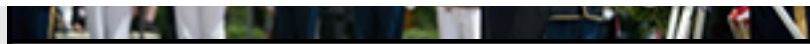


TIP OF THE SPEAR

SERVICE MEMBERS HONORED NATIONWIDE ON MEMORIAL DAY



Americans gathered at memorials, museums and monuments nationwide May 27 to honor fallen service members on Memorial Day. President Barack Obama laid a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery, declaring Americans must honor the sacrifices of our fighting men and women. Now is a particularly important time as U.S. combat role in Iraq has ended, involvement in Afghanistan is winding down, and the population of World War II veterans dwindles. "Let us not forget as we gather here today that our nation is



still at war," he said. "When they give their lives, they are still being laid to rest in cemeteries in quiet corners across our

country, including here in Arlington." Keeping with a tradition he established earlier in his presidency, Obama walked among the graves of the war dead from Iraq and Afghanistan before leaving. [Read more](#)

Also: Americans Honor The Fallen



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Sailors and Marines man the rails as the ship is brought to life during the commissioning of San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS Anchorage (LPD 23) at the Port of Anchorage. More than 4,000 people gathered to witness the ship's commissioning in its namesake city of Anchorage, Alaska. Anchorage, the seventh San Antonio-class LPD, is the second ship to be named for the city and the first U.S. Navy ship to be commissioned in Alaska. *(Photo by Lance Cpl. Alexander Quiles)*



IN THE NEWS

5TH MARINES TRAINS WITH FRENCH COUNTERPARTS



The 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division participated in a training exhibition May 22 with the French 21st Marine Infantry Regiment in Frejus, France. The Marines familiarized themselves with French weapons systems, and kayaked into the Mediterranean Sea, providing them an opportunity to learn French Marine's reconnaissance tactics. "I think as we move forward from here, our interest is in working together," said Col. Roger Turner, commanding officer 5th Marine Regiment. "Now that we have reduced forces in Afghanistan, re-establishing our relationships in the Mediterranean (Sea) is the key to America's future success." [Read](#)

[more](#)

SPECIAL OPS COMPONENTS ADAPT FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES



Commanders of the special operations components established future plans to members of the special operations community and the defense industry last week during the 2013 Special Operations Forces Industry Conference in Tampa, Fl. Marine Corps Special Operations Command (MARSOC) specifically will work to institute a cultural shift that maximizes the myriad technologies developed during the past decade-plus of conflict. MARSOC is preparing to make its battalions regionally focused to better support theater requirements, and hope to find better ways to utilize the kinds of technologies integrated into the battlefield in Afghanistan. [Read](#)

[more](#)

OKLAHOMA NATIVE HELPS HOMETOWN AFTER TORNADO



Lance Cpl. Vaughn Cannon, a native of Moore, Okla., is helping tornado victims in his hometown -- many of whom he knows personally -- following the May 20 devastation. "I just thought, it's not only my duty as an Oklahoman to do something to help out, it's my duty as a Marine to do anything I can for them because they've always been so supportive of me," he said. Currently based in Miramar, Calif., Cannon and his family are collecting donations, money, and clothing to send to Moore. He is also selling water, juice, and snacks to raise funds so families may recuperate and rebuild. [Read more](#)

TWENTYNINE PALMS -- AN INSTALLATION OF EXCELLENCE



The Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command (MAGTFTC), Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif., earned the Commander in Chiefs Installation Excellence Award May 22 for the fourth consecutive year. The award, from the Office of the President, recognizes the efforts of those who operate and maintain U.S. military installations; it is awarded to the top installation chosen among the four military services. During 2012, MAGTFTC provided training support to more than 50,000 Marines, Sailors and joint and multi-national allies, while providing resident units and families with top-quality facilities, services and quality of

life programs. [Read more](#)

MARINE-TURNED-CEO WINNING THE BATTLE WITH STRONG LEADERSHIP



Building a startup company does not require doing 50 push-ups, running two miles in 15 minutes, or firing an assault rifle, but entrepreneurship and military service have more in common than most think. For Bill Hustad, CEO of the global technology company Baynote, his time in the Marine Corps was invaluable, preparing him for the trials and tribulations of heading a startup. "In the Marines, I learned about accountability,



management, communication, and how to deal with the unknown. In both scenarios, strong leadership is what it takes to win the battle," he said.

[Read more](#)

PENDLETON MARINES TO GO HEAD-TO-HEAD IN SURF CONTEST



Camp Pendleton, Calif., Marines will be hitting the beach June 11 to participate in the annual Commanding General's Cup Surf Tournament at San Onofre Beach. The tournament, which is open to active duty military at Camp Pendleton, includes three divisions: long board, short board and body board. The tournament is part of the Commanding General's Cup intramural series and participants earn points for their unit. The contest is expected to draw 40 to 50 surfers, including injured troops from the Wounded Warrior Battalion. [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

MAY 29, 1991

Elements of a joint task force that included the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade departed the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Bangladesh after nearly two weeks of disaster relief operations following a devastating cyclone. The joint task force delivered tons of relief supplies using helicopters, C-130s, and landing craft in Operation Sea Angel.



SEMPER FI

BATTLE OF BELLEAU WOOD MEMORIALIZED ON 95TH ANNIVERSARY



U.S. Marines and their French brothers and sisters in arms gathered at Aisne-Marne American Cemetery in Belleau, France May 26, to commemorate the 95th anniversary of the historic Battle of Belleau Wood. Though seldom mentioned in historic texts, the Battle for Belleau Wood is acknowledged throughout the Corps as one of the fiercest battles during World War I -- the battle where the Corps first established its name. They also recognize it as a sacred ground where Marines and French troops fought jointly, proving an endearing partnership that has lasted to the present day. [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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