

MARINE CORPS — CONNECTION —

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TIP OF THE SPEAR

CORPS SETS COURSE TO THE PACIFIC WITH 15TH MEU



The Col. Scott Campbell, commanding officer of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), spoke May 17 about the Corps' rebalancing to the Asia-Pacific and new course for amphibious operations. "The whole concept is building partner capacity, working with our allies to increase their ability to deal with regional problems. It's not just building their military," he said. "The MEU is that full-spectrum capability." The 15th MEU returned May 13 from an eight-month deployment aboard the Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group, where they lapped around the Pacific and Arabian Sea, handling crisis response and fostering

[more](#)

relationships with partner nations. [Read](#)



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Cpl. Cynthia S. Raiche leads her team during a 7-ton truck-pull event at Roberts Field on Camp Kinser, Okinawa, Japan, May 14 as part of the 3rd Maintenance Battalion "wrench-off." The event was designed so the battalion's five companies could compete against each other in various challenges such as: a Humvee pit crew relay, weapons systems disassembly and reassembly relay, log toss relay and the truck-pull. *(Photo by Lance Cpl. Henry Antenor)*



IN THE NEWS

'FIGHTING 13TH' TAKES TRAINING ON THE ROAD ACROSS THREE STATES



The 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), known as the "Fighting 13th," took part in Realistic Urban Training last week across California, Arizona and Utah in preparation for its western Pacific deployment scheduled this fall. The training involved overcoming a series of realistic challenges frequently encountered in combat -- a combination of aviation, ground combat and logistics applied to urban warfare. The 13th MEU will be the first MEU to bring the state of the art Ground Antenna Transmit and Receive (GATRs) on deployment. The GATR is an inflatable satellite antenna that uplinks with satellites and provides secure and unsecure

Internet access. [Read more](#)

HYBRID POWER DEMONSTRATED AT EXFOB 2013



Experimental Forward Operating Base 2013 (ExFOB) hosted invited vendors to demonstrate hybrid power generation technologies at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. May 6-10. The Marine Corps' ExFOB process is designed to identify and evaluate commercial technologies that can increase the self-sufficiency of expeditionary forces. Ten companies demonstrated 13 hybrid systems with potential to enhance combat effectiveness and reduce logistics support in austere environments. [Read more](#)

TORRANCE HONORS MARINES IN 54TH ANNUAL ARMED

FORCES DAY PARADE



Service members were honored during the 54th Annual Armed Forces Day Celebration and Parade, in Torrance, Calif., May 18, in the nation's longest running military parade sponsored by a select city. Each year, a different branch of the military is honored -- 2013 celebrated the Marine Corps. "I'm very proud to represent the United States Marine Corps," said honorary grand marshal retired Capt. Edward Q. Hicks. "There will never be an organization like the Marine Corps." The parade was featured during the weekend event, which also included a military exhibit with various tactical vehicles and equipment on display and a free concert. [Read more](#)

AFGHAN WAR MEMORIAL ARRIVES AT CAMP PENDLETON



A memorial to honor the Marines and Sailors who fought and died in Afghanistan neared its final destination May 20 at Camp Pendleton, Calif. The Patriot Guard Riders, a motorcycle club known for welcoming service members home from deployment, finished their 10-day journey escorting the 5th Marine Regiment's Operation Enduring Freedom Memorial from Barre, Vt., to Camp Pendleton. Upon arrival, the club witnessed an emotional display of Marine Corps tradition. Engraved in the memorial are the names of those lost, as well as the words "fallen but never forgotten." A formal dedication of the memorial will be held June 6. [Read more](#)

GEORGE W. BUSH GIVES VETERAN 'ULTIMATE HALFTIME SPEECH'



Marine veteran Brendan O'Toole, founder of The Run For Veterans (TRFV), arrived in Dallas, TX April 25, reaching the 1,500 mile mark in his quest to run cross-country, raising awareness and support for fellow service members. O'Toole started his 3,600 mile mission from Oceanside, Calif., last November on Veteran's Day. His arrival in Dallas coincided with the dedication of the George W. Bush Presidential Center, providing him the opportunity for some encouragement from the former president.

"President Bush's words of support were a big morale boost and it was a proud moment for TRFV," said O'Toole. [Read more](#)

[The Run For Veterans website](#)

VETERAN JOB CORPS KICKS OFF AT CALIFORNIA FARM



Journalist Dylan Ratigan partnered up with retired Marine Maj. Gen. Melvin Spiese, May 21 to launch Veterans Job Corps, a new nationwide job program aimed at placing veterans in environmentally conscious jobs. "The idea is to look at these men and women for what they are: high-capacity partners who are trainable, reliable, and very able workers," said Ratigan. The program's first project is Archi's Acres, a Southern California farm founded by an former Marine and his wife. The farm employs combat veterans to grow vegetables and trains dozens more in skilled food-supply-chain jobs. [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

MAY 23, 1988

The V-22 Osprey, the world's first production tilt-rotor aircraft, made its debut during rollout ceremonies at Bell Helicopter Textron's Arlington, Texas, facility. More than 1,000 representatives from the military, industry, and media, gathered to hear various speakers, including Gen. Alfred Gray, Commandant of the Marine Corps, praise the versatile rotor craft designed to meet the needs of 21st century battlefields.



SEMPER FI

BATTLE OF KOH TANG TROOPS LAID TO REST



Under overcast skies, 10 Marines, two Sailors and one airman were finally laid to rest May 15 in an internment ceremony for the troops who didn't survive the aftermath of a CH-53 crash during The Battle of Koh Tang. The battle, otherwise known as the Mayaguez Incident, is considered by some to be the final battle of the Vietnam War. "There's finally a little bit of closure to it," said David Fowler, a former sergeant who was part of the assault. The Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command recovered the dead from the battle and wreckage between 1991 and 2008.

[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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