

TIP OF THE SPEAR

MARINES DESCRIBE PLANS TO ASSESS OPENING COMBAT JOBS TO WOMEN



The Marine Corps has developed a plan to assess which combat jobs will become available to women beginning fall 2015, as part of the service's timeline for integrating female troops into more military specialties. The announced proposal was released June 18 by the Defense Department. Each of the four Pentagon armed forces, as well as special operations command, were required to outline plans for dismantling longstanding restrictions barring women from direct ground combat jobs, with full



implementation by 2016. As it stands, 32 out of 335 primary job categories in the Marines are closed to women, in addition

to 16 other job categories. The Corps is now in the primary research and preparation phase, administering new strength tests to hundreds of Marines, preparing to open some ground intelligence officer billets and developing new screening tests that will be used by recruiters. They will continue to analyze the data in three phases over the next three years. [Read more](#)



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



A Marine from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit dives during a swim call near the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) June 22 in Aqaba, Jordan, at the end of Exercise Eager Lion 2013. Exercise Eager Lion is an annual, multinational exercise designed to strengthen military-to-military relationships and enhance security and stability in the region by responding to realistic, modern-day security scenarios. *(Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Corbin J. Shea)*



IN THE NEWS

MARINES LOOK TO NEXT GENERATION OF BODY ARMOR



Marine Corps Systems Command's (MCSC) Individual Armor team is designing body armor to fit Marines of all sizes, rather than continue with the one-size-fits-all approach. The current sizes fit approximately 90 percent of Marines. MCSC will procure nearly 3,800 IMTVs in sizes small-short, medium-short and large-short later this year -- enough to outfit smaller stature Marines for the remainder of operations in Afghanistan. "If something is made to fit you better, you don't have to expend extra energy struggling with it," said Maj. James Pelland, Individual Armor Team lead. "Energy loss equates to fatigue, less functionality and less lethality. We

believe in increasing Marine mobility and performance." [Read more](#)

ASEAN EXERCISE FOCUSES ON DISASTER RELIEF



The Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise ran June 17 to 20 in Muara, Brunei Darussalam. The exercise provided allied and partner nations a platform to demonstrate their commitment to multinational cooperation, enhance multilateral interoperability, increase disaster preparedness, and promote security and stability throughout the Asia-Pacific region. "Each day of the exercise brings us closer to our goal of being able to work together during future disaster relief efforts," said Royal Brunei Armed Forces First Adm. Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Abdul Halim bin

Haji Mohd Hanifah. [Read more](#)

'REAL WARRIORS CAMPAIGN' HELPS VETERANS BATTLING

PTSD



With Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Month coming to a close, the Real Warriors Campaign is pushing forward to encourage help-seeking behavior among service members, veterans and military families coping with PTSD and other invisible wounds. The Real Warriors Campaign is a multimedia public awareness campaign, focused on creating awareness of the psychological health care tools and resources available to support warriors and families who have served, and continue to serve, our country. As studies and reports highlight the stigma associated with seeking help, campaigns such as this are working to

break those barriers. [Read more](#)

['Real Warriors' Website](#)

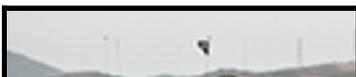
COUNTERINSURGENCY SKILLS LEARNED IN IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN RELEVANT IN PACIFIC



As the counterinsurgency strategy in Iraq and Afghanistan comes to an end, cultural knowledge learned over the past decade will apply to missions in the Asia-Pacific region. The U.S. counterinsurgency doctrine requires troops to be "nation builders as well as warriors." For Marines, these skills will "transfer immediately" to the Pacific, Brig. Gen. Richard Simcock, deputy commander of Marine Corps Forces Pacific, said during a media engagement at the Pentagon, June 11. He also stated that counterinsurgency is cultural in nature. "Marines are trained and experienced in dealing with different cultures, so it doesn't really matter if

they're speaking another language," he said. [Read more](#)

U.S. AND COALITION FORCES CONDUCT AMPHIBIOUS LANDING ON CALIFORNIA COAST



The Marines and Sailors from 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, and Naval Beach Group 1 conducted



amphibious landings on Red Beach with Assault Amphibious Vehicles (AAV) and both U.S. and Japanese Landing Craft Air Cushioned (LCACs) vehicles June 24 as a part of exercise Dawn Blitz. The raid on Red Beach tested U.S. and coalition forces' ability to conduct operations together. It was the culminating multinational, amphibious event during the month-long exercise. [Read more](#)

MARINES TRAIN IN MALAYSIA DURING CARAT 2013



U.S. Marines and Malaysian Armed Forces began a series of bilateral engagements June 15, as a part of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2013. The partner nations conducted jungle warfare training, sniper employment, combat marksmanship program and Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, concluding the training with an amphibious assault. Following Malaysia, the Marines re-embarked the USS Tortuga (LSD 46) and traveled to the Republic of the Philippines to conduct training with the Philippine Marine Corps. CARAT 2013 includes exercises between the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy and the armed forces of

Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Timor-Leste. [Read more](#)

PARIS AIR SHOW 2013: TOP MARINE AVIATOR ANNOUNCES PLAN TO REDUCE COSTS



Lt. Gen. Robert Schmidle, Deputy Commandant for Aviation, announced a "very aggressive program" to bring down the costs of operating and maintaining the Marine's F-35B model of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter during the Paris airshow last week. His choice of the world's largest airshow as the venue for the announcement spoke volumes, as international partners in the F-35 program have expressed considerable unease over the cost increases and schedule problems of the last three years. One of the keys to this reduction may be doing intermediate level repairs at sea. "That will drive costs down and readiness up," Schmidle

said. [Read more](#)

MAJOR AMONG NASA'S NEXT GENERATION OF SPACE EXPLORERS



Maj. Nicole Mann is one of eight candidates that have been selected to be National Aeronautics Space Administration's (NASA) newest astronaut trainees. They are the first explorers to launch on commercial American spacecraft from U.S. soil since the retirement of the space shuttle. The group will receive a wide array of technical training at space centers and remote locations around the globe to prepare for missions to low-Earth orbit, an asteroid and Mars. Mann is an F/A 18 pilot, currently serving as an Integrated Product Team Lead at the U.S. Naval Air Station, Patuxent River.

[Read more](#)

CALIFORNIA WOUNDED WARRIOR AWARDED BRONZE STAR



Cpl. Jorge Salazar was awarded the Bronze Star June 17 for his actions during a mission in Afghanistan after an improvised explosive device (IED) wounded his commander. Salazar, whose legs were severed by the IED, led the team out of heavy fire. Having lost both his legs on the mission, it was important for Salazar to be able to walk on stage and receive the medal. "It doesn't matter what you're missing, you should be able to get up and stand tall and be proud of yourself," he said. [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

JUNE 25, 1950

Shortly before dawn, eight divisions of the North Korean People's Army crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded the Republic of Korea. Within three days, the South Korean capital city of Seoul had been captured. On 30 June, President Harry S. Truman ordered a naval blockade of the Korean coast and authorized the sending of U.S. ground troops to Korea. Two days later, General Douglas MacArthur, the Commander in Chief Far East, formally requested that a Marine regimental combat team be deployed to the Far East.



SEMPER PARATI

PAIR OF MARINES WALKING ACROSS COUNTRY TO RAISE AWARENESS



Former Marines Adam Shatarsky and Chris Senopole are walking an estimated 2,700 miles from Camp Pendleton, Calif., to Washington, D.C. in a months-long trip to bring awareness to The Wounded Warrior Project, an organization dedicated to helping injured service members. "We wanted to do a walk across the country for a good cause...We kind of just started spitballing, and it kind of formed into [this.]" said Shatarsky. The pair started on June 15, and estimates an October finish. They hope to raise at least \$10,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project. [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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