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PUTTING TODAY'S DISCUSSION INTO PERSPECTIVE

On Wednesday, General Joseph Dunford, Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, will speak at the Center for Strategic & International Studies on "The Future of America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness," at 9 a.m. ET. The Marine Corps is in the process of developing and maintaining a force to meet the demands of the nation's emerging strategy. Gen Dunford will place today's discussions of avoiding a hollow force into a historical perspective and outline the institutional balance the Marine Corps must maintain in the context of the future fiscal and security environment.

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[Click here at 9 a.m. to watch live](#)

[After Gen. Dunford speaks, CSIS will post his remarks here](#)



HEROES

GUNNERY SGT. DAVID A. JARVIS AWARDED SILVER STAR AND BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH COMBAT "V"



On Oct. 5, Master Sgt. David Jarvis, a Port Orchard, Wash., native, was awarded a Silver Star and a Bronze Star with "V" during a ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., for heroic actions in the Sangin River Valley of Helmand Province, Afghanistan. According to the citation, on Oct. 25, 2010, then a gunnery sergeant, Jarvis was the patrol leader of a 15-man platoon, which was attacked by an improvised explosive device (IED), wounding several Marines. Jarvis exposed himself to enemy fire while

repositioning his outnumbered Marines and directing their fire, allowing them to hold their position during an hour long fight. Realizing the large Taliban force and its high volume of firing was jeopardizing a helicopter medical evacuation, he crossed open terrain to coordinate fires and shot an anti-armor rocket from an exposed position. The actions enabled two wounded Marines to be evacuated and contributed to saving the life of one of them who lost three limbs and was on the verge of death. According to the citation, Jarvis also participated in 70 combat patrols, 40 direct engagements with Taliban forces and five complex ambushes resulting in 52 enemies killed.

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NEWS

AFGHANISTAN: LEADING THE WAY WITH REDEPLOYMENT, RETROGRADE

Marines and Sailors with the 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) (2nd MLG (FWD)) spent the last two



months in the beginning phases of accounting for, sorting and redistributing Regional Command Southwest's (RC (SW)) gear and equipment in Operation Clean Sweep aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. RC (SW)'s plan for redeployment, reintegration, reconstitution and recovery is in accordance with the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F.



Amos' ground equipment reset strategy for the ultimate withdrawal of combat troops from Afghanistan by 2014. Not only is the plan designed to facilitate the process of leaving Afghanistan, but it will ultimately save the Marine Corps money by identifying excess gear and reallocating it to the deployed units. Planning for the departure of forces, along with continued training of Afghan National Security Forces has become the primary focus of operations. Once the inventory is complete, excess materials will either be used or shipped back to the Marine Corps Logistics Bases in Barstow, Calif. and Albany, Ga., as well as to the three Marine Expeditionary Forces around the world. Additional items will be redistributed to units currently in Afghanistan who need the gear to continue operations

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[See Also: Regional Command Southwest weekly news round-up](#)

MARINES HOST AFGHAN OFFICIALS IN U.S. TO SHOW THEM HOW WE DO IT



To prepare Afghanistan security forces to take over from U.S. troops by the end of 2014, the Marine Corps hosted a three-day tour in Southern California from Nov. 31 to Dec. 2. During the tour, four top Afghan Army and police officials got a look at how the U.S. teaches its children, treats its prisoners and patrols its border with Mexico. "Afghans have been at war for three decades, most soldiers and police are in their 20s and 30s, so they've literally never



witnessed a functioning system, so this is good opportunity to see a system that works reasonably well and see how to adapt it to their own culture and communities," said Gretchen Peters, an author who has given talks to the Marines on Afghanistan. Afghan officials, including Maj. Gen. Sayed Malouk, the commanding general of the Afghan National Army's No. 215 Corps, and Maj. Gen. Nabi Jan Mullah Khil, the regional deputy police chief of the Afghan National Police, met with educators at an elementary school at Camp Pendleton, Calif., watched live-fire trainings by Marines, attended an officers' course and visited a mock Afghan village base where troops are put under combat stress. Since Afghan officials face drug smuggling and illegal crossers from Pakistan's border, the tour included a visit to a checkpoint manned by the U.S. Border Patrol.

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LT. GEN. HEJLIK MAKES THE VALUE OF AMPHIBIOUS CAPABILITIES CLEAR

□ Responding to a recent AOL News article and a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report, Lt. Gen. Dennis Hejlik, Commander, United States Marine Corps Forces Command, makes the value of amphibious capabilities clear. Regardless of the number of ships needed or wanted, on his blog Lt. Gen. Hejlik discussed the need for the Navy and Marine Corps to be viewed as a team, rather than two siblings battling over the last piece of cake for dessert. He said: "It appears here that [Dr. Eric Labs, a CBO naval expert] is reading this as a Marine Corps v. Navy issue, when in fact the requirement for amphibious ships is a naval issue - a problem that the Navy and Marine Corps face as a team. Together, we've agreed that 38 amphibious ships is our requirement, but have also accepted that in light of fiscal constraints the Navy will sustain a lesser total of 33 ships in the assault echelon."

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MARINES IN SPAIN TRAIN ON URBAN TERRAIN

As part of bilateral exercise Lisa Azul, Marines attached to the Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team (FAST), Company Europe, conducted military operations on urban terrain (MOUT) with Marines attached to the Spanish Armada infanteria in Rota, Spain. The MOUT training, which took place on Oct. 29, focused on urban combat and building clearing, and it allowed warfighters the chance to improve their tactics, techniques and procedures. "The Spanish marines are just as knowledgeable



as my Marines concerning MOUT training," said Capt. Daniel Wendolowski, Alpha 2 commander. "We are providing additional training to help fine tune some of their tactics." During the exercise, FAST Company Marines conducted building searches in full battle dress, and displayed the proper procedures for entering and clearing buildings when placed in a hostile environment. "Exercises such as Lisa Azul promote the participating countries' maritime strategies," said Wendolowski. "We want to ensure we are providing exceptional training to our counterparts."

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TRANSITION CELL ASSISTS WOUNDED, ILL, WITH EMPLOYMENT



The Wounded Warrior Regiment's transition cell is helping Marines across the nation prove their goals can be accomplished regardless of their wounds, illnesses or injuries. "The Regiment's Recovery Care Coordinators assist Marines with developing a comprehensive recovery plan," said Maj. Brian Bilski, Wounded Warrior Regiment transition cell officer in charge. "The CTP outlines the Marines needs and prepares each individual with a training plan to support their

transition process. This is a vital step required for the transition cell to effectively assist Marines." Established in 2007, the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment was created to provide non-medical care to combat and non-combat wounded, ill, injured Marines and Sailors who are in direct support of Marine units. In addition, the Wounded Warrior Regiment assists them as they return to duty or transition to civilian life. The Regimental Headquarters element, located in Quantico, Va., commands the operations of two Wounded Warrior Battalions located at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Camp Lejeune, N.C., and multiple detachments in locations around the globe. For more information about the Wounded Warrior Regiment or the transition cell go to: www.woundedwarriorregiment.org or call the Sgt. Merlin German Wounded Warrior Call Center 24/7 at (877) 487-6299.

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POST-9/11 GI BILL ASSISTS SERVICE MEMBERS, FAMILIES



With the New Year around the corner, many people, especially those in the military, might resolve to pursue higher education; recent changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill will make that even easier to accomplish. The most recent round of changes include: paying all public in-state tuition and fees, a \$17,500 tuition and fees cap per academic year for private and foreign schools, a housing allowance for students attending college solely via the internet, coverage of

vocational/technical training, on-the-job-training, flight and correspondence training, and national testing programs. "These recent changes will help service members and their families receive the training they need to be successful and reach their goals," said Robert R. Stenard, a supervisory guidance counselor with the Camp Foster Education Center in Okinawa. For more information contact your career retention specialist or log on to www.gibill.va.gov.

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MARINE TITLE EARNED FROM GRANDMOTHER TO GRANDDAUGHTER



In 2009, Lance Cpl. Richelle D. Kline honored her family tradition by joining the U.S. Marine Corps. While in boot camp, Kline carried a picture of her mother and grandmother, both Marine Veterans, in their service uniforms to remind her that



she would succeed in earning the title of a Marine. Unfortunately, neither her mother nor grandmother were able to attend her graduation. Her mother passed away when she was a child, and her grandmother died while she was in boot camp. "I

was able to talk to my grandma before I left for boot camp and she told me, 'Good luck, and I can't wait to see you graduate,'" said Kline. "The photos were a source of motivation when things got hard. Having them let me know I could do it." Kline, a Greeley, Colo., is currently serving as an administration specialist with Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

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THANK YOU

INJURED MARINE GETS WARM RECEPTION

On Nov. 30, Lance Cpl. Alex Nguyen received a hero's welcome in his hometown as the Patriot Guard, Marine Corps League and Boy Scouts of Fremont, Neb., escorted the returning Marine to his mother's Fremont home. On Sept. 20, while deployed to Afghanistan, Nguyen was injured by a roadside bomb. He and three other U.S. Marines were conducting a route clearance mission. Nguyen was left with two bilateral ankle fractures and a broken left foot, which left him temporarily confined to a wheelchair. It was Nguyen's third deployment to Afghanistan since enlisting four years ago, a year after graduating high school.

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DID YOU KNOW

ON-BASE SERVICES KEEP MARINES ON TRACK



Financial specialists at Marine Corps bases are teaching Marines to properly manage their money. "The surefire way for Marines to get into financial trouble is 'not keeping track with their expenses,'" said Sandra Little, financial specialist, Marine Corps Community Services. According to Little, the most important thing is to set up a budget. This first step requires the Marine or Sailor to be completely honest with the financial specialist about his or her spending

habits. This kind of conversation can provide important perspective of how much cash is received, compared to how much is spent or wasted. "What I find most of the time is that most of the money is there, but it is being spent frivolously," Little said. "Provided they stay on this budget that we are going to establish together, they are going to see this residual cash and start doing better things with it." Before making any major financial decisions, Little recommended consulting a financial specialist. "These major decisions can include marriage, renting or buying a home, buying a car or any other major purchases that might require applying for a loan," Little said.

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