

THE BLUE DIAMOND

The official newsletter of 1st Marine Division



Print:

Blue Diamond Marines honor 73rd anniversary



MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDELTON, Calif. – Marines, Sailors and veterans of the 1st Marine Division celebrated the division's 73rd anniversary during a battle colors rededication ceremony here, Feb. 6. Major Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, the commanding general of the 1st Marine Division, fastened streamers to the battle colors presented to him by Blue Diamond veterans, signifying the many campaigns, expeditions, battles and decorations presented to the division since its founding. [Click here to read more](#)

1st Marines begin second century with combat deployment

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDELTON, Calif. – The beginning of the end of Operation Enduring Freedom officially departed to Afghanistan in the form of Marines with 1st Marine Regiment Feb. 10, 2014. Once their boots are on the ground it will signal the start of the last deployment for a regiment in Helmand province, Afghanistan, capping off 13 years of war. They will take over as Task Force Belleau Wood and during the following months will be integral in the drawdown. [Click here to read more](#)



1/7 Marines utilize helicopters during live-fire assault



MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – The low hum of helicopter rotors echoed in the distance across a small town on a sunlit Saturday morning. Within minutes, the town was flooded with infantrymen, their weapons loaded with live ammunition, ready to eliminate any hostile threat in their path to seize the town from enemy forces. The Marines of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, conducted a two-day air assault course at a combat training facility on Range 210 during their Integrated Training Exercise here, Jan. 25 and 26. [Click here to read more](#)

Marines, JGSDF train in urban terrain raids



MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – U.S. Marines with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, and soldiers from the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force sat in a room filled with maps, aerial photography and detailed building models. U.S. Marine Capt. Benjamin Howe, platoon commander, 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Recon Bn. and the platoon commander of the JGSDF stood before their men and detailed the situation. [Click here to read more](#)

1/1, JGSDF conduct training for Iron Fist

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – As soldiers from the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force sprint across a grassy field, they drop into the prone and begin to fire. Through the smoke of the blasts, they look up on the hillside and see U.S. Marines buddy rushing towards their objective to provide support. [Click here to read more](#)



1/7 repels enemy assault at Lava Training Area



MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – Infantrymen waited patiently inside CH-46 Sea Knight and CH-53E Super Sea Stallion helicopters as they were transported to a landing zone near their first objective. Each Marine sitting side-by-side with full combat loads knew what to expect for the next three days. For one of the final events of their Integrated Training Exercise, the Marines of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, participated in a three-day battalion assault course at Lava Training Area here, Feb. 3 to Feb. 5. [Click here to read more](#)

Relief and appointment of Inchon regiment sergeants major

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines with 1st Marine Regiment stood at attention as Sgt. Maj. Reginald Robinson took command as regimental sergeant major, replacing Sgt. Maj. James Cully during a relief and appointment ceremony here, Feb. 7. Relief and appointment ceremonies are one of the many traditions upheld in the Marine Corps today, which involves the passing of the noncommissioned officer sword from the outgoing sergeant major to the incoming. [Click here to read more](#)



1st Marine Division Sailors hear from Retired master chief petty officer of the Navy

Retired Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy John Hagan speaks to Sailors with 1st Marine Division aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 11, 2014. Hagan spoke to the Sailors about the importance of leadership and their core values of honor, courage and commitment. When he finished, he joined the Sailors in singing Anchors Aweigh. The Sailors said it was a privilege to have Hagan come speak with them. Hagan served 34 years and was the eighth master chief petty officer of the Navy. [Click here to view more](#)



1st Marine Division sends Tango Battery in support of OEF



Major Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, commanding general of 1st Marine Division, shakes hands of Marines with Tango Battery, 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., before their deployment to Helmand province, Afghanistan, Feb. 10, 2014. The Battery will be based out of Camp Leatherneck and work with Regional Command Southwest to provide security for the service members in the area. [Click here to view more](#)

Division's own earns Camp Pendleton female athlete of the year, runner up in Marine Corps award

Major Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, commanding general of 1st Marine Division, congratulates 1st Lt. Thuyumi Dinh, communications officer, 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment on earning the Camp Pendleton female athlete of the year award at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 10, 2014. Dinh, a native of Anaheim, Calif., has participated in numerous triathlons and says she hopes to one day complete an ironman triathlon. Dinh also was a runner up in the Marine Corps female athlete of the year award. She will deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom later this year. [Click here to view more](#)



Video:

Iron Fist Promo.03



U.S. Marines and sailors and soldiers from the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force during Exercise Iron Fist 2014 aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 4-10, 2014. Iron Fist 2014 is an amphibious exercise that brings together Marines and sailors from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, other I Marine Expeditionary Force units, and soldiers from the JGSDF, to promote military interoperability and hone individual and small-unit skills through challenging, complex and realistic training. (U.S. Marine Corps video edited by 15th MEU Public Affairs/Released). Music: Failing Defense by Kevin MacLeod (incompetech.com). [Click here to watch](#)

Infantrymen Defend Combat Center's Lava Training Area

For one of the final events of their Integrated Training Exercise, the Marines of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, participated in a three-day battalion assault course at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Feb. 3 to Feb. 5. The exercise consisted of an initial assault, a 36-hour defense and a counter attack. (U.S. Marine Corps video by Cpl. Joseph Scanlan/Released) Also available in high definition.

[Click here to watch](#)

