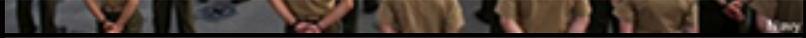


TIP OF THE SPEAR

MARINES REMAIN READY AND RELEVANT AS BUDGET SHRINKS



With budget cuts shifting military priorities, the Marines are seizing the opportunity to prove the enduring value of sea-based expeditionary forces, focusing on what Forbes contributor Loren Thompson refers to as the "Three R's" of military merit -- relevance, readiness and realism. The Corps leaders view their service's core capabilities as perfectly aligned with the nation's shift to the Asia-Pacific. As a sea-based force, the Marines are able to remain forward deployed in any region around the world, acting as the nation's



countries or other military services. "For less than a tenth of the defense budget, the Marines deliver versatility and value other services cannot," Thompson states. [Read more](#)

first responders. They are realists about human nature, whether that nature is manifested in the behavior of other



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Maritime Raid Force Marines descend to a landing zone during parachute operations at King Faisal Air Base in Jordan, June 12. Exercise Eager Lion 2013 is an annual, multinational exercise designed to strengthen military-to-military relationships and enhance security and stability in the region by responding to modern-day security scenarios. The 26th MEU is deployed to the 5th Fleet area of responsibility as part of the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group. *(Photo by Sgt. Christopher Q. Stone)*



IN THE NEWS

BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE-13 WRAPS UP PLATINUM EAGLE 13



Exercise Platinum Eagle 13 came to an end after Marines and Sailors with Black Sea Rotational Force 13 (BSRF-13) completed four weeks of exercises in regions throughout Romania. The exercise enhanced relationships between BSRF-13, Romanian naval infantrymen, and Romanian, Macedonian, and Armenian soldiers. It focused on enhancing interoperability between the countries' militaries and increasing the overall effectiveness of the participating forces. BSRF-13 is slated to conduct military operations with approximately 21 different nations during its six-month deployment while serving as a crisis contingency force for the Black

Sea, Baltic, and Balkans regions. [Read more](#)

MARINES' ROLE IN AUSTRALIA TO EXPAND IN 2014



The Marine Corps' presence in Australia will increase fivefold next year as military officials look to the U.S. for guidance in developing their amphibious capabilities, stated Brig. Gen. Richard Simcock, the deputy commander of Marine Corps Forces Pacific. The Australian navy is acquiring its first two amphibious assault ships, which will enhance its ability to respond to crises throughout the region. Under the mentorship of the Marines, the Aussies want to learn how to travel around the region, getting on and off ships to train and conduct operations, all the while maintaining communication and logistical support. The first rotation of 250

Hawaii-based Marines deployed to Darwin for six months last year; a second rotation of about 200 infantrymen began a six-month tour there in April. [Read more](#)

OSPREY LANDS ON JAPANESE SHIP FOR FIRST TIME



The U.S. Marines successfully landed an MV-22 Osprey for the first time on a Japanese ship June 14 -- a key moment in exercise Dawn Blitz in San Diego, Calif. Once the aircraft touched down, crews simulated response to a disaster relief operation, loading blankets and cardboard boxes into the Osprey while the rotors kept spinning. "This is a great demonstration of the interoperability of our armed forces, where two partners who have historically worked together can bring together our latest technology," said Brig. Gen. John Broadmeadow, commanding general of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade. [Read more](#)

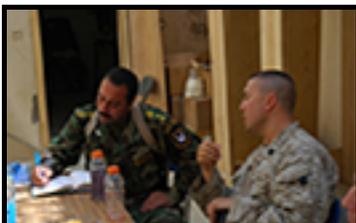
CRISIS RESPONSE FORCES FOR AFRICA TAKE SHAPE



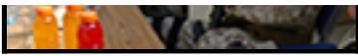
The Marine Corps and Army have developed quick-reaction forces to respond to attacks such as the one in Benghazi, Libya, which killed four Americans in 2012. A Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force for Crisis Response will be based at Moron Air Force in Spain. It will act as a first responder to U.S. interests in the region on behalf of U.S. Africa Command and be on standby to help evacuate Americans from hot spots and provide disaster relief and humanitarian missions. "This mission should be given to the Marines, because they have Osprey tilt-rotors that can get to fights fast and then land anywhere," said Loren Thompson.

"They also have amphibious warships that allow them to act without access to land bases." [Read more](#)

MARINES ADVISE PROGRESSING AFGHAN GOVERNMENT



Marines who assist the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan with governance and development have been reduced in numbers, but their job is just as important as ever. These Marines, with the Civil Affairs Detachment, Regimental Combat Team 7, are a valuable asset to local commanders because they are trained to understand politics and government. As the drawdown continues, they're confident the



insight and skills they've provided the government will last. "Less projects run by the Marines means more development by the Afghan government," said Maj. Stefan Sneden, the detachment deputy officer-in-charge. [Read more](#)

[more](#)

STRANDED HIKER RESCUED BY YUMA TEAM



A Search and Rescue helicopter from Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma rescued a 22-year-old hiker June 8 who had climbed up a rock structure and couldn't make it back down. "He was completely uninjured, just stranded. He was also showing symptoms of heat exhaustion," said 1st. Lt. Katie Whichard. The hiker was trapped on the side of a 500-foot-tall rock structure. A rescue corpsman hooked on an aircraft rappelled down to the stranded hiker, and the team swiftly moved to get the hiker on the ground. The hiker was airlifted to Yuma Regional Medical Center for further medical attention. [Read more](#)

26TH MEU WORKS WITH JORDANIAN ARMED FORCES



Marines of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit's amphibious assault vehicle platoon had its first bilateral training event of Exercise Eager Lion 2013 June 12, conducting a live-fire shoot with Jordanian armed forces. Eager Lion is an annual training exercise with the Jordanians, focused on strengthening military and political ties in the area. "In any training event, one of the major end states is that we build relationships and the understanding that we're not just building military skills, but also establishing rapport on a personal and professional level," said Capt. Jonathan Riebe, the platoon's commander. [Read more](#)

'HARD CORPS' MARINE BEATS BREAST CANCER



While deployed to Afghanistan in 2009, 32-year-old Marine Melissa Wright learned she had breast cancer. After fighting the cancer with radiation and



a mastectomy, Wright found herself 20 pounds heavier and in a period of near depression. She made the decision to turn her life around, and began training for the Hard Corps Natural Bodybuilding and Fitness Competition aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, June 1. For 12 weeks, Wright ate clean, followed a rigorous workout regime, and powered through all physical and mental challenges. Wright knows her success was made possible by the Marine Corps and wanted to honor

the organization through the competition. [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

JUNE 20, 1993

The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit returned to Mogadishu, Somalia, to stand ready to assist United Nations forces in maintaining peace in the war-torn country. Earlier that month, the 24th MEU had been ordered to cut short Exercise Eager Mace in Kuwait to respond to possible contingency operations in Somalia.



SEMPER FI

VIETNAM HEROICS EARN VETERAN SILVER STAR



Sergeant Gary L. Hill, who completed his service in 1969, was awarded



the Silver Star June 7 for his heroic actions and leadership when his platoon commander was killed after an assault on 881-South in Khe Sanh, Vietnam. Hill took charge, single-handedly killing three North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers and eventually an NVA sniper. His actions consequently saved the lives of eight Marines. "It's one of the happiest days I've had since before the Marine Corps because it puts to bed 881," Hill said. "I only did what I had to do to stay alive, and that's keep moving." [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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