

THE BLUE DIAMOND

The official newsletter of 1st Marine Division



Print:

1st Tanks wins Corps-wide competition



TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. - The Tank Gunnery Competition, also known as TIGERCOMP, is an annual competition that has been pitting tank crews from active and reserve units against each other in fierce competition since 1996. This year, the Corps-wide competition brought the best crews from the 1st, 2nd and 4th Tank Battalions to the Combat Center to test their skills. The previous champions, 2nd Tanks, consecutively earned the title the past three years, but their winning streak has been broken. [Click here to read more](#)

Marines become U.S. citizens while serving in Afghanistan

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – “Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world, but the Marines don’t have that problem.” Those words spoken by our late president, Ronald Reagan, rang true during a naturalization ceremony held aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Feb. 26, where seven Marines were granted their United States citizenship. [Click here to read more](#)



Task Force Belleau Wood welcomes new commanding officer



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Defending the perimeter of Camps Bastion and Leatherneck is not an easy task. Protecting the personnel working and living aboard the camps is a 24-hour-a-day job, and one that Task Force Belleau Wood is fully dedicated to and takes very seriously. So, as to not disrupt the battle rhythm of force protection, it was quietly that Col. Dan M. Sullivan transferred authority as the commanding officer of TFBW to Col. Pete B. Baumgarten, Feb. 24. [Click here to read more](#)

Afghanistan unit awarded Logistics Excellence award by Commandant of the Marine Corps



CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Marines and sailors with Redeployment and Retrograde in support of Reset and Reconstitution Operations Group received an award for Logistics Excellence at a ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Feb. 18, during which Gen. James F. Amos, the commandant of the Marine Corps, and Sgt. Maj. Micheal P. Barrett, the sergeant major of the Marine Corps, personally presented the award to the command. [Click here to read more](#)

2/4 Marines, Corpsman recognized for leadership

Lance Cpl. Nathaniel S. Tracy (right), machine gun squad leader, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, shakes hands with Medal of Honor recipient, retired Col. Jay R. Vargas, after being awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Foster, Paul and Barker Awards for excellence during a ceremony at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Feb. 21, 2014. Vargas, who earned distinction while serving with 2nd Bn., 4th Marines in Vietnam, returned to his old battalion to congratulate the top performers. Tracy, a 22-year-old native of Auburn, Calif., and a 2009 graduate of Arrows Christian Academy, is currently serving in a position usually filled by a higher-ranking sergeant. [Click here to view more](#)

