

## TIP OF THE SPEAR

### MIRAMAR AIR SHOW COMMEMORATES MARINES IN SPACE



This year marks the 50th anniversary of Marine Col. John Glenn's historic space mission as he became the first American to orbit the earth -- a milestone celebrated at the annual Miramar Air Show held at Miramar Air Station San Diego, Calif., Oct. 12-14. The show, themed "Marines in Flight," explored the history of the Corps' involvement in space exploration and featured guest of honor retired Marine Maj. Gen. Charles Bolden Jr., the first African-American to hold the title of administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Bolden traveled to space four times as an astronaut, twice as

shuttle commander, following his time as an attack bomber pilot during the Vietnam War. From moon landings to the advancement of space technology, more than 20 additional Marines were also honored for their key roles in the U.S. space exploration program. [Read more](#)

**Also read: Osprey in Spotlight at Air Show**



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Parachute Rigger Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment-2 line up and walk towards the UH-1Y for a static line parachute jump at Auxiliary Airfield 2, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Oct. 5. During deployments, parachute riggers airdrop logistical supplies to forward operating bases that cannot be reached by convoys. *(Photo by Lance Cpl. Zachary Scanlon)*



## IN THE NEWS

### 15TH MEU PARTICIPATES IN CROCODILO



As the Corps' focus shifts to the Asia-Pacific region, about 1,000 Marines with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) are participating in a weeklong bilateral exercise called Crocodilo, ashore Timor-Leste in Southeast Asia. As Marines train several hundred Timorese ground troops in basic small-unit skills and tactics and assist with medical and community projects, they will also get a taste of the Asian culture and learn how to operate in tropical rainforests populated by foreign creatures such as scorpions and leeches. "Most of the Marines haven't left (the continental U.S.), or they've been to Afghanistan or Iraq," Col. Campbell,

15th MEU commander said. "So exposing them to Asian culture is a good thing. This is a unique opportunity for them." [Read more](#)

### AFTER PARTNERING TO DISRUPT TRAFFICKING, DETACHMENT MARTILLO DEPARTS GUATEMALA



Detachment Martillo, comprised of nearly 200 Marines from various units of the II Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), returned home Oct. 14 after a roughly two month deployment in Guatemala as part of Operation Martillo, an ongoing multinational effort to disrupt illicit trafficking in Central American coastal waters. During their time there, the Marines had the opportunity to partner with Guatemalan authorities to strengthen ties in the region, flying four UH-1N "Huey" helicopters in over 250 detection and monitoring missions in support of Guatemalan law enforcement agencies and naval forces. The presence of the Hueys flying over coastal waters

affected activity along the sea lanes frequented by traffickers, said Col. Robert Rauenhorst, the Detachment Martillo officer-in-charge. [Read more](#)

## GEN. DUNFORD SLATED TO TAKE COMMAND OF ALLIED FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN



Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, has been nominated by President Barack Obama to lead U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, following his extensive combat experience in Iraq and quick climb up the ranks upon his return. The move, which is expected to occur in early 2013, requires confirmation by the Senate and the North Atlantic Council. If confirmed, Obama said Dunford "will lead our forces through key milestones in our effort that will allow us to bring the war to a close responsibly as Afghanistan takes full responsibility for its security." Dunford would take place of Gen. John R. Allen, who was selected as the next supreme allied commander in Europe. [Read more](#)

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## BEIRUT MARINES HONORED ON ANNIVERSARY OF ATTACK



"They came in peace," reads the national monument honoring the 241 Marines lost in the 1983 terrorist attacks on the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. Twenty-nine years later in remembrance of their fallen brothers, Marines from Combat Logistics Battalion 6 gathered at the memorial in Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 11. Richard Ray, a retired gunnery sergeant who served at Camp Lejeune at the time of the bombings, spoke on the shock it sent through the Marine community but noted that the overwhelming support from the public truly touched him and his Corpsmen. "We got hundreds and hundreds of packages and letters every day to take out on the line," said Ray. "It registered that the American public's opinion of servicemembers was taking a turn for the better. It's been that way ever since." [Read more](#)

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## AFGHAN ARMY CONTINUES TRAINING



The Afghan National Army (ANA) began the first round of their reception, staging, onward movement and integration (RSOI) course Oct. 11, as more than 164 Afghan soldiers and officers were taught quad tactics and movements by U.S. Marines. The RSOI training is a three-week course



that builds upon the soldiers' basic training and fine tunes their skills as they prepare to join their units in the field to fight insurgents. The course exemplifies progress in the ANA's ability to train and develop its own armed forces as the U.S. begins to draw out of Afghanistan. [Read more](#)

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## NEW MILESTONES IN AUTOMATED WARRIORS



In hopes to deploy more robots to the battlefield, the Marine Corps is testing two new machines -- the Modular Advanced Armed Robotic System (MAARS), a remote-controlled machine gun that obeys 40 cues including turning, stopping and aiming, and the autonomous Legged Squadron Support System (LS3), a robotic mule that carries up to 400 pounds of gear such as ammunition and water. The MAARS aiming and optics system will be shown off in a shooting demonstration at Fort Bragg, N.C., next month while the LS3 will be tested at Fort Pickett, Va. in December. [Read more](#)

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## MARINE SERGEANT EXCELS ON, OFF DUTY



Sgt. Jessica Page, Marine Helicopter Squadron One communications system operator, is a role-model to her Marine peers and the community alike. Page, who is currently working to become an officer to "look after, mentor and teach Marines," spends much of her free time volunteering. One of her biggest volunteer organizations of choice is Big Brothers Big Sisters, where she serves as a mentor for Heather, a cancer survivor. Since Heather moved in with Page in March the "sisters" have gone white water rafting, cooked together and toured DC landmarks. [Read more](#)

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## AWARENESS MONTH RECOGNIZES SERVICE MEMBERS WITH DISABILITIES



The III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) is hosting an observance of



National Disability Employment Awareness Month Oct. 23 at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, in hopes to bring light to challenges veterans face transitioning home, and to showcase the resources in place to help them. "This month puts the issues of employees living with disabilities up front," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Rafika Vann, the equal opportunity adviser with III MEF. "It educates us on topics we normally would not be familiar with." October was first recognized as National Disability Employment Awareness Month by Congress in 1945. [Read more](#)

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## KILO COMPANY, 3/2 BEGINS MECHANIZED RAID COURSE



Marines and sailors of Company K from Battalion Landing Team 3/2, a reinforcement of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), is currently taking part in the Special Operations Training Group (SOTG) mechanized raid course, designed to evaluate and certify them in conducting a company-strength assault with tank and Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV) support. The raid package is divided into three elements -- assault, support and security -- that can be scaled up or down as the situation requires; an essential capability for their 2013 deployment. "With a MEU, you have to be ready for anything," said Gunnery Sgt. Kevin Walker, SOTG chief instructor. "They have to be able to do it all. Marines have to train to be ready for anything." [Read more](#)



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### OCTOBER 19, 1968

Operation Maui Peak, a combined regimental-sized operation, which began on 6 October, ended 11 miles northwest of An Hoa, Vietnam. More than 300 enemy troops were killed in the 13-day operation.



## SEMPER FI

### MARINES SAVE MOTORCYCLIST'S LIFE



SSgt. Javier Acosta, Charlie Company, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, and Sgt. Ronny Pool, Headquarters and Service Company, Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division had never met before Sept. 27, when a gruesome motorcycle accident brought them together. The two Marines were stopped at an intersection in Temecula, Calif., when they noticed the wounded motorcyclist, whose leg was nearly severed off, and rushed to his aid. They successfully kept the man conscious, held his head straight and used the tools on hand to keep pressure on the bleeding leg as they waited for emergency personnel to arrive. Both men credit their lifesaving

skills and immediate call to action to their training with the Corps. [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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