dishonorable discharge. [Read more](#)

MARINE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOW OPEN



The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is currently accepting applications for 2013-14. The Scholarship Foundation provides need-based scholarships for the children of Marines and Navy Corpsmen who attend an accredited undergraduate college, or vocational or technical institution. It was founded in 1962 when Medal of Honor recipient Brig. Gen. Martin F. Rockmore was financially unable to send his child to college; he aspired to create an organization that honored Marines by empowering their children through education. Special scholarships are

available for the children of those wounded or fallen in combat.
Applications will be accepted through March 1. [Submit an Application](#)

REGISTER JAN. 23 FOR THE MCM EVENT SERIES



Registration for the 2013 Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) Event Series opens Jan. 23. The Series celebrates the accomplishment of distance running by wrapping each event in a unique experience that showcases the organizational excellence of the Marine Corps. In 2013, the MCM Event Series will reintroduce the 17.75K distance, welcome the return of the popular Run Amuck and Turkey Trot, and unveil a brand new triathlon. Though the MCM Event Series opens at the end of the month, registration for the Marine Corps Marathon will open March 27. [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

JANUARY 16, 1991

Operation Desert Storm began with massive air strikes over Iraq and Kuwait, launched by forces of the allied coalition, including Marines from the I Marine Expeditionary Force. Operation Desert Storm in combination with Operation Desert Shield, collectively known as the first "Gulf War," was the largest deployment of Marines since the Vietnam War.



MARINE RE-ENLISTS AT GRAVE OF FALLEN FRIEND



Sgt. Jonathan Deihm signed up for another tour with the Marines Jan. 12 -- this time to honor his fallen Marine brother Lance Cpl. Jared Verbeek. Verbeek died in June 2011 from wounds sustained after stepping on an improvised explosive device in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The two met at their first duty station in 2008, where they trained to become military police officers. Deihm took his re-enlistment oath at Verbeek's grave site with close friends and family present. "This is not about me and my re-enlistment. I could have done this anywhere," said Deihm. "It's an honor for me to be here." [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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