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AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT DOWN UNDER

Approximately 350 Marines and Sailors with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit are scheduled to participate in a mock amphibious assault in the Shoal Water Bay Training Area July 19 in support of exercise Talisman Sabre 2011. Units participating from the MEU include Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, as well as Combat Logistics Battalion 31.

Along with the personnel, dozens of large military vehicles and craft will be utilized in the landing operation,

including U.S. Marine amphibious assault vehicles, light armored vehicles, combined anti-armor team vehicles and U.S. Navy landing craft, air-cushions (LCAC). Preparations are being made to conduct the ship-to-shore movement, which will demonstrate the Marine Corps' sea-based capabilities and exemplifying the Corps' amphibious nature. The Marines, Sailors and equipment are currently aboard the USS Germantown, off the coast of northeast Australia. The forcible projection of power from the sea represents a unique capability of the Marine Corps, one which brings tremendous value in contingency response



operations as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief scenarios.

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LARGEST MARINE CORPS RESERVE EXERCISE OF THE YEAR SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE



More than 5,000 Marines from Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Corps active component units will participate in the Javelin Thrust 2011 exercise, the largest annual Marine Corps Reserve exercise. This exercise will take place at several locations throughout the Western United States from July 17 to July 31, predominantly at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., Hawthorne Army Weapons Depot in Hawthorne, Nev., and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, in Yuma, Ariz. Javelin Thrust 2011 will prepare the units and individual Marines for their roles in deployed Marine Air-Ground Task Forces. This goal is aligned with the Department of Defense's overall strategic objective to prepare reservists for deployment in support of overseas contingency operations as a part of the operational reserve concept. The scenarios require commanders to conduct long-distance communications in order to maintain successful command and control. It will challenge ground units as Marines traverse through extreme terrain with elevations ranging from 4,000 to 10,000 feet,

conducting battalion and company-level combat operations. Logistic units will resupply personnel, conduct convoy operations and support live-fire events. Aviation units will provide assault support.

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HEROES

AMHERST MAN BORN WITH DOWN SYNDROME RAISES AMERICAN FLAG EVERY DAY



An Amherst, Ohio native dons his Marine Corps uniform every morning, ready for duty. The first mission of the day: carry the triangle-folded flag outside and raise the National Ensign in his front yard, honoring his own morning colors ceremony. He could be any other Marine on duty, with one exception: 40-year-old John Hall was born with Down syndrome and has never served in the military. Charles Hall, John's father, served in the U. S. Navy during WWII and taught John to respect the flag and love the military life. The morning ceremony was

performed daily by father and son at the Hall household until Charles' death a few years ago. John continues the tradition today, marching with his best military precision, even when no one is watching. "He's very proud of that - he'll say 'My daddy was in the Navy'", said older sister Joyce Cooper. He's been able to decorate his uniform like a true general, from the silver buttons on his collar to the ribbons on his chest to the gold-striped chevron on his sleeve, all authentic marks of the classic style of the Marines. Hall's next mission: conduct an evening colors ceremony, lowering the American Flag for the night, honoring the country and the military tradition he loves.

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NEWS

BEHIND THE SCENES: AIRCRAFT MAINTAINERS HELP MARINE JETS KEEP PRESSURE ON INSURGENTS



Since arriving in Afghanistan on May 16, the Marines of Marine Attack Squadron 513 have kept busy



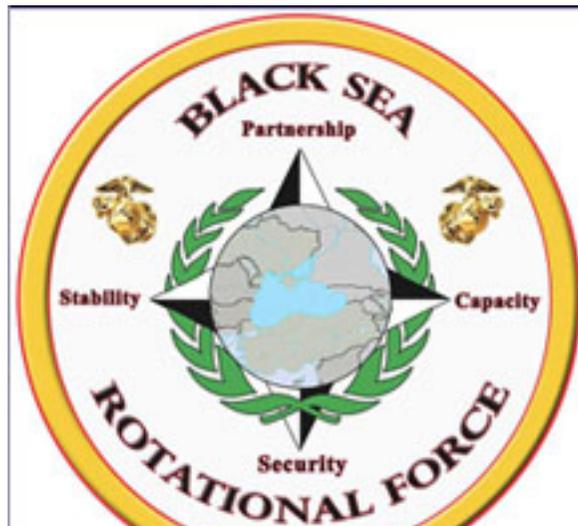
providing near-constant maintenance on the squadron's AV-8B Harriers. All maintenance ultimately goes toward supporting NATO International Security Assistance Force operations in southwestern Afghanistan. For the Marines with the "Flying Nightmares" squadron, comprised of avionics, ordnance and flight equipment technicians, and airframes and

powerline mechanics, preparing the Harrier for launch is indicative that all present, and those in the hangar, have done their jobs. For Lance Cpl. Joseph Gonzalez, a Nightmare squadron powerline plane captain and Pasadena, Texas, native, his charge of ensuring each Harrier is ready for take-off is all a part of the thrill. "It feels amazing," said Gonzalez as the jet he just checked taxis toward the runway. "Doing my part - it feels amazing." Despite the 12-hour shifts and lack of weekends that come with the deployment, the attack squadron Marines take pride in their work, knowing their maintenance helps the Corps fulfill its mission.

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[See Also: Regional Command South-West weekly news round-up](#)

U.S. MARINES AND GEORGIAN ARMED FORCES TEAM-UP FOR AGILE SPIRIT 2011 IN VAZIANI



U.S. Marines and Soldiers from the Georgian 4th Infantry Brigade will participate in Agile Spirit 2011, a combined military exercise from July 14 to Aug. 1 in the Vaziani Training Area. The focus of the exercise is to increase interoperability between the forces and exchange and enhance each other's capacity in counterinsurgency and peacekeeping operations, including small unit tactics, convoy operations, and counter-Improvised Explosive Device training. Agile Spirit will involve approximately 350 Marines from the Marine Corps' Black Sea Rotational Force 11 based in Constanta, Romania, Anti-Terrorism Battalion based out of Bessemer, La., and the



Georgian Armed Forces. This exercise is the first of what is scheduled to become an annual

exercise and supplements other elements of our military partnership with Georgia, such as the Georgia Deployment Program, which is a U.S. Marine Corps program that prepares Georgian Armed Forces to deploy to Afghanistan in support of the International Security Assistance Force. "Our Marines are eager to train with the Georgian Armed Forces to continue to build on an already strong partnership between our two countries," said LtCol. Nelson S. Cardella, commanding officer, Black Sea Rotational Force 11.

For more information visit the unit's Facebook page

MILA KUNIS AND JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE ATTENDING MARINE CORPS BALL

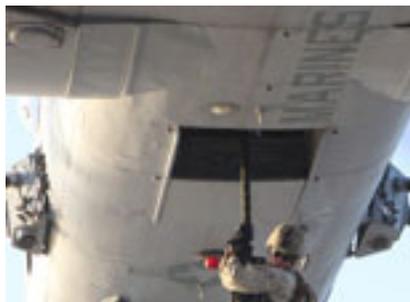


Putting all rumors to rest, Mila Kunis accepted the invitation from Sgt. Scott Moore to attend the Marine Corps Ball in Greenville, N.C. on Nov. 18. "I accepted an invitation and I'm staying true to my word," the actress said. Given Justin Timberlake's role in getting his costar to say yes, it was only a matter of time before a female Marine extended him an invitation. Backed by a few burly friends, Cpl. Kelsey De Santis decided to call out Timberlake with an invite to the Nov. 12 ball in Quantico, Va. If my schedule works out to do it, I'd love to do it. It's an honor," Timberlake said at a media event to promote the film "Friends with Benefits."

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Also Read: More on Sgt. Moore

MARINES IN MOCK RAID INFILTRATE 'ENEMY-HELD' OIL PLATFORM OFF CALIFORNIA COAST



Marines and Sailors from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit raided an "enemy-occupied" gas and oil platform off the coast of Carpinteria, Calif., on Sunday as part of a training exercise to prepare the unit for deployment, according to Marine Corps officials. Marines in CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters and inflatable boats were transported from the shore to the oil platform. Utilizing a fast-roping technique in which Marines slide down ropes attached to the deck of a helicopter, the raid



team met with others who climbed the oil platform's ladders to infiltrate the objective. Three weeks ago, elements of the 11th MEU simulated an amphibious assault on Camp Pendleton's Red Beach then raided a mock town built by the base. The 11th MEU will continue training operations at various locations in California through July 21, including Naval Base Ventura's Point Mugu, Camp San Luis Obispo, Vandenberg School on Vandenberg Air Force Base, Rose Valley, Santa Maria Airfield and the Port of Long Beach.

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MARINE TRANSLATOR RETURNS TO OKINAWA, STANDS OUT AMONG PEERS



Corporal Johnathan K. Brooks recently took part in the Artillery Relocation Training Program 11-1 in the East Fuji Maneuver Area where he served as a translator during meetings between his commanding officer and Japanese officials. The purpose of the exercise was to sustain unit proficiency in all weapons systems used by artillery units to maintain combat readiness in support of the U.S.-Japan security alliance. Brooks is fluent in Japanese, an asset that has proven

to be very valuable as a Marine stationed in Japan. "Being bilingual means I'm on standby to communicate with the Japanese for our commanding officer," said Brooks. "When he visits the mayor or meets with Japanese officials, I act as his translator." Brooks was born in Twentynine Palms, Calif., where he lived with his mother and his father, who was a Marine. When Brooks was five-years old his family moved to Okinawa, Japan. When it came time to attend high school, he went to Urasoe Commercial High School where he improved his skills in Japanese. Brooks advises Marines who speak other languages to take the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DPLT), not only to receive the extra pay that comes with being able to speak another language, but for the experience of being a translator. "It's not only a good experience but it's interesting translating for other people," said Brooks.

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SHY GIRL TRANSFORMED, EARNS MARINE OF THE YEAR AWARD



Corporal Karandeep K. France enlisted in the Marine Corps upon graduating high school in 2007, a shy girl yearning to go against the grain no matter how many waves she might make at home. This tenacious attitude has earned the corporal an honor only a select few Marines can say they have been awarded -- the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Marine of the Year Award. France, an avionics and communication technician with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13, explains how throughout boot camp she was just trying to stay out

of the wake of the drill instructors wrath and blend in. "In boot camp I was just the average Marine, but when I got to the fleet I realized that sticking out might not be such a bad thing," said France. She credits her staff non-commissioned officers who encouraged her daily to really push herself to constantly build her resume and strive to become an ideal Marine. To show her hard work was not in vein, she was put up on boards where she picked up meritorious corporal and Marine of the Year, all in the month of May. When asked about a defining moment in her Marine Corps career, France, oddly enough could not think of any one specific thing. Rather, she stated with much enthusiasm, "Don't just try and be average, try to be over average."

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AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERS HONORED AT THE PENTAGON

The Department of the Navy (DoN) gave recognition to the pioneering African American service members



during the DoN's Tribute to African-American Leadership at the Pentagon on July 13. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus unveiled the exhibit that honors the first African American commissioned officers in the Navy and the Marine Corps, the Golden 13 and the Path Breakers. Secretary Mabus was joined at the ceremony by his official party of Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead, Commandant of the Marine Corps Marine Gen. James F. Amos, Under Secretary of the Navy Robert O. Work and retired Assistant Secretary of the Navy B.J. Penn. Under Secretary Work shared his experience of shock by the tumultuous racial divide as a Marine second lieutenant commissioned in 1974. He reflected, "But over the years, Marines, Sailors, and our Department leadership have truly recognized the great benefit of a diverse force and the contributions of our African American officers, staff non-commissioned officers, enlisted and civilians."



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DID YOU KNOW ..

HOW TO BE A GOOD FRIEND TO MARINE FAMILIES



As members of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines at Camp Pendleton prepare to ship out to Afghanistan at summer's end, the unit's family readiness officer tells how to help military families before, during and after a deployment. This article answers questions about family readiness officers, how to prepare families for a deployment, how to prepare to be away from your family, how to prepare when a Marine is coming home, along with many other questions that will allow everyone to prepare and understand Marine families.

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EVENTS

MCCDC CHANGE OF COMMAND // MAJ. GEN. MILLS PROMOTION TO LT. GEN .

Lt. Gen. George J. Flynn is scheduled to relinquish command of Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC) to Maj. Gen. Richard P. Mills, former commanding general of 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), at Lejeune Hall, July 26, at 9 a.m. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos will promote Mills to the rank of lieutenant general before the ceremony and will oversee the change of command. Lt. Gen. Flynn's next assignment will be as the director of the Joint Staff (J-7).

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IDGA AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS SUMMIT



Brig. Gen. John Bullard, Deputy Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command will be announcing the revision of the Ship-to-Objective Maneuver (STOM) concept Tuesday, July 26 at the Institute for Defense & Government Advancements (IDGA) Amphibious Operations Summit in Washington,

D.C. This revised version of STOM expands the utility to all amphibious missions including major combat missions. This is the next step in the Marine Corps' development of littoral maneuver and how amphibious forces will be used in future joint and coalition operations. For more information, please visit www.idga.org.

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NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORY SERIES KICKS OFF



On July 20, the National Museum of the Marine Corps will kick off the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation (MCHF) Leatherneck History Series with a special series on the Battle of Bull Run. Event organizers have planned an evening with historian Patrick Mooney that will include dinner, a gallery tour and discussion. The cost to attend is \$35. The event is sponsored by the MCHF. The museum is also featuring a new exhibition on women who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. When Janey Comes Marching Home: Portraits of Women Combat Veterans includes 45 color portraits and oral histories from women who have been deployed. An accompanying show from The Women of the Corps Collection of the Women Marines Association tells the story from the War of 1812 to today. The exhibition includes a reproduction of a 1918 uniform and a World War II typewriter, among other artifacts. Both shows are on display until October 9. Admission to the museum is free.

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