

THE **BLUE DIAMOND**

The official newsletter of 1st Marine Division



Print:

One Marine's journey overcoming adversity



MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – It's a cold day in the heart of Fallujah, Iraq, and Sgt. Ricardo Ramirez, a squad leader serving with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, is leading his squad on a patrol through the city when they receive reports of an improvised explosive device strike in the vicinity. His mission became searching for the IED's trigger man, which had injured four Marines. As his squad was closing in he prepared a flash bang grenade to throw, it detonated in his left hand, severing it. [Click here to read more](#)

Highlanders master brilliance in basics

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. -- Marines serving with Alpha Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, conducted a live-fire exercise to master basic combat skills on Range 210F here, Oct. 23. The exercise is designed to train and evaluate Marines on weapons techniques and prepare them for team and squad level, live-fire training. [Click here to read more](#)



'Wardogs' pitch in to clean up community

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. - Marines and family members with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, volunteered their time in an effort to help beautify the community in Copper Mountain Mesa, Calif., Oct. 26, 2013. The Copper Mountain Mesa neighborhood watch requested the Marines to help in the effort to remove trash from more than 30 sites within the area, which have been used as unauthorized dumping sites. [Click here to read more](#)

Video:

Highlanders Master Brilliance in Basics



Package on Marines with 1st LAR training to improve their basic infantry skills in preparation for more advanced skill training. Also available in high definition. [Click here to watch](#)

This is My Life (Sgt. Ramirez part 1)

Sergeant Ricardo Ramirez, squad leader, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, discusses overcoming losing his hand during combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Ramirez, a native of Quebradillas, Puerto Rico, deployed as a combat replacement with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Available in High Definition. [Click here to watch](#)



This is My Life (Sgt. Ramirez part 2)



Sergeant Ricardo Ramirez, squad leader, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, discusses playing on the 5th Marine's football team. Ramirez, a native of Quebradillas, Puerto Rico, lost his hand during combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He does not allow this handicap to keep him from doing the things he enjoys. Available in High Definition. [Click here to watch](#)