

MARINE CORPS CONNECTION

STAY CONNECTED WITH AMERICA'S MARINES

TIP OF THE SPEAR

MARINES CELEBRATE 237TH BIRTHDAY WORLDWIDE



Marines deployed around the world took time Nov. 10 to celebrate the Corps' 237th birthday. Troops of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) held cake-cutting ceremonies aboard the ships of the Iwo Jima ARG, as they sailed through the Mediterranean Sea. Bases throughout the southern Helmand province of Afghanistan welcomed the Regional Command (Southwest) commanding general Major Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, and Sgt. Maj. Harrison Tanksley, who stopped to shake Marines' hands and offer birthday wishes. And the Marines and Sailors of the 26th MEU, sent to New York

and New Jersey to support Hurricane Sandy disaster relief efforts, held a ceremony aboard the USS Wasp. "On days like today, we don't honor just the birthday. We honor those who are here today. We honor the memory of those who came before you," said Lt. Col. David B. Sosa, commanding officer of Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment. "Happy birthday, Marines." [Read more](#)

[Also read: 24th MEU Celebrates Birthday While Sailing Home](#)

[Watch: The Corps' Birthday Aboard USS Wasp](#)



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Marines and sailors of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) step off a landing craft utility vehicle onto the shore of Breezy Point, a small coastal community in New York City, Nov. 9. The Marines and sailors of the 26th MEU partnered with the 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Guard in order to clear debris from walkways and public spaces in order to help the residents of New York City recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy as soon as possible. *(Photo by Cpl. Bryan Nygaard)*



IN THE NEWS

MARINE MAKES HISTORY AT ARMY SAPPER COURSE



Capt. Kathryn Neff is not only the first female Marine to graduate from Sapper Leader Course (SLC), which is known for molding superior Army engineer leaders, but also the first female of any service to be awarded the Sapper Spirit Award. The award is given to the student who obtained the most points during the class, graduating with honors. Neff was the only Marine in a class of 37, of which only 14 graduated, and only five passed all their tests the first time. SLC molds graduates into experts in engineer specific tasks, infantry skills, mountaineering, airborne and air assault operations. [Read more](#)

IMMERSION TRAINER GETS MAKEOVER



As the Corps draws down in Afghanistan, the high-tech immersion trainer at Marine Corps Training Area in Bellows, Hawaii, is updating its atmosphere to be more representative of the Asia-Pacific region. Marines with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, who are preparing for their December deployment to Okinawa, Japan, will see Korean role players instead of the Afghans of recent years. Training events last about 10 to 14 days, and battalion-level exercises incorporate 50 to 85 role players. The upgrade is being done as part of an "atmospherics refresh" that's scheduled every two years. [Read more](#)

CORPS STARTS AD CAMPAIGN TO DIVERSIFY OFFICER RANKS



The Marine Corps kicked off a marketing campaign titled "Fighting with



Purpose" Nov. 8 to attract more minorities and women into its officer corps. The campaign spotlights a black male infantry officer, and a Hispanic female aviator, Drexel King and Monica Meese, who are both actively engaged in their home communities as well as in leading Marines. The goal is to show potential recruits that the Corps is not just about fighting and to provide role models for younger enlisted female and minority Marines. Television commercials are running during professional and college football games, in addition to advertisements in sports

magazines and a series of Internet videos. [Read more](#)

[Watch New Commercials](#)

WOUNDED WARRIORS TAP OCEAN'S HEALING POWER



Wounded warriors are getting a chance to build their confidence and ease their minds through a therapeutic surfing clinic run by the Naval Medical Center in San Diego, Calif. About 30 injured veterans and active-duty Marines from Camp Pendleton and other area bases attend the clinic each week. "You're not worried about the past or the future. That wave, that time, that's it," said Lance Cpl. Dan Riley, who lost both his legs while deployed in Afghanistan. The program was started in 2008 by Betty Michalewicz-Kragh, an exercise physiologist at the medical center who was inspired by a service member that wanted to surf after losing an arm

and a leg in Afghanistan. [Read more](#)

SERGEANT NAMED NFL-TILLMAN MILITARY SCHOLAR



Sgt. Emily Thompson Schelberg of Towson, Md., was presented the NFL-Tillman Military Scholar award for leadership and service to the medical profession Nov. 11 at the Baltimore Ravens-Oakland Raiders game. Schelberg, the third recipient of this award, served a tour in Iraq and is currently an undergraduate student at John Hopkins University. During her deployment, she took part in a humanitarian aid mission that made her realize her desire to work in the health care field. Schelberg plans to pursue her master's in nursing. The Pat Tillman Foundation was

established in 2004 following the death of Pat Tillman, a NFL player for the Arizona Cardinals who died while serving with the 75th Ranger Regiment in Afghanistan. [Read more](#)

MRS. AMOS SHARES LIFE LESSONS WITH SPOUSES



Mrs. Bonnie Amos, wife of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, hosted a night of "girl talk" in late October at The Clubs in Quantico, Va., to offer support and advice to other spouses of service members. She addressed a variety of topics including job flexibility, the changing shape of deployments in the Asia-Pacific region, and the importance of communication between spouses. She also emphasized the important roles spouses play in the Marine Corps as they face their own battles. "I'm just so proud of our spouses and families, who have endured so much for so long," she said. "They are just so brave and

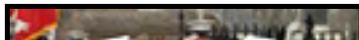
strong...they continue to do what they need to do." [Read more](#)

SCULPTURE OF 'CHESTY' PULLER UNVEILED



The bronze likeness of Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, America's most-decorated Marine, was dedicated Nov. 12 at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Va. Puller is the only Marine to be awarded the Navy Cross five times for heroism and gallantry in combat. He earned the Silver Star, the Distinguished Service Cross from the Army, two Legion of Merits with combat V, three Air Medals, the Purple Heart, a total of 14 personal decorations in combat, and a long list of campaign medals, unit citation ribbons and other awards. The sculpture was completed by former Marine Terry Jones. [Read more](#)

MARINE FORCES RESERVE HONORS BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS LEATHERNECK



Marines gathered at St. Louis No. 2 Cemetery in New Orleans, La., Nov. 6



to place a wreath at the grave of Maj. Daniel Carmick, who died in 1816 from injuries he sustained two years earlier when he was struck by a British rocket during the Battle of New Orleans. Carmick was tasked with leading 300 Marines and protecting the key port city the United States acquired in the Louisiana Purchase, and was believed to be in line for the position of Commandant. The ceremony was one of several events in "Marine Forces Reserve Heritage Week," which culminated Saturday on the Corps' 237th birthday. [Read more](#)

WWII DISPATCHES PUBLISHED IN NEW BOOK



In its 100th year of aviation, the Corps received a special birthday gift: a new book containing World War II (WWII) dispatches written by an enlisted combat correspondent. Claude R. "Red" Canup was assigned to Marine Air Group 31 in the Pacific when writing the news clips, which were published through the efforts of his granddaughter, Linda M. Canup Keaton-Lima, in a book titled "War is Not Just for Heroes." Leatherneck Magazine described the book as "some of the best reporting of flight operations ever to come out of WWII." Canup's dispatches are the only intact collection known to exist of any WWII Marine combat correspondent and are now housed by the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Va. [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

NOVEMBER 13, 1982

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, containing the names of more than 13,000 Marines who lost their lives in Vietnam, was dedicated this date at the Memorial site in Washington, D.C. The dedication and parade that preceded it were part of a weeklong National Salute to Vietnam Veterans.



SEMPER FI

THE 'GRAND OLD MAN' OF RCT-7



Lt. Col. Jeffrey J. Kenney of Regimental Combat Team 7 (RCT-7) has been dubbed the "Grand Old Man" by his brother Marines. The 55-year-old officer joined the Corps when he was 17 and has served with the 2nd Marines, 7th Marines, 8th Marines, Marine Corps Recruiting Command twice, Marine Corps security guard duty, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, infantry officer course twice, and the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. "He brings a wealth of knowledge to the table. He's able to mentor down from the junior Marine all the way up to the senior officers the same way," said Maj. Rudy Salcido, commander of RCT-7's Headquarters Company. **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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