

TIP OF THE SPEAR

MARINES PAVE WAY FOR LARGER FORCE IN AUSTRALIA



U.S. officials have announced plans to send a second force of roughly 250 Marines to Australia next spring, following reports released by the Australian government on Oct. 4, stating U.S. presence in Darwin has infused the economy with \$1.8 million. "As a next step, an assessment will now be undertaken of the impacts of rotational deployments of up to 1,100 U.S. Marines to northern Australia," said Australia Defence Minister Stephen Smith and Warren Snowdon, minister for defence science and personnel, in a joint statement. Officials expect to see that number grow to 2,500 by

include supporting aviation and logistics units. [Read more](#) 2016, at the earliest. The task force will



VIDEO OF THE WEEK



Cpl. Todd Love and Arthur Bloom playing "Somebody That I Used To Know" by Gotye. Love, a U.S. Marine, was injured by a roadside bomb on Oct. 25, 2010, in Afghanistan. While recovering at Walter

Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., he participated in MusiCorps, a music rehab program that helps wounded warriors play music and recover their lives. This video was shot on Sept. 18, 2012, Love's last day at Walter Reed. *(Video by MusiCorps)*



IN THE NEWS

NEW ORLEANS WOMEN EMBODY 'ESPRIT DE CORPS'



The Women Marines Association awarded the Molly Marine chapter of New Orleans, La., first place in "volunteerism" and "Esprit de Corps, patriotism and camaraderie" during their latest professional development conference. The recognition comes after the chapter's expansion of volunteer programs and community participation. The Molly Marines also earned the Ruth and Dick Broe Award, the most prestigious award given to one of the 70 chapters that has demonstrated highest overall chapter achievement in the past two years. "We've done such an awesome job the past two years. I see us improving by maybe doing a little bit more

volunteerism and community service," said chapter president Melanie Young. [Read more](#)

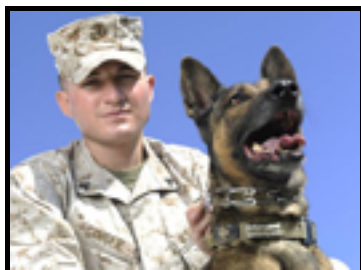
2ND DIVISION BAND ROCKS NEW ENGLAND MUSIC STAND



Members of the 2nd Marine Division Band from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., entertained more than one million attendees of "The Big E," the largest fair in the Northeast, held annually in West Springfield, Mass. The 17-day extravaganza featured at least eight shows over a three-day string of performances by the division band whose endless hours of practice and rehearsals paid off. "With all the hard work and endless hours spent, it was great to see the positive reactions from the crowds, and that just made it a fun trip overall," said Lance Cpl. David Corderman,

whose three member rock band debuted at the fair. [Read more](#)

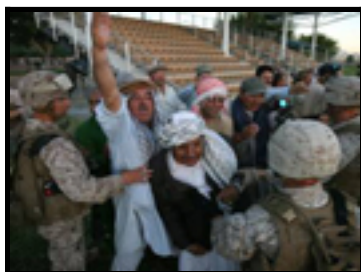
WARRIORS AND DOGS BOND ON BATTLEFIELD



Explosives-sniffing dogs are not only one of the most effective weapons in the Afghan war, but a source of comfort and comradeship for their Marine handlers. A constant target of insurgents who recognize the value of the dogs, the canines and their owners create a strong bond on the battlefield, fighting side-by-side in the fight against improvised explosives, the Taliban's weapon of choice. "I never thought there was the possibility of getting that close to a dog before I had this job," said Cpl. Joseph Singer. Singer was injured by a grenade in July and his first thought was his dog, Yona. "Make sure my dog is all right," Singer told his colleagues as a

medevac helicopter approached. "Don't forget my dog." Yona pushed his way onto the helicopter to be with his owner. [Read more](#)

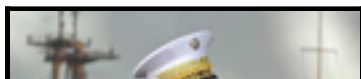
MARINES TRAIN IN EVACUATION EXERCISE



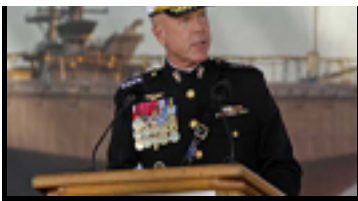
More than 100 Marines and civilian role players took part in a U.S. embassy emergency evacuation simulation at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Oct. 19. The drill, simulating what may happen if an embassy in a foreign country needs to be quickly evacuated, is practiced twice a year by Marine expeditionary forces and, is an important skill to maintain, as demonstrated by the recent attacks on the American consulate in Libya. "The Marine Corps is pretty much the only force capable of doing this," said base spokesman Capt. Nicholas Mannweiler, since it has both ground and air capabilities. "Every Marine

expeditionary unit goes through this training." [Read more](#)

COMMANDANT SALUTES ASSAULT SHIP 'AMERICA'



General James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, welcomed the lead ship in the Navy's newest class of large-deck amphibious assault



vessels on Oct. 20 at Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, Miss., stating it "will play an important role in keeping our nation secure...for decades to come." The 844-foot-long ship is the fourth to bear the name *America* and features a two-acre flight deck that will soon hold a crew of up to about 1,800 Marines, plus fighter planes and helicopters. Unlike older ships, the *America* does not have a well deck for launching amphibious landing craft, thus relying on aircraft to ferry troops and supplies to a beachhead.

[Read more](#)

OBAMA TAPS PAXTON FOR ASSISTANT COMMANDANT



President Barack Obama intends to nominate Lt. Gen. John Paxton to become the next assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, announced Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, Oct. 18. If confirmed by the Senate, Paxton will pin on a fourth star and replace Gen. Joseph Dunford, who Obama has slated to succeed Gen. John Allen as the top commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan. Paxton is currently the commanding general of Marine Corps Forces Command in Norfolk, Va., where he also leads Fleet Marine Force Atlantic and Marine Corps Forces Europe. His potential promotion to four-star general would give the Corps six officers at

that rank. [Read more](#)

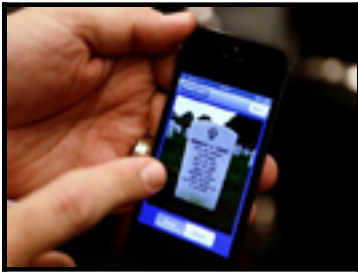
AFGHAN FORCES GAIN CAPABILITY, RESPECT



After a 10-month deployment of Marines and Sailors from Regimental Combat Team 6, Afghan forces in the Helmand Province are making steady progress in assuming more responsibility in protecting their people and allowing the U.S. to lessen their involvement, reported Col. John Shafer. "We reduced the force in the regimental combat team by approximately 60 percent, and we have made up the difference with the Afghan national security forces," he said. This shift has gained Afghan forces respect from their nation -- an important factor in long-term mission success and U.S. drawdown. [Read more](#)

[Watch: Marines Work to Turn Over Security Duties to Afghans](#)

ARLINGTON CEMETERY RELEASES NEW DIGITAL MAP



On Monday, at the Association of the United States Army convention, Patrick Hallihan, Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, debuted an interactive map that is available to the public through its website and a free smartphone app. The map provides details pertaining to each of the roughly 400,000 buried there, including dates of birth and death, as well as photos of the headstones. Monuments and memorials that commemorate the services of specific military units are also visible. The app was created to make it easier for visitors of the cemetery to locate a loved one's burial spot. [Read more](#)

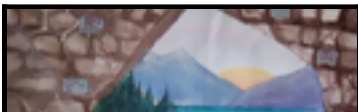
[Arlington National Cemetery Website](#)

YUMA MARINES GET READY FOR F-35B OPS

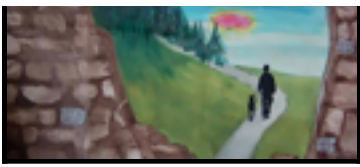


Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. is preparing to begin operations for the first operational F-35B squadron arriving next month. Six pilots have been tapped for early operations at Yuma but cannot begin training until the Marine Corps has implemented a foundation for the squadron's infrastructure at the base, including delivery of an Autonomic Information Logistic System, used to manage the F-35's health, diagnostics, and mission planning. The first F-35B is expected at Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 in early November, with the second slated for delivery mid-month. A total of 16 F-35Bs -- the number needed for full operational capability -- are expected at the base within the next year. [Read more](#)

VETERANS' ART TO BE FEATURED IN SAN DIEGO



Recent graduates of Combat Art Program San Diego, Calif., will showcase artwork Nov. 3 at Space 4 Art in downtown San Diego. The program provides art classes to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder



(PTSD), following their tours in Iraq or Afghanistan. The exhibit, the first for the program, gives an inside look into the struggles faced by combat veterans. "It allowed me to express what's inside my head," said Sgt. Aaron Raher. "It's easier to put my thoughts on canvas than talking about it." Raher is one of 100 service members, mostly from Camp Pendleton, who have graduated from the program. [Read more](#)

FIRST LADY OF THE MARINE CORPS PROVIDES RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES



Bonnie Amos, wife of Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos, released a reading list earlier this month geared towards helping military families cope with the stresses of having loved ones at war. Titled "First Lady of the Marine Corps Recommended Reading List," the lineup features books that are vetted credible sources in providing helpful advice to spouses and children alike. The Corps is the first military branch to develop this type of resource. "It's absolutely fabulous that the Corps has recognized this and is doing its best to meet the need here," said Kathleen Smith, wife of Combat Center's Commanding General, Brig.

Gen. George W. Smith, Jr. "The most effective Marine is one whose family is well taken care of." [Read more](#)

[First Lady of the Marine Corps Recommended Reading List](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

OCTOBER 28, 1962

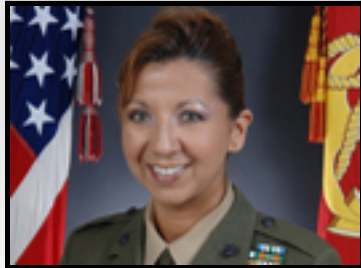
An 11,000-man 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade left Camp Pendleton, Calif. by sea for the Caribbean

during the Cuban Missile Crisis. One week earlier, the entire 189,000-man Marine Corps had been put on alert and elements of the 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions were sent to Guantanamo Bay to reinforce the defenders of the U.S. Naval Base. Other 2nd Division units and squadrons from five Marine Aircraft Groups were deployed at Key West, Fla., or in Caribbean waters during the Cuban crisis.



SEMPER FI

SGT. MAJ. ADVANCES HERSELF AND COMMUNITY



Sgt. Maj. Yolanda Mayo, working in a civilian capacity with Marine Air Control Squadron 24, was awarded a National Image Award in Los Angeles, Calif., last week for her dedication and support to the Hispanic community. Mayo, who comrades describe as "positive, cheerful, enthusiastic, well intentioned and sincere," is an advocate of remembering your heritage no matter where you are in life. "I learned years ago from a long-time mentor to never forget where I came from," said Mayo. "The idea was instilled in me. This [award] is a part of it. I talk about my heritage and do what I can do to show young Latinas what they

can do." [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

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