

THE BLUE DIAMOND

The official newsletter of 1st Marine Division



Print:

Las Vegas native gets his chance to fight war on terrorism

Earned by few, envied by many, the title Marine appeals to individuals in several different ways. The prestige of the Marine Corps especially appealed to one individual when he enlisted at the age of 17. [Click here to read more.](#)



Marines get a handle on Australian wildlife



Marines with Marine Rotational Force – Darwin handle a black-headed python during an orientation brief aboard Robertson Barracks, Northern Territory, Australia. During the brief, the Marines had the chance to handle snakes and crocodiles while learning about the Australian wildlife and environment. This information will come in handy as the Marines will be conducting unilateral training and bilateral training “out bush” with the Australian Defense Force in the Northern Territory and at existing ADF facilities during the six-month rotation. [Click here to read more.](#)

Harlingen, Texas, native serves second combat deployment in Sangin, Afghanistan

Four years ago, Sgt. Troy Garza, then a fire team leader with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, deployed to Sangin, Afghanistan. By the end of the deployment, his platoon was rendered nearly combat ineffective due to the number of casualties they sustained.

[Click here to read more.](#)



Marine Rotational Force – Darwin 2014 begins to arrive Down Under

The loud roar of four turbofan engines from a C-17

Globemaster cargo plane could be heard across the open airfield, as Soldiers with the Australian Army waited in anticipation for the arrival of the U.S. Marines. [Click here to read more.](#)

2/4 Marines, families honor fallen Ramadi Marines during 10-year anniversary ceremony

Marines, veterans and their families gathered at the 5th Marine Regiment Memorial Garden to pay their respects to the Marines of 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment during a ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the Battle of Ramadi. Not a dry eye could be found among the crowd as Marines laid Purple Heart Medals on top of the Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial Plaque. [Click here to read more.](#)



Marines hone leadership skills in the Division School's Urban Leaders Course



The sun beat down on the Marines, already gasping from beneath their gas masks. Their bodies, wrapped in flak jackets and Kevlar helmets, were like tanks in armor trudging through the dirt roads and dark buildings of the Urban Operations town toward the objective. They moved with a sense of purpose, not stopping to catch their breath or raise a complaint. This was the scene at the Division Schools Urban Leader's Course aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 9, 2014. [Click here to read more.](#)

"War Dogs" revise mortar skills

Explosions shook the valley as the Marines with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, put mortars on target from hundreds of yards away. [Click here to read more.](#)



VIDEO:

MRF-D Marines all welcomed to Top End



Marines with Marine Rotational Force – Darwin, land at Royal Australian Air Force’s Base Darwin. The Marines with MRF-D will conduct unilateral training and bilateral training with the Australian Defense Force in the Northern Territory and at existing ADF facilities during the six-month rotation. Available in high definition. [Click here to watch more.](#)

Marines Remember Their Fallen Brothers at 10-Year Ramadi Memorial Ceremony

Marines, families and veteran came together to remember and honor Marines of 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, who gave their lives in the battle of Ramadi, during a ceremony aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, April 6, 2014. It was the 10-year anniversary of the battle of Ramadi, one of the most significant battles of the war in Iraq. [Click here to watch more.](#)



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