

TIP OF THE SPEAR

CMC TESTIFIES: ONE SEXUAL ASSAULT CAN 'UNDERMINE EVERYTHING'



The Marine Corps is attacking sexual assault in the ranks, but it needs the chain of command to remain fully involved in the prosecution of rape and assault cases, Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, stated June 4 before the Senate Armed Services Committee. Testifying along with the other Joint Chiefs, Amos said top-down military leadership has been responsible for winning on the battlefield and will ultimately be responsible for the culture change needed to eradicate sexual assault and sexual



Marine Corps and detracts from our ability to fight our nation's wars." Military leaders are concerned that one bill pending before the committee, the Military Justice Improvement Act, would go too far by stripping the chain of command from responsibility for deciding when to bring criminal charges against an accused member and reviewing and potentially modifying a verdict or sentence. [Read more](#)

harassment from the ranks. Amos pledged to "aggressively pursue and fight anything that destroys the spiritual health of the



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Sgt. Melissa Sandoval escorts Carson Leggitt, 18, to the 8th annual Cinderella Ball June 2 at the Willard InterContinental hotel in Washington, D.C. The ball is a prom for Washington area students with life-threatening illnesses or disabilities. *(Photo by Marvin Joseph / The Washington Post)*



IN THE NEWS

MARINES, ALLIES EMBARK ON 'BOLD QUEST'



Exercise Bold Quest 13-1 kicked off May 29 as allied services from Germany, Italy, Norway, and France joined the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. Bold Quest is a series of capability and assessment events to test the interoperability of Mode 5 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF). IFF is an electronic-based method of determining friendly aircraft from hostile aircraft within a battle space, requiring an operationally realistic environment to continue testing of the technology. The exercise will conclude June 29. [Read more](#)

PARALYZED MARINE KEEPS MOVING



Marine Capt. Derek Herrera was paralyzed from the chest down when he was shot June 2012 in southwestern Afghanistan, but it hasn't stopped him from doing all he can to return to the field. Herrera hopes to become the first paraplegic Marine allowed to remain on active duty, as a handful of special operators from other services have done. "When I joined this organization I pledged my life to service, to military service. I don't think this injury is going to prevent me from doing that," Herrera said. [Read more](#)

PENDLETON BASED MARINE POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED BRONZE STAR



Cpl. Gurpeet Singh was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with Combat "V" for valor May 30 for heroic service demonstrated in Sangin district, Afghanistan. Singh served as a fire team leader and led his Marines on daily patrols through insurgent infested areas. Despite being struck in his front body armor by small-arms fire on June 4, 2011, he



continued to bravely lead his Marines. On June 22, while leading his Marines through a dangerous area, Singh was struck down by enemy fire. "He is a brave man and it humbles me as a leader to lead Marines like that," said Capt. Ryan Hunt, the Bravo Company commander during

Singh's deployment. [Read more](#)

MARINE GENERAL: AFGHANS BATTLING FOR SANGIN



Afghan national security forces have effectively taken the lead for combat operations in the southwest of the country, according to Maj. Gen. Lee Miller, commander of U.S. and international forces in the region. This will prove an integral step as the U.S. prepares to drawdown. This past week, Afghan forces largely handled a Sangin operation when 150 Taliban infiltrated the district, while fighting simultaneous attacks in Musa Qala and Khan Neshin. "We're shifting from combat advising quickly into infrastructural advising, so that when we leave Afghanistan, Afghan security forces can maintain the credibility that they need and their ability to

continue to provide the security to the nation," Miller said. [Read more](#)

2014 SEMPER FI BOWL GOES TO CALI



The 2014 Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl, featuring the nation's best and brightest high school football players, will take place on Jan. 5 in Carson, Calif. The Semper Fi Bowl demonstrates the Marine Corps' commitment to developing quality citizens and reinforces its core values of honor, courage and commitment. The event brings together 90 student-athletes from across the country; each has demonstrated success both on and off the gridiron. Semper Fidelis All-Americans are selected for being among the top-rated high school football players in the nation, but are also picked based on character, academic performance and

leadership. [Read more](#)

[Semper Fi Football Website](#)

JAPANESE FORCES JOIN EXERCISE DAWN BLITZ



Marines with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit conducted an In-Stream Offload May 31 with the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) at Camp Pendleton, Calif., as part of the functional training phase of Exercise Dawn Blitz. Dawn Blitz is a scenario-driven exercise designed to test Navy and Marine Corps forces at the Marine Expeditionary Brigade and Expeditionary Strike Group level, while promoting military-to-military cooperation and interoperability with partnered nations. Participating countries include Canada, Japan, New Zealand and military observers from seven additional nations. [Read more](#)

MARINE CORPS ANNOUNCES F-35B IOC PLANS



The Marine Corps announced that the Corps plans to declare initial operational capability (IOC) with the F-35B in late 2015. The Marines are the first branch slated to declare IOC, which includes 10 aircraft, 10 fully trained maintenance and flight crews, and suitable spares for deployment. The full squadron of F-35Bs, designed for short takeoff and vertical landing on amphibious ships, will consist of 16 aircraft. Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 in Yuma, Ariz., will be the first squadron to become operational. [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

JUNE 2, 1918

At dawn, the German 28th Division attacked along the axis of the Paris-Metz road hitting the American

2d Division, including the 4th Marine Brigade. The Marines opened with deadly rifle fire and helped hand the German troops a setback which set the stage for Marine victory at Belleau Wood which would soon follow, although at great cost.



SEMPER FI

HUSKY BRINGS HOPE TO VETERAN



Marine Corps veteran George Little completed several overseas deployments and credits his four-legged companion Dodge, a Husky, with helping him cope with trauma. "The only unconditional love I'd ever gotten in my entire life has been from animals," Little said." And Dodge has been all that and more for me. If I have a hard day, he senses it. He's right by my side." Little and Dodge are looking excitedly toward the future. Little is currently in the process of becoming a police officer and hopes to get Dodge the proper training to become a certified therapy animal. [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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