

TIP OF THE SPEAR

EXPERIMENTAL COMBAT UNIT TO TEST INTEGRATING FEMALE MARINES



The Marine Corps will stand up an experimental task force comprised of about 25 percent women to assess their performance as a part of the Marine Corps' force-integration planning effort. Brig. Gen. George W. Smith Jr., the general officer overseeing the Marine Corps' force-integration planning effort, said one of the Corps' four efforts in a deliberate, measured and responsible approach to integrating women into combat units and occupational specialties by Jan. 1, 2016 -- the Defense Department's deadline for full integration across the services -- will be

borne by the Ground Combat Element Experimental Task Force. The task force will help the Corps assess the outcome of physical demands Marines must meet in the execution of individual and collective tasks. "The only way to truly understand the potential challenges for our female Marines out in the operating forces is to develop this purpose-built experimental task force and put that task force through a training syllabus," Smith said. [Read more](#)

Also Read: Experimental force will test Marine women in combat roles



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



U.S. Marines with the Maritime Raid Force, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (31st MEU) as well as Sailors from the USS Ashland, launch Combat Rubber Raiding Craft out of the well deck of the USS Ashland, at sea, March 15. Marines and Sailors launched and recovered the Combat Rubber Raiding Crafts as part of Certification Exercise. *(Photo by Lance Cpl. Andrew Koppers)*



IN THE NEWS

CMC TACKLES TOUGH QUESTIONS IN NEW VIDEO INTERVIEW



The Marine Corps published a new video interview March 13 with the service's commandant, Gen. James F. Amos, in which he addresses a host of challenging questions posed by rank-and-file personnel via social media. Marine officials launched their #AskCMC social media project in late February, soliciting queries through the Corps' official Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts. In the most recent video, Amos addresses Marines' concerns about re-enlisting during the service's effort to shed thousands of active-duty troops, the prospects for deployments once the U.S. mission in Afghanistan ends, and the fear some have expressed about being

stigmatized should they seek help for post-traumatic stress. [Read more](#)

Also Read: CMC answers Marines' 'Reawakening' questions in new social media project

Watch #AskCMC

'INVINCIBLE MARINES, BLOOD BROTHERS' KICK OFF MEFEX 14



Marines from the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the United States started the command post exercise portion of the Marine Expeditionary Force Exercise (MEFEX) 2014 at Pohang, ROK March 16. MEFEX 14 is an umbrella exercise, overseeing the series of ROK-U.S. bilateral and multi-lateral activities and engagements on the Korean peninsula including Korean Marine Exchange Programs, a command post exercise, maritime prepositioning force offload exercise Freedom Banner 2014 and amphibious assault exercise



Ssang Yong 2014. The Marine Corps is committed to the ROK-U.S. Alliance and regularly exercises to ensure interoperability and maintain strong working relationships. [Read more](#)

22ND MEU TRAINS WITH GREEK MARINES



The 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit completed the second theater security cooperation exercise of its eight-month deployment, March 10 by training with Greek marines at the Glafyra Range near Volos, Greece. More than 80 U.S. Marines and approximately 70 Greek marines trained together to learn from each other's experience and techniques during the four-day bilateral exercise. Throughout the exercise, the Greeks employed their Apache helicopters, Leopard 1A5 main battle tanks and M113 armored personnel carriers alongside the U.S. Marines' arsenal of air support and weaponry. For the final event, the U.S. and Greek forces integrated for a large-scale, combined-arms attack. [Read more](#)

WEATHER CREATES UNIQUE TRAINING ADAPTATIONS DURING COLD RESPONSE 14



Cold Response 14 (CR-14) brings together nearly 16,000 troops from 16 different countries to train high-intensity operations in extreme cold-weather environments, but this year participants have faced warmer temperatures with wetter conditions. The unpredictability of wet, rainy days and strong winds have challenged the multinational force to adapt to a situation dictated by the climate. "Staying dry, that's the challenge here; it's easy to be cold, it's harder to be cold and wet," said Lt. Col. Joel F. Schmidt, the battalion commander of 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division. CR-14 is a multilateral exercise that includes large-scale troop movements, and amphibious raids. [Read more](#)

24TH MEU WELCOMES FIRST FEMALE MEU SERGEANT MAJOR



Sgt. Maj. Octaviano Gallegos, Jr. relinquished the duties of sergeant major of 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) to Sgt. Maj. Lanette Wright aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, March 14. Wright became the first female MEU sergeant major in the history of the Marine Corps. "Today is a chance for me to serve the Marine Corps at a higher level, I'm humbled and thankful to be able to take over this position," said Wright. "Being a Marine leader, this is a great opportunity to be able to expand on my leadership." Wright's personal decorations include two Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and two Navy and

Marine Corps Achievement Medals. [Read more](#)

[Also Read: Q&A with Sgt. Maj. Lanette Wright](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

MARCH 17, 1967

The first woman Marine to report to Vietnam for duty, Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky, began her 18-hour flight to Bien Hoa, 30 miles north of Saigon. Master Sgt. Dulinsky and the other officer and enlisted Women Marines that followed were assigned to the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) based in Saigon. Most worked with the Marine Corps Personnel Section providing administrative support to Marines assigned as far north as the DMZ, but two Lieutenant Colonels, Ruth Reinholz and Ruth O'Holleran, served as historians with the Military History Branch, Secretary Joint Staff, MACV.



MARINE OF THE WEEK

LIEUTENANT COMES TO AID IN PURSE-SNATCHING



A California based Marine chased and tackled an alleged purse-snatcher in Boston's Chinatown neighborhood March 11, and then held the suspect until police arrived. A Boston police report said the alleged victim ran after the purse-snatcher, yelling her purse had been stolen. The Marine overheard the screams and ran to assist. The woman "was lucky to have a Good Samaritan looking out for her, but even luckier that he was a Marine," said Suffolk District Attorney Daniel F. Conley. [Read more](#)



THE CORPS REPORT



The Corps Report Ep. 35 With Rob Riggle

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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