9/11 REMEMBERED

The day after the September 11, 2001 terrorists attacks, a Marine flag appears undisturbed and clean amid the wreckage at the Pentagon. During the attacks, five members of Al-Qaida, a terrorist group, hijacked American Airlines Flight 77, then flew a circuitous route returning to Washington and impacting the Pentagon. This year marks the 10th year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. "As we look forward, it is instructive to first take note of what our Corps has done for the Nation during the past decade. From our historic assault 400 miles into Afghanistan from six amphibious ships soon after the terrorist attacks of 11 September, to the rapid attack north to Baghdad in March 2003; from successful counter-insurgency operations in Al Anbar to ongoing operations in Helmand; from Hurricane Katrina to earthquake relief in Haiti; and from aid operations in monsoon-flooded Pakistan to the recent recapture of the pirated ship Magellan Star, we have answered our Nations call we have met every challenge," said Gen. James Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

FOR MILITARY CHILDREN, 9/11 IS A WAY OF LIFE

Following the September 11, 2001
terrorist attacks, children of military service members have seen their parents deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom several times. For educators, many of whom have served active duty in the military, talking to their students about that day can be delicate. Some children don't want to watch the news at all, while others obsessively pull up places on Google Earth to feel closer to their parents. Some withdraw while others act out. "For me it's important as a teacher that they understand this is what happened to us as a country, this is why your parents are doing what they're doing," said Robert Hume, Social Studies teacher. These military children refer to 9/11 as "the day that everything changed." It meant telephone calls instead of hugs and care packages instead of outings. They've developed their own ways of coping.

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HEROES

UNION TOWNSHIP ROADWAYS HONOR FALLEN MARINE

Clermont County officials in Union Township, Ohio held a ceremony on Sept. 6 to designate portions of Eastgate Boulevard, Ferguson Drive and Ivy Pointe Boulevards as Wojos Way in honor of United State Marine Corps SSgt. Mark Anthony Tony Wojo Wojciechowski. Wojciechowski died on April 30, 2009 while in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "We are proud to be able to dedicate these roads in honor of a very special young man," said Clermont County Engineer Pat Manger. "Wojo’s Way pays tribute to the young hero who used to ride his bike to work through the very area where the boulder bearing his name will be displayed."

Wojciechowski's mother, Teresa Dillinger said her son joined the Marines when he was 17-years-old. She added that he loved everything about the Marine Corps and would
FRY HONORED BY MARINES

Hayden Fry, who served as a Captain in the Marine Corps, was inducted into the U.S. Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame on Aug. 27. Hayden spent 38 years as a football head coach at Iowa, Southern Methodist, and North Texas State. His teams made a total of 14 bowl appearances, and he is a three-time Big Ten Coach of the Year Honoree. Fry has the most wins in Iowa football history, 143. The induction is the second piece of recognition the 82-year-old has earned. It was announced that Fry would also receive the Marathon Oil Corp. Paul Bear Bryant Lifetime Achievement Award. Fry was a past inductee into the College Football Hall of Fame, Iowa’s Athletics Hall of Fame, the Baylor Wall of Fame, the Peach and Holiday Bowl Halls of Fame, the Rose Bowl and Sun Bowl Halls of Fame, and the North Texas State University Hall of Fame.

NEWS

AMERICAS CONFERENCE HELD IN PERU

The fifth Marine Leaders of the Americas Conference (MLAC) 2011 took place in Lima, Peru from Aug. 30 to Sept. 2. The mission of the bi-annual conference was to foster
professional relationships between the commanders of partner nations Marine Corps and Naval Infantries of North, Central and South America. This years MLAC was co-hosted by the United States Marine Corps and the Peruvian Marine Corps and attended by leaders from Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The specific theme for the 2011 MLAC was to discuss the role of the Marine Forces in countering threats to security and supporting humanitarian operations. This week we will focus on three overarching issues humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, peacekeeping support operations and threats to regional security, said Gen. James Amos, commandant of the U. S. Marine Corps. Standing alone, none of us has all the answers to these complex challenges, but together we can combine our unique experiences for the mutual benefit of all. In addition to workshops aimed at helping Marine leaders discuss regional issues, the conference allowed for each of the leaders wives to learn from one another through the conferences Spouse Program.

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EVERY MARINE A RIFLEMAN

After weeks of training, the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment First Team wrapped up the Mountain Warfare Training Center Exercise (MWTC) on Aug. 26. The MWTC, which takes place in Bridgeport, Calif., takes Marines through individual training courses to prepare them for operations in mountainous, high altitude, and cold weather environments. Bridgeport has provided us an opportunity to come together as a team and thats the most important part, said Lt. Col. David Bradney,
the commanding officer for 1/7. The mountains have a tendency to force you to become a team. They live, sleep, work and share hardships like this and build cohesion. First Team successfully completed their mountain exercise, but it was more than just training for the battalion, the rigorous training ended with the battalion wide Warrior Night, to concrete the growth between the unit. It takes a lot of analysis and it takes a lot of study with different guys in functioning areas like [communications, combat logistics and intelligence], said Capt. George R. Gordy, IV, the operations officer with 1/7. Ill be honest, depending on where a unit is and its goals and vision; it may or may not be right for a certain unit. We saw [the mountain exercise] as being a rich opportunity for us to actually fuse into our [pre-deployment training program]. Another battalion might be able to do the same because of the different requirements for themselves and time [before deployment]. Bradney stated that the MWTC provided the battalion with an amazing opportunity to figure out their strengths and the places where there is room for improvement.

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INVALUABLE DURING HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS

Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief will be the main topics of discussion during the Oct. 6 - 11 San Francisco Fleet Week. More specifically, the Osprey and its unique capabilities will be front in center to demonstrate how it can assist in the aftermath of an earthquake. The Osprey is designed to perform missions like a conventional helicopter, but with the long range, high-speed cruise performance it will provide the military with an even greater range to assist in disaster relief operations. One example of its involvement with humanitarian assistance mission was during Operation Unified Response, a U.S. military's response to the 2010 Haiti earthquake. "The Osprey and its ability to fly faster and farther than any other rotorory-wing aircraft in the Marine Corps gave the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit great advantage and provided efficiency to get the job done," said Capt. Robert Shuford, a spokesman with VMM-162 (Rein) during Operation Unified Response. "The speed of the Osprey allowed us to land multiple teams in areas all throughout northern Haiti, leave them there with enough
time to get a good assessment and retrieve all these teams before nightfall - only using two Ospreys," said Shuford. During San Francisco Fleet Week Air Show and Navy ship tours Oct 7-10, the public will have the opportunity to see an Osprey up close and personal.

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RE-ENLISTMENT CEREMONY TAKES FLIGHT

Demonstrating his ongoing commitment to the country and the Corps, Marine Attack Squadron 513's Cpl. Michael Prince recently re-enlisted. But rather than a traditional ceremony held in his chain of command's office or even on the battlefield, Prince was part of a small group of deployed Marines who had the opportunity to reenlist in the air. Prince, as well as fellow squadron members Cpl. Shawn Rose, an avionics technician, and Yuma native Sgt. Marc Longoria, a power-line mechanic, reaffirmed their oath of enlistment aboard a Marine Corps KC-130J Hercules aircraft flying from Kandahar Air Base to Camp Leatherneck on Aug. 13 to deliver personnel and equipment. "I got to re-enlist in a combat zone in a C-130. It is an opportunity that doesn't come up very often," said Prince. "I got four more years tacked on." Prince originally enlisted in the Marine Corps more than three years ago and was able to shorten his original enlistment by 10 months in order to re-enlist. Marines are eligible to re-enlist up to a year before their original enlistment ends, and for Prince, the right opportunity presented itself to re-up his commitment.

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Read Also: Regional Command Southwest weekly news round-up

HISPANIC HERRITAGE MONTH

In honor of the many contributions made by the
Hispanic community to the United States, the Nation will observe Hispanic Heritage Month from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. Hispanic Heritage Month originally began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Johnson, and was later expanded to a full month by President Reagan. Throughout history, Hispanic Marines have and continue to proudly serve in the face of danger in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. They have displayed valor on the battlefield and received numerous combat decorations. There are a total of 13 Hispanic Marine Medal of Honor recipients, and since the Global War on terrorism commenced, four Marines of Hispanic descent have been awarded the Navy Cross. 

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MORE ACTIVE-RESERVE BILLETS OPEN FOR MARINES

The re-enlistment process in the Marine Corps is becoming increasingly competitive. The Marine Corps Recruiting Commands (MCRC) Active Reserve Program (AR) is offering Marines a chance to stay in. The primary purpose of AR Marines is to support the reserves; they serve side-by-side with active duty Marines, work full-time, receive active duty pay and benefits and can change duty stations as often as active duty Marines. In addition, active-reserve Marines deploy, serve in billets such as drill instructor duty or recruiting duty and qualify for the same retirement benefits of active duty Marines. The AR program has 276 available billets for Fiscal Year 12. We are looking for a lot of Marines in the (0111) administrative specialist, (3451) fiscal/budget technician, (2111) small arms repairer/technician and (3043) supply administration and operations clerk job fields, said MSgt. Donald Ogden, prior service recruiting quality control chief, MCRC. To be eligible for the AR program, active component Marines must be within six months of their expiration of active service date, be eligible for reenlistment and be willing to serve in an MOS required by the AR program. To learn more about the AR program, contact your local prior service recruiter or call MCRC at (703) 432-9664.
US NAVY COMPLETES T-45 BIOFUEL FLIGHT

A T-45 training aircraft was successfully flown using biofuels at the Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River, Md. According to Domesticfuel.com, the T-45 Goshawk is a tandem-seat aircraft used by the Navy and Marine Corps to train pilots on carrier and tactical mission operations. This is the fifth Navy aircraft to successfully test the biofuel blend. The flight was done by the U.S. Navy Salty Dogs of Air Test Evaluation Squadron (VX). This test of the T-45 with a 50/50 blend of biofuel represents another significant milestone in the long list of detailed flight test and demonstrations of the F-18 Super Hornet, the MH-60S, and the V-22, said Rear Adm. Phil Cullom, Director of the Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division. Our commitment to the aggressive test schedule for drop-in replacement fuels for JP-5 and F-76 keep us on pace for the 2012 demonstration and 2016 deployment of the Great Green Fleet.

DID YOU KNOW?

SHAGGY TALKS ABOUT HIS TIME IN THE CORPS

Orville R. Burrell Shaggy is a Jamaican-American reggae singer and rapper. He is best known for his 1995 single Boombastic and 2000 single It Wasnt Me. Prior to being a singer, Shaggy joined the United States Marine Corps as a Field Artillery Cannon Crewman with 3rd Battalion, 10th Marines. While enlisted in the Marines, he served during Operation Desert Storm during the Persian Gulf War.
EVENTS

31ST MODERN DAY MARINE MILITARY EXPOSITION SET FOR MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO SEPT. 27 - 29

The 2011 edition of the world's largest military exposition focusing on enhanced capabilities for expeditionary forces will be hosted by Marine Corps Base Quantico Sept. 27 - 29. Co-sponsored by the base, the 76,000-member Marine Corps League, and Marine Corps Systems Command, the 31st Modern Day Marine Military Exposition will showcase products and services of more than 500 companies, which support military land, air and sea operations. Much of the equipment now used by Marines and other U.S. and allied forces confronting enemies in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world was first showcased before military leaders, operations planners and acquisition managers at previous editions of the expo. Exhibits at this year's exposition will fill three large display halls and outdoor exhibit areas. Visitors see the latest operational equipment and technology and video presentations, models and prototypes of items soon to enter service. Defense contractors from throughout the U.S. and allied nations around the world will present their products and services, get feedback from the warfighters, and respond to questions.

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