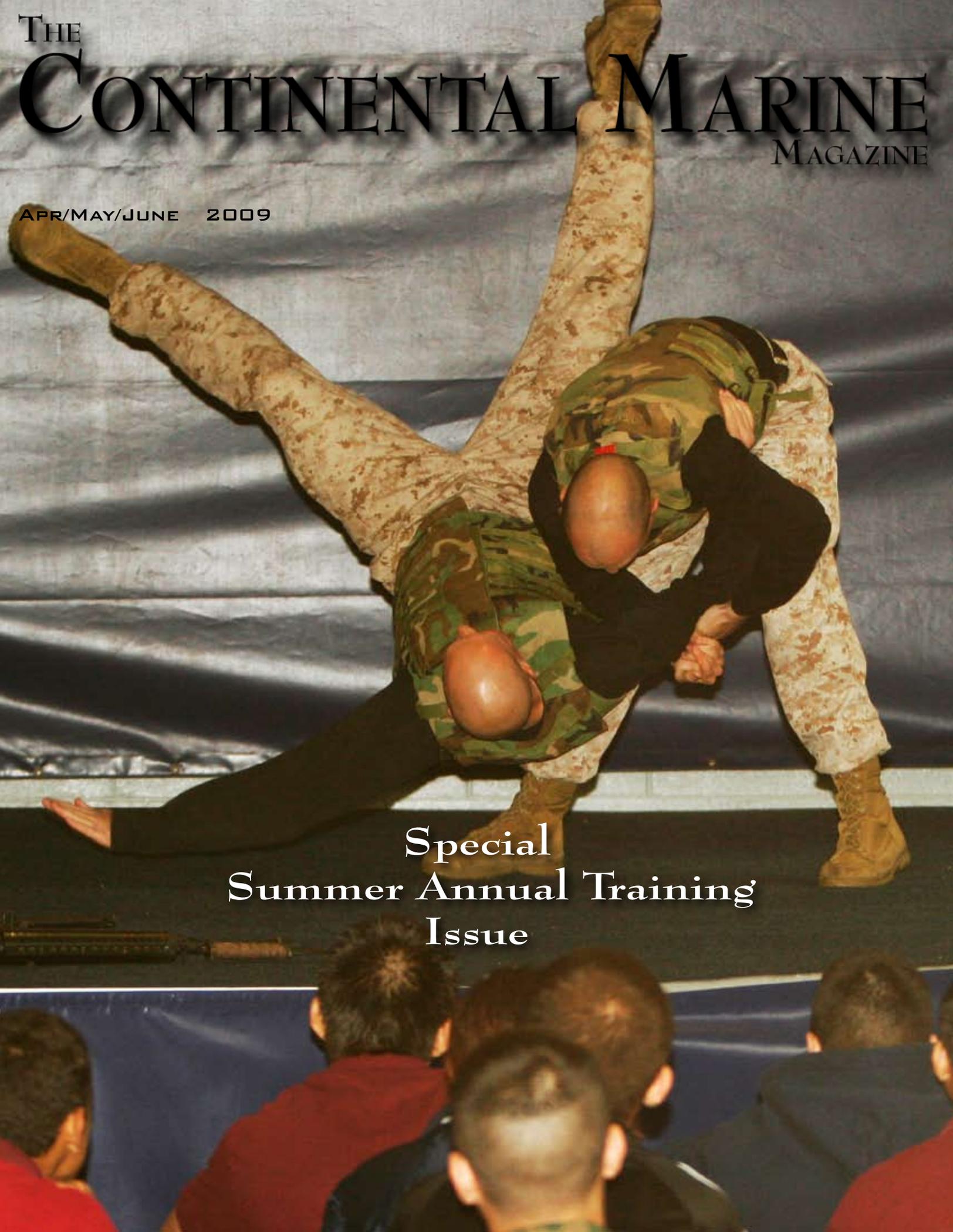


# THE CONTINENTAL MARINE

MAGAZINE

APR/MAY/JUNE 2009



Special  
Summer Annual Training  
Issue

*This quarter the Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office is proud to recognize the efforts of Mrs. Christina Hernandez who is currently serving in our summer internship program.*

*In a short period of time Hernandez has immersed herself in various levels of production that go into bringing you this magazine, and has proven to be a valued member of the team.*

*Hernandez took on the internship in order to gain experience that she hopes will translate into a job after she graduates. She is currently attending Tulane University and is working towards a degree in digital design, with a minor in public relations.*

*Hernandez heard about the internship through her parents who both work with MFR. Her father retired from the Navy in the early '90s, and she feels that gave her an understanding of the importance of the jobs being done at MFR.*

*"I am learning the inner-workings of the Marines and I am enjoying gaining the knowledge." Said Hernandez.*

*We hope you enjoy this edition of your magazine.*

*Semper Fi,  
Continental Marine Magazine Staff*



Cover Photo: Members of the Marine Corps' Martial Arts Center of Excellence demonstrate maneuvers to a crowd of 800 cadets of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Soldier Field during Marine Week Chicago May 11-17. The demonstration was one of several throughout the city as part of the inaugural Marine Week, which runs through Sunday. The weeklong event provides the residents an opportunity to meet Marines and learn about their history and traditions. (Photo By PFC Lucas Vega)

## Marine Forces Reserve

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### Sergeant Major, Marine Forces Reserve

Sgt. Maj. Kim E. Davis

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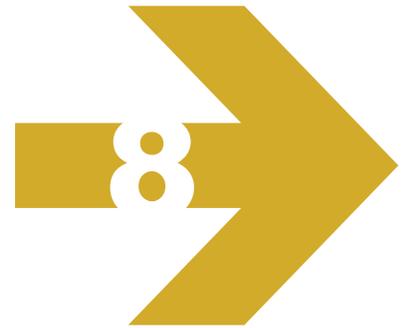
Mrs. Christina Hernandez

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Lance Cpl. Nicholus D. Wlodaski, machine gunner, 2nd Battalion 24th Marines, Chicago, watches as Mike Fullerton, freshman, Wheaton Warrenville South High School, Wheaton, Ill., picks up a M240B medium machine gun at the weapons display at Navy Pier, Chicago, during Marine Week May 17.



Photo By Cpl. Jose Nava



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The band plays a concert at the iconic St. Louis Cathedral.

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Combat Operational Stress Control

# In Brief

Summer brings fun for Marines around the country.



## National Parks open gates for free

More than 140 national parks will be opening their gates three weekends this summer and waiving entry fees for everyone on National Public Lands Day. Military members can take advantage of the free entry on July 18-19, and Aug 15-16. National Public Lands Day falls on the last Saturday in September. The parks will also waive entry fees for military service members and veterans on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. For more information visit [www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm](http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm). □



## Amusement parks wave entry fee for military members



Once again, the Here's to the Heroes free admission to various amusement parks will be available. Military members have the opportunity to enter such parks as SeaWorld and Busch Gardens for free this summer. For more information on this special, visit [www.herosalute.com/states/index.html](http://www.herosalute.com/states/index.html). □

## Free Software to prepare Marines and families for college

Test preparation software for the SAT's and ACT's are available for the fourth consecutive year for military families and veterans. The materials are available as a DVD ROM set and can be used for a full year. The materials were donated in alliance with the Department of Defense and a group of patriotic NFL football players. For more information on preparation materials visit [www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil). □



## Fun in the sun for second event of MFR Commander's Cup

The Marine Forces Reserve Non-Commissioned Officer committee used the values of teamwork, leadership and pride to create the Commander's Cup, an athletic challenge that aims to expound upon the unifying benefits of sports.

The purpose of the Commander's Cup, the brain child of the NCO committee, is to build unity and teamwork throughout MFR by encouraging units to participate in athletic events. It is also being used to raise funds for the Marine Corps ball and other events intended to boost morale. The NCO committee has one event planned for every month leading up to the Marine Corps ball.

The second event in the Commander's Cup was a volleyball tournament, held June 18-19. Headquarters battalion claimed victory in both events so far. □

# Have a safe summer out on the water



Photo By Lance Cpl. Michael Laycock

Denny Burst Jr. and his family spend the morning fishing. Boating and fishing are great ways to spend the summer months, however, be sure to be safe when out on the water.

## LANCE CPL. MICHAEL LAYCOCK MARINE FORCES RESERVE

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As the temperature rises, people flock outdoors. With several large lakes here, boating is a great way to spend the summer. Whether skiing, sailing or fishing, it's hard not to have fun when out on the water. However, safety should always be taken into account before any excursion.

According to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, in the 1990's an average of 40 fatalities a year in Louisiana included boaters, skiers, fishermen, duck hunters, deer hunters, canoeist and sailors. Many people simply fell overboard or were involved in a collision that could have been avoided if they had adhered to some basic rules of boating safety.

"The most important is to wear a life jacket," said Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sgt. Kris Bourgeois. Bourgeois and his partner patrol Jefferson Parish, including Lake Pontchartrain.

A life jacket can keep you from finding out how deep the lake is the hard way. To ensure safety, life jackets should be properly fitting, and worn at all times when out on the water.

Louisiana state law says that there will be enough life jackets in the boat for every person. All children 12 years old and younger are required by law to wear a life jacket while watercrafts are moving. All motor boats are also required by law to have at least one fire extinguisher on them.

Be sure to also bring some basics. Extra gas, food, water,

sunscreen, a whistle or sound producing device, and a way to communicate with someone on shore are all good things to bring when on the water.

The Coast Guard also recommends leaving a float plan with someone and bringing a GPS to guide you while out on the water.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries offers a boating class year-round and free of charge. The class covers everything from choosing a boat to navigational charts, and students will receive a vessel operator's certification card upon completion.

"Everyone should take the safety class," said Bourgeois, "It covers everything you will need to know out on the water."

Other important steps would be to check your gear on the boat before launch. Let someone know where you are going and check the weather before you head out.

Don't drink and drive is also good advice for out on the water. According to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, more than 40 percent of fatal boating accidents involve alcohol use.

For more information on rules and safety, contact the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Classes are also available online at <http://www.boat-ed.com/la/index.htm>. □

# From the “Big Easy” to the “Big Apple”



Photo By Sgt. Steve Cuahman

Leathernecks from the Marine Forces Reserve Band perform in Times Square, N.Y.C., N.Y., May 23. The Marines performance was part of Marine Day, a special celebration in conjunction with Fleet Week.

## LANCE CPL. JAD SLEIMAN MARINE FORCES RESERVE

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**NEW YORK CITY** — Above the blare of passing taxi horns and the shouting street food vendors rang a steady cadence call of a New York Marine sounding off as a sweating civilian attempted one more push up as part of Marine Day, a part of Fleet Week, Times Square May 23.

Marines from Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force New York and the Marine Forces Reserve Band gathered in Times Square to give civilians a taste of Marine Corps music, physical training, weaponry and martial arts.

Lance Cpl. Eduardo Ortiz, a New York City native, led the physical fitness section of the Marine Day event. He stood screaming encouragement inches away from the strain-marked faces of civilians hoping to impress the crowd gathered around the pull-up bar in front of the historic Armed Forces Recruiting Station in Times Square.

“It’s fun, it’s a lot of fun,” said Ortiz, a personnel clerk with 6th Communication Battalion in Brooklyn, NY. “You get to meet all different kinds of people.”

Ortiz said he hoped to identify potential recruits who demonstrated a high level of physical ability and help

“keep them on the right path” to maybe one day becoming a Marine, while helping some realize which areas of fitness they need to work on.

Kyla Kennedy of Plattsburgh, N.Y., lifts weights from time to time, but found herself struggling to maintain her grip on the bar as Ortiz timed her flexed arm hang.

“My arms started shaking, it was a lot harder than I thought it would be,” said Kennedy. “I guess you have to be strong to be in the Marines.”

Yards away artillery and embarkation Marines threw down during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program demonstration.

The exhibition covered disarming an attacker, grappling, holds and take downs – with civilians often trying their luck against black belt Marine counterparts.

“As soon as we start doing our thing a crowd gathers fast,” said Sgt. Evan Beaulé, an artillery Marine with the SP MAGTF NY and Lewiston, Maine native.

Nick Presuto of Waterbury, Conn., took a Marine down using a leg sweep after the Marines taught him the technique. Presuto enjoyed his match against the Marine in Times Square, adding “it was fun.” □

# Marine Forces Reserve Band

## wows crowd with performance at N.O. landmark

LANCE CPL. MICHAEL LAYCOCK  
MARINE FORCES RESERVE

The St. Louis Cathedral is in the heart of the French Quarter. It stands tall amongst the many other buildings and is something that many people wish to see while visiting the city. This made it a perfect venue to debut two songs about New Orleans from composer Robert W. Smith, the composer selected to write the Katrina Piece.

The Marine Forces Reserve band played a free concert at the St. Louis Cathedral



Photo By Lance Cpl. Michael Laycock



Photo By Lance Cpl. Michael Laycock

May 9. The concert was supposed to be the debut for the Katrina Piece; however, due to scheduling conflicts, the composer was not able to make it. The band decided they would go on with the concert and purchased two new pieces, from Smith, just for the concert.

“It was a great opportunity for everyone to see the Marines,” said Master Sgt. William Howe, Enlisted Conductor, Marine Forces Reserve band. “Just standing by the door I shook hands with people from Canada, Germany and all over the U.S.”

The cathedral hosts many concerts during the year.

“Music is a part of our Ministry,” said Msgr. Crosby W. Kern, Rector of the St. Louis Cathedral.

The cathedral is the Catholic cultural center in New Orleans, a city with a rich musical heritage, according to Kern.

The Marine Forces Reserve band will open and close the concert season for the cathedral, playing another concert in August, in which they hope to debut the Katrina Piece.

The Katrina Piece is to be a tribute, for their suffering and the triumph of their spirit, to the people of New Orleans for their suffering during and after Hurricane Katrina destroyed much of the city. □

# Awarding your Employer

BY: MAJ ELAINE M. GULLOTTA

YN1 Tammy Olander was mobilized for a year in 2008. Her employer, Trish Comstock, a senior manager at the bank where she worked was supportive. "Trish sent care packages and letters, and arranged supplemental pay for me to make up what was not covered in my military salary," said YN1 Olander. When YN1 Olander returned from mobilization she received her job back and shortly thereafter also received a scheduled promotion just as if she had never left. She was grateful and felt lucky to be employed by a company that talked-the-talk when it came to military service. As a manager herself, YN1 Olander had seen the Statement of Support (SoS) signed by the CEO of the bank, proudly displayed in the lobby of the bank. More importantly she saw the memorandums he sent to all the managers asking them to follow his example - to look for ways to be supportive of employees who were members of the reserve forces. She wanted to publicly recognize both of them so she spoke with her local Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) representative. She also visited the ESGR website: [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) to start the process.

The ESGR award program is designed to help recognize employers for implementing employment policies and practices that are supportive of their

employees' participation in the National Guard and Reserves. All employer recognition and awards originate from nominations by individual reserve component members. Depending on the degree of support, the level of recognition can be a certificate of appreciation, presented by the employee himself, and rises all the way to the Employer Support Freedom Award which is a competitive award given to the employer.

The most frequently presented award is The Patriot Award. This award is intended for an immediate supervisor and not necessarily the organization as a whole. ESGR awards this certificate and a Patriot Award lapel pin on behalf of the Department of Defense. All members of the National Guard and Reserve are eligible to nominate their employer for the Patriot Award through the ESGR website. A certificate can be provided to the service member for presentation or can be presented to the supervisor by the local ESGR committee. Regardless of how it is presented, all nominated employers receive this award. This nomination is also used by local ESGR committees as the basis for consideration to receive higher-level awards.

The next award in the series is The Above and Beyond Award. ESGR presents this award for support that exceeds what is required by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). Examples of above and beyond employer support consist of providing



**EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF  
THE GUARD AND RESERVE**

pay differential, child care, or continuation of benefits. Employers are not nominated for this award by their employees, rather, they are selected by the local ESGR field committee based on the write-up that was previously done for the Patriot Award. Typically, employers who have been recognized with a Patriot Award continue to provide support. Many also increase the level of support they provide. This award is intended to reward that increased level of support and is presented to employers by the local ESGR committee.

The next award in the series is the Pro Patria Award. Like the Above and Beyond Award, employees do not nominate employers for this award. It is presented by the local ESGR committee and is the highest award that a local committee may bestow upon employers in their purview. To be eligible, an employer must have received a Patriot Award, an Above and Beyond Award and must have signed a Statement of Support. It is presented to those employers who demonstrate exceptional support for national defense by adopting personnel policies that make it easier for employees to participate in the National Guard and Reserves. This award is competitive as each ESGR local committee may give only one Pro Patria award annually in each of the following three categories: public sector, large employer and small employer.

The most prestigious award is the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This award is presented annually to 15 employers. This special award is designed to recognize unique support to National Guard and Reserve employees. Nominations for the Freedom Award are accepted on the Freedom Award website ([www.FreedomAward.mil](http://www.FreedomAward.mil)) but only during the open season, which is typically November through January. Then a rigorous national review process is conducted identifying the top 168 potential recipients. In the spring, the National Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NCESGR) facilitates a selection board of reserve component general officers and civilian business

industry leaders that identifies the final 15 recipients. Only the nation's most supportive employers receive this award which is presented at a black-tie dinner ceremony held in Washington D.C. each September.

After learning more about the four types of employer awards available, YN1 Tammy Olander immediately nominated Ms Comstock for the Patriot Award. Shortly thereafter, when the nomination season was open, she nominated her employer for the Secretary of Defense Freedom Award and is now waiting for the results for the 2009 Recipients. "I spent a lot of time on the write-up for both of these awards so that I could really explain all that

they did for me" said YN1 Olander, "now I'm crossing my fingers."

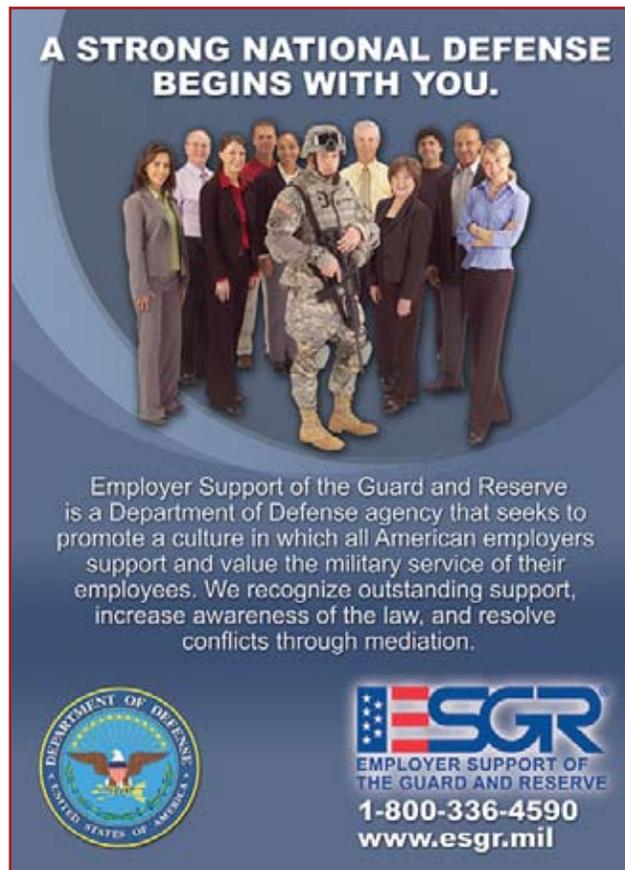
The mission of ESGR is to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees. ESGR does so by recognizing outstanding employer support, increasing awareness of USERRA and by resolving conflict through mediation.

Service members should consider their employers as a strategic partner who supports their efforts to serve our nation. One effective way to bring employers into the partnership is to encourage them to sign and display an ESGR "Statement of Support." A SoS is not an award it is more of a promise/contract between the employer and ESGR. Signing and displaying a SoS is a visual reminder that an employer is

doing their part in support of the nation by supporting their military employees.

For additional assistance with employer-related questions relating to ESGR or USERRA, visit Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil), or call 1-800-336-4590.

*MAJ Gullotta is an Army National Guard Public Affairs Officer assigned to the National Committee of ESGR.*



A photograph of the Chicago skyline, featuring several prominent skyscrapers like the Willis Tower, set against a clear blue sky. The city is viewed from across a body of water, likely Lake Michigan.

# Marines tackle the 'Windy City' for Marine Week Chicago

Marines and Sailors from across the nation descended upon the “City of Broad Shoulders” for the inaugural Marine Week Chicago event May 11-17.

The week-long event was an opportunity for Chicagoans to meet the individuals who make the Marine Corps, said Chicago native Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese, commanding general, Training and Education Command, in Quantico, Va.

“The idea of Marine Week is to get the major cities in America exposed to the Marine Corps,” said Spiese. “We couldn’t find a better place to kick this thing off. We are America’s Marine Corps.”

During the week, Marine Corps demonstrations throughout the city of more than 2.8 million included martial arts, boxing, band performances, weapons training for police departments and volunteer clean-up efforts.

## **MONDAY, May 11**

### ◆Opening Ceremony

A dedication ceremony downtown marked the start of the inaugural Marine Week in front of approximately 500 people at Daley Plaza.

The 30-minute ceremony began with the playing of the National Anthem by the Twentynine Palms Marine Band from California, followed by a city proclamation read by Mayor Richard M. Daley.

“This is a Marine Corps town, it’s a very popular part of the military here,” said Daley. “You’ll see it all week, there is a great history of Marine Corps families in Chicago.”

The Marine Corps is an institution of great character that

wanted the people of Chicago to have a sense of confidence that their sons and daughters will be well taken care of if they decide to join the Corps, said Spiese.

“Established to recognize the contributions of local Marine heroes, their families and the cities from which they came, Marine Week also showcases the rich history and traditions of our beloved Corps,” said Gen. James T. Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps, in an official statement regarding Marine Week Chicago. “This is the first of many celebrations honoring country and Corps in cities across the nation.”

### ◆National Museum of the Marine Corps

For travelers walking through Chicago O’Hare International Airport’s Terminal 3, a little something extra awaited them — a full display from the Quantico, Va.-based National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Marine volunteers from the museum donned special uniforms — also known as “period uniforms” — representative of past eras from as early as World War I and stood with various displays. Visitors to the exhibit were able to view numerous combat illustrations, historical documentations, a video from the museum, as well as talk with a number of Marines past and present.

### ◆Levin Park Clean-up

A handful of local and California-based Marines kicked off Marine Week Chicago with some good old fashioned manual labor with the clean-up of Levin Park.

The cleanup consisted of picking up trash, clearing large

debris and adding mulch to the playground and trees.

“The manual work we’re doing today isn’t bad at all,” said Sgt. Wayne E. Dones, a 27-year-old heavy equipment mechanic, assigned to the Camp Pendleton, Calif.-based 11th Marine Regiment. “The work we’re doing is going to show people that you can be in the Marine Corps and be more than just a war fighter. It’s a good way for people to view the Marine Corps in a different eye.”

## TUESDAY, May 12

### ◆ Riis Park Repair

Marines from the Camp Pendleton, Calif.-based 1st Marine Division made playing at the park a whole lot safer, as they repaired a pathway and flagpole at Riis Park as part of the community outreach programs during Marine Week.

The park, located in Chicago’s West Side seemed to be in fair condition with the exception of a few problem areas. The major concern for the Marines was the park’s broken up pathway, which led from the parking lot, circling a flagpole, and encompassing a playground. Potholes, large cracks, and old wood chips posed as possible dangers for patrons.

The Marines arrived in true fashion, with a plan and the tools to accomplish it. They immediately began tackling various tasks which included breaking up concrete, stacking bricks, picking up trash, and arranging wood chips.

### ◆ University of Chicago

In a sun-lit room of the Ida Ndyes Study Lounge in the



Photo By Cpl. Jose Nava

Lt. Gen. Jack W. Bergman, commander, Marine Forces Reserve speaks during a panel at the University of Chicago during Marine Week. Marines and Sailors from around the country flocked to Chicago for this week long event.

Booth School of Business at the University of Chicago, three Marine Corps general officers held a panel in front of students and faculty members.

“Our institution believes in the development of young Marines and there are certain characteristics that a Marine needs in order to become a good leader that can be applied in the business world,” said Brig. Gen. Melvin Spiese, commanding general, Training and Education Command, Quantico, Va. “As some people are natural leaders and others are great staff supporters, both types of people are vital in order to accomplish the mission.”



Photo By Cpl. Seth Maggard

Lance Cpl. Timothy R. James, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, talks with Rhonda Harding, a local resident, while raking at Levin Park located in Chicago May 11, 2009. Marines were cleaning up parks as well as taking part in other community services and efforts as part of Marine Week being held in Chicago.

### ◆ Media Airlift

The Marine Corps provided some local news reporters with the chance of a lifetime, allowing them to fly in a MV-22 Osprey.

The flight began at DuPage Airport in West Chicago, and from there continued to fly around the “Windy City” for 45 minutes before landing back at DuPage.

The interaction between Marines and local Chicago media took place during a rehearsal for the main show in which Marines departed Dupage Airport in a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter landing at the Arlington Park Racetrack. Marines then exited the aircraft and demonstrated a raid for individuals in attendance before being picked up in a MV-22 Osprey.

## WEDNESDAY, May 13

### ◆ Cornerstone Community Center

About 25 Marines, many from the Chicago-based 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines—a reserve infantry battalion—joined other volunteers at the Cornerstone Community

Center in Chicago to help feed the needy and clean-up the facility.

“Today the wonderful Marines came and wowed everyone,” said Sandy Ramsey, director of Cornerstone Community Center.

The Marines on-hand cleaned out the basement, managing to twice fill a large dumpster with recyclables. They also worked in the kitchen serving food and were able to enjoy lunch with the native Chicagoans they served.

## THURSDAY, May 14

### ◆Habitat for Humanity

Volunteers from 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif., Marine Air Control Group 48 and 2nd Battallion, 24th Marine Regiment based in Chicago, teamed up with one of the city’s watchdogs for the needy to assist with building two homes on the South Side.

Painting walls, sanding surfaces for tile and digging holes for the bases of chain-linked fences were just a few of the improvements made to the houses by the Marines giving back to the community.

“The Marines came out strong and haven’t stopped all day,” said Habitat for Humanity’s group supervisor, Leon Metcalf. “They came out and they are working hard; they get straight to the point.”

### ◆MACE Self Defense

Marines with the Martial Arts Center of Education held a self defense class for sororities from the University of Chicago.

The Marines instructed the young women at the class on various moves from the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. They taught them techniques from the lowest belt level in MCMAP, tan, to more advanced techniques from the black belt level. Leathernecks also demonstrated each move for the students and talked about different situations

in which the techniques could be used.

## FRIDAY, May 15

### ◆New Technology at the Pier

The Marine Corps gave Chicagoans the chance to look at, hold and even play with some of its newest equipment at Navy Pier with static displays that were set-up inside and outside the pier, showcasing some of the Corps’ newest technology.



Photo By Cpl. Jose Nava

Cpl.’s Omar Marcias, mimms clerk, 2nd Battalion 24th Marines, Chicago, and Eric Weedman, supply administartion, 2nd Battalion 24th Marines, Chicago, explain the properties of the Browning M2 .50 Caliber Machine Gun to Cyndi Fullerton from Wheaton, Ill., May 17 during Marine Week. The high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle and a weapons display was at the Navy Pier throughout the weekend.

“We are reaching out to the people of Chicago to show them what the Marine Corps brings to the table and where we fit in,” said Col. Shawn Reinwald, director of Infantry Weapons Systems. “The technology has increased and very few people know about it.”

From display to display, from kids to adults, guests were able to actually get behind weapons and see what it’s like.

The displays outside were highlighted by the new Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle (MRAP).

## SATURDAY, May 16

### ◆Communication

Members of the YMCA’s Black and Hispanic Achiever’s program honed their communications skills while learning about the Marine Corps during a presentation by Maj. Shawn Haney. As a public affairs officer assigned to Marine Week Chicago,

she discussed the importance of career success through communication with the course’s students.

The program is intended to assist the students with decisions regarding their future and present them with a variety of career options. The Marines were invited to participate in the program because of their experience in the field of communications.

#### ◆Reception

The Marine Corps League hosted several top Marine Corps and government officials at a reception at the Navy Pier to sum up a combination of Marine Week Chicago's events.

General James L. Jones, national security advisor, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Carlton Kent, Lt. Gen. Ronald S. Coleman, deputy commander for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and James Laskey, national commandant of the Marine Corps League were just a few of the V.I.P.s on the guest list.

"Marine Week is a way for the Corps to interact with the community," said Laskey. "It lets them know what the Marine Corps does, and shows what the peoples' tax dollars are paying for."

Following the reception, were performances by the Battle Color Detachment which consists of the "Commandant's Own" and the Silent Drill Platoon from Marine Barracks Washington D.C.

### SUNDAY, May 17

#### ◆Osprey Demo

On the final day of Marine Week Chicago, infantry Marines from Company F, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines put on a raid demonstration in front of approximately 2,000 people at the Arlington Park Racetrack.

The Marines were flown in on a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter. Upon landing on the track's infield the Marines exited the aircraft and set-up a security perimeter. An MV-22 Osprey then flew in and landed to pick up the Marine.

There were static displays of Marine Corps aircraft and vehicles set-up outside in the parking lot of Arlington Park, but to many in attendance, the MV-22 Osprey stole the show. □

*Compiled from stories by SSgt. Luis Agostini, Cpl. Nicole A. LaVine, Cpl. Seth Maggard, Cpl. Jose Nava, Cpl. Erik Villagran, LCpl. Bryan G. Carfrey and PFC Lucas Vega*



Photo By Lance Cpl. Bryan Carfrey

Marines of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines participate in a mock raid exercise at Arlington Park outside of Chicago, Ill. The demonstration was one of many events throughout the city as part of the inaugural Marine Week, which ran May 11-17. The weeklong event provides the residents an opportunity to meet Marines and learn about their history and traditions.

# Shared Accord

SHARED ACCORD was a scheduled, combined U.S.-Benin operation focusing on the conduct of small unit infantry and staff training with the Beninese military and was designed to improve interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation's tactics, techniques and procedures. Focusing on non-lethal weapons training, the exercise supported U.S. Africa Command's Theater Strategic Objectives.

Approximately 400 U.S. military personnel, including infantry Marines from New Orleans-based 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, arrived in Bembereke, Benin to take part in exercise SHARED ACCORD 09, as well as seven senior military staff members from three African nations, representing Ghana, Liberia and the Republic of Sierra Leone.

The Marines worked with their Beninese counterparts to focus on individual and crew-served weapons proficiency and small unit training tactics, techniques and procedures, as well as company- and battalion- level staff training in order to build our partner nation's capacity to conduct peacekeeping operations.

Medical and dental personnel from 4th Marine Logistics Group and U.S. Air Force Reserve Command's 459th Aerospace Medical Squadron provided various medical related humanitarian assistance efforts for the local population in the towns of Sinende, Guessou-Sud and Gamia.

During the exercise, Marine engineers from 6th Engineer Support Battalion participated in a humanitarian and civic assistance project at a school in the village of Konarou.

In addition to the infantry training, medical and dental assistance, and school construction project, SHARED ACCORD featured U.S. Army soldiers from the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion who provided veterinary assistance to several villages in the vicinity of Bembereke.

## OPENING CEREMONY

U.S. and Benin service members gathered at the Center of Military Information in Bembereke for the opening ceremony of the 15-day exercise.

"This exercise will allow us to test our value and show the African Union and ECOWAS (Economic Community of

West African States) authorities that our Stand-by Force is ready, well trained and credible to be deployed anywhere in Africa or in any kind of peacekeeping situation," said Col. Dominique Ahoundjinou, Beninese Army Chief of Staff.

"Our goal is to learn about the culture, their training practices and how we're the same in many ways," said U.S. Marine Lt. Col. Michael Miller, Joint Task Force Commander.

## SCOUT OBSERVATION EXERCISE



Photo By Cpl. Lydia M. Davey

Beninese Army Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Dominique Ahoundjinou conducts a review of U.S. Marines during the opening ceremonies of Exercise SHARED ACCORD 09, June 10. More than 400 U.S. service members from reserve units throughout the Corps, along with medical contingents from the Navy, Air Force and Army National Guard, gathered at the Center of Military Information Bembereke for the 15-day exercise.

As an exercise in silent scouting and observation, the training was led by Surveillance and Target Acquisition Platoon, Headquarters and Support Company, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines, 4th Marine Division. The training



Photo By Master Sgt. Donald E. Preston

Col. Scott E. Sayre, dentist, 445th Aerospace Medical Squadron, based at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, examines a Ghanaian boy with a sore tooth during the Medical Capabilities Program held in concert with Shared Accord June 10-26. Sayre was among approximately 25 medical, dental and optical service members who provided care to Ghanaians in numerous villages in northern Ghana.

exercise, conducted at the Military Information Center was the culmination of three days of scouting and observation classroom instruction.

### **DELIVERY OF A NEW SCHOOL**

In the middle of Konarou was a large straw hut, a school, designed to accommodate about 35 students, ages five through 10 years old.

Then, 42 service members from the 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11, worked around the clock to build a steel-constructed building at Konarou that stands as a new school for the local villagers. This new school has new furniture and three classrooms that accommodate up to 90 students.

### **MEDICAL HELPING HANDS**

More than 500 Beninese civilians converged on Wanrarou's middle school, for day one of the six-day Medical Assistance Program coordinated by the U.S. Air Force's 459th Expeditionary Air Medical Squadron and three Benin Army doctors.

The MEDCAP, which provides medical, optometry and pharmaceutical care, as well as education, spanned three villages. The language barrier posed an initial challenge, as most area people spoke a tribal dialect, while the Benin military speaks French. Although U.S. forces brought French translators, they found the three-part translation process difficult. However, with the help of willing bilingual locals, the team bridged the communication gap

and provided much needed medical care.

### **PEACEKEEPING**

With the aid of a U.S. Army interpreter and a Beninese translator, Reserve Marines from Company K, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines, 4th Marine Division partnered with Beninese soldiers in peacekeeping operations training that covered baton carries and strikes, as well as riot control.

### **REFURBISH FIRING RANGE**

Sailors from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11 turned what was little more than a long ditch at the end of a field into a functional 50-yard, small-arms range. The eight Seabees, based in Gulfport, Miss., spent three days improving the range which was just one of two civil engineering constructions during SHARED ACCORD. The design allowed more efficient live-fire training for the Beninese Army, and for U.S. service members using the range.

### **VETCAP**

An American military medical specialty team joined with Beninese military and civilian components for a five-day, two-county treatment evolution known as the Veterinary Civil Assistance Project.

The medical specialty team treated more than 50,000 animals during the evolution. The staff accomplished a major goal by treating as many animals as possible at several local sites, then providing education and topical

treatment applications for the Beninese villagers to take home and use.

## NEW MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY-

Air Force Maj.'s Craig Miller and Ari Fisher, both dermatologists with the 459th Expeditionary Aerospace Medicine Squadron, used the Portable Teledermatology System, constructed by Miller, to diagnose and prescribe treatment in three rural villages throughout the area surrounding Bembereke, Benin.

Miller's PTDS consists of a portable microscope, a digital camera, computer and a satellite system. The camera, computer and satellite can all be charged by a small, 50-watt solar-panel. The entire system fits compactly into two small hard-shelled cases and one computer bag.

In a deployed or field environment, or on such occasions when a dermatologist is not present, the PTDS can be used by general practitioners, nurses, and doctors' assistants to quickly and accurately diagnose issues.

## LIVE FIRE TRAINING

The infantrymen of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines, 4th Marine Division, led Beninese soldiers through combat marksmanship training during the company's first live-fire training exercise with the West African soldiers. Joint exercises that involve live-fire help increase tactical abilities while strengthening bonds between the two nations, said Maj. John K. Jarrard, a Gainesville, Ga., native.

Marines sent rounds down range using every kind of weapon they brought with them to Benin – scout rifles, medium machine guns, and the M203 grenade launchers.

This first exercise was only the beginning of the

Marines' and Beninese's live-fire training evolution. Over the days that followed they conducted fire on moving targets, fire with movement, and cross trained with one another's weapons.



Photo By Master Sgt. Michael Q. Retana

One of the soldiers with 3rd Company of the Beninese Army demonstrates the disassembly of an AK-47 to the Marines of Company L on Range 2 at the Center of Military Information Bembereke, in support of Exercise SHARED ACCORD. Marines of 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment 4th Marine Division and the Beninese Army participated in the exercise.

## WEAPONS FAMILIARIZATION

With more than 100 troops gathered at the small arms range for weapons familiarization, Company L structured training to include the Marine Corps Combat Marksmanship Program, bilateral small arms familiarization, live fire movements, convoy operations and qualifications with a variety of weapons.

During the training, Marines exchanged weapons with the Beninese troops, and stepped up to the firing line with the new weight of Type 56 assault rifles in their hands.

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COMPILED FROM ARTICLES BY  
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# Partnership of Americas/ UNITAS Gold



Ships from 11 countries sail in formation during the photo exercise (PHOTOEX) of UNITAS Gold, the 50th iteration of the annual multinational maritime exercise. Maritime forces from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Mexico, Peru, the United States and Uruguay are participating in the partnership building exercise April 20-May 5. The two week exercise includes realistic scenario-driven training opportunities such as live-fire exercises, shipboard operations, maritime interdiction operations and special warfare.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Alan Gragg

U.S. Marines and armed forces from six Central and South American nations participated alongside Canadian soldiers in this year's Partnership of the Americas (POA) exercise, April 20 to May 5 at Naval Station Mayport and Camp Blanding, Fla., in order to promote maritime security and stability of the world's oceans.

Mayport, Fla., simultaneously hosted maritime forces from the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay for the 50th iteration of UNITAS, the annual multinational maritime exercise, which took place off the coast of Florida.

UNITAS Gold and POA provide U.S. Navy South and U.S. Marine Corps Forces South the capability to synergize interoperability and cooperation efforts between the U.S. and partner nations' maritime, forces and Marines in the areas of amphibious operations, non-combatant evacuation operations (NEO), peacekeeping, disaster relief, and maintaining maritime partnerships.

In all, more than 25 ships, 50 rotary and fixed wing

aircraft, 650 Marines, 6,500 Sailors and four submarines participated in the exercise.

During the POA/UNITAS exercise, U.S. Marines deployed as Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force 24 (SPMAGTF 24), and trained with partner nation Marines from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and soldiers from the Royal Canadian Army.

Comprised mainly of Marines from the II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764 (HMM-764), 4th Marine Logistics Group and the 24th Marine Regiment, headquartered in Kansas City, Mo., SPMAGTF 24, commanded by Col. Jay Huston, conducted an amphibious assault as part of the ground training.

"This year's goals are to build capabilities to operate with partner-nations naval forces aboard and off amphibious ships and to enhance Marine Corps and partner-nation NEO interoperability for potential regional natural disaster or relief operations," said Col. Augustin Bolanio, POA 09 exercise director.

Historically, POA focuses on theater security cooperation

events at sea and on shore. U.S. maritime forces work jointly with partner nation governmental forces throughout the Americas to develop the relationships needed to ensure regional security. Additionally, successful training of POA 09 participants enables them to return to their respective nations to further train their nation's security forces by sharing the lessons learned from this experience.

Participating Marine Corps units included the 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 4th Dental Battalion, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines, 4th Marine Logistics Group, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764, Communications Company, Headquarters Battalion, 4th Marine Division, 6th Communication Battalion, Marine Corps Intelligence Activity, 4th Intelligence Support Battalion, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 162 and Amphibious Squadron 8, which is one of four tactical amphibious squadrons in the Naval Surface Force, US Atlantic Fleet. Additionally, the U.S. Navy representation consisted of the Amphibious Transport Dock ship USS Mesa Verde (LPD 19), Guided Missile Destroyer USS Donald Cook (DDG 75), USCGC Thetis (WMEC 910) and Guided Missile Frigates USS Doyle (FFG 39) and USS Kauffman (FFG 59).

As the largest and oldest U.S. multinational naval exercise in the U.S. Southern Command area, the UNITAS exercise focuses on enhancing Global Maritime Partnership in support of Regional Maritime Security, gaining Noncombatant Evacuation Operations certification for the Canadian forces and successfully completing all additional partner nation training objectives.

During the two-week exercise, the United States, partner nations and Latin American countries trained together in a realistic scenario-driven training environment featuring live-fire exercises, undersea warfare, shipboard operations, maritime interdiction operations, air defense and surface warfare, amphibious operations, electronic warfare, and special warfare.

"This isn't something we have an opportunity to do quite often," said Canadian army 1st Lt. Michael Faber of Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment. "The Canadian forces are very much arranged towards international partnerships and joint operations. UNITAS provides us a chance to practice working on our basic operational skills with people of other countries."

Faber also said UNITAS helped provide his team with the experience they need to be ready for almost any real-world operation.

Navy Adm. James Stavridis, commander of U.S. Southern Command, called the 50th UNITAS Gold exercise a milestone for naval cooperation in the Western Hemisphere.

Initially launched to strengthen participants' capability to defend the Americas against Soviet submarines, the exercise changed over time to address evolving security challenges, Stavridis noted.

"Yet, the core purpose has remained constant; the desire to build mutually beneficial partnerships among the navies of the Western Hemisphere," he said.

Stavridis said he's operated as part of UNITAS numerous times during his Navy career. "What I have learned, through partnership and friendship, about our friends in the Americas has been invaluable to me," he said.

The premiere of the UNITAS exercise was in 1960. Marine Corps participation in Partnership of the Americas began in 2006 as a company level multinational exchange exercise where a USMC unit traveled to Chile and subsequently to Peru to conduct military-to-military exchanges. At the time, U.S. Navy ships were participating in UNITAS 2006 in the region and provided naval support to the U.S. Marines ashore.

In 2008, the amphibious USS Boxer participated in a humanitarian exercise in Central America and continued to Peru with U.S. Marines and Colombian Marines to conduct an amphibious landing in Salinas, Peru. As a result of the mutually supporting efforts, the Marines were able to conduct a multinational training exercise with the host nation while also completing a humanitarian mission, removing debris from roadways after an earthquake for the benefit of the citizens of San Clemente, Peru. The success enjoyed over the past two years has increased partner nation participation from four in 2007 to seven in 2009 with plans to further partner nation participation in the future. □

COMPILED FROM ARTICLES BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS ALAN GRAGG, MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST SEAMAN PATRICK GRIECO, MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS (SE) HOLLY BOYNTON, UNITAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND PARTNERSHIP OF THE AMERICAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# Battery F Fires HIMARS at Fort Sill, Okla.

LANCE CPL. MICHAEL LAYCOCK  
MARINE FORCES RESERVE

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Battery F, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, was at Fort Sill, Okla., firing off training rounds High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) during their monthly drill during their monthly drill, April 17 – 19.

The Marines of Battery F met at the Oklahoma City reserve center the morning of the 17th to prepare for the weekend in the field. Gear, weapons and vehicles were issued to the Marines. Everything was checked before the two hour drive out to Fort Sill.

The Marines immediately began preparations for firing the system once they arrived at Fort Sill; however, the rockets would not be launched until the next day.

The HIMARS is one of the newer weapons in the Marine Corps' artillery arsenal. It is a more precise weapon with only a 45 meter blast radius.

“If there was a weapons cache next to a school, we could take out the weapons with minimal collateral damage,” said 1st Lt. Leon Lipka, first platoon commander, Battery F, as he taught young artillery Marines about the HIMARS.

The HIMARS is a self-contained unit. The launcher is attached directly to a five-ton truck and the controls



Photo By Lance Cpl. Michael Laycock

A High Mobility Artillery Rocket System fires off a training rocket at Fort Sill, Okla., April 18. The HIMARS is one of the newer weapons in the artillery arsenal of the Marine Corps. It is a precision weapon, helping to minimize collateral damage in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

are located in the cab. Orders are sent from the unit headquarters to a computer in the launcher and the coordinates are entered into the guidance system.

The sound-proof cab has armored shutters on the windows and an internal air filtration system, keeping the crew protected from the deadly gases and loud roar of the rocket during the launch.

The rockets are loaded in a pod of six on the back of the launcher making reload simple and fast.

“The HIMARS are allowed eight minute reloads during the day and 12 minute reloads during the night,” said Master Sgt. Kevin Bowman, battery field artillery chief, Battery F. “In Afghanistan, firing an 18 round mission we would reload and be back in the firing position in six and a half minutes.”

Battery F returned to the reserve center on April 19, after having successfully completed their mission. They began preparing to return to their normal day-to-day routine as soon as they got back, returning gear and washing the vehicles as they enjoyed the fruits of a job well done. □



Photo By Lance Cpl. Michael Laycock

Two High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems head out for a training mission at Fort Sill, Okla., April 18. Battery F was at Fort Sill for their monthly drill and they fired off 36 training rockets.

# LF CARAT

*an operational, tactical experience of Southeast Asia*

Following two months of pre-deployment training, Marines from the 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment (1/24) arrived in Cebu, Philippines, May 20 to begin their participation in the first phase of exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2009. CARAT is an annual series of bilateral exercises in Southeast Asia that presents an opportunity to enhance interoperability between participating forces – something which is not only paramount for real-world responses, but also demonstrates America’s commitment to allies and friends.

The CARAT Landing Force for the four-month deployment was led by Marines from 1/24 and included Marines from the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 24th Marines and the 4th Amphibious Assault Battalion (AAV Bn.), who combined with the 3rd AAV Bn. from Camp Pendleton, Calif. This year marked the first time that Marine Forces Reserve has filled such a role, since CARAT began in 1995.

CARAT partner nations include the Republic of the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. The goals of the annual exercise are to strengthen relationships, increase interoperability and enhance the operational readiness of the participating forces.

During CARAT, the landing force, based aboard the

dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) worked side-by-side in numerous bilateral military training scenarios with partner countries. The Marines also conducted a variety of training events covering issues such as security operations, jungle warfare tactics, amphibious operations and Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP) training. Additionally, Marines participated in a number of community relations projects with the local communities in each host nation.

Task Group 73.5, a U.S. Navy task group consisting of the dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49), guided-missile destroyers USS Chafee (DDG 90), and USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), arrived at Changi, Singapore, on June 5.

During its stay in Singapore, the task group and its personnel embarked upon a series of maritime security exercises and coordinated operations with the Singapore Armed Forces, all intended to increase cooperation, exchange ideas and knowledge, and strengthen relationships.

One of the highlights of CARAT Singapore was the at-sea exercises involving the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and Task Group 73.5.

The RSN, formed in 1975, boasts some of the newest surface combatants in the world, including the Formidable-class frigates and Endurance-class tank landing ships (LSTs). Throughout CARAT Singapore, crews had the chance to exchange knowledge and train with the ships, Sailors, Marines and coast guardsmen of Task Group 73.5, commanded by U.S. Navy Capt. William A. Kearns III.

Even before the start of CARAT Singapore, the Formidable-class frigates RSS Formidable (68), RSS Intrepid (69) and RSS Stalwart (72) went out to sea to conduct an encounter exercise with Task Group 73.5 ships during their transit to Singapore. The ship maneuvers and tactics were a prelude to the at-sea period, when Harpers Ferry, Chafee and Chung-Hoon joined the RSN for six days of exercises.

The RSN’s frigates and tank landing ships engaged in surface and air gunnery drills and a replenishment at sea. Deck landing qualifications (DLQs) were conducted by Singapore’s Sikorsky S-70B helicopter, an international variant of the U.S. Navy SH-60B Seahawk, as well as U.S. Seahawks from the Chafee and Chung-Hoon.

Ashore, the Singapore Armed Forces and U.S. Marines from the 24th Marine Regiment conducted urban warfare



Photo By Lance Cpl. Tyler J. Hlavac

Malaysian Army Maj. Norul Hisyam, the second-in-command (equivalent to executive officer) of the 8th Royal Ranger Regiment, shows U.S. Marines with LF CARAT, distinctions between edible and poisonous plants during jungle survival training. Marine and Malaysian rangers learned the basics of survival and conducting combat operations in the jungle.

training at the Murai Urban Training Facility, while the RSN employed the corvette RSS Victory (88) as a maritime security training platform in conjunction with a Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST) embarked on Harpers Ferry.

Another part of CARAT Singapore focused on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR). The tank landing ship RSS Endeavour (210), one of the ships responding to the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and Task Group 73.5 took part in a HADR exercise off Sudong.

During the exchange, the two groups of Marines conducted several joint live-fire exercises, took part in classes covering security operations in urban and jungle environments, demonstrated techniques from their respective martial arts programs and shared combat life-saving skills.

“The knowledge we shared out here are basic things both our militaries strive to excel at,” explained Capt. Robert Lehner of Grand Rapids, Mich., landing force company commander of LF CARAT. “We are stressing interoperability and are training our two forces to be able to respond to any regional crises jointly.”

The Marines spent the first two training days at the rifle range, zeroing and firing their respective weapons – including the M16A2, M16A4 and Squad Automatic Weapon, as well as, conducting martial arts training.

During the martial arts exchange, Philippine Marine instructors from the Marine Corps Training Barracks, Bonifacu Naval Station, demonstrated their own martial arts program, Pekiti-Tirsia Kali (close quarters combat). The discipline is based on the centuries-old Philippine fighting techniques that center on the bolo weapon, which resembles a machete.

On the final day of training, the Marines practiced establishing vehicle checkpoints, handling and searching enemy prisoners of war and combat life-saving techniques.

Philippine Marine 2nd Lt. Jerber Belonio, executive officer of the 8th MBLT, said the evolution was an enriching experience for his Marines.

“The training we did out here was very useful, especially the combat lifesaver course, as we sometimes only have a small number of corpsmen with us,” Belonio said. “Some of the Philippine Marines have worked with the U.S. Marines before, and it is always an experience they look forward to.”

Staff Sgt. Kenn Fall, platoon commander for LF CARAT’s 3rd Platoon, said the U.S. Marines also appreciated the interaction with their Philippine counterparts.

“We really enjoyed training alongside the Philippine



Photo By Cpl. Dustin Schalue

Cpl. Jacob J. Burns, from 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon, 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, points out an enemy patrol moving below his location through the Malaysian tropical jungle. The Marines received jungle survival training during “Wira Eagle” from Malaysia’s 8th Royal Ranger Regiment as part of LF CARAT 2009.

Marines, especially being able to observe their martial arts techniques,” Fall said. “Just being able to sit down, talk and share our experiences was very valuable for us.”

The RSN Sailors and 17 U.S. Sailors and Marines, from the guided missile destroyer USS Chung Hoon (DDG 93) and the amphibious dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry (LSD-49), arrived with basketballs and toys, and played games with children from Sunbeam Place, a home for abused and neglected children. The young residents were anxious to see the Sailors, many of whom they had met during a tour of the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) the day before.

During the transit to Cebu, U.S. Navy Capt. William A. Kearns III, commander, Task Group 73.5, provided further guidance for the Marines to remember during the exercise.

“This is a great opportunity for interaction between the U.S. Marines and Sailors and to provide the nations of Southeast Asia with a positive view of the U.S. military,” said Kearns. “We want these countries to view us as a professional military organization and develop a close relationship with us.” □

COMPILED FROM ARTICLES BY LANCE CPL. TYLER J. HLAVAC, MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS (SW/AW) BILL LARNED, AND MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS ERNESTO BONILLA.

# African Lion

## *Training evolutions in the Kingdom of Morocco*

Approximately 650 U.S. military personnel in various regions of the Kingdom of Morocco took part in AFRICAN LION 2009 during June. The annually-scheduled, combined U.S.-Africa Command-sponsored exercise is designed to improve interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation's tactics, techniques and procedures.

AFRICAN LION provided various types of military training including command post operations, live-fire training, peacekeeping operations, aerial refueling / low level flight training, as well as medical, dental, and veterinary assistance projects that ran concurrent with the training.

### **AVIATION TRAINING EXERCISE (ATX)**

KENITRA, Morocco - A detachment of Marines from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 234 traveled here to conduct bi-lateral training with their counterparts in the Royal Moroccan Air Force during the aviation-training portion of the annual exercise.

Throughout the aviation training exercise (ATX), the Marines of VMGR-234 worked with their Moroccan counterparts to conduct fixed-wing aerial refueling, assault support, rapid ground refueling, and classroom instruction both here and in sites throughout the country. In addition, the Marines of VMGR-234 provided Moroccan F-5 pilots with a chance to hone their in-flight refueling skills.

Lt. Col. William "Buddy" Smith, AFRICAN LION deputy task-force commander and Tucson, Ariz., native, said the ATX portion of AFRICAN LION serves as an important aviation piece of the limited Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) of the exercise.

"[The ATX] is important because it allows us to demonstrate the capability and flexibility of the MAGTF," Smith said. "It also provides us with a great opportunity for bi-lateral training."

Staff Sgt. Brendan Johnson, VMGR-234 loadmaster and Colchester, Vt., native, said the Marines focused on training evolutions like aerial refueling and rapid ground refueling because they give commanders on the ground unique support capabilities.

"The focus is on the seamless integration of air and ground assets to support the bilateral training that is taking place [here]," Johnson said. "But it's also a chance for our Marines to stay current in some of the missions we

don't normally get the chance to do such as rapid ground refueling."

In addition to supporting the F-5s, Lt. Col. Doug "Stumpy" Strumpf, detachment commander and VMGR-234 executive officer, said the squadron trained with Moroccan C-130 pilots, aircrew and mechanics throughout the training exercise.

"Every crew position has a similar counterpart on the Moroccan Air Force side," Strumpf said. "So, we have a great chance here to work with each other—to familiarize each other with our tactics, techniques and procedures—and it is a benefit to both our organizations."

As part of the bi-lateral spirit of the exercise, Strumpf said that both the Marines and the Moroccans conducted their training to highlight the capabilities that their KC-130s bring to the battlefield.

Marine Forces Africa Joint Exercise Planner and AFRICAN LION Action Officer Maj. Nebyu Yonas, a Dallas native, said the work the Marines have done with the Royal Moroccan Air Force C-130 community over the years has benefited both nations' services as they perfect their in-flight refueling capabilities.

"Through this training, we have been able to work



Photo By Sgt. Rocco DeFilippis

A Royal Moroccan Air Force F-5 jet refuels during a fixed wing aerial refueling mission in support of Exercise AFRICAN LION 2009. Throughout the exercise, Fort Worth, Texas-based Marines with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 234 have been working with Moroccan C-130 pilots, aircrew and mechanics to conduct aerial refueling, low-level flight and other training.

closely with our Moroccan partners as they develop, enhance and maintain their refueling capabilities,” Yonas said.

This year’s exercise marks the third time a detachment from the Fort Worth, Texas-based VMGR-234 has traveled here to train with their Moroccan counterparts.

## COMMAND POST EXERCISE (CPX)

TIFNIT, Morocco- About 50 service members from the U.S. and Moroccan forces integrated staffs to compose a combined infantry regiment staff and worked through simulated scenarios designed to challenge their interoperability in the command post exercise portion of exercise AFRICAN LION 2009.

“We are here as the notional infantry regiment and we’re here to interact with our Moroccan counterparts as we go through the planning process, mission analysis, course of action development, and then [we] actually go through a simulation exercise,” said Marine Corps Lt. Col. Peter J. Finan, commanding officer, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, 4th Marine Division.

The combined infantry regiment staff exercised their interoperability through a simulator known as the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Tactical Warfare Simulation (MTWS), the Marine Corps’ primary aggregate model to train staff, according to Art R. Aragon, modeling and simulation planner, Marine Corps Forces, Africa.

“Instead of getting a whole regiment into the field, we simulate the regiment,” said Aragon, a former Marine Corps captain. “We simulate the forces, as well as the enemy, and we script the scenarios such that we focus on specific training objectives that the regiment wants to accomplish, and we do that in this simulated battlefield.”

The operations center, the command post for the regiment, was led equally by Finan and his Moroccan counterpart, as they commanded a simulated U.S. Marine Corps infantry battalion, a Moroccan infantry battalion, and a combined U.S.-Moroccan infantry battalion, according to Finan.

“The Moroccans are very detailed in their planning,” said Finan, a native of Ashburn, Va. “They have a very thorough thought process, and I’ve been wonderfully pleased with the fact that they go through a process that’s quite like ours.”

The staff exercised a basic counter-insurgency scenario that included infantry conflicts and humanitarian activities. “There may be a humanitarian crisis reported over the network, there may be a heavy loss of civilian life,” said Finan, referring to the types of scenarios the U.S. and Moroccans had to collaborate on.



Photo By Master Sgt. Grady T. Fontana

Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Bradley A. Loudon (right), a nonlethal weapons instructor with Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa, demonstrates the capabilities of a taser gun on Marine Corps Sgt. Joseph M. Cuffel, a military policeman with Military Police Company, Headquarters Battalion, 4th Marine Division, during Exercise AFRICAN LION 2009.

According to Aragon, the simulation “war game” doesn’t necessarily garnish a winner or loser; all decisions are evaluated by people, not a computer.

“It’s called a man-in-the-loop simulation; it requires human decisions and it doesn’t grade or evaluate the human decision—humans do, we do, the Moroccan officers and Marines who are sitting in the exercise control room, they do,” said Aragon. “They will eventually evaluate the actions of the training audience—the computer doesn’t. All the computer does is provide us with a realistic environment to move friendly forces and enemy forces.”

“The scenarios have an emphasis on the combined [U.S.-Moroccan] battalion,” said Finan. “That’s the one we want to focus on. That’s the one we want an understanding on how to approach a particular enemy situation. We go through this now, so if we ever had to [operate combined] we’ll already have some of those lessons learned from this exercise.”

## PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

TIFNIT, Morocco - About 36 military policemen from Military Police Company, Headquarters Battalion, 4th Marine Division, participated in non-lethal weapons training and weapons familiarization fires with about 30 members of the Moroccan 8th, 10th and 11th Battalion Brigade Infantry Mobile of the Royal Moroccan Army as part of exercise AFRICAN LION 2009.



Photo By Master Sgt. Grady Fontana

Marines with Military Police Company, Headquarters Battalion, 4th Marine Division, double time down the firing line after shooting the Moroccans' AK-47 service rifles. About 36 military policemen from MP Co. and 30 Moroccan soldiers participated in live-fire training during the peacekeeping operations training of Exercise AFRICAN LION 2009.

The non-lethal weapons training and weapons familiarization fires were a part of the peacekeeping operations training package that was being conducted. The training package also included mounted and dismounted patrols, vehicle and personnel searches and establishing control points.

"We are building better relations with the Moroccan forces," said Staff Sgt. Daniel P. Botty, 1st platoon commander, MP Detachment, MP Company. "We are learning how to work with a foreign country. If we were ever ordered to a peacekeeping mission somewhere (worldwide), we need to know how to join forces and work together."

The peacekeeping operations training between U.S. forces and the Moroccan military was an excellent opportunity for the MP Marines to train and work with foreign militaries, according to Botty. The exercise provided the U.S. an opportunity to share tactics, techniques, and procedures, and, in turn, promoted interoperability between U.S. and Moroccan forces.

"It's good to know that we can go into another country and trust the gun on our left and our right because

we've worked with them before," said Botty, a native of Cammeron, Wis. "We did our riot control training with them last year and they worked just as hard as we did. So we know if we had to go into a mob situation (with them), we'd be able to trust those on our right flank or our left flank."

During the non-lethal weapons training, U.S. and Moroccan forces experienced a TASER (Thomas A. Swift's Electric Rifle) orientation and demonstration. Afterward, these service members were given the opportunity to feel a five-second blast of about 50,000 volts—some for the first time—from the TASER probe that was manually attached to their boot.

On the next day, all service members were given the opportunity to shoot the Moroccans' AK-47 service rifle, and the Marine Corps' M240G machine gun and M2 .50 caliber machine gun. The U.S. and Moroccan forces fired more than 5,200 rounds of ammunition by the end of the day.

Botty, on his second consecutive experience with AFRICA LION, did not only notice a progression in the interoperability between the two nations but he has also

noted an increase in camaraderie.

Along with the difficulties of operating in a combined U.S.-Moroccan exercise is the differences in culture and language. However, these Marines have found the right ingredients to create a partner in peace.

“The best way to break the barriers is to make friends. Interact with them. Find out which ones can help you,” said Cpl. Anthony S. Kiehl, an MP with MP Company, HQBN, 4th MarDiv. “Some of them speak a little English...some of us speak a little Arabic and French. You make friends, and by making friends you get comfortable.”

Although, Kiehl admitted it wasn't easy at first. “When we first got here they were kind of quiet, kind of distant, but as soon as we did our first drill together, they realized we're the same people they are, just different countries,” said Kiehl.

## FINAL TRAINING EXERCISE (FTX)

CAP DRAA, Morocco - Marines from 4th Marine Division along with their Royal Moroccan Army counterparts put the finishing touches on this year's exercise AFRICAN LION during the final training exercise (FTX).

As the Marines and Moroccans maneuvered their tanks, light armored vehicles and other tactical vehicles through the dusty Cap Draa valley, distinguished visitors from U.S. Africa Command, Marine Forces Africa and the Royal Moroccan Army observed the event, which capped-off more than two weeks of bi-lateral training.

This year's ground combat portion of AFRICAN LION featured infantry Marines from Company K, Company L and Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment; an LAR platoon from Company C, 4th LAR Battalion; and a tank platoon from Company C, 4th Tank Battalion.

Throughout the training exercise, the Marines worked closely with the Royal Moroccan Army in a variety of bi-lateral training evolutions including small-arms and crew-served weapons training, live fire and maneuver ranges, bi-lateral weapons systems familiarization, and the FTX.

“We have shot just about every infantry weapons system that is organic to the weapons company,” said Maj. Andrew W. Ralston, operations officer for Task Force African Lion and a Paoli, Penn., native.

In addition to the infantry training, Ralston said the bi-lateral nature of the training served as a benefit to the Marines and gave them a unique perspective on different infantry tactics, techniques and procedures.

“It's really good training for the future,” said Sgt. Scott VanKeuren, platoon sergeant for 2nd Platoon, Weapons Co., 3/23 and a Baton Rouge, La., native. “Our Marines get the chance to not only operate and train in an austere environment, but they benefit from the experience of working with a friendly foreign force.”

VanKeuren said the Marines and Moroccans continually sought chances to share perspectives on the employment of their prospective weapons systems and both forces had the chance to get hands-on familiarization training with each other's gear.

“The Marines have had the chance to train with the Moroccans in a way which has exposed them to different approaches and tactics, as well as increasing their knowledge of different weapons systems,” said Maj. Gordon Hilbun, Weapons Co., 3/23 commanding officer and Atlanta native.

As the Marines began to depart and return to their home stations, the conclusion of the ground combat portion of the exercise marked the end of this year's AFRICAN LION. □

COMPILED FROM ARTICLES BY THE U.S. MARINE CORPS, AFRICA, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Photo By Master Sgt. Grady Fontana

Marine Corps Cpl. Rory C. Newton (right) of Sioux Falls, S.D., and a Moroccan soldier inspect the bolt of a Moroccan AK-47 service rifle. During the training evolution, U.S. Marines and Moroccan soldiers familiarized each other on how to assemble and disassemble each other's select weapons as part of Exercise AFRICAN LION.

# Javelin Thrust launches into action

Javelin Thrust 2009, a large-scale exercise involving more than 2,400 Marines from 4th Marine Logistics Group, 4th Marine Division and 4th Marine Aircraft Wing took place concurrently at six military installations in Texas, Nevada and California from June 6 – 20.

## Fort Hood, Texas:

Marines from Bulk Fuel Platoon, Motor Transport Company, based in Texarkana, Texas, conducted a 24-hour tactical convoy June 8-9 in direct support of 14th Marine Regiment, a Marine Forces Reserve artillery regiment headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas.

Combat Logistics Battalion 43 provided direct support to 14th Marines primarily in the form of transportation of troops and equipment for live-fire artillery ranges, as well as basic life support, such as food and water.

The leathernecks worked a vigorous 24-hour convoy to resupply vital artillery rounds to remote firing ranges where the five batteries of 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines were conducting day and night live-fire exercises.

“Running actual convoys to resupply artillery batteries gives me a great sense of mission accomplishment and importance that I haven’t had from any other training operations,” said Lance Cpl. Jeremy Thompson, a logistics vehicle system operator with Bulk Fuel Platoon. “It means so much more to us motor transport guys when we are

carrying real artillery and large explosives on our trucks rather than boxes simulating these rounds.”

The nine-vehicle convoy began early in the morning June 9 with an initial stop at the Fort Hood Ammunition Supply Point, where they performed the strict process of checking out ammunition and artillery. The mission lasted

until the early hours of the following morning, because the stops are dispersed throughout the training area over hundreds of square miles.

Marines from the 4th Marine Logistics Group also had an opportunity to participate in a non-lethal weapons course.

The four-part course consisted of a classroom instruction period on safety, a live-fire of the M18 Stun Gun, a five-second experience of the 50,000 volts, and a forearm shock to stimulate non-lethal evasive maneuvers.

This is the high-powered feeling that the Marines from the 4th Marine Logistics Group experienced as part of their two-week annual training.

“That’s the feeling, I would imagine, a person would have standing at the gates of hell,” Cpl.

Akim Taiwo, an ammunition technician with Detachment 1, Ammunitions Company, 4th Supply Battalion, headquartered in Rome, Ga.

## Hawthorne Army Depot, Nevada:

In Nevada an international presence was felt as troops



Photo By Cpl. Zachery Bolden

Lance Cpl Brandon Clowdus, a Reserve Marine heavy-equipment operator with Headquarters Battery, 14th Marine Regiment based in Fort Worth, Texas, operates a 5K Terex construction vehicle June 10 to unload artillery rounds from a 7-ton truck with the assistance of Gunnery Sgt. Kenneth Wike, supply chief for 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment. Artillery rounds and other vital ammunition were delivered to the 14th Marines on the site of their live-fire exercise by Bulk Fuel Company, 6th Motor Transport Battalion’s during exercises Javelin Thrust and Texas Phoenix, running concurrently June 6-20 at Fort Hood, Texas.



Photo By Cpl. Frans E. Labranche

Sailors from 4th Medical Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group practice setting up an en route care system June 11. This advanced medical capability is an airborne device that U.S. Navy medical professionals can use to manage life support systems while injured Marines and sailors are brought from the battlefield to a hospital. The en route care class was offered as part of exercise Javelin Thrust 2009.

from the Army of the Republic of Bosnia and the Armed Forces of Armenia joined several thousand Marines and Sailors from Marine Forces Reserve, headquartered in New Orleans, La., June 6 – 13

The international troops were on hand as part of the U.S. Marine Corps's "military-to-military" program, a cultural exchange initiative that allows troops from other nations to see the way the Marine Corps is organized and gain an understanding of how Marines operate in the field.

Despite the fact that they are from different countries and cultures, the Marines and their guests were easily able to find common ground in day-to-day aspects of military life.

The troops from Bosnia and Armenia seemed most impressed and excited to meet with the military police, who gave a guided tour of some of the Corps's armored vehicles.

"It's great to see their excitement in a lot of the things Marines take for granted," said Sgt. Brandon M. Gibson, the Marine Corps non-commissioned officer escort for the group of foreign officials. "Just the experience of hanging out with them for a few days and listening to their take on our operations has made a big difference in how I personally perceive the diligence of the Corps."

The Marines also benefitted from the experience. Gunnery Sgt. John Alicea of Bronx, N.Y. is the military to military program coordinator for 4th MLG. A 16-year veteran of Marine Forces Reserve, he was tasked with

planning the schedule and facilitating the movement of international officers.

"It was interesting, because I didn't just learn about their military, but about their culture," said Alicea. "For example, they are very humble people; very appreciative. They don't come with expectations. They make due with what they have and are happy. They (Bosnians) spoke a lot about the war in Kosovo. They said that it divided them, and they explained the structure of their new government. I didn't know anything about that war in detail, or its aftermath. It was a very good learning experience for me; one that I'd like to repeat."

Corpsmen always follow Marines into battle to keep them healthy and save lives, No matter the unit. Sailors with 4th Medical Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group received critical training aboard a KC-130 Hercules aircraft June 12.

The Sailors took part in a course on the En Route Care System, an expeditious pack of medical machinery and equipment that attaches to a litter over the patient and monitors his or her life signs.

These medical personnel are required to prepare a patient and the machinery, and board a helicopter in fewer than five minutes.

The group of students and instructors boarded and set up shop in a Hercules from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 452. They then transported a mock patient from here to Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev.



Photo By Capt. Paul L. Greenberg

Rear Adm. Bruce A. Doll promotes Private First Class Alfonzo Mantilla to the rank of lance corporal at Hawthorne Army Depot, Nev. June 14. Doll came to visit the Marines and sailors of Marine Forces Reserve at their summer annual training. Mantilla, a senior at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Ga., is a supply specialist with Headquarters and Service Company, 4th Dental Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, headquartered in Marietta, Ga.



Photo By Cpl FRans E. Labranche

Marines from Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment prepares to begin a convoy operations exercise on the training grounds of the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training center June 14. The training was part of exercise Javelin Thrust 2009.

Each of the students was challenged to diagnose the patient's symptoms while being jostled around the aircraft in the thin mountain air.

"The important part of the training is taking care of a casualty after we've seen them at our shock trauma platoon," said Capt. John Williams, 4th Medical Battalion commanding officer. "After we've done what we can, we have to fly the patient to the next echelon of care, where they can have life saving surgery. En-route care keeps the Marine or sailor alive for that period of time."

"The great thing about the en route care course is the ability to bring it out of the classroom and into a real world environment," Williams said. "Flying out of an expeditionary air field and providing a level of medical attention usually found in an intensive care unit, but doing it in an aircraft that's noisy and shaking. It's inspiring that they are able to provide that level of care in such a difficult environment."

Finally, the Marines and Sailors received a special visitor June 14 with a visit from Rear Adm. Bruce A. Doll, a U.S. Navy Reserve leader in military medicine.

### **Bridgeport, California:**

The Marines of Company C, 1st Battalion., 23rd Marine Regiment trained in the mountains of California in convoy operations as part of exercise Javelin Thrust 2009.

Many Marines train here to learn and overcome the challenges of mountainous terrain.

The evolution involved a mock convoy, which was approached and attacked by role-players acting as insurgents in the training area surrounding the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center.

"The most beneficial part of the training is the Marines learning how one another works. For a Marine to go out there and know what another Marine is thinking, that is the best thing they can possibly learn." Said Cpl. Jacob Trevino.

"I think the training links up really well and it allows the Marines to actually experience some of the firing and explosions that you would in combat," said Lance Cpl. Tony Bonilla. "We were hit by an IED, sniper fire and

flank attacks. You never know what you'll run into in war and that is what they've prepared us for."

High in the California mountains, Marines repeatedly attack an enemy in the tree line, setting up a machine gun position in fewer than 15 seconds.

The Marines of Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment spent a day running gun drills and practicing checkpoint tactics and searches.

For the Marines from Shreveport, La., the thin air at such high altitude of more than 8,000 feet provided many obstacles and challenges.

"I think this is some of the best training I've had in the Marine Corps," said Lance Cpl. Shawn Buckley, a machine gunner. "The instructors taught us how to adapt to the altitude and a bunch of other skills that will be necessary in Afghanistan."

While in Bridgeport, the unit also had a key opportunity to learn about Afghan culture.

In order to set the troops up for success, the Marine Corps contracted a civilian company specializing in cultural training to teach Marines and sailors how to interact with Afghan military and civilian leadership.

Many of the actors had worked as linguists for Coalition Forces in Afghanistan prior to immigrating to the United States, so they are attuned to the importance of U.S. troops arriving in country with an understanding of how to best employ their assigned interpreters.

"It is very important that they (U.S. service members) learn to use interpreters correctly, to listen well, ask questions to verify, and to talk in short phrases using common English.... Confusion in communication can cause many problems, and may even cost someone their life," said Sultan Amin, a 53-year-old role player from Kabul, Afghanistan who has lived in the United States for the past 31 years.

The Marines and Sailors of 1/23 returned to Mousa Qala June 13 to take part in a larger mock "shura" meeting.

A shura is traditionally a council of wise men and tribal leaders who convene to make key decisions which affect their community, according to Col. Erik Grabowsky, the civil-military operations officer for 4th Marine Logistics Group.

The June 13 shura in Mousa Qala included role players posing as the town mayor, prominent businessmen, tribal leaders and elders, school teachers, and religious leaders.

"The training Shura was part of the key leader engagement training program designed to expose the Marines of 1/23 to things they may experience when deployed to Afghanistan," said Grabowski, a 27-year Marine Corps veteran who has completed two civil affairs tours in Iraq. "Marines will engage the local population

once deployed and this training will allow the Marines to engage the Afghans more successfully,"

## Conclusion:

Javelin Thrust was designed to provide Marine Forces Reserve units with realistic training opportunities in alignment with the Department of Defense's overall strategic objective to prepare Reservists for deployment in support of overseas contingency operations, especially those in the U.S. Central Command's geographical area of responsibility. □

COMPILED FROM ARTICLES BY CAPT. PAUL L. GREENBERG, CPL. ZACHERY BOLDEN AND CPL. FRANS E. LABRANCHE.



Photo By Cpl. Frans E. Labranche

Pfc. Brett Hyatt and Lance Cpl. Steven Ticer, machine gunners with Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment set-up a machine gun position during gun drills at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center June 15. The drills were run as part of the exercise Javelin Thrust 2009.

# Combat Operational Stress Control

Combat Operational Stress Control (COSC) encompasses all policies and programs to prevent, identify, and holistically treat mental injuries caused by combat or other operations. COSC is one of the priorities of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, to ensure that all Marines and family members who bear the invisible wounds caused by stress receive the best help possible, and that they are afforded the same respect given to the physically injured. The two goals of COSC are to maintain a ready fighting force, and to protect and restore the health of Marines and their family members.

## To Families, Marines and Sailors of MARFORRES,

As the MARFORRES Combat Operational Stress Control (COSC) Regional Training Coordinator (RTC), I am very proud and humbled to be a part of MARFORRES. I just want to thank all our Marines, Sailors and Families for your great sacrifices for our country. I understand full well the hardships of separation issues as well as the everyday life issues that the families endure while their Marine or Sailor is deployed. The families are the most important part of COSC because once the Marine or Sailor demobilizes, the families are the first to notice any changes in their Marine or Sailor. It is very important that the families are given the resources that are available to them in order to help their Marine or Sailor.

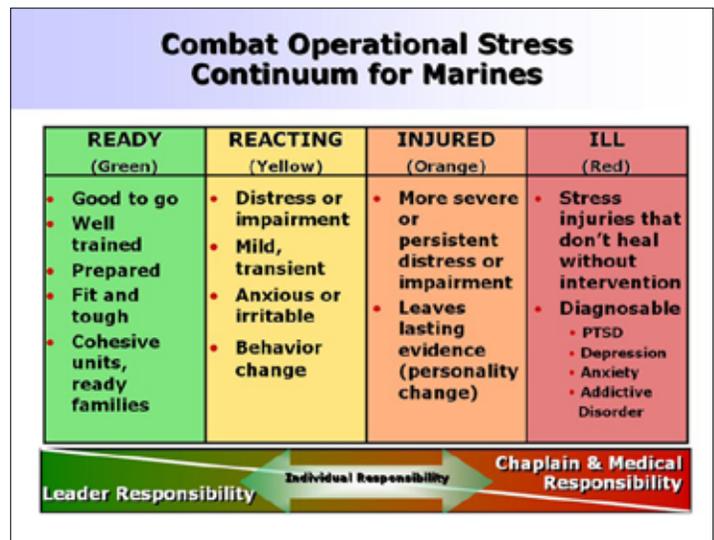
We, Leaders of Marines, Family Readiness Officers, Chaplains, Medical, Veterans Affairs, American Red Cross, Military One Source and many more organizations are the team that will assist in the transition from pre-deployment, deployment and re-deployment cycle to everyday life. Many of the organizations provide vital counseling assistance (private and confidential) that will help the families as well as their Marine or Sailor cope with their post deployment issues. For example: when a Marine has a broken leg, the leg has a visual cue that the leg is injured: that cue is a cast. The Marine goes to a medical facility to take care of the injury. On the other hand, when a Marine has mental injury or illness, there are no apparent visible cues. Medical does not put a cast on a Marine's head for a mental illness. These illnesses are not just post deployment,

but everyday issues such as divorce, losing a job or losing a family member. This is why WE LISTEN to our families, Marines and Sailors.

Each of you has endured great hardships and we are here to help. I look forward to serving you and I thank you very much for your sacrifices to our great country.

Semper Fi,  
Pepe A. Ramirez, USMC Sgt. Maj. (Retired)

## USMC Combat Operational Stress Continuum

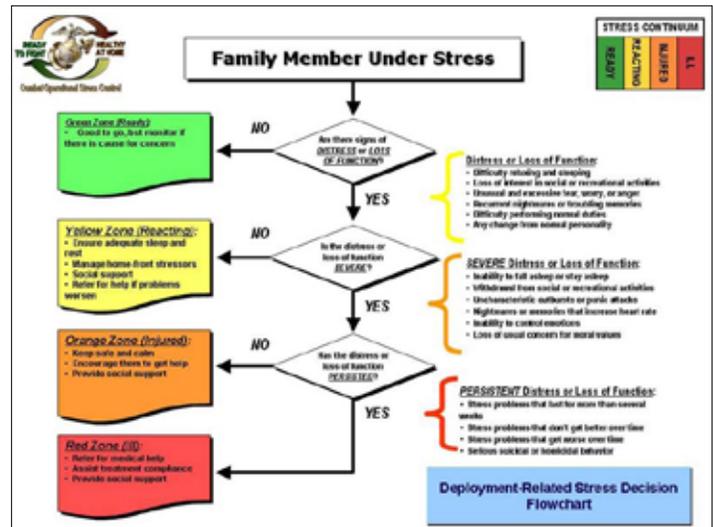
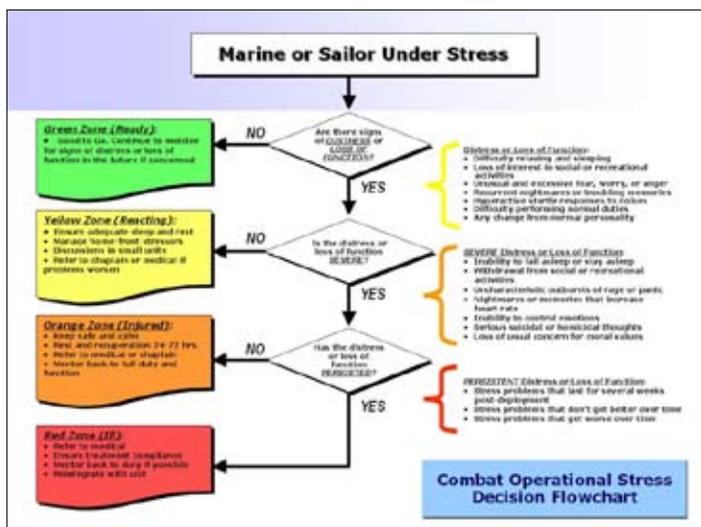


The Marine Corps views combat operational stress along a continuum. It is a representation of how you or others are functioning with deployment-related stress. It ranges from green (ready) to yellow (reacting) to orange (injured) and red (ill).

- **Green (Ready)** - In the green “ready” zone, you and your family are functioning well. You feel ready to handle the many challenges of deployment.
- **Yellow (Reacting)** - In the yellow “reacting” zone, you have mild, transient stress reactions, which are common.
- **Orange (Injured)** - The orange “injured” zone, includes more severe, persistent symptoms that are significant departures from your usual behavior and are not getting better, and suggests that there is more than just difficulty adjusting to deployment stress.
- **Red (Ill)** - The red “ill” zone is for those who have a severe disorder, such as major depression, anxiety, or Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

## Decision Matrix

The Decision Matrix is a tool for both leaders and Marines to use in assessing where Marine is at any given time on the stress continuum. It is a simple tool that is based on the Continuum Model to help leaders evaluate Marines who may be suffering from combat stress problems. The lists of stress symptoms on the far right, highlighted by the Yellow, Orange, and Red brackets, give the leader or Marine some indications of typical problems at each level of function. The diamonds in the middle specify decisions needed to determine the severity of the stress problem, and the boxes on the left indicate what action needs to be taken for each level of severity. The Decision Matrix may be used at any stage in the



deployment cycle. It can be used to self-evaluate and it can also be used by Marines to help their Marine friends who have symptoms of deployment-related stress.

## Testimonials

A few observations from satisfied customers:

- “I think it’s good that the Marine Corps is telling us it’s okay to get help. Marines are proud people and help is a good thing.”
- “I think it’s a good tool. I think it brings out a lot of details that I personally overlooked. It makes you think about everything. It’s a good eye opener. I’ve seen some of the signs in Marines since we’ve gotten back. Nothing extreme, but now I’ll pay even more attention to the signs.”
- “I think that this program will help Marines who are and aren’t troubled recognize someone they know or if they themselves have a problem. I also think that the new program will help lower suicide rates... Thank you SgtMaj.”
- “I’m glad the Marine Corps is now handling this... having a combat vet heading this is very effective... we can talk to anyone, but only the people who have experienced the same kind of things can truly understand what we are going through.”
- “SgtMaj helped me to realize the severity of PTSD... his speech was very informative.”
- “The COSC was very informing...it is not only related to combat stress but can be related to everyday life.” □

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