

MARINES™

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE

BRINGING THE BOOM

RESERVE MARINES TAKE PART IN HEAVY METAL 14





COMMANDER'S CORNER ★★ ★

FORCE IN READINESS

This summer's exercise season proved what I already knew to be true: the Marines and Sailors of Marine Forces Reserve are trained and ready for any operation, exercise, or contingency at any time or place. And although we are drawing down forces in Afghanistan, new threats continue to face our nation. From violent transnational extremist networks, such as ISIS, to challenges posed by other nation-states, it is imperative that we maintain ourselves as a force in readiness to act as such when called upon by our country. You will see first-hand in the pages of this magazine, Marines and Sailors doing just that.

We are also facing the challenge of doing more with less, as we continue to see effects of the sequestration now and in the near future. Readiness is key. As the operational tempo begins to decline, the focus must remain on training as we maximize the time available for drills, annual training, and exercises.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the families of the Marines and Sailors for contributing to the accomplishments of Marine Forces Reserve. It has been proven time and time again that family readiness directly relates to mission success. Your unfailing support does not go unnoticed or forgotten. Thank you for all that you do.

Semper Fidelis,
Lt. Gen. Richard P. Mills
Commander, Marine Forces Reserve

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE
QUARTER 3 2014

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SNAP SHOT



Marines with Personnel Retrieval and Processing Company, 4th Marine Logistics Group, carry stretchers to pick up simulated casualties during the training exercise portion of Exercise Immediate Response 2014 at Vipava, Slovenia, Aug. 17-31.

LANCE CPL. MACKENZIE SCHLUETER

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QUARTER 3 2014

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LANCE CPL. SARA GRAHAM

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[COVER FEATURE]

Reserve Marines from across the nation gather to bring the heat in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

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Fourth Tank Battalion conducts live-fire tank and infantry integration as well as amphibious training as part of the battalion's annual training.

22 | RECOVER THE FALLEN

Marines train along side Slovenian soldiers to prepare for natural disasters and to bring fallen heroes home.

24 | PARTNERSHIP OF THE AMERICAS

Reserve Marines participate in Partnership of the Americas 2014, an exercise to help prepare partner nations' naval infantries for major natural disasters.

Second Lt. Ryan Schab, platoon commander with Company D, 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, 4th Marine Division, mans the turret of an amphibious assault vehicle after conducting ship-to-shore operations with Reserve Marines of 4th AA Bn., at Blount Island, Jacksonville, Fla., Aug. 13, 2014. The training focused on amphibious exercises and the ability to splash off ship and drive to shore. The Reserve Marines also focused on interoperability with the Navy, using their Maritime Prepositioning Ship to launch the AAVs.

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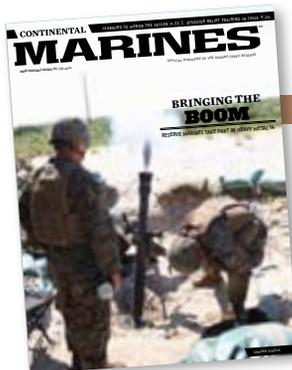
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- WHAT DOES JOE DO WHEN HE'S NOT BEING A GI?



ON THE COVER

Marine mortarmen with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, fire nine rounds for effect at simulated targets down range as part of an indirect-fire weapons integration exercise Aug. 15., aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., during exercise Heavy Metal 14. The tube is cleaned after each fire-for-effect mission to ensure no debris entered while firing rapidly.

CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK



CORPS
COMMUNITY





Keeping the Faith

Brig. Gen. Paul K. Lebidine, the former commanding general of Force Headquarters Group, Marine Forces Reserve, speaks to Individual Ready Reserve Marines attending the IRR administrative muster and job fair in San Diego, Calif., June 26. Marines from the San Diego County area traveled to the stadium to attend the muster. The muster gave Marines access to job options and schools, as well as the opportunities and resources to remain a part of the Marine Corps.

SGT. JUSTIS BEAUREGARD

AWARDS:

GEICO RECOGNIZING
MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS
WHO GIVE BACK TO THEIR
COMMUNITIES

G EICO is accepting nominations for the 2014 GEICO Military Service Awards. One active-duty member from each military service and one from the Reserve or National Guard will be recognized for their contributions to the civilian and/or military community. The service members receiving the awards will attend a ceremony in Washington, D.C. where they are presented an honorarium.

To qualify as a nominee, the service members must submit a package and be evaluated in drug and alcohol abuse prevention, fire safety prevention and traffic safety and accident prevention. For more information and nomination package requirements see **MARADMIN 338/14**. ■



COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

EXTENDED DEADLINE: FEMALE MARINES HAVE MORE TIME TO PREPARE FOR PULLUPS

The Marine Corps planned to change pullup requirements by Jan. 1, 2014, but the change was extended through June 30, 2014. The requirement to perform pullups has now been extended for a second time, so females will still have the option to conduct pullups or the flexed-arm hang on the physical fitness test through calendar year 2015.

This extension allows time for further integration and the entry of the research being collected during the transition from the flexed-arm hang to pullups, and gives females more time to train to meet the minimum requirement of three pullups. See **MARADMIN 340/14** for more information. ■

NEW GEAR: MARINES GETTING NEW BOOTS BY 2016



COURTESY PHOTO

Marines will kick off their old combat boots for fiscal year 2016. The

Marine Corps is replacing Temperate Weather Marine Corps Combat Boots with Hot Weather and Temperate Weather Rugged All-Terrain boots. The RAT boot, a brown rough-side-out leather boot with a reinforced heel and toe, has a longer useful life than the MCCBs.

Due to the longer life, Marines will see a decrease in their clothing allowance by \$31.07 per active duty enlisted Marine. Marines will be outfitted with RAT boots by Oct. 1, 2016. For more information on the boots see **MARADMIN 299/14**. ■



Marines wade ashore on Tinian from landing barges, which could not make the beach. They got their feet wet and nine days later they had the island. The amphibious tractors in the assault wave came all the way onto the beach and then crossed the island.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

THE BATTLE FOR TINIAN

After the capture of Saipan, Marines with 4th Marine Division launched the invasion of the neighboring island of Tinian. The Marines landed on July 24, 1944, while Marine artillery shelled the island across the strait from Saipan.

The 4th Marine Division secured the beach, withstanding Japanese counterattacks supported by tanks throughout the night until the next day when the 2nd Marine Division landed.

By July 29, half the island was secured, and on July 30, the 4th Marine Division occupied Tinian and all of its airfields.

THE MARINES INFLECTED APPROXIMATELY 5,542 ENEMY CASUALTIES AND CAPTURED MORE THAN 200 PRISONERS OF WAR.

When the island was deemed secure, immediate renovation construction began on the airfields to support the launch of B-29 Superfortress Bombers. Tinian became the busiest airfield during World War II, and launched the bombers carrying the first atomic bombs used in warfare which ultimately assisted in the end of the war in the Pacific.

For more information visit:
<http://www.stamfordhistory.org>
<http://www.nps.gov>



PVT. JOSEPH W. OZBOURN (1943-1944), USMCR AUTOMATIC RIFLEMAN WITH 1ST BATTALION, 23RD MARINE REGIMENT, 4TH MARINE DIVISION MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

During the battle for Tinian, Pvt. Ozbourn, flanked by two men on either side, was moving forward to throw an armed hand grenade into a dugout when a terrific blast from the entrance severely wounded the four men and himself. Unable to throw the grenade into the dugout and with no place to hurl it without endangering the other men, Private Ozbourn unhesitatingly grasped it close to his body and fell upon it, sacrificing his own life to absorb the full impact of the explosion but saving his comrades. His great personal valor and unwavering loyalty reflect the highest credit upon Private Ozbourn and the United States Naval service.



CITATION COURTESY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY ARCHIVE.

THE HARD FACTS

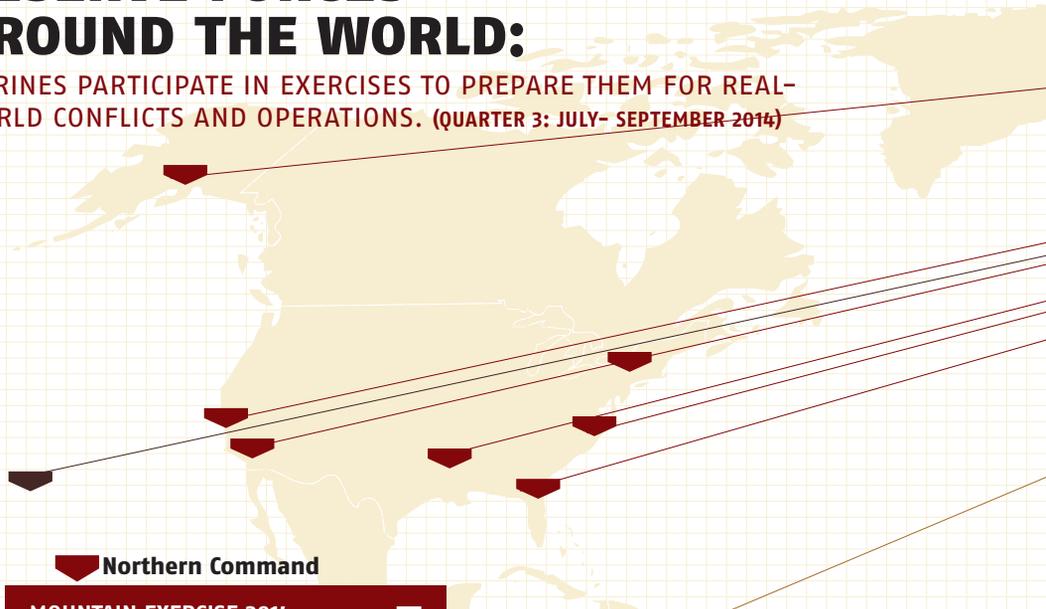
- GOAL**
 LIBERATE THE ISLAND OF TINIAN AND THE MARIANAS FROM THE JAPANESE IMPERIAL ARMY TO ESTABLISH AIR FIELDS FOR THE STRATEGIC BOMBING OF THE JAPANESE HOME ISLANDS. TINIAN WAS IMPORTANT DUE TO ITS DISTANCE FROM THE JAPANESE MAINLAND. IT WAS CLOSE ENOUGH FOR BOMBERS TO BE ABLE TO FLY MISSIONS AND HAVE ENOUGH FUEL TO SAFELY RETURN.
- THE INVASION**
 THE 4TH MARINE DIVISION HAD PREVIOUSLY TAKEN SAIPAN, WHICH IS LESS THAN FIVE MILES AWAY FROM TINIAN. ARTILLERY FROM SAIPAN SHELLED JAPANESE DEFENSES ON TINIAN WHILE A NAVAL DETACHMENT APPROACHED THE SOUTHERN POINT OF THE ISLAND. WHILE THE JAPANESE WERE FOCUSED TO THE SOUTH, THE 4TH MARINE DIVISION LANDED ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF THE ISLAND.
- THE FIREPOWER**
 AFTER THE BEACH WAS SECURED, THE MARINES LANDED TANKS ON THE ISLAND. THE MARINES UTILIZED A NEW FORM OF COMBINED INFANTRY AND TANK WARFARE TO SWEEP ACROSS THE ISLAND.
- THE ENEMY**
 THE JAPANESE IMPERIAL ARMY. THE JAPANESE USED TINIAN AS A SUGAR PLANTATION TO SUPPLY ITS WAR EFFORTS. THE JAPANESE GARRISONED APPROXIMATELY 8,000 TROOPS SUPPORTED BY TANKS, ARTILLERY AND AIRCRAFT. THEY ALSO ESTABLISHED STRONG DEFENSES AT EACH OF THE TWO POSSIBLE BEACHES LARGE ENOUGH TO SUPPORT AN INVADING FORCE.

Sources:
<http://www.stamfordhistory.org>
<http://www.nps.gov>



RESERVE FORCES AROUND THE WORLD:

MARINES PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISES TO PREPARE THEM FOR REAL-WORLD CONFLICTS AND OPERATIONS. (QUARTER 3: JULY- SEPTEMBER 2014)



European Command

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE 2014

BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE 2014

GDP-ISAF

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

Marines with 4th Marine Logistics Group train to respond to natural disasters and to recover casualties from the battlefield. The training took place in Slovenia where Marines worked alongside soldiers from partner nations.

AUG. 17-30, 2014

BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE

A rotational force of Marines and Sailors to the Black Sea, Caucasus and Balkan regions. Marines conduct multinational military training, providing regional stability and developing lasting partnerships with nations in the region.

AUG. 12-22, 2014

GEORGIA DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM

A program designed to train Georgian infantry battalions to conduct full-spectrum operations in a counterinsurgency environment and deploy Georgian battalions to Afghanistan. Marines help increase the Georgian armed forces' capacity to train and prepare for coalition operations.

FEB. 19 TO NOV. 30, 2014

Northern Command

MOUNTAIN EXERCISE 2014

HEAVY METAL 2014

LARGE SCALE EXERCISE 2014

4TH AA BN.- AAV LAUNCH

MOUNTAIN EXERCISE 2014

Marines learned critical skills including survival training, cliff assault training and land navigation, at Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif.

JULY 26 TO AUG. 8, 2014

HEAVY METAL 2014

Reserve Marines from around the country participate in Heavy Metal 14, which gave 15 units from logistics, aviation and ground combat elements, a chance to work together as a functioning Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

AUG. 7-22, 2014

LARGE SCALE EXERCISE 2014

A bilateral exercise between the U.S. and Canada designed to build joint capabilities through live, simulated, and constructive military training activities.

AUG. 3-14, 2014

4TH AA BN.- AAV LAUNCH

Marines focus on amphibious training and the ability to splash off ship and drive to shore. The Reserve Marines also focus on interoperability with the Navy, using their Maritime Prepositioning Ship to launch the amphibious assault vehicles.

AUG. 10-17, 2014

Northern Command Cont.

IRT CAMP HINDS

IRT ARKANSAS

IRT OLD HARBOR

IRT CAMP HINDS

Marines with 6th Engineer Support Battalion and the Arizona Air National Guard provide logistical and constructional support during the 2014 Joint Service Innovative Readiness Training program at the Camp William Hinds Boy Scout Camp in Raymond, Maine.

MAY 4 TO SEPT. 29, 2014

IRT ARKANSAS

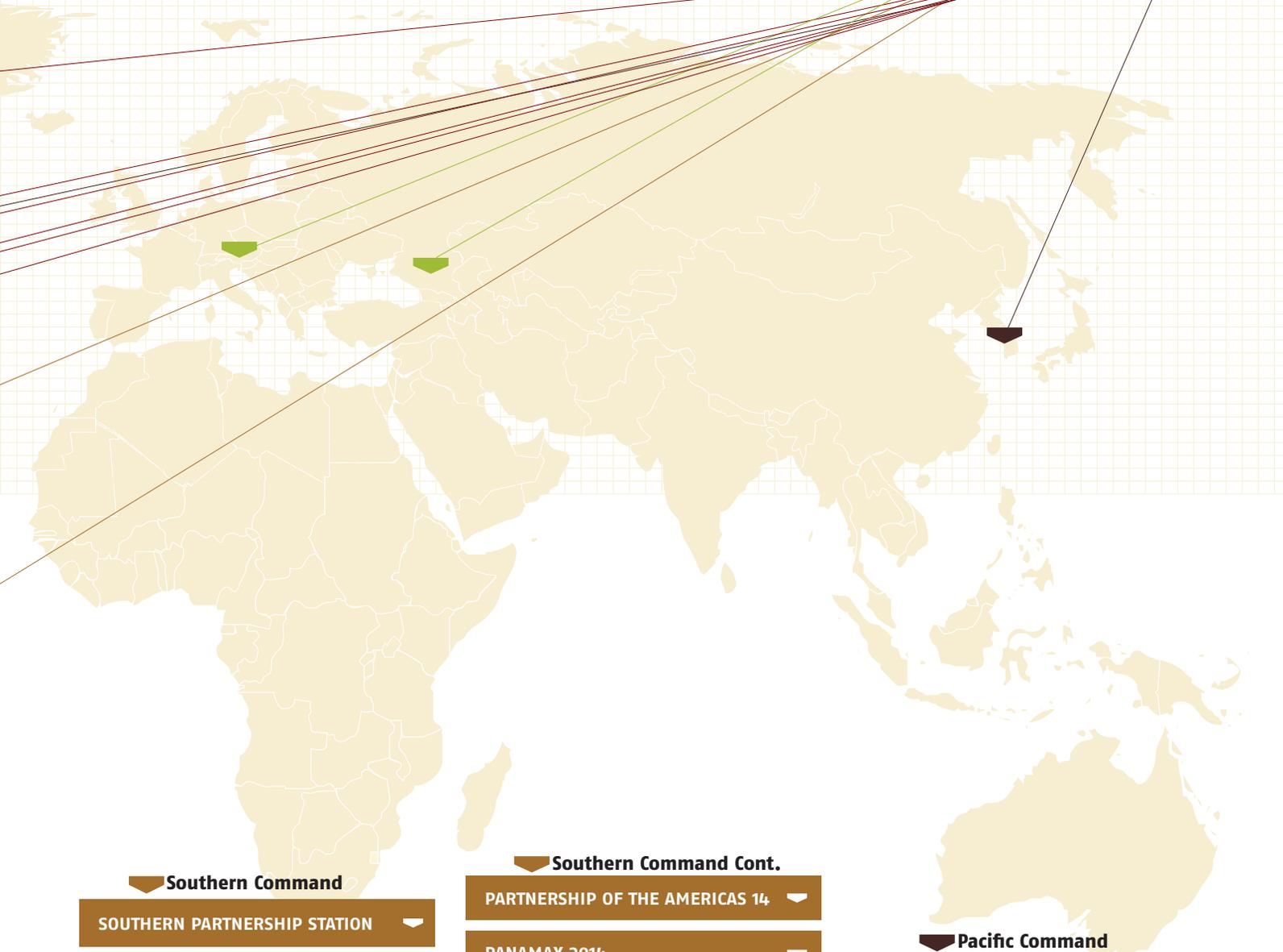
Marine Corps, Army and Air Force Reserve service members provide a variety of general medical, optometry and dental services at no cost to the residents in an economically challenged area in Forrest City, Ark.

JULY 23 TO AUG. 5, 2014

IRT OLD HARBOR

Reserve Marines participating in Innovative Readiness Training Old Harbor extended the airstrip for the local population living on the island in Old Harbor, Alaska.

MAY 4 TO AUG. 25, 2014



Southern Command

SOUTHERN PARTNERSHIP STATION

USS AMERICA'S MAIDEN VOYAGE

SOUTHERN PARTNERSHIP STATION

Southern Partnership Station is a 4th Fleet deployment designed to strengthen civil and maritime capabilities with partner nations in the Caribbean, Central and South American regions.

MAY 11 TO OCT. 10, 2014

USS AMERICA'S MAIDEN VOYAGE

Marines assigned to a Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Southern Command joined the USS America on a mission to conduct training engagements with partner nations throughout the Americas before reporting to its new home at the port of San Diego.

JULY 8 TO SEPT. 14, 2014

Southern Command Cont.

PARTNERSHIP OF THE AMERICAS 14

PANAMAX 2014

PARTNERSHIP OF THE AMERICAS 14

Marines train to enhance joint interoperability and increase the combined capability to execute amphibious operations. They also participated in peace support operations, and Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief missions. The training helps develop strong and lasting relationships with partner nation's naval infantries.

AUG. 9-23, 2014

PANAMAX 2014

Marines participate in an exercise created to simulate the defense of the Panama Canal. Marines collaborated with 17 partner nations to protect traffic through the canal during the training.

JULY 31 TO AUG. 16, 2014

Pacific Command

RIMPAC 2014

ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN 2014

RIMPAC 2014

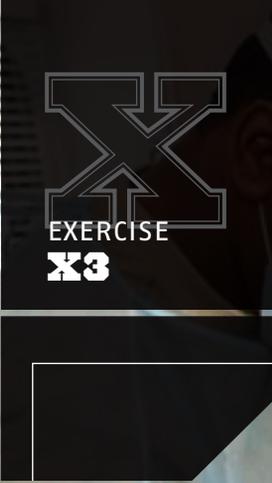
Marines join more than 25,000 military personnel from 22 nations during Rim of the Pacific 2014 in Hawaii. The exercise gives Marines the opportunity to train with partner nations and test out new technologies in the world's largest international maritime exercise.

JUNE 29 TO AUG. 2, 2014

ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN 2014

A command post exercise conducted to keep U.S. and South Korean forces ready to maintain security on the Korean Peninsula and stability in Northeast Asia.

AUG. 18-29, 2014



**EXERCISE
X3**



IRT ARKANSAS CARE

FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS

DATES: July 23– Aug. 5

USMC UNITS: 4th Medical Battalion; 4th Dental Bn.

PARTICIPATING NATIONS: United States

“WE HAVE HAD PEOPLE WAITING OUTSIDE THE BUILDING BEFORE WE EVEN ARRIVE. OUR SITE HAS PROCESSED MORE THAN 300 PATIENTS IN FIVE DAYS. THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN REALLY RESPONSIVE TO US AND ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF OUR PRESENCE.”

–Chief Petty Officer Christopher Leyson, a hospital corpsman with 4th Medical Battalion



Petty Officer 3rd Class Neal Patrick, a hospital corpsman with 4th Medical Battalion and native of Dayton, Ohio, checks the distance between a patient’s pupils using a pupillometer during Innovative Readiness Training Arkansas Care, July 30. IRT Arkansas Care served the residents of a several county area known as the Arkansas Delta region. joint-service Reserve units provided a variety of general medical, optometry and dental services while simultaneously gaining the training they need for their military occupational specialty.

SGT. ADWIN ESTERS

Sailors from 4th Dental Battalion assisted with performing oral exams, X-rays, cleanings and oral surgeries while sailors from 4th Medical Battalion assisted with general medicine, physical exams, bringing awareness to signs and symptoms of hypertension and diabetes, minor dermatology issues, pediatric care, women health exams,

cancer screenings, sports physicals, and patient administration tasks during the mission. The Department of Defense’s Innovative Readiness Training Program is a volunteer opportunity for the Reserve and National Guard that provide training benefits for military personnel while addressing the needs of underserved American communities.

Cmdr. Rebecca Neill, (right) naval officer-in-charge of Innovative Readiness Training Arkansas Care, and Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Nichols, a dental specialist with 7218th Medical Support Unit, prepare to extract a patient’s tooth during IRT Arkansas Care, July 29. IRT Arkansas Care served the residents of a seven-county area known as the Arkansas Delta region. Several joint service Reserve units provided a variety of general medical, optometry and dental services while simultaneously gaining the training they need for their military occupational specialty.

SGT. ADWIN ESTERS



HEAVY METAL 14

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.

DATES: Aug. 6-19

USMC UNITS: 4th Medical Battalion, 1st Bn., 10th Marine Regiment and Combat Logistics Bn. 25

PARTICIPATING NATIONS: United States

“INSTEAD OF DOING SEPARATE ANNUAL TRAINING SESSIONS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, WE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING ALL THE ELEMENTS OF A MAGTF TOGETHER TO COMPLETE INDIVIDUAL TRAINING AND REGIMENTAL TRAINING.”

- Col. Russell Smith, commanding officer of 25th Marine Regiment

Marines participated in exercise Heavy Metal 14 where they conducted Marine Air-Ground Task Force training events to effectively train, observe and evaluate designated individuals in accordance with the regiment’s mission essential tasks list. The focus is on combined arms live-fire training at

the squad and platoon level, company through regimental command and control, distributed logistics, and long-haul communications. The training took place over a large area of operations with aspects of an expeditionary environment.

A Marine driving a Humvee tackles a four-foot-deep water-fording area at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Aug. 13, during exercise Heavy Metal 14. Before the Marines were allowed to cross the water in their vehicles, they had to first navigate the obstacles on foot to check for any unseen dangers.

CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

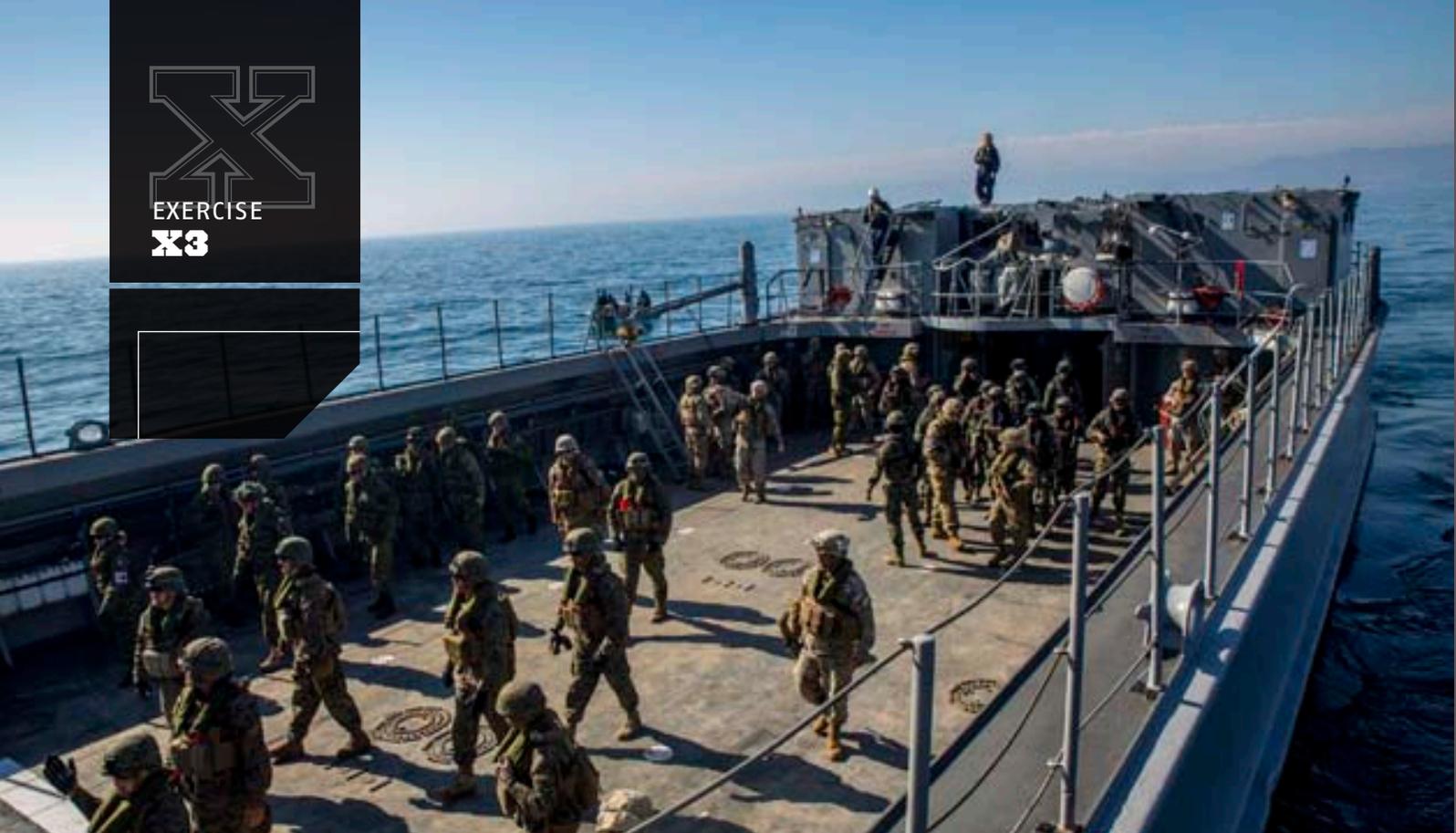


An M1A1 Abrams tank with 4th Tank Battalion takes a defensive position while conducting an assault on a simulated enemy town Aug. 17, aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., during exercise Heavy Metal 14. The tanks maneuvered with infantry units to capture key locations throughout the city.

CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK



EXERCISE
X3



PARTNERSHIP OF THE AMERICAS VALPARAISO, CHILE

DATES: Aug. 11-22

USMC UNITS: 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Civil Affairs Group, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364, 4th Marine Logistics Group

PARTICIPATING NATIONS: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, and the United States

“BECAUSE WE ARE DEALING WITH CHILEAN MARINES AND MARINES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, THE COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING ASPECT OF WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO EXPRESS TO ONE ANOTHER IS SIMILAR. OPERATIONALLY WE ARE SPEAKING THE SAME LANGUAGE. WE ARE ALL MARINES.”

- Gunnery Sgt. Hector Vega, company gunnery sergeant of 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment



Sgt. Cody Heinrichsen of 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, attempts to control a crowd of unruly citizen role players during a training scenario designed to simulate a major natural disaster in Pichidangui, Chile, Aug. 18, as part of Partnership of the Americas 2014. Representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay and the United States participate in POA 2014, Aug. 11-22.

SGT. ADWIN ESTERS

Representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay and the United States participated in Partnership of the Americas 2014. This exercise is designed to enhance joint and combined interoperability, increase the combined

capability to execute amphibious operations, peace support operations, and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief missions, and further develop strong and lasting relationships the U.S. Marine Corps has established with partner nations' naval infantry.

U.S. and Chilean naval Marines participate in a training evolution aboard a landing craft utility ship, a vessel used by amphibious forces to transport equipment and troops to the shore, during a training evolution as part of Partnership of the Americas 2014. Representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay and the United States participated in POA 2014, Aug. 11-22.

SGT. ADWIN ESTERS



INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

RAYMOND, MAINE

DATES: May 4– Aug. 2

USMC UNITS: 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group

PARTICIPATING NATIONS: United States

“THE BOY SCOUTS ARE REALLY EXCITED TO HAVE US HERE. WE ARE GLAD TO BE ABLE TO DO THIS KIND OF WORK. THEY COULDN’T BELIEVE THAT WE COULD HAVE ALL THE RANGES COMPLETED BY THE TIME CAMP OPENED THIS SUMMER, BUT WE TOLD THEM WE WOULD GET IT DONE.”

– Capt. Cory Bruce, assistant officer-in-charge of IRT operations, 6th Engineer Support Battalion

Innovative Readiness Training Camp Hinds is part of the Department of Defense’s IRT program and is a volunteer opportunity for the Reserve and National Guard that provide training benefits for military personnel while addressing the needs of underserved American communities. This particular exercise

focused on the rebuilding of a local Boy Scouts facility. Marines with 6th Engineer Support Battalion provided logistical and constructional support by building a new parking lot, access road and sports field, as well as expanding the training center and building three new shooting ranges, one being a 100-meter rifle range.

Reserve Marines from 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, use an excavator to move large mounds of dirt into a dump truck after digging an underdrain for water runoff for the Boy Scouts of America during the joint service Innovative Readiness Training at Camp William Hinds in Raymond, Maine, July 10. IRT Camp Hinds is a joint service initiative designed to provide service members with real-world training opportunities preparing them for their combat missions while also supporting the needs of America’s underserved communities.

SGT. ADWIN ESTERS



Sgt. Zackery Martinez, a combat engineer with 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, and native of Battle Creek, Mich., cuts a rafter beam to the correct measurements for a pavilion on the new 100-meter range being built for the Boy Scouts of America during the joint service Innovative Readiness Training at Camp William Hinds in Raymond, Maine, July 10. IRT Camp Hinds is a joint service initiative designed to provide service members with real-world training opportunities preparing them for their combat missions while also supporting the needs of America’s underserved communities.

SGT. ADWIN ESTERS

BATTLE READY

Reserve Marines take Camp Lejeune by storm at Heavy Metal 14

STORY BY CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Marines participating in exercise Heavy Metal 2014 found themselves in a simulated combat scenario Aug. 17, facing a tough and hardened insurgent enemy force. Their objective: seize the town.

Reserve Marines from around the country participated in the exercise, which gave 15 units from logistics, aviation and ground combat elements, a chance to work together as a functioning Marine Air-Ground Task Force. Among the units participating in HM14, 4th Medical Battalion provided corpsmen for safety on the ranges; 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment provided artillery support; and Combat Logistics Battalion 25 showed its skill in the construction of a forward operations base, all in preparation for the final exercise.

“Instead of doing separate annual training sessions across the United States, we took the opportunity to bring all the elements of a MAGTF together to work in a regimental headquarters and to complete individual training as well as regimental training,” said Col. Russell Smith, commanding officer of 25th Marine Regiment. “This provides a venue where the Marines can cross-coordinate and provide information up and down the chain of command, which is something many Reserve units don’t get to do on a regular basis.”

The days leading up to the final exercise were used to ensure each Marine knew their task thoroughly enough to perform effectively under duress. Unit commanders focused on honing their Marines’ skills, maximizing their training schedules and pushing their troops to perfection.

“We needed to get them out here working on gun drills and breaking off the rust,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Alexander Carlson, battalion gunner for 1st Bn., 24th Marines. “We have been tasking them with advanced missions, because our fire control center is a young group, and we are trying to season them further.”

For Reserve Marines, shorter training schedules and gaps in between can pose a challenge to their readiness and proficiency. Logistical capabilities can be taxed under limited time tables, and weapon systems on

which Marines need to remain proficient, are constantly being updated.

“We wanted to get our weapons company a chance to hone the perishable skills of using their weapons systems, such as mortars and machine guns,” said Carlson. “The mortar men usually only get a chance to work with the 60mm systems, so we wanted to give them a chance to work with the 81mm system. Our machine gunners usually only work with smaller systems; bringing them here gives them the chance to break out the .50 caliber machine gun and the MK 19 grenade launcher.”

Heavy Metal 14 also gave infantry Marines a chance to return to their amphibious roots in a way that Reserve Marines rarely get to do, which included training alongside tracked vehicles until the final culminating assault.

Second Lt. Benjamin Rochner, an assault amphibious vehicle commander with 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, described his unit’s role and strategy during the culminating event for HM14.

“Our plan of attack is to push out from where we are now, and quickly move infantry into the town using our AAVs with tanks supporting,” said Rochner. “My guys are going to move in toward the town, drop our doors and let the grunts in to capture objectives throughout the town.”

Once the Marines were prepped and the day of the final exercise arrived, the movement began. As the Marines came within distance of the town, tanks held strong firing points at its edge. When the simulated enemy was suppressed, the AAVs moved into position, dropped their doors and released infantry Marines that swarmed the town, moving building to building to sweep it clear of enemy combatants. The units received notional fire support from mortars and aircraft when needed, and directed tanks and AAVs to new targets. At the end of the FINEX, with the town cleared and all objectives achieved, the Marines of HM14 took their new experiences back to their home units, relevant and ready to respond to missions across the range of military operations.



A photograph showing several Marines in camouflage gear and helmets positioned in a forest. They are holding rifles and appear to be in a tactical stance. In the background, a large amphibious vehicle is partially visible, partially obscured by the trees. The scene is set in a wooded area with tall pine trees and green grass.

Marines with 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, form a line after exiting the back of an assault amphibious vehicle during an assault on a simulated enemy town Aug. 17, aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., during exercise Heavy Metal 14. Throughout the exercise, infantry units trained alongside AAVs to become familiar with its movements and capabilities.
CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

DESERT FURY: 4TH TANK BN

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. CODEY UNDERWOOD



D

igging into the dusty path, the enormous tank climbed onto a range leading a convoy of assault vehicles. Locked, loaded and ready to fire, the 120 mm main gun rotates, on the M1A1 Abrams tank, aims and waits for the target to appear. Cradled deep in the belly of tank, the gunner peeks through the sights focused on the tree line. As the gas-powered turbine engine roars over the last hill, the target appears through the scope. The gunner pulls the trigger, sending 1,001 large pellets whistling through the air, tearing through everything in its path.

Marines with 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, conducted live-fire tank and infantry integration as well as amphibious exercises as a part of the battalion's annual training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 12-25.

The exercise, which lasted two weeks, gave the tank crewmen a chance to operate

the M1 Abrams tank during simulated ship-to-shore movements and conduct live-fire training with active-duty infantry Marines.

"Ship-to-shore movement of tanks can be accomplished in a number of ways with Navy platforms, Army platforms or maritime prepositioning forces to support a whole range of military operations from counter insurgency to major theater combat," said Lt. Col. John Valencia, the commanding officer of 4th Tank Bn. "An opportunity to conduct annual training is something that is critical to accomplish our training goals."

During the ship-to-shore movements, the tanks were loaded on to Navy Landing Craft, Air Cushions and navy landing craft utilities that simulated the tank being offloaded from a naval ship. The battalion loaded the tanks while on shore then moved out to the sea.

When conducting amphibious operations, getting to the objective is only



a portion of the mission. The Marines with 4th Tank Bn. also utilized live-fire training to prepare them for what would come after the insertion.

During the live-fire training the tanks used canister rounds, a large shell packing 1,001 pellets in each round fired. The canister round is almost completely made of cardboard material, causing the outer casing to dissipate when fired, leaving the small end of the round. When working quickly, the loader can prepare another round every seven seconds safely. Once loaded, the 120 mm gun sends an electrical charge surging into the round, ensuring that the round will not fire because of an accidental bump.

The canister round, mixed with the fire power of the individual Marine rifleman allows the battalion to cover a wide spectrum of contingencies.

“Throughout this training we have conducted tank and infantry integration training learning how to bound, stay on line and make everything run smooth,”

“...we want to train with the active duty component because that’s how we are going to fight. We can learn best practices from our active duty Marines and presumably, we can share our tactics, techniques and procedures with them as well.”

—LT. COL. JOHN VALENCIA
COMMANDING OFFICER, 4TH TANK BN.

said Lance Cpl. Ryan Charles, a tank crewman with 4th Tank Bn. “We train with the active duty Marines because as Reservists, you never really know when you will have to go and be with an active duty unit. We wanted to get the training so we are prepared ahead of time.”

Training with the active duty Marines gives the Reservist a chance to learn and understand how they work.

“First and foremost, it is important that the Reserve Marines spend these two weeks in the field because even though we train every month, it really takes a prolonged period of time out in the field to meet higher level training objectives,” said Valencia. “When we do that, we want to train with the active duty component because that’s

how we are going to fight. We can learn best practices from our active duty Marines and presumably, we can share our tactics, techniques and procedures with them as well.”



BEEN THERE
DONE THAT



4th Marine Aircraft Wing

FINAL FLIGHT

A UH-1Y Venom helicopter with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773, Marine Aircraft Group 49, is displayed for ceremony attendees to view during a final flight ceremony for the UH-1N Huey helicopter aboard Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans, Aug. 28.





BEEN THERE
DONE THAT

FORCE HEADQUARTERS GROUP

BRIG. GEN. HELEN G. PRATT, commanding general of Force Headquarters Group, presents Sgt. Brittney Swanson of 3rd Civil Affairs Group, with a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal Sept. 13. Swanson was awarded the medal for being the top career planner in Marine Forces Reserve.

COURTESY PHOTO OF FORCE HEADQUARTERS GROUP



4TH MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

(TOP)

BRIG. GEN. PATRICK J. HERMESMANN, the new commanding general of 4th Marine Logistics Group, delivers remarks during a change of command ceremony here July 13. Hermesmann is receiving command of 4th MLG from Brig. Gen. Roger R. Machut. 4th MLG supports the Marine Air-Ground Task Force by providing logistics capabilities in tactical and operational environments.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. MACKENZIE SCHLUETER

(RIGHT)

MARINES with Motor Transportation Services Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 25 practice searching a water-fording navigation course at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Aug. 13, during exercise Heavy Metal 14. Before the Marines entered the water, they were given a class on fording techniques and procedures, which explained the importance of knowing what is underwater.

PHOTO BY CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK





4TH MARINE DIVISION

(LEFT)

A SQUAD of Marine mortarmen with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, assumes the role of a fire direction center as part of an indirect fire weapons integration exercise Aug. 15, aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., during exercise Heavy Metal 14. The FDC coordinates with forward observers to send grid coordinates to gun crews to accurately place rounds on enemy targets.

PHOTO BY CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

(TOP)

MARINES with 14th Marine Regiment, Marine Forces Reserve, exit an amphibious assault vehicle during a live-fire range as part of the battalion's annual training exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 21. The two-week exercise included live-fire tank and infantry integration as well as amphibious operations which gave the Marines a chance to operate in a simulated ship-to-shore movement.

PHOTO BY CPL. CODEY UNDERWOOD

(BOTTOM)

MARINES with 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, move down a road while the street is covered by an M1A1 Abrams tank during an assault on a simulated enemy town Aug. 17, aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., during exercise Heavy Metal 14. As the assault continued, instructors and safety personnel would point out a Marine to play the role of a wounded casualty to assess the team's casualty evacuation performance.

PHOTO BY CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK





Lance Cpl. Johnny Alston (right), a personnel retrieval and processing specialist with Personnel Retrieval and Processing Company, 4th Marine Logistics Group, Marine Forces Reserve, and Sgt. 1st Class Matevz Scheicher, a weapons specialist with the Slovenian army, inspect and document simulated remains during the culminating event of exercise Immediate Response 2014, Aug. 25-27.

PHOTO BY CPL. CODEY UNDERWOOD

STORY BY CPL. CODEY UNDERWOOD

RECOVER THE FALLEN

Immediate Response 2014

During the expected chaos of combat, Marines are unfortunately killed without regard to their rank or military status. The casualties, when pronounced 'killed in action' are removed from the battlefield and returned to their respective families by a group of highly trained Marines who specialize in the processing of human remains.

The Marines with Personnel Retrieval and Processing Company, 4th Marine Logistics Group, Marine Forces Reserve, trained to respond to natural disasters

such as earthquakes, with nations from all over the globe during exercise Immediate Response 2014.

Exercise Immediate Response 14 is a command-post and tactical field training exercise that involves more than 900 personnel primarily from the U.S., Slovenian and Croatian armed forces, with contingents from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and the United Kingdom.

"Training here in Slovenia gives [the Marines] a chance to train alongside the

soldiers from our partner nations," said Lance Cpl. Andrew Weber, a personnel retrieval and processing technician, with 4th Marine Logistics Group. "All the countries involved get the chance to expose each other to how we conduct things. In my opinion, this is bigger than just you and me, bigger than the Marines; it's a worldwide partnership."

According to the U.S. Geological Survey National Earthquake Information Center, the world encounters an average of 50 earthquakes per day. Earthquakes can displace

civilians, damage property and even cause deaths.

During the first week, the Marines studied in a classroom setting with the multinational soldiers on how to conduct mortuary affairs and the mission of the PRP Marines. They learned to process the physical remains of deceased service members and civilians, ensuring everything the member went overseas with, he or she returns home with those same items. Documenting every detail and leaving everything how they found it is, important for investigators. The preservation of the remains can help determine the cause of death, and also save lives in the future by improving the design of protective equipment.

The multinational team tested their abilities during several key portions of the culminating event in humanitarian assistance disaster relief missions including search and rescue, explosive ordnance disposal, and medical and evacuation techniques. During the simulation, the Marines with PRP

processed 'fallen heroes' alongside Slovenian soldiers.

"We train as we fight and we fight as we train. With HADR missions, it is the same concept," said Cpl. Joseph Nde Fah, a squad leader with the PRP platoon. "If we never train to come here and help, then we would never know the protocols. It is better for us to make a mistake during training and learn from it than waiting until it is a real-life operation."

Although the PRP Marines played only a small role in the culminating event, their mission is essential to HADR events.

"It is an honor to take the bearing and load of a job not everybody wants because I know that my Marines and I are strong enough to complete the mission," said Sgt. Anthony Latney, the PRP platoon sergeant. "There are days when it is difficult, but we are there for one another to remind one another that what we do here matters."

During the culminating event, the Marines worked closely with Slovenian

soldiers to ensure everything the Marines taught them in the previous week was retained. They quickly removed the casualties from the disaster site, documented the state of the deceased and inspected their belongings. Working together in the training environment allowed the Slovenian soldiers time to practice what they learned, and ask the Marines any last-minute questions before the completion of the exercise.

"This exercise gives my Marines a chance to reinforce what they already know, and gives them an opportunity to teach to other nations," said Latney. "This knowledge is something that the Slovenian soldiers will be able to pass down to their junior soldiers. Utilizing this training is not an 'if it will happen', it is a 'when it will happen'."

Training events such as this help prepare the U.S., Slovenia and its partner nations, to operate in a joint, multinational, interagency and integrated environment during situations like natural disasters.



Sgt. 1st Class Matevz Scheicher, member of the Slovenian Army rotates a U.S. Marine while inspecting his personal items during the Mortuary Affairs class as part of Immediate Response 2014, in Vipava, Slovenia, Aug. 21.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. MACKENZIE SCHLUETER



A Slovenian soldier takes necessary notes while documenting a simulated casualty with Marines from Personnel Retrieval and Processing Company, 4th Marine Logistics Group, Marine Forces Reserve, during the culminating event of exercise Immediate Response 2014, in Vipava, Slovenia, Aug. 25-27.

PHOTO BY CPL. CODEY UNDERWOOD

Marines from 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, disembark a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter and board the Chilean ship, LSDH Sargento Aldea during a training evolution designed to simulate a natural disaster as part of Partnership of the Americas 2014. Military Forces from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay and the United States participated in POA 2014 from Aug. 11-22, 2014. This exercise is designed to enhance joint and combined interoperability, increase the combined capability to execute amphibious operations, peace support operations, and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief missions, and further develop strong and lasting relationships the U.S. has established with partner nation's naval infantries.



PARTNERSHIP OF THE AMERICAS

Reserve Marines, Partner Nations Prepare For Natural Disasters

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. ADWIN ESTERS





When an earthquake of an 8.0 magnitude occurs in the open ocean, the tremors can be felt for miles. A coastal area's entire populace must be evacuated from their homes before a tsunami wave crashes inland, causing horrible damage; flooding houses, shattering windows, and taking lives. The massive wave will destroy everything in its path. In the aftermath there will be limited resources of food, shelter and clean water.

According to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, more than 230,000 lives were lost to natural disasters throughout Latin America and the Caribbean from 2010 to 2013 and more than 80 percent of the world's population currently resides within 100 miles of coastline and the proportion is increasing.

From Aug. 11-22, 2014, representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay and the United States participated in Partnership of the Americas 2014, an exercise created to help prepare partner-nations' naval infantries for major natural disasters such

as tsunamis. Its purpose is to enhance and increase the combined interoperability and capability of partner-nations to execute amphibious operations, peacetime support operations, and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief missions. Additionally, the exercise helps to further develop strong and lasting relationships between the U.S. Marine Corps and partner nation's naval infantries. POA is a part of UNITAS, which means "unity" in Latin, and is the largest and oldest U.S. naval exercise in the U.S. Southern Command area of focus, the first one having been executed in 1959.

Like any problem or issue a nation may face, there are ways to mitigate the consequences and be better prepared when called upon to provide humanitarian assistance or disaster relief. Training for real-life events like this during POA 14 allows the Marines from 4th Marine Division and 4th Marine Logistics Group and the Marines of partner-nations to be even more prepared for these kinds of natural disasters. The exercise offers solutions to these problems by focusing the attention on immediate response.



A Chilean Navy Rescue medic provides care to role players during a training scenario designed to simulate a major natural disaster in Pichidangui, Chile, Aug. 18, 2014, as part of Partnership of the Americas 2014.

FROM SHIP TO SHORE

In an endeavor rarely seen, a group of U.S. Marines boarded the Chilean ship LSDH Sargento Aldea in its home port of Valparaiso, Chile. The LSDH Sargento Aldea is one of five ships that participated in the exercise including the USS America.

Aboard ship, the partner nations worked together to perform a series of rehearsal exercises to prepare for the final exercise meant to simulate a natural disaster and provide HA/DR to areas in need. A second group of Marines, temporarily stationed at the Chilean military base, Fuerte Aguayo, in Concón, Chile, were flown via CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters to the Aldea to begin the training evolution. The Marines and other partner-nation militaries used the CH-46s, which are being utilized in one of their last active-component operational missions before being retired, to familiarize themselves with the experience of deploying from ship in a helicopter.

"The Marines are performing these exercises to prepare for the real thing," said Gunnery Sgt. Hector Vega, company gunnery sergeant, Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment. "These are familiarization exercises used to get them accustomed to traveling in the helicopters."

Along with helicopter operations, they also prepared for the FINEX by deploying on Landing Craft Utility ships.

FINAL EXERCISE

The FINEX began by U.S. Marines being airlifted via helicopter from the Aldea onto a landing zone in nearby Pichidangui, Chile. Other partner nations traveled from ship to shore, via lightweight boats known as Zodiacs.

Once on shore, the Marines patrolled the surrounding areas and beachheads and continued on to a village built specifically to mimic a fishing town that had been hit by a tsunami. Role players in the mock village simulated a scene of chaos and instability. "They (the role players) are making a lot of noise and don't want to listen to the local government," stated Chilean Lt. Cmdr. Claudia Gonzalez, Naval Training Center inspector, explaining the scenario the service members faced on shore. "In the village, the hospital is completely destroyed. There are patients with fractures and wounds; there are a lot of casualties. Also, people are demonstrating against the mayor at city hall."

Service members joined forces to treat and evacuate the injured while simultaneously controlling crowds of unruly villagers.



Mexican Marines stand in formation awaiting the next training evolution aboard Chilean military base Fuerte Aguayo, during Partnership of the Americas 2014. Representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, and the United States are participating in POA 2014 Aug. 11-22.



U.S. Marine Sgt. Cody Heinrichsen of 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines and a Chilean Marine escort an unruly citizen Aug. 19, 2014, during a training scenario designed to simulate a major natural disaster as part of Partnership of the Americas 2014, Aug. 11-22.



A Chilean helicopter flight deck crewman awaits the next group to board a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter during a training evolution as part of Partnership of the Americas 2014, Aug. 11-22.

ADVANTAGES OF COOPERATION

A benefit the exercise provides is improving engagement between all partner-nation naval infantries by focusing on interoperability, communication and sustaining relationships.

“We are here trying to build relationships with the South American Marines so when we get tasked for humanitarian assistance, we can properly communicate with them,” said Staff Sgt. Joshua Roe, intelligence specialist with 1st Bn., 23rd Marines and a member of the exercise control team.

With partner-nations working and training together, sharing ideas and their professional expertise, the results benefit all nations’ ability to respond to environmental crises by improving on the nation’s capabilities.

“Canada does not have a robust amphibious capability, so exercises such as these benefit us,” said Canadian Army Capt. Adam Haslett, ground combat element officer, 5th Canadian Division Headquarters. “It’s not something we have the opportunity to do too much of at home. This definitely adds a different dynamic.”

The majority of the partner nations participating in POA 14 speak Spanish as their primary language; therefore, working and training together alongside partner-nation military services and dealing with the language barrier are an integral part of the exercise.

“Because we are dealing with Chilean Marines and Marines from other countries, the communication and understanding aspect of what we are trying to express to one another is similar,” said Vega. “Operationally we are speaking the same language. We are all Marines.”

THE TAKEAWAY

By participating in exercises like POA, U.S. Marines ensure that the Corps is postured to provide ready and relevant forces to respond to crises in the Western Hemisphere and are committed to reaching out to all countries in the area to build strong military ties.

Participation of as many nations as possible is essential to the success of the exercise and the ability of partner-nations to respond to crises. U.S. Marine Col. Michael T. Cuccio, deputy Amphibious Task Force commander for POA 14 added that based on the number of participants, this was a “true exercise of partnership and interoperability.”

After the final exercise concluded, each country walked away with invaluable lessons learned.

“The exercise went really well because most of the objectives were fulfilled during the event,” said Gonzalez. “We proved that it is possible to have this kind of combined force for HA/DR operations. It was good to find out how we can work together as a team.”



UNIT
PROFILE



Marines with 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division fire a shoulder-launched multipurpose assault weapon during a small-arms live-fire exercise in Cap Draa, Morocco, during exercise African Lion 2012 on April 11, 2012.

CPL. TYLER MAIN

1ST BATTALION, 25TH MARINE REGIMENT

LOCATION: Fort Devens, Massachusetts

1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment was originally established in Boston, Massachusetts, as an infantry company in the early 1920s and eventually relocated to its current home of Fort Devens, Massachusetts, on June 9, 2000.

On May 1, 1943, the battalion was assigned to the 4th Marine Division during World War II. Throughout the war, 1st Bn., 25th Marine Regiment saw action in the island campaigns of the Pacific theater. The battalion earned a Presidential Unit Citation for its actions on Iwo Jima.

After World War II, the unit served in major U.S. conflicts such as the Gulf War against Iraq and in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The battalion continues to participate in a variety of training exercises, including desert maneuvers at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California; amphibious training in Little Creek, Virginia; mountain warfare training at Bridgeport, California; cold weather training in Norway and numerous field exercises at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.



1/25 QUICK FACTS

- The unit is spread throughout the Northeast with companies in New Hampshire, Maine, Connecticut and Massachusetts, which is where it gets the nickname, "New England's Own."
- From 1931 to 1934, Congress discontinued all drill and administrative pay. Those Marines who stayed with the organization did so voluntarily. New members were required to purchase their own uniforms. The fact that the battalion survived this critical period is a "banner" on their history.
- 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment received the General Harry Schmidt Trophy for the most combat ready battalion in the 4th Marine Division in 1970, 1989, and 1990. No other battalion in the 4th Marine Division can claim that they have won this trophy in consecutive years.
- During the Gulf War, the battalion was with the frontline units during the war, which made it one of the few Reserve units to see frontline service.
- The battalion played a critical role in the seizure of Hill 382 "Turkey Knob" in an area that Marines on Iwo Jima called the "Meat Grinder."

COMMANDING OFFICER: Lt. Col. Christopher Graves

SERGEANT MAJOR: Sgt. Maj. Vincent Heller

MISSION: To provide trained combat and combat support personnel and units to augment and reinforce the active component in time of war, national emergency, and at other times as national security requires; and have the capability to reconstitute the division, if required.



BE SMART,
BE SAFE



COURTESY PHOTO FROM WWW.SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

RESPONSIBLE SOCIAL MEDIA: **OPERATIONAL SECURITY**

STORY BY CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Operational security is a constant worry in today's modern world, whether it is the compromise of personal information or information vital to battlefield effectiveness. New advances in technology make it as easy as a click away to reveal personal and operational information to anyone and everyone. Being aware of who is viewing that information is not always a certainty. Those who use: blogs, Youtube, Facebook, Twitter and other social media outlets must be sure that the information they are posting is safe. If you are not sure if what you are posting is ok or not, check out Marine Corps Order 3070.2, MARADMIN 181/10 and Marine Corps Order 5230.18.

QUESTIONS?

- For answers to social media questions, Marines should contact their local public affairs office.
- Reference Marine Corps Order 3070.2, MARADMIN 181/10 and Marine Corps Order 5230.18.
- Questions regarding security issues can be directed to Headquarters Marine Corps Command Control, Communications and Computers Information Assurance personnel.
- Marines should refer to their chain of command or public affairs for guidance if uncertain about the need for or appropriateness of a response.
- For Social Media guidance refer to the Corps' Social Media Handbook.



SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.MARINES.MIL/PORTALS/59/DOCS/
MARINES-SOCIAL-MEDIA-HANDBOOK](http://www.marines.mil/portals/59/docs/marines-social-media-handbook)

Marines are personally responsible for all content they publish on social networking sites, blogs, or other websites. In addition to ensuring Marine Corps content is accurate and appropriate, Marines also must be thoughtful about the non-Marine related content they post, since the lines between a Marine's personal and professional life often blur in the online space.

DO POST

- Marines who communicate online about the Marine Corps in unofficial Internet posts may identify themselves as Marines, to include their rank, military component (e.g., Captain Smith, USMC), and status (active or Reserve) if desired. However, if Marines decide not to identify themselves as Marines, they should not disguise, impersonate or otherwise misrepresent their identity or affiliation with the Marine Corps.
- When expressing personal opinions, Marines should make clear that they are speaking for themselves and not on behalf of the Marine Corps. Use a disclaimer: "the postings on this site are my own and don't represent Marine Corps' positions or opinions."
- Marines may use the Eagle, Globe and Anchor; coat of arms (EGA in the center, encircled with words "United States - Marine Corps"); and other symbols in unofficial posts so long as the symbols are used in a manner that does not bring discredit upon the Corps, does not result in personal financial gain, or does not give the impression of official or implied endorsement.

DON'T POST

- The posting or disclosure of internal Marine Corps documents or information that the Marine Corps has not officially released to the public is prohibited.
- Examples include, but are not limited to, memos, e-mails, meeting notes, message traffic, white papers and public affairs guidance.
- Marines should be extremely judicious when disclosing personal details on the Internet, and should not release personal identifiable information (PII).
- Marines also should take care not to express or imply Marine Corps endorsement of any opinions, products or causes other than those already officially endorsed by the Marine Corps.
- Marines should avoid offensive and inappropriate behavior that could bring discredit upon themselves and the Marine Corps.
- Marines shall not post classified, controlled unclassified information or sensitive information.

SOURCE: MARINES SOCIAL MEDIA HANDBOOK

GUARD AGAINST CYBER CRIMINALS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Marines should be ever vigilant when online, knowing preventative steps and security procedures will help prevent cyber attacks.

• INTERNET AND SOCIAL

MEDIA: Marines should not click links or open attachments unless the source can be trusted. Often times, cyber criminals pretend to be people they are not in order to deceive Marines into performing actions that launch cyber attacks, download viruses and install malware and spyware onto computers.

- **PASSWORDS:** Use strong passwords (10-digit passwords comprised of lower- and upper-case letters, numbers and symbols) to protect their online / social media accounts from getting hacked. Marines also should frequently change their passwords.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES:** Marines should be mindful of who they allow to access their social media profiles and personal information. Marines should also recognize that social network "friends" and "followers" may potentially constitute relationships that could affect determinations in background investigations and periodic reinvestigations associated with security clearances.
- **COMPUTER VIRUS:** Marines should install and maintain current anti-virus and anti-spyware software on their personal computers.
- **JUDGMENT:** Marines should use their best judgment at all times and keep in mind how the content of their posts will reflect upon themselves, their unit and the Marine Corps.
- **REGULATIONS:** As with other forms of communication, Marines are responsible for adhering to Federal law, Marine Corps regulations and governing policies when making unofficial Internet posts.

SOURCE: MARINES SOCIAL MEDIA HANDBOOK



SAVED
ROUNDS

Marines with 4th Force Reconnaissance Company, 4th Marine Division, conduct live-fire training during their full-mission profile as part of their annual training on and aboard Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility, aboard Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, Aug. 23. Force Recon's mission is conducting deep reconnaissance to provide intelligence to follow-on forces.



COMBAT READY

4TH FORCE RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY CONDUCTS ANNUAL TRAINING

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. MATTHEW CALLAHAN

Marines assigned to 4th Force Reconnaissance Company, 4th Marine Division conducted sustainment training on Marine Corps Base Hawaii for their two-week annual training, completing a full mission profile, Aug. 23.

The role of force recon is to conduct deep reconnaissance and direct-action missions behind enemy lines to gather intelligence. They paint a picture for commanders and follow-on forces of a Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

“This culminating event is the result of two years of hard work,” said Capt. Nick Ralston, the officer-in-charge of the training event. Last year, the reconnaissance Marines operated at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows for their annual training, refining their standard operating procedures in a simulated, combat-oriented environment.

Practicing good communication, reporting procedures, patrolling and small-boat operations were some of the company’s main objectives, according to Ralston.

Wrapping up the exercise, Ralston shed light on the limitations of a Reserve unit and what they plan on doing at next year’s annual training.

“I want to stress how well the Marines performed,” he said. “As Reservists we only have a limited amount of time together, and we really have to make the most of these two weeks. For these guys to come from their civilian jobs and get locked in and focused for two straight weeks while lacking sleep ... and to do things as complicated as amphibious operations mixed with live-fire, demo and coordinating operations ... these guys do amazing things and they’ve really developed over the last two years.” ■

Mission and capabilities of 4th Force Recon

- The mission of 4th Force Reconnaissance Company is to conduct pre-assault and distant post-assault reconnaissance in support of a landing force.
- Engage the enemy by supporting arms
- Implant sensors
- Conduct initial terminal guidance operations
- Conduct specialized terrain reconnaissance
- Conduct special missions requiring the use of entry capabilities



PADDLING FOR AWARENESS

COMBAT VETERAN RAISES AWARENESS FOR POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK



Former Marine Cpl. Joshua Ploetz, makes his way to shore before being greeted by a crowd of Marines, Sailors, veterans, and family members July 25, as he paddles closer to the end of his 2,575-mile journey down the Mississippi River in New Orleans. Ploetz began his journey to raise awareness for post-traumatic stress May 19, at Lake Itasca, Minn.

Former Marine Cpl. Joshua Ploetz, a combat veteran, began paddling his approximate 2,575-mile journey down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico from Lake Itasca, Minnesota, May 19, to raise awareness of veterans battling post-traumatic stress disorder.

Ploetz was surprised July 25, when he paddled around the turn at Algiers Point in New Orleans and was greeted by a large group of Marines, Sailors, veterans and family members waiting on the shore of the Mississippi River to cheer him on.

Ploetz spoke to the group and offering advice to the Marines about life after military service. ■



STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

PROGRAM ENSURES RESERVE MEMBERS ALWAYS HAVE A JOB WAITING BACK HOME

STORY AND PHOTO BY COTTON PURYEAR

Governor Terry McAuliffe signs the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Statement of Support Sept. 5, at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia. Joining the governor for the signing were senior leaders from reserve components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

The Honorable Terry R. McAuliffe, Governor of Virginia, signed a Statement of Support for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), on Sept. 5.

Many senior leaders from the Virginia National Guard and other Reserve components as well as cabinet secretaries, state senators and delegates were on hand to witness the historic occasion.

“The governor is setting a high standard for all Virginia employers to follow the Commonwealth’s lead in providing above and beyond support of Virginia’s veterans, many of whom serve in the Guard and Reserve,” said Steve Villalpando, ESGR state chair.

McAuliffe added, “We have over 840,000 veterans as residents of Virginia. It’s important that the Commonwealth sign this statement and let them know that their jobs will be there for them when they return from military service. ■

AAV LAUNCH

RESERVE MARINES REACH BACK TO AMPHIBIOUS ROOTS

STORY AND PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. SARA GRAHAM

Reserve Marines of 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, 4th Marine Division, conducted amphibious assault vehicle training on Blount Island, Jacksonville, Florida, Aug. 13. Training focused on returning the Marines to their amphibious roots, a first for some of the Marines manning the AAVs.

The Navy’s USNS SEAY (T-AKR-302), a Maritime Prepositioning Ship, was used as the platform to launch the AAVs. The Marines embarked overnight on the ship to prepare the AAVs for launch, then splashed off the back of the ship once all AAVs were operable.

The Marines not only increased their ability to work together and drive an assault vehicle from ship to the shore, but they also honed new skills needed to maintain their readiness, while learning to use the MPS as another way to get to shore and provide combat support. ■



Reserve Marines with 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, 4th Marine Division, conducted amphibious assault vehicle training at Blount Island in Jacksonville, Fla., Aug. 13. The training focused on ship-to-shore operations and interoperability with the U.S. Navy. The Marines drove the AAVs off the ramp of the back of the USNS SEAY (T-AKR-302), a Maritime Prepositioning Ship, then headed back to shore.



WITH THE
GEAR

SPECIFICATIONS

Propulsion Baseline: Pratt & Whitney F119-PW-100 derivative from F-22 Raptor Alternate Engine: General Electric F120 core

Payload: 13,000lbs

Wingspan: 36 feet

Speed: Supersonic

Function: Strike fighter

Contractor: Two competing teams: Lockheed-Martin and Boeing

Variants: Conventional Takeoff and Landing (CTOL), Short Takeoff and Vertical Landing (STOVL), Carrier-based (CV)

QUICK FACTS

Joint Strike Fighter in the USMC

Facts

*The F-35B is the first supersonic short takeoff/vertical landing capability aircraft.

*For the first time in aviation history, a short-takeoff/vertical-landing fighter aircraft flew past the sound barrier. U.S. Marine Corps pilot Lt. Col. Matt Kelly flew the F-35B STOVL test aircraft, known as BF-2, to a speed of Mach 1.07, or 727 miles per hour on June 10, 2010.

The Helmet

*The F-35 is the only aircraft you can see through while wearing a helmet.

*The F-35's Helmet Mounted Display Systems projects information on the helmet's visor, rather than on a traditional Heads-up Display providing F-35 pilots with all the information they need to complete their missions and return home safely without having to take their eyes off the sky.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE F-35 LIGHTNING II STRIKE FIGHTER VISIT, [HTTP://WWW.JSF.MIL/](http://www.jsf.mil/) [WWW.F35.COM](http://www.f35.com)



F-35B LIGHTNING II STRIKE FIGHTER

JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER



The Lockheed Martin F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter is a family of single-seat, single-engine and all-weather-stealth-multirole fighters. The distinguishing feature of the Marine Corps version of the Joint Strike Fighter is its short takeoff/vertical landing capability (STOVL). There will not be an internally mounted machine gun, but an external gun can be fitted. This version requires controllability on all axes while hovering. The F-35B's ability to hover gives it the unique ability to operate from ships, roads and austere bases near combat zones. The Marine Corps expects this version of the JSF to replace the F/A-18 Hornet and the AV-8 Harrier. The Marine Corps expects to purchase 340 STOVL versions of the F-35B. Currently, the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 is the first operational attack squadron.

SOURCE: [WWW.F35.COM](http://www.f35.com)



DOUBLE DUTY



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. SARJA GRAHAM



COURTESY PHOTO

GI -VS- JOE

LANCE CPL. JONATHAN ERBELE

BILLET: Amphibious Assault Vehicle Crewman

TIME IN SERVICE: 1 year 9 months

REASON FOR JOINING: To do my patriotic duty to the country, cultivate my warrior spirit, and to be the example for further generations.

FAVORITE WORK FOOD: Vanilla pudding.

RESPONSIBILITIES: I prepare assault vehicles for water and land-based operations. I prepare the vehicles to allow troops to embark from ship-to-shore.

MEMORABLE MOMENT: I love working water operations, it helps focus the Corps to be amphibious.

JONATHAN ERBELE

BILLET: Windsurfing Instructor

TIME IN SERVICE: 8 years

REASON FOR JOINING: I needed a job as a kid and it made the most sense. I think it's something that I'll be doing for the rest of my life in one way or another.

FAVORITE WORK FOOD: Cuban sandwich from Simply Delicious.

RESPONSIBILITIES: I teach windsurfing to all age groups, all walks of life and any ability group.

MEMORABLE MOMENT: I started teaching windsurfing when I was 13 and I just love the whole experience of teaching; it's just something I love to do.



MOTO TALK

MILITARY EXPRESSIONS FROM AROUND THE CORPS

AHA: Ammunition holding area, where ammo is stored and issued.

CLICK: One kilometer or one notch of a rifle sight

FLOAT: Deployment by ship

8TH & I: Nickname for Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

POC: Point of contact, person to liaison with on a given matter.

SOP: Standard operating procedure



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