

# THE BLUE DIAMOND

The official newsletter of 1st Marine Division



**Print:**

## Recon Marines conduct first time launch off USS Freedom



MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Traveling through rough waves is just another training day for reconnaissance Marines, but this time their objective is something entirely new. After a tough three mile ride through the open ocean in a zodiac, the Marines arrived at the USS Freedom, a littoral combat ship. Their objective was to find out if the ship could launch and recover a zodiac. The LCS is a new type of ship that is designed to operate close to shore. It was envisioned to be agile, stealthy and capable of defeating anti-access threats such as mines, submarines and fast surface craft. [Click here to read more](#)

## Fallen Marine inspires friend to serve country

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – The dusty mountain air was littered with unrelenting machine gun fire as Marines sent thousands of rounds down range. Sparks flew through the sky as rounds ripped through the rusty metal targets a few hundred meters away. In between burst of fire, the shouts of Sgt. Joshua See, the lead machine gun instructor with 1st Marine Division Schools, echoed over the rocky terrain as he paced up and down behind a brass covered firing line. [Click here to read more](#)



## 2/4 welcomes new commanding officer



MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, welcomed a new commanding officer during a change of command ceremony, at the Camp San Mateo landing zone here, March 7. Lieutenant Col. Robert Weiler relinquished command to Lt. Col. Mike Wilonsky, the former 1st Marine Division current operations officer. [Click here to read more](#)

## Purple Heart recipient, Bushnell native competes in athletic event



Lance Cpl. Justin R. Beer, a rifleman assigned to Wounded Warrior Battalion West, recently competed in the 2014 Marine Corps Trials at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 6 to 12. Beer, a native of Bushnell, Ill., was wounded in the left thigh by enemy sniper fire, May 27, 2013, while deployed with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, to Musa Qal'ah district, Helmand province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. [Click here to view more](#)

## Fathers and daughters bond at 3/5 luncheon

Sergeant Thomas Dilzer, intelligence specialist, Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines during a father/daughter luncheon aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 9, 2014. The luncheon connected the Marines with their daughters and gave them a chance to meet other families in the battalion before they deploy to Okinawa, Japan in April. The event included several games, a cupcake decorating table and a large lunch. [Click here to view more](#)



## Former master gunnery sergeant retires as facility manager



Henry Lanzziano, facility manager, 1st Marine Division, speaks to Maj. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, commanding general, 1st Marine Division, and Marines serving with 1st Marine Division, during a retirement ceremony at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 13, 2014. Lanzziano, a native of Madison, Wis., retired from his duties as facility manager after more than 30 years of service to the Marine Corps. Lanzziano was responsible for managing and up keeping facilities across the entire division. [Click here to view more](#)

## Video:

### Marines gain valuable combat skills from Machine gunners course



Marines with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion gained valuable combat skills through practical application exercises, classroom instruction, and live-fire ranges during the eight day non-infantry machine gunners course offered by 1st Marine Division Schools. The Marines learned the specific characteristics and proper implementation of the M240, M249, Mk 19 and .50 Caliber machine gun. U.S. Marine Corps Video by Lance Cpl. Jonathan Boynes) Available in high definition. [Click here to watch](#)