



# The National Museum of the Marine Corps Remembers September 11, 2001

By Gretchen Winterer and Carrie Bowers

**T**he National Museum of the Marine Corps is opening a new temporary exhibit that reflects on the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The exhibit, located along Legacy Walk, examines the events from that harrowing day through mid-December 2001. Through vivid photographs and stirring personal accounts, it focuses on Marines who participated in the recovery efforts at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Visitors learn the story behind the Marine Corps flag that was recovered—undamaged—from the fourth-floor Pentagon office of Peter M. Murphy, then-senior legal adviser for the Commandant. Additionally, visitors are introduced to Marines who joined the Corps to make a difference and defend their country as a direct result of the attacks.

Visitors also may post their own recollections about that memorable day in a manner reminiscent of the spontaneous memorials that appeared in New York City, Shanksville, Pa., and Northern Virginia in the days following the attacks.



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PH2 JIM WATSON, USN

Above: Two days after the hijacked aircraft crashed into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, fires still burn amidst the rubble and debris.

Right: On Sept. 11, 2001, then-Maj Dan Pantaleo rushed to the Pentagon from his office in nearby Rosslyn, Va., to provide aid. Pantaleo is seen here, walking alongside LtCol M. L. "Buzz" Hefty, USMC (Ret), then-Principal Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, and fellow recovery workers, after he retrieved the Marine Corps flag from the fourth-floor office (above right) of the Commandant's senior legal adviser, Peter M. Murphy.

Left: LtCol Paul A. Bryglder, military assistant to Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment H. T. Johnson, comforts a victim pulled from the Pentagon as she awaits medical care.



PH1 MICHAEL W. PRODRIGASS, USN

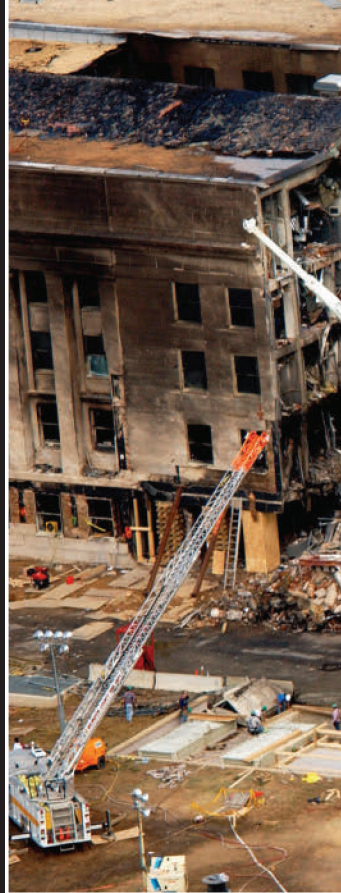


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PHOTO BY JIM WATSON, USAF



SGT JOSEPH R. GIBNELLY

**Above left:** Rescue and recovery workers descend deep into the rubble and debris of the World Trade Center in New York City.

**Above:** An aerial view taken Thursday, Sept. 13, 2001, shows the impact point on the Pentagon where hijacked American Airlines Flight 77, a Boeing 757-200, struck. (Photo by TSgt Cedric H. Rudisill, USAF)

**Left:** Leathernecks from 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) convoy through rough desert terrain in heavily armed humvees and light armored vehicles in Southern Afghanistan on Dec. 7, 2001.

**Right:** As Operation Enduring Freedom begins, Marines with Co C, Battalion Landing Team 1/1, 15th MEU (SOC) raise the American flag in Afghanistan after the seizure of a forward operating base on Nov. 26, 2001.



Sgt. JOSEPH R. O'BRIEN

The exhibit concludes with a review of the initial combat strikes of Operation Enduring Freedom to include the seizure of Kandahar airport from al-Qaida and Taliban forces and securing the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The yearlong exhibit will open to the public on Sept. 11, 2011. The National Museum of the Marine Corps is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Christmas; parking and admission are free.

For additional information, visit the website: [www.usmcmuseum.com](http://www.usmcmuseum.com), or the museum's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/USMCMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/USMCMuseum).

*Editor's note: Gretchen Winterer is the assistant curator of the museum's General Collection, and Carrie Bowers is an aviation museum specialist.*



### Leatherneck—On the Web

To see more Sept. 11, 2001, images, go to [www.mca-marines.com/leatherneck/911](http://www.mca-marines.com/leatherneck/911)