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COMMANDANT AND SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS IN AFGHANISTAN

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James Amos, and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Michael Barrett, visited the Marines and Sailors of 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment at Camp Hanson in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Sept. 22. "I want to remind you of why you are here," Amos said. "Eleven days ago we sat on a Sunday morning at 9:27 a.m. at the Pentagon, which is precisely the time when that American Airlines flight hit that building. My office was destroyed that day. I never got back



in it. I came out of that with a different perspective on this war than a lot of folks." Amos urged the Marines not to forget why they are still in Afghanistan. "Those attacks were planned just East of us over by Kandahar," he said. "We should never forget that those attacks were born

and planned right here in Afghanistan."

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DEPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE IMPACTFUL



A recent article by the *Associated Press* reported that despite the many challenges and concerns of a deployment, time downrange often proves to be an impactful experience on Marines. Cpl. Robert Cole of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, will complete a seven-month deployment in the southern region of Afghanistan next month, but he has mixed emotions about it coming to an end. "It's just life or death: the simplicity of it," he said. "It's also kind of nice in some ways because you don't have to worry about

anything else in the world." While deployed, Marines and service members miss the basics of home and must endure the constant threat of death or injury, yet combat can deliver a sense of urgency, meaning, order, belonging and camaraderie. For Cole and his platoon, it wasn't an easy deployment -- they suffered close to 30 percent casualties, mostly from bombs hidden around its patrol base -- but they have learned to move beyond that and throughout their deployment, they have built the bonds of brotherhood. "The only shred of sanity that keeps us going out here is that I have to protect [him] and he has to protect [me]," said Cole.

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HEROES

MARINES RECEIVE VALOR MEDALS FROM CMC DURING VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN

During a ceremony in Camp



Hanson, Afghanistan, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen James F. Amos, awarded Sgt. Beau Reimink, a team leader with scout sniper platoon, 1st Battallion, 9th Marines, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation with combat distinguishing device. Additionally, LCpl. Jacob Vinyard, a squad automatic weapon gunner with Reimink's team, and LCpl. Brandon Klepsig, a SAW gunner with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals with combat distinguishing devices. The visit by Amos was part of a battlefield circulation of forward operation bases in southern Helmand.



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AHERO TAKES VETERANS FISHING



To show appreciation for veterans who have sustained injuries from combat in service to their country, the America's Heroes Enjoying Recreation Outdoors Foundation (AHERO), hosted a fishing trip for wounded warriors from Sept. 16 to Sept 18. Multiple volunteers offered up their homes and property for the weekend, providing billeting for veterans who traveled to Alabama from all over the nation to attend the event. AHERO was founded in August 2010 by Capt. Lee Stuckey, executive officer of Recruiting Station

Montgomery, Ala. During the fishing trip, LCpl. Stephen Ayhens, a native of Ozark, Ala., was given the opportunity to visit his home state for the first time since he was injured in Afghanistan in June 21, 2011. In appreciation for his contributions and sacrifice, the local community made some improvements to his mother's home and built a wheelchair ramp for

him to get around on. "It was awesome to see that people cared. I can't think of a way to show how grateful I am," Ayhens said .

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DID YOU KNOW?

FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES EXPLOIT SERVICEMEMBERS

A recent opinion piece by Hollister K. Petraeus published in the *New York Times* says that our nation's veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are eager to earn post-secondary degrees — and to replicate the example of the generation that returned from World War II and fueled our prosperity. But their desire for learning is too often exploited by unscrupulous for-profit colleges looking to reap the benefits of the government's military education assistance programs. A large number of these schools hone in on military personnel and their families with aggressive and often misleading marketing, deceiving these men and women to enroll in their institutions, while siphoning millions in military education benefits. The incentive to enroll members of the armed forces stems the "90-10 rule" created by the 1998 amendments to the Higher Education Act, which says a for-profit college must obtain at least 10 percent of its revenue from a source other than Title IV education funds, the primary source of federal student aid. The government provides two important educational benefits to service members: the Tuition Assistance program for service members on active duty, and the G.I. Bill, which is mostly used for education after military service. Neither are defined as Title IV funds, so they may count toward the 10 percent requirement, just like private sources of financing. It has been estimated that from 2006 and 2010, the money received from these programs by just 20 for-profit companies reached between \$521.2 million and \$66.6 million.

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MOST DIVERSE GROUP OF OFFICERS RECRUITED



Answering the call of Gen. James F. Amos to build a Marine Corps that reflects "the face of the nation," throughout the past fiscal year, the Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC) has recruited its most diverse group of officers in a decade. The command began the

fiscal year with a mission to access 1,650 second lieutenants. In the end, 1,663 of the nation's best and brightest reported on active duty, ready to endure six months of intense training at the Basic School here. Of those 1,663 new officers accessed, 85 were African-American, 122 Hispanic and 99 of other ethnic background. Though the results were especially evident this fiscal year, the officer accession process is often times a four year initiative as potential officer's work towards completing their college degrees. "The hard work that our officer selection officers put in four years ago is starting to pay off now as this year's group of officers graduate from college," said Capt. Joseph Wydeven, diversity officer, MCRC. "They accomplished this by constantly looking for qualified individuals."

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FAMILY VALUES PROPEL MARINE OFFICER TO SUCCESS



The values of honor, courage and commitment serve as an ethos to every candidate and recruit who has ever attended Officer Candidate School or stepped on the yellow footprints at either Recruit Depot at Parris Island or San Diego. These values do not stray far from those instilled in young Hispanic Americans by the parents and families. "I think Hispanic Americans are drawn to the Marine Corps because of the close-knit



environment it provides," said Lt. Col. Raphael Hernandez, assistant

chief of staff G-3, Marine Corps Recruiting Command. "The values of the Marine Corps are in line with those of the Hispanic community." Hernandez is not alone in this sentiment, as many Hispanic Americans, eager to serve their country in an environment that holds those same values they learned at home in high esteem, have found a place in the Marine Corps. Following on the success of last year's "Family Values" multimedia campaign, Marine Corps Recruiting Command has launched "Values 2.0," a campaign to continue to honor and recognize the shared values of the Marine Corps and Hispanic Americans. Currently, there are more than 20,000 Marines serving on active duty that identify themselves as descending from an Hispanic heritage.

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MARINES RUN FOR REMEMBRANCE



More than 600 military and community members attended the Prisoners of War or Missing in Action (POW/MIA) remembrance 5K run which took place on Sept 23 at Camp Hansen, Okinawa. The run was held to remember and honor the United States troops who were POW and MIA and also to honor those killed during the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Along the run route, six points were dedicated to an event that took place during the attacks. At these stop points, community members read

testimonies of heroic acts that occurred that day. Although many had the goal of crossing the finish line first, runners were encouraged to stop at the selected points. "The subjects of 9/11, POWs and MIAs can be very sensitive," said Navy Lt. Richard Bristol, Camp Hansen chaplain and event coordinator. "We didn't create this event to remind people of the losses of Sept. 11, 2001, but to show the bravery of these individuals."

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'ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE'

As Kevin Gonzalez read through the July/August edition of "Semper Fi/The Magazine of the Marine Corps League," a glossy full-page spread caught his eye. What he saw was the headline, "Once a Marine, Always a Marine" accompanied by a photograph of a Marine Corps League-organized event in April at the Pappy Boyington Field Airport in Hayden Lake, Idaho. Gonzalez acknowledged his surprise in seeing the photograph published in the national magazine, noting the significance of the historic moment he helped arrange. The photo captures 10 current members of the famed WWII Black Sheep



squadron, VMF-214, alongside other members of the Marine Corps League Pappy Boyington Detachment, who gathered at the namesake airfield prior to the squadron's latest overseas deployment. The assembly was intended as a heritage celebration, Gonzalez said, honoring the memory of Boyington, a Medal of Honor recipient and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho native for whom the airport was recently renamed. "It does highlight that even in a small town, something as rare as a Medal of Honor can be taken very seriously," he said. "At its core was recognizing the historical connection between Pappy and the Black Sheep."

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MARINE CORPS CONTINUES TO EDUCATE MARINES ON DANGERS OF SPICE



Eyewitness News 9 reported that after finding nearly 200 grams of Spice along with drug paraphernalia at a tobacco shop not far from Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, Cherry Point officials were asked what was being done to keep Marines away from the dangerous and synthetic drugs. "Being a marine is a 24-7 job. It's not just a job, it's a lifestyle, and the use of mind altering substances can really affect a



Marines ability to accomplish the mission," said 1st Lt. Megan Greathouse, media officer at MCAS Cherry Point. Long before the state banned synthetic drugs like spice and bath salts, Cherry Point along with other military installations across the East, created a ban of their own and implemented aggressive education programs to educate Marines. Greathouse says Marines could face severe punishment, including discharge.

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NEW SOCIAL MEDIA HANDBOOK COACHES MARINES



An article by the *Federal Computer Week* reported that the Social Corps Handbook is a U.S. Marine Corps publication to teach Marines to use social media in a proper military fashion. The 48-page handbook was released earlier this month, and it highlights the use of innovative communications. "The best advice is to approach online communication in the same way we communicate in person — by using sound judgment and common sense, adhering to the Marine Corps' core values of honor, courage and commitment, following established policy, and abiding by the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)," the handbook instructs. "...if you wouldn't say it in front of a formation, don't say it online."

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EVENTS

NEW MARINE CORPS MARATHON EVENT PROGRAM "SALUTE" NOW ONLINE



The 2011 Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) event program "Salute" is now available online in a digital, interactive version. "Salute" features



celebrity runner and Marine Corps Reservist Drew Carey, profiles runners including preeminent polar

explorer Robert Swan OBE and six-time MCM finisher and comedian Liz Miele. The program also includes the MCM Weekend schedule, Spectator Guide, technology enhancements and the 2011 MCM course map with new changes to this year's route. "The 2011 event program showcases 'The People's Marathon' from the start of the race to the amazing finish with great appreciation for the thousands of participants and spectators who help make this one of the most exciting marathons in the world," says Rick Nealis, MCM Director. The program is available on the MCM website at www.marinemarathon.com and will be presented in magazine form to attendees of the Health & Fitness Expo, held at the DC Armory from Oct. 27-29, the three days prior to the 36th MCM.

