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A CLEAR IMPERATIVE



In a letter written to the Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, provided thoughts on the roles of the Marine Corps as our nation's expeditionary crisis response force. As discussions on the defense budget are ongoing, the Commandant feels compelled to ensure he is providing decision makers throughout all branches of government the best information on which to base decisions that will impact the Marine Corps and our national defense. As our

nation intends on reducing the defense budget, we will assume more risk in the global security environment; risk that can be mitigated with ready, forward deployed, forward engaged amphibious forces that respond to today's crisis with today's forces today.

HEROES

SGT. DAKOTA MEYER AWARDED MEDAL OF HONOR

During a ceremony at the White House, Sept. 15, President Barack Obama awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest military honor, to Sgt. Dakota L. Meyer. "It's been said that where there is a brave man, in the thickest of the fight, there is the post of honor," Obama said. "Today we pay tribute to an American who placed himself in the thick of the fight again, and again, and



again." Meyer, who is now 23-years-old, is the first living Marine to receive the award for actions in Iraq and Afghanistan. In his remarks, Obama called Meyer "one of the most down-to-earth guys you will ever meet." Meyer earned the medal for his actions on Sept. 8, 2009, when he was serving as a corporal with Marine Embedded Training Team 2-8, Regional Corps Advisory Command 3-7, in Kunar province, Afghanistan. Just before dawn, a patrol of Afghan forces and their American trainers, on foot and making their way through a narrow valley was ambushed by more than 50 enemy fighters firing rocket propelled grenades, mortars and machine guns from houses and fortified positions on the slopes above. With a fellow Marine driving, Meyer took the exposed gunner's position in a gun-truck as they drove down the steeply terraced terrain in a daring attempt to disrupt the enemy attack and locate the trapped U.S. team. "Because of your honor, 36 men are alive today," Obama said. "Because of your courage, four fallen American heroes came home, and in the words of James Layton's mom, [their families] could lay their sons to rest with dignity."

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[Watch White House Ceremony](#)

[Watch Sgt. Meyer's induction to the Hall of Heroes](#)

[Learn more about Sgt. Dakota Meyer](#)

CORPSMAN AWARDED BRONZE STAR AFTER 66 YEARS

Earlier this month, PhM 2/C Bill "Doc" Lynne, George Company, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, 1ST MARDIV was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat "V" for his heroic actions during World War II's Battle for Okinawa. Nearly 67 years following Doc Lynne's courageous and valorous actions, Marine Maj. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson presented the medal to him during the World War II, G 2/5's Last Reunion in Detroit, Michigan. The citation reads: "The platoon to which Petty Officer Lynne was assigned began sustaining casualties from automatic weapons and mortar fire. Ignoring the intense fire, he selflessly exposed himself in order to aid a fallen comrade. Assessing the damage to the Marine's neck and the Marine's inability to breathe, Petty Officer Lynne with the assistance of another Marine, in a calm and thoroughly professional manner, expertly performed a tracheotomy, thereby undoubtedly saving the Marine's life. Still under intense fire, he continued to treat and evacuate his comrade. Word of his bravery and medical acumen spread among his fellow corpsman and Marines and served as an inspiration to those he fought alongside, thereby enhancing their ability to defeat a determined enemy." Following his receipt of the Bronze Star with "V" medal, Doc Lynne returned to his hometown of Kingsland, Ga., where he passed away at his home on 15 September -- exactly 67 years to the day when he was first injured on D-Day at Peleliu.

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BRONZE STAR MARINE TAKES LEADERSHIP TO HEART

During a ceremony on Sept. 1 at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sgt. Ryan Krochmolny with Kilo Company, 3rd Battallion, 5th Marine Regiment, was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat "V" for his



actions in Sangin, Afghanistan. Krochmolny stepped into action when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated and severely wounded Marines in his platoon. He took charge of the platoon and oversaw the medical evacuation of the casualties.



Additionally, he led his Marines through an IED-laced field to support a squad under enemy fire. He brought his men through multiple small arms fire engagements, demonstrating an ability to act quickly and decisively under pressure. "Every Marine did absolutely tremendous and amazing things out there," said Krochmolny, quick to defer the attention to his fellow Marines. "I think everyone is a hero, quite honestly. If it was up to me, I think every Marine should receive a valor award. Everyone performed heroic acts over the deployment."

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BEAUFORT MARINE DONATES KIDNEY TO SAVE LIFE

Marine Cpl. Stephanie St. Laurent felt it was her duty to help a Marine family in need by donating a kidney. Angela Santos, wife of Marine Sgt. Craig Santos, had been waiting for a kidney transplant for nearly a year. "It was scary. I was getting close to being on dialysis because I was getting weaker," Angela said. In an attempt to help his wife, Sgt. Santos posted an ad in the Beaufort Yard Sales, a publication from their hometown Beaufort, S.C. "I felt that if a Marine needed help, that's what we're trained to do is have each others' back. I was definitely willing to give it a shot," said St. Laurent. It's been three weeks since the transplant and both women say that they are doing well and are successfully recovering. St. Laurent's heroic act gave Angela Santos, a mother of three, a second chance at life. "She's my angel," Angela Santos said.



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DID YOU KNOW?

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT ISSUES CHALLENGE



The valor of Sgt. Dakota Meyer is unparalleled and highlights the selfless sacrifice made by all Marines. Meyer partnered with the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation to raise \$1 million by the Foundation's 50th anniversary on May 28, 2012. He has also issued a "Challenge to America" to match his efforts and raise an additional \$1 million to "Honor Marines by Educating their Children." This challenge allows Americans to help wounded Marines from all conflicts,

especially the past 10 years, and forever change their lives by investing in a Marine student's future. "I chose to partner with the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation on this initiative because of our common mission of supporting Marines and Navy Corpsmen families. Education paves the path for our future, and the money we raise will lead to a brighter future for the sons and daughters of many Marines." The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation has a 50-year history of success, particularly for families of wounded Marines. As the nation's oldest and largest provider of need-based scholarships to U.S. military families, the Foundation has provided more than 26,500 scholarships valued at over \$65 million.

[Visit Sgt. Meyer's scholarship website](#)

NEWS

TRADING HOLLYWOOD FOR AFGHANISTAN



Three years ago, Lance Cpl. Jacob Miller had a dream job in entertaining, working as a color assistant, editing video footage for "Desperate Housewives." The Newhall, Calif., native even had



opportunity to meet the cast. What Lance Cpl. Miller thought would be a long-term career move was cut short by the Writers Guild of America strike in 2008. Being the greenest employee at the time, he chose to resign amidst the uncertain future ahead as many Hollywood writers were losing their jobs. Upon leaving the job he loved, Lance Cpl. Miller pursued a path he had previously

put off and joined the Marine Corps. Now a fireteam leader with Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, Lance Cpl. Miller spends his days patrolling the deserts of Helmand province, whereas he formerly spent them in the editing room. The 24-year-old uses the knowledge he gained in the workplace and his life experiences to lead his Marines while on deployment in Afghanistan.

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MARINES HIT THE GROUND RUNNING IN SEEKING RECRUITS AT GAY CENTER

On the day Don't Ask Don't Tell was officially repealed, Sept. 20, the Marines were the only one of five invited branches of the military to turn up with their recruiting table at the Dennis R. Neill Equality Center in Tulsa, Okla. According to a recent article by the New York Times, the Marines pride themselves on being the most testosterone-fueled of the services, and they also ferociously promote their view of themselves as the best. With the law now changed,



the Marines appear determined to prove that they will be better than the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard in recruiting gay, lesbian and bisexual service members. When asked by a potential recruit if she would face discrimination in the military as a lesbian serving openly, Sgt. Anthony Henry said: "It's your business and you don't have to share it,

but you're also free to be at the mall with your girlfriend."

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OSPREY DEMONSTRATES UNIQUE CAPABILITIES



In an effort to demonstrate the MV-22 Osprey's versatility and unique capabilities, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 365 self-deployed to Belize in Central America this week to conduct training on one of the Corps' newest machines. The first demonstration was the self-deployment itself, conducting long-range non-stop aerial refueling from MCAS New River to Belize in conjunction with Marine Aerial Refueler Squadron 252. "We can fly non-stop from North Carolina all the way to the country of Belize without stopping on the ground, allowing us to deploy ourselves," said Capt. Ryan E. Benes, a pilot for VMM-365. Demonstrating their speed, VMM-365 flew the north-south distance of Belize

in approximately 50 minutes. VMM-365 is spearheading an effort for more training opportunities for the Corps' Osprey squadrons in this location.

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eMARINE LAUNCHED TO CONNECT MARINES, FAMILIES



As of Sept 1, Marines, family members and commands can share information through eMarine, a subscription-based website which provides a way to share information in a safe manner. In the past few years, social media has become an



ever-growing form of communication between servicemembers and families. The recently launched eMarine website, part of the Commandant of the Marine Corps-driven initiative to improve organizational communication, is the

Corps' safer, more secure, single point for dissemination of information. "eMarine originated as a Marine Corps Forces Pacific organizational communications tool for the unit personal family readiness program," said Denise Loftesnes, the family readiness officer for III Marine Expeditionary Force. "Organizational communication is vital in this program to make sure the family readiness officers are getting all of the information they need to their Marines, sailors and family members."

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BACK TO WORK: HAND AMPUTEE DEPLOYS TO SET EXAMPLE FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS



When the direction came down that noncommissioned officers were needed as combat replacements in Afghanistan, Sgt. Ricardo Ramirez did not hesitate. The Iraq veteran volunteered to deploy to become a combat replacement for 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, and upon arriving at his new post, his previous combat experience was quickly noticed. Sgt. Ramirez lost his left hand when he was wounded in action in February 2006 while serving in Iraq with 3rd Battalion, 5th

Marine Regiment. Two years after losing his hand, Sgt. Ramirez became the first hand-amputee to re-enlist in the Marine Corps, serving as an urban warfare instructor to train other Marines. When he found out about the opportunity to be a combat replacement, Sgt. Ramirez jumped at the chance, never considering the loss of his hand a disadvantage. "A man or a Marine should not be measured by how they look, what they are missing or what they don't have," said Sgt. Ramirez. "A Marine should be measured by experience, their work ethic, how they carry themselves and, of course how they lead their Marines." He was not

the only one confident in his leadership. Sgt. Ramirez's platoon commander, 1st Lt. Charles Poulton recalls, "When I first heard about the combat replacement, I wanted him because anyone who has one hand and has been fighting to get over here to the fight, wants to be here." The example has been set for fellow wounded warriors: fight for it and you'll get it. "Handicap and amputee Marines will see that this is only a limitation if they make it a limitation," said Sgt. Ramirez.

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GEORGIA NATIVE JOINS CORPS AFTER SHEDDING THIRD OF BODYWEIGHT

Lance Cpl. Branden Morgan of 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, dedicates the precious spare time he has during his deployment in Afghanistan to keep his body strong. However, the 20-year-old from Lawrenceville, Ga., was not always so keen on gym time. "Every time I came home from school, I'd just sit down and play video games," said Morgan, who just two years ago weighed a staggering 305 pounds. He struggled with his weight throughout childhood, and, looking for a fresh start, moved from Las Vegas to Georgia in high school to live with his aunt and uncle. Morgan went to his local Marine Corps recruiter for direction, who



told him he would have to drop the weight if he was serious about becoming a Marine. For the next seven months, Morgan was determined to slim down -- playing rugby, eating apples instead of junk food and changing his general habits for the betterment of his health. After dropping 80 pounds in that initial time period, he walked back into the recruiter's office and signed the paperwork. Morgan admits those seven months were even harder than his recruit training. Having turned his life around in two short years, Morgan insists others struggling with their weight can do the same. "I don't believe that if you're overweight, you can't change because obviously I've seen it in myself. If you have the motivation and want a positive change in your life, you can do it; it's up to you."

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MARINES BEGIN JOINT EFFORT IN BANGLADESH

Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 arrived in Chittagong, Bangladesh on Sept. 7 to conduct an engineering civil action project (ENCAP) exercise with elements of the Bangladesh Armed Forces, in coordination with the Government of Bangladesh. The Marines will be assisting with the expansion of a local school as part of the Bangladesh Interoperability Program 11. The construction is part of a commemorative effort to recognize the longstanding history of



cooperation between the U.S. and Bangladesh. The relationship dates back to April 1991, when the U.S. organized a contingency-joint task force to lead humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts following the destruction that Cyclone Marian left in the Chittagong district of southeastern Bangladesh. Marine Lt. Gen. Henry Stackpole commanded the operation, dubbed Sea Angel. In the coming weeks, MWSS-172 Marines will continue the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of Operation Sea Angel as they reinforce the walls and ceiling of the school, paint and run new electrical wiring through the building. The ENCAP is expected to be completed in early October.

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III MEF LEADERS DISCUSS PRIORITIES



III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) and Marine Corps Bases Japan (MCBJ) senior leaders held a two-day commanders' conference at the Butler Officers' Club on Plaza Housing Sept. 8-9. The conference's goal was to provide III MEF/MCBJ leadership with information about military involvement in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as a forum to discuss and develop programs and



plans to ensure the safety and readiness of Marines and sailors on Okinawa. Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck

Jr., III MEF commanding general and MCB Japan commander, began the conference with an update on III MEF's contributions to the U.S.-Japan alliance. Glueck particularly discussed Operation Tomadachi, the U.S. humanitarian and disaster relief response to the massive earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster that so greatly affected Japan earlier this year, stating the operation was a demonstration of III MEF's unique and effective capabilities. He said: "It shows that the training that we're doing out here really works." Glueck also provided guidance on the road ahead. "The faster that we can work together to put together those plans to get our [Marine Air-Ground Task Forces] put back together out here, get our battalions back out here, get our squadrons back out here ... the better off we are going to be," Glueck said.

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EVENTS

HEALTHY KIDS FUN RUN OFFERS FITNESS EXPERIENCE FOR AGES 5 TO 12



A capacity of 3,000 kids ages 5 to 12 will participate in the Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) Healthy Kids Fun Run. The one-mile event will engage kids in physical activity and healthy fun on Saturday, Oct. 29 in the Pentagon North parking

lot located in Arlington, VA. Parents can register kids individually or teachers can register groups of students to participate. The five schools with the greatest number of students participating in the fun run will receive the Healthy School Award that includes \$1,000 toward the school's physical education program from MCM partner, Sodexo. In 2010, schools in Alexandria, Woodbridge and Springfield, VA earned the Healthy School Award and hosted a presentation by the MCM and U.S. Marines. Parents register kids online at www.marinemarathon.com. School groups or organizations should contact Amy Beaulieu, MCM communications coordinator at amy.beaulieu@usmc.mil.

