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FAMILY OF FALLEN MARINE GIVEN NAVY CROSS

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said that 20 year-old Lance Cpl. Donald Hogan is "now part of Marine lore along with the great heroes of the Corps," as he presented the fallen hero's parents with the Navy Cross on Jan. 17. He said Hogan's actions placed him among the "bravest and finest" in the Marines. Mabus spoke in front of the new barracks at Camp Pendleton, Calif., which will be named after Hogan, who was from nearby San Clemente. The barracks will house more than 1,000 troops wounded in the war and those resting.



Hogan was killed in 2009 in Helmand province in Afghanistan while on patrol. The rifleman had volunteered to wear a metal detector that day and help look for explosive devices. He spotted a kite string on the road go taut in Taliban territory, a sign that a roadside bomb was about to go off. He flew into action, hurling his body into a fellow Marine

and then running to the road to yell a warning to the rest of his squad before the blast killed him. Hogan had wanted to join the Marine Corps since he was a young boy.

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[Watch Video of Ceremony and Interviews with Lance Cpl. Hogan's parents](#)

HEROES

MARINE MECHANIC IN AFGHANISTAN SAVES LIVES



Sgt. Christopher Lemke, a mechanic with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369, discovered a never-before-seen maintenance issue in a UH-1Y Huey. For his potentially life-saving find, Lemke was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, on Jan. 12. During a routine inspection, Lemke found that the transmission pylon beam and the main beam joint, which secure the aircraft's transmission to the airframe, were disintegrating. "No one else had

ever found such an issue, but when we looked at another aircraft we had in phase, it had the same problem. There was a fault in the design of the aircraft," Lemke said. He was not scheduled to inspect that part of the aircraft, an area so difficult to reach that maintainers call it the "hell hole," but his diligence paid off. Lemke's find led to a corps-wide inspection, resulting in an engineering advisory report addressing a manufacturing defect found on multiple UH-1Y aircraft.

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MARINE SAVES MIHAMA, JAPAN, WOMAN'S LIFE



Cpl. Eric J. Hansen put his Marine Corps training to work, saving an elderly woman's life



in Mihama, Okinawa, Japan. Last week, Hansen, a Marine with Marine Air Support Squadron 2, was eating at a local restaurant with friends when they noticed an elderly woman who appeared to be choking. Hansen signaled to the group gathered around the woman that he intended to perform the Heimlich maneuver. "All I could remember is

that I did not want someone dying in my arms," said Hansen. "Finally, after nearly giving up and reverting to rescue breathing, a massive piece of chicken came out of her mouth. Her pulse sky-rocketed and she was consistently coughing, all indicating to me that she was alive and well." Hansen performed the Heimlich maneuver twice before the woman was able to breathe. Emergency personnel arrived on the scene about five minutes after his second and successful attempt to save the woman's life.

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NEWS

MARINE INFANTRYMEN MENTOR AFGHAN POLICE FORCE IN GARMSIR



Marines with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment have been mentoring their Afghan National Police (ANP) counterparts in Garmsir, Afghanistan, since their arrival in November 2011. The Marines and ANP partner at each of the Garmsir district's five police precincts to enforce laws and protect the local population. In addition, the Marines taught their ANP partners how to use their weapons, coordinate patrols and conduct the actual missions. This mission is not typical for a forward-

deployed infantry company, but it is a vital task as coalition forces transition security responsibility to Afghan forces. "We're geographically preparing the battlespace for turn-

over, with the ANA in the periphery and the ANP within the population centers," said Capt. Brian Blaine, the commanding officer of Kilo Co. As the local government becomes more secure, the police force has become essential to maintaining that security in the future.

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[Also Read: Soccer field, symbol of hope for Afghanistan children](#)

MARINES TO CONDUCT TRAINING IN FARMVILLE AND CREEDS, VA.



As part of Realistic Urban Training (RUT) to prepare for an upcoming deployment, Marines and Sailors of the Camp Lejeune, N.C., based 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) are conducting training off base near the towns of Farmville and Creeds, Va. From Jan 12-20, the RUT exercises will center on what Marines call situational training exercises, where they are issued a series of orders designed to resemble the missions they will likely face while deployed, then plan and execute missions to fulfill the orders. The designated

locations for the exercises have already been coordinated with local officials and residents of Farmville and Creeds may see increased military activity while the training is being conducted. In addition, the Marines held a community outreach event on Jan. 14 at the Farmville Airfield to interact with local residents.

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COMICS 4 HEROES



Marines have something unexpected in common with Marvel Comic's Spiderman: they both help inspire the creation of Comics 4 Heroes, a new charity event taking place aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. The project combines a love of comic books with the



desire to help wounded Marines. Sgt. Jacob Smith, founder of Comics 4 Heroes, sends blank covered Marvel comic books to artists who create their own rendition of the character from the comic book they've chosen. Individuals, from tattoo artists to fellow Marines, are participating in the project. "I was instantly interested in the idea," said Cpl. Mark-Anthony Marshall, tech support chief for Headquarters Company, 2nd Marine Division. "The fact that I could use my art to help the wounded Marines was what really sold me on the idea." Smith came up with the idea for the project while talking

to a friend about comic books in 2011. The renditions will be auctioned off, with the proceeds going to the Wounded Warriors Project and a program called Stiggy's Dogs, which partners military veterans with rehabilitated shelter dogs.

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WOUNDED MARINE SURPRISES COMRADES AS THEY RETURN HOME

Cpl. Greg Caron, member of 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, traveled from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., to Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., to welcome his fellow Marines upon their return from California. The last time Caron saw the members of his unit was Nov. 11 in Afghanistan, when he lost both his legs after a roadside bomb exploded. The Marines lined up to greet Caron after they got off the plane. "Seeing him just stand made everything complete," said Sgt.



Andrew Delrossii. After their arrival, the Marines had a homecoming ceremony on the reserve base in Plainville, Mass. The unit gave Caron a military pennant decorated with the dates and places of their tour of duty and phrases including, "Out of pain and suffering the strongest souls emerge." Caron, who recently began walking with prosthetic legs, will return to Walter Reed with his wife, where he will continue several more months of therapy and treatment.

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WOUNDED WARRIORS FIND THERAPY IN FLORIDA KEYS DOLPHINS

Thirty wounded military veterans participating in the three-day Soldier Ride cycling event in Florida experienced a different kind of therapy on Jan. 13. The service members had an interactive session with dolphins at the Dolphin Research Center, swimming with the animals or learning training techniques. They traded flipper shakes and signaled the dolphins to perform a variety of behaviors. For 26 year-old Marine Lance Cpl. Michael DeLancey, the experience was rewarding. "I was a little nervous cause I wasn't knowing what I was getting into; touching it (the dolphin) and things like that, but they're very friendly, and within a minute that went out the door," said DeLancey, who was paralyzed from the waist down after being shot in Iraq in 2006. The Soldier Ride began in Miami on Jan. 12 and ended in Key West on Jan. 14. Soldier Ride, a Wounded Warrior Project initiative, takes place across the United States in support of veterans severely injured in Iraq and Afghanistan.



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ID TAG LOST IN WWII IS RETURNED TO MARINE



Richard Urie, an 86 year-old Marine Corps veteran who lost one of his military identification tags 66 years ago, had it returned to him on Jan. 15. Urie lost the identification tag, also known as a dog tag, in 1945 while stationed in Saipan in the western Pacific. Saipan resident Mike Villagomez found Urie's lost tag in 1981 in a yam field. With the help of Randy Kruid, a U.S. special investigator deputy marshal in Saipan, Urie was tracked down. Timothy E. Moran, a Boston-based assistant U.S.



attorney, delivered the tag to Urie at his retirement community in Peabody, Mass. Urie joined the Marines in 1943 and was a radio operator attached to Headquarters

Company of the 2nd Marine Division.

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THANK YOU

VOLUNTEERS STEP UP SO NO MARINE STANDS ALONE



Jennifer Iddins has spent the past five years making sure no Marine stands alone after the graduation ceremonies at Parris Island, the Marine Corps boot camp near Beaufort, S.C. Iddins personally packs bags of goodies for the Marines into what she calls Stand Alone Marines (SAM) bags. Iddins' mission is to hand these treats to Marines who have no family or friends at the graduation. The graduation on Friday, Jan. 13 was very emotional as it was Iddins' last day last day of handling out SAMs, as her husband has been ordered to Naval Station Great Lakes near Chicago. After hearing about her endeavor, nine

to a dozen volunteers have stepped up to ensure that no Marine stands alone on graduation day.

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NAVY SECRETARY LIKES SAN CLEMENTE'S PARK SEMPER FI

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus visited Park Semper Fi in San Clemente, Calif. on Jan. 16. At the park's center is the Marine Monument, which Mabus called "a wonderful tribute to the Marines by the city of San Clemente." Park Semper Fi was built



with community donations in 2005 and overlooks the San Clemente Pier. Mabus commended the city for its support of neighboring Camp Pendleton. "The fact that the citizens of San Clemente raised the money, established this park honoring the Marines and particularly the fallen Marines means a whole lot to the Navy and Marine Corps family. It speaks volumes about the people of San Clemente," he said.



While touring the park, he met with Jo Seitsinger, mother of Sgt. Danton Kyle Seitsinger, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2004. A bench in Park Semper Fi is dedicated to the Marine's memory. Mabus also attended a dedication ceremony Jan. 17 at Camp Pendleton for a new barracks named after Lance Cpl. Donald Hogan, a San Clemente Marine killed by a roadside bomb in 2009 in Afghanistan, and to present the Navy Cross to Hogan's parents.

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