



TIP OF THE SPEAR

13TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT RETURNS HOME



After eight months at sea, conducting theater security cooperation exercises with foreign nations throughout the Western Pacific and the Middle East, Marines and Sailors of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and Boxer Amphibious Ready Group returned home April 24. Together, Marines and Sailors carried out their mission to provide a forward deployed, flexible sea-based Marine Air Ground Task Force capable of conducting amphibious operations, crisis response and limited contingency operations, to support the theater requirements of Geographic Combatant Commanders. They worked to sustain this readiness and interoperability

throughout 16 different countries. The 13th MEU's deployment coincides with the Marine Corps' strategic pacific reorientation, shifting focus away from ground conflict in the Middle East, and providing a forward-staged contingency response force at sea. [Read more](#)



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Lance Cpl. Ethan C. Hogeland, amphibious assault vehicle crewman with 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., watches the sunrise on the flight deck in preparation for manning the rails as the USS New York (LPD 21) sails into South Florida for Fleet Week Port Everglades 2014, April 28. Approximately 120 Marines from 2nd AAV Bn., 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 269, Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., are participating in the 24th Annual Fleet Week in Port Everglades; South Florida's annual celebration of maritime forces. *(Photo by Sgt. Alicia R. Leaders)*



IN THE NEWS

MARINES IN AUSTRALIA AIMED TO STABILIZE A GROWING REGION



As the U.S. pivots to the Asia-Pacific, more than 1,100 American Marines will be deployed to a base in Australia. That number will increase to more than 2,000 by 2016. "The role of the military, the primary peacetime role, is to ensure stability. And presence can tamp down conflicts, just a sheer presence, knowing that there's a capable force there. The Marines have traditionally been forward deployed, and since the Korean War, have been forward deployed heavily in the Pacific. As we come out of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, we're going back to a more normal deployment, which is the Marine Corps oriented the Pacific," said T.X. Hammes, who

served 30 years in the Marine Corps and is now a senior research fellow at the National Defense University. [Read more](#)

RESERVE TO DRAW DOWN BY 1,100



The Marine Corps Reserve will take its own manpower hit as officials prepare to draw down by 1,100 Marines over three years. The cuts, driven by sequestration, will bring the number of selected reservists from 39,600 to 38,500 by the end of 2017, according to Maj. Tony Licari, the Reserve Manpower Plans Section officer in charge. The good news for reservists is that their drawdown will be accomplished by attrition and cuts to recruiting, not by forcing out current personnel. In other words, the Reserve simply will not replace a few hundred Marines each year as they retire or leave

uniform to pursue other opportunities. [Read more](#)

CONGRESS SHOULD SUPPORT THE MARINES' NEW ACV PLAN



The Heritage Foundation has come out in support of a recently announced plan for the Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV) program, which seeks to leverage current and affordable technologies to meet near-term operational needs while laying the groundwork for future capabilities as necessary technologies mature. "This program is the correct path forward but will require the support of the U.S. Navy and Congress," Diem Nguyen Salmon and Dakota Wood wrote. The program's phased approach can capitalize on current technology to quickly replace aging equipment, effectively creating a bridging strategy that maintains its current utility as a forward-

deployed force while preparing it for the future. [Read more](#)

FIRST LADY ANNOUNCING ONE-STOP JOB SITE FOR VETS



First lady Michelle Obama announced the launch of the new Veterans Employment Center on April 23, aimed at streamline employment resources for people leaving the military. The one-stop job-shopping tool is an integrated website that can help job-seekers create resumes, connect with employers and become part of a database of veterans and their spouses for companies to mine for skills and talents. "Our service members haven't always had the time or information they needed to prepare their resumes, to plot their career goals, to meet with employers and get the jobs they deserve," the first lady said. The capability comes amid an increase

in Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans as U.S. participation in those conflicts has ended or winds down. [Read more](#)

[eBenefits Website](#)

U.S., PHILIPPINES REACH DEAL ON MILITARY ACCORD



The U.S. military will have greater access to bases across the Philippines under a new 10-year agreement signed April 28 in conjunction with President Barack Obama's visit and seen as an effort by Washington to counter Chinese aggression in the region. U.S. and Filipino officials confirmed the deal ahead of Obama's stop and portrayed it as a central part of his weeklong Asia swing. The Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement would give American forces temporary access to selected military camps and allow them to preposition fighter jets and ships. [Read more](#)

MARINES SAVE FELLOW SERVICE MEMBER'S LIFE



Three Marines were each awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal April 26 at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, as a result of meritorious actions that saved another service member's life. Lance Cpl. Steward M. Bach, Cpl. James A. Kasper and Sgt. Blake A. Wallace provided critical medical care April 18 to Staff Sgt. Francisco E. Campos, who suffered a heart attack during the three-mile run portion of a physical fitness test. "I don't think I will ever be able to thank any of you enough for what you did," said Campos' wife, Danielle. "When you saved him, you saved my life, too." Through their actions, the Marines exemplified the core values of

honor, courage and commitment. [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

MAY 2, 1946

Marines from Treasure Island Marine Barracks, under the command of Warrant Officer Charles L. Buckner, aided in suppressing the three-day prison riot at Alcatraz Penitentiary in San Francisco Bay. WO Buckner, a veteran of the Bougainville and Guam campaigns, ably led his force of Marines without suffering a single casualty.



MARINE OF THE WEEK

FIRST AUSTRALIAN TO COMMAND MARINES NAMED HONORARY MARINE



Australian soldier Brig. Michael Harris was named an Honorary Marine and awarded a Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device April 22. Harris served as commanding officer of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment. He was the first non-American to lead Marines in combat during the Vietnam War. "It is a great honor for me to receive this medal today," said Harris. "It represents the hard work, the perseverance and the desire to close with the enemy of all the Marines in Delta Co." Throughout his speech to the Marines, Harris told stories of his actions in Vietnam and the heroics performed by his Marines. "The Marines inspired me to perform my mission with the utmost skill," he said. "I knew that being able to lead such a fine group of Marines would be no easy task." [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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