

## TIP OF THE SPEAR

### 3-STAR AFRICOM COMMANDER DETAILS FUTURE MISSIONS ON THE CONTINENT



The Marine Corps' partnership with African military forces is likely to expand as those nations look to the U.S. for the training and expertise they need to combat violent extremist organizations, insurgencies, piracy or threatening neighbors, according to Lt. Gen. Steven Hummer, deputy to the commander for military operations at U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM). Fifteen of the 20 most fragile nations in the world -- those on the brink of collapse -- are in Africa, as are more than half the U.S. embassies that the State Department calls "high risk" and in need of additional Marine

and international partners to strengthen the defense and security capabilities of the countries in Africa. security guards. Among AFRICOM's top priorities is working with their interagency  
"We do a lot of peacekeeping support training," said Hummer, "If there's a humanitarian response required, we're certainly capable of supporting that. And we're focused on the counter trafficking piece, whether it's drugs, weapons, money or people." [Read more](#)



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



U.S. Marines with Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, check the operations of an M120 120mm Mortar System during Exercise Iron Fist 2014 aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 3. Iron Fist 2014 is an amphibious exercise that brings together Marines and sailors from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, other I Marine Expeditionary Force units, and soldiers from the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force, to promote military interoperability and hone individual and small-unit skills through challenging, complex and realistic training. *(Photo by Sgt. Jamean R. Berry)*



## IN THE NEWS

### CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT DISCUSSES INTERNATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES



Col. Scott Benedict, the former commander of the unit formed to provide a rapid response to crises in Africa, said Feb. 10 that the command dealt with a range of missions that characterize what many are terming "the new normal" of international security challenges. Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response conducted operations ranging from cooperative training and exercises with allies and partners to an urgent evacuation of U.S. citizens potentially threatened by an escalating internal conflict in South Sudan. These operations are examples of what the U.S. military will face in the "new normal," which Benedict described as

an international security situation with no major war "but a lot of rapidly moving crises," that can have political, religious or other causes. [Read more](#)

**Also Watch: Col. Benedict Speaks at Atlantic Council**

### AMOS: AT LEATHERNECK, MARINES HAVE TRANSFORMED HELMAND PROVINCE



Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos addressed Marines at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, noting the Corps has changed Helmand province dramatically and should be proud of the work they have done there. When Marines leave at the end of this year, he said, "We'll have done every single thing we've set out to do as a Marine Corps," he said. "We're not cutting and running...Marines don't cut and run. We complete the mission." The



Marine Corps began building its presence in southwest part of Afghanistan in 2008, eventually reaching a peak with about 21,000 Marines in Helmand in 2010. Now, there are some 4,500 Marines in

the province. [Read more](#)

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## OSPREY LEVERAGED FOR RAPID CRISIS RESPONSE



In the post-Benghazi era, the Marine Corps is utilizing the MV-22B Osprey to stifle doubts that U.S. military forces are able to respond quickly to areas where paramilitary activity by Islamic radical have been surging in recent years. The tilt-rotor aircraft is the first operational one to combine the vertical agility of a helicopter with the speed and range of a turboprop airplane, creating the potential to revolutionize missions like airborne assault and crisis response. "There's no doubt that the MV-22B has changed the game," said Col. Scott Benedict, Commanding Officer of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. [Read more](#)

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## MARINES ARRIVE IN THAILAND FOR EXERCISE COBRA GOLD 2014



Service members from Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, arrived at Wing One Royal Thai Air Force Base, Nakhon Ratchasima, Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 1 to prepare for Exercise Cobra Gold 2014. Exercise Cobra Gold is an annual multinational exercise conducted in the Kingdom of Thailand designed to exercise multinational joint interoperability. "Exercise Cobra Gold has been going on for 33 years, and for me, this is the third time I've participated in it," said Maj. Daniel Knutson, assistant operations officer with MAG-12. "The exercise allows us to train with and work with the Thai forces in both

air-to-air and air-to-ground sorties." [Read more](#)

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## MARINES UNITE OLD, NEW CORPS



Uniformed members of the 1st Marine Division and veterans of its fiercest battles came together to honor the 73rd birthday of the division. The annual ceremony at Camp Pendleton honors the founding of the 1st Marine Division on Feb. 1, 1941, aboard the battleship Texas. "The history of our division is the history of our Corps, which is the history of our nation," said Maj. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, commanding general of the division. "Wherever there's been a conflict you'll find Marines, and more often than not they are wearing a Blue Diamond somewhere in their heart or on their uniform. So it is great to have you back here, so many alumni." [Read](#)

[more](#)

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## USS MAINE MARINE SURVIVORS MAKE LASTING IMPACT ON THE MARINE CORPS



The USS Maine sailed for Havana from Key West, Fla., on Jan. 25, 1898. The ship pulled into the harbor on Feb. 15 and after "Taps" was sounded more than five tons of the ship's gunpowder exploded. The front third of the ship was immediately destroyed and more than 250 Marines and Sailors were killed. This sparked the U.S. involvement in the Cuban uprising and began the Spanish-American War. Of the Marines aboard, only 11 survived. Most of those Marines went on in the Marine Corps with relatively uneventful careers but two stood out from the rest: Pvt. William Anthony and 1st Lt. Albertus Catlin. Catlin continued his service, earning a medal of honor and retiring as a Brigadier General, and Anthony retired as a Sergeant Major. [Read more](#)



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

## FEBRUARY 19, 1945

The 4th and 5th Marine Divisions stormed ashore at Iwo Jima.



## MARINE OF THE WEEK

### MARINE AVIATOR RECEIVES HIGH-FLYING BRITISH HONOR FOR SAVING LIVES



Capt. Brian Jordan, a UH-1Y Venom pilot received the British Distinguished Flying Cross, Feb. 12 at the British Embassy in Washington D.C., for actions while deployed in Afghanistan on June 21, 2012. Jordan and his flight crew were tasked with a mission to support the British Grenadier Guards, when a soldier stepped on an improvised explosive device and went into shock. Jordan led the aircrew to land in-between enemy fighters and the British troops to pick up the British soldiers, successfully saving the wounded. "You go through a lot of training to make sure you can make the hard decision when things do not go the way you anticipate," Jordan said.

"It is not just pilots. It is all Marines -- Marines always do what is right." [Read more](#)



## THE CORPS REPORT



The Corps Report Ep. 33 -- New Flak Jackets and Tuition Assistance Update

## 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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