

# MARINE CORPS CONNECTION

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## TIP OF THE SPEAR

### MARINES SUPPORT 57TH PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION



In a tradition lasting more than 200 years, Marines from the "President's Own" Marine Band and Alpha and Bravo Company, Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., supported the Presidential Inauguration Jan. 21. The units were part of more than 5,500 service members involved, as President Barack Obama began his second term as Commander in Chief. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, walked alongside the president as Marines marched from the Capitol to the White House. "It's the time where the Commandant is able to display the Marine Corps to the president," said

Master Gunnery Sgt. William Brown, Drum

Major for the President's Own. "I think it's very important to have the Marine Corps involved. We're America's Marine Corps." More than 700,000 people from around the country attended. [Read more](#)

[Also Read: South Carolina Marine Dances with First Lady](#)



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



The U.S. Marine Corps Ceremonial Guard Company, part of the president's escort, marches in the inauguration parade for the 57th Presidential Inauguration Jan. 21. More than 2,100 service members from each of the five branches marched in the parade, with approximately 5,500 supporting inaugural festivities. *(Photo by EJ Hersom/Department of Defense)*



## IN THE NEWS

### MARINES, JGSDF TEAM UP DURING 'IRON FIST'



Soldiers of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) joined Marines and Sailors Jan. 22 for the start of the annual "Iron Fist" interoperability exercise at Camp Pendleton, San Diego, Calif. About 1,000 Marines and Sailors with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit are participating in the training, which will run through Feb. 15. The purpose of Iron Fist is to enhance military-to-military relations and skills necessary for crisis response and to effectively conduct contingency operations across the Pacific. The exercise will also include small-unit tactics, close-air support and live-fire and maneuver training. [Read more](#)

### AFTER EXTENDED DEPLOYMENT, LEADERS PRAISE NAVY-MARINE TEAM



Marine Col. Frank Donovan and Navy Capt. Arturo Garcia, the commanding officers of more than 4,000 Marines and Sailors of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard the three-ship Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group, spoke Jan. 17 about the challenges and successes of their extended nine-month deployment caused by unrest in the Middle East. Though longer than expected, the deployment gave troops an opportunity to bond while traveling through Africa, the Mediterranean Sea, the Middle East, the Arabian Gulf and Southwest Asia. It also emphasized America's commitment to the region, including participation in exercises with international military services. [Read more](#)

### RESERVES RECEIVE FIRST MV-22 OSPREY SQUADRON



Marine Forces Reserve welcomed its first MV-22 Osprey squadron Jan. 12 during a ceremony at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764 transitioned into Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 764 as Lt. Col. Scott Craig relinquished command of the unit to Lt. Col. David Weinstein. The Ospreys are replacing the CH-46E Sea Knights used by the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW) since 1965. The change equips the 4th MAW with the first tiltrotor aircraft that takes off and lands like a helicopter, but flies like an airplane, capable of reaching high-speed and high-altitude flight. [Read more](#)

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## WEST COAST MEU PREPS FOR NOVEL DEPLOYMENT



When the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) gets underway this spring, it will become the first West Coast-based unit to take the MV-22 Osprey out to sea. It will replace the 15th MEU currently deployed with the Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group in the U.S. Central Command region. The priorities of their deployment will be crisis response, contingency operations in support of operational plans, engaging with U.S. partners in Theater Security Cooperation exercises and ongoing operations, including counterterrorism and humanitarian missions. [Read more](#)

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## TWO-STAR 'GETS IT' WHEN IT COMES TO SAFETY



Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, Commanding General of Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, was named a 2013 CEO Who "Gets It" by the National Safety Council Jan. 17. The award is an annual recognition of leaders who demonstrate world-class safety and understand that safety is imperative to any business. "Safety is an essential part of everything the Marine Corps does to ensure mission accomplishment with training, deployments, recreation and day-to-day business," said Talleri. Talleri is one of eight CEOs honored this year, and the first Marine in history to

receive the award. [Read more](#)

## 2013 MARINE CORPS ALMANAC



The 2013 Marine Corps Almanac was published Jan. 18, providing insight into the people and resources that make up the Corps America's "expeditionary force in readiness." Included is a snapshot of the Marine Corps at the end of Fiscal Year 2011, a brief description of demographics, fiscal posture and the age of primary equipment, and a message from Commandant Gen. James F. Amos. "While this almanac is full of facts, figures, charts and graphs, let us never forget that these numbers describe a force of patriotic young men and women who sacrifice for our great nation every day," Amos states. [Read more](#)

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## BONNIE AMOS, A STRONG FORCE FOR FAMILIES



As First Lady of the Marine Corps, Bonnie Amos, wife of Commandant James F. Amos, plays a key role in support services available for Marines' families. She helped to coordinate and direct "Volunteer Family Readiness" organizations which assess, educate, and provide for struggling families of Marines; helped establish the Wounded Warrior Regiment and the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund; and most recently, published the first "First Lady of the Marine Corps Recommended Reading List." While Amos has moved to more than 29 places in 42 years, her first commitment has always remained steadfast -- to provide support for the families of Marines. [Read more](#)



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

## JANUARY 22, 1969

The last major offensive by the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, Operation Dewey Canyon, began. It involved a sweep of the North Vietnamese Army-dominated A Shau Valley by the 9th Marine Regiment, reinforced by elements of the 3rd Marine Regiment. Four Marines were awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions during the two-month operation: Lt. Wesley Fox, Lance Cpl. Thomas Noonan, Lance Cpl. William Morgan and Pfc. Alfred M. Wilson.



## SEMPER FI

### ALASKA NATIVE HELPS CATCH BANK ROBBER



Marine veteran Merrill Lake assisted in the arrest of a bank robber Jan. 18 in his hometown of South Anchorage, Alaska. Lake spotted Alan Rice as he was walking down the street carrying a large bag. At the same moment, a bank teller was banging on the window of a Key Bank branch; Lake was able to read the lips of the teller: "stop him," she said. Realizing a robbery had just occurred, Lake proceeded to chase and stop Rice, informing him of his Marine status. Lake acceded and was eventually apprehended by police. He was found carrying more than \$1,000 and a hammer used in the robbery. [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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