

MARINES™

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE

TRIDENT JUNCTURE

RESERVE MARINES TRAIN WITH NATO ALLIES





COMMANDER'S CORNER ★★ ★★ ★★

FORCE IN READINESS

We are continually reminded of how dangerous our world has become. Paris mourned the loss of 130 people in November as a result of a coordinated series of terrorist attacks. Less than a month later, gunmen attacked a facility in San Bernardino, California, where 14 people were killed and more were injured. We live in a volatile and uncertain environment. We are in an active area of operations. At any given moment, people with hate in their hearts wish to do indiscriminate harm. The existence of this constant threat demands a constant state of readiness.

The Marine Corps is best suited to address the volatility of our world because we are an expeditionary force. Therefore, we must have an expeditionary mindset always to be ready. While we have had the opportunity over the last three months to celebrate our 240th birthday, to thank our veterans and to distribute thousands of toys to less fortunate children, our primary mission remains operational. MARFORRES is critical to the Total Force as we augment, reinforce and support our Active Component, as evidenced by the recent, important international exercises like Trident Juncture in October and UNITAS in November. I am proud of the way our Marines and Sailors performed at these exercises. These evolutions facilitate continuous improvement to our interoperability with active duty and international forces, which allows us to operate seamlessly with them when the time comes to fight.

We must never let up. When our nation's leaders break open the glass to unleash the world's most elite, expeditionary force, we pack our bags and go. They expect quick, decisive action and do not care whether we are Active Component or Reserve. We are a Total Force. We are always ready.

Semper Fidelis,
Lt. Gen. Rex C. McMillian
Commander, Marine Forces Reserve

SNAP SHOT

Sgt. Robert N. Potenziani, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense chief with Detachment A, Marine Wing Support Squadron 472, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, communicates with a command team after discovering simulated casualties during a CBRN training event at Camp Shelby, Miss., Nov. 17.

PHOTO BY CPL. IAN LEONES



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QUARTER 4 2015

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COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS
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Cpl. Gabrielle Quire
Cpl. Ian Ferro

LCpl. Devan Barnett
LCpl. Melissa Martens

CONTACT US

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
(504) 697-8184

PUBLIC AFFAIRS 24-HOUR DUTY
(504) 256-8172

COMMUNITY RELATIONS/TOYS FOR TOTS
(504) 697-8308/(504) 697-8192

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(504) 697-9887

MARINE CORPS BAND NEW ORLEANS
(504) 697-7861

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WEBMASTERS
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PHOTO BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE

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Marines from Marine Forces Reserve return from a three-mile motivational formation run led by Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Rowan (center) and Col. Steven G. Godinho at Marine Corps Support Facility, New Orleans, Nov. 10. Each year, the Marines celebrate the Corps' birthday with a cake-cutting ceremony followed by a run. Since Nov. 10, 1775, the United States Marine Corps has garnered the reputation as the world's most efficient amphibious fighting force, engaging in combat on battlefronts across the globe since its inception.

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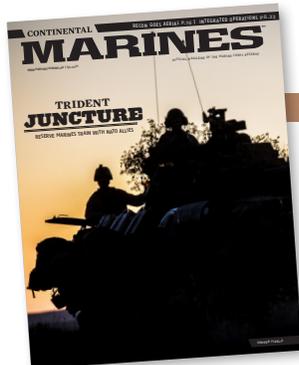
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ON THE COVER

A Light Armored Vehicle attached to 4th LAV Battalion, 4th Marine Division, sits on the horizon during exercise Trident Juncture 2015 in Almería, Spain, Oct. 30. The exercise provided an opportunity for Reserve Marines to gain experience within their military occupational specialties and demonstrate their readiness in conjunction with other foreign nationals.

PHOTO BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE



CORPS
COMMUNITY



...RAPPED TOYS ONLY
...N RUNS 1 OCTOBER
...H 23 DECEMBER
...CORPS RESERVE
FOR TOTS
...RESERVE
TOTS
...OR T
...Pack



Toys for Tots

First lady Michelle Obama sorts toys with Marine and civilian volunteers at a Toys for Tots event at Joint Base Anacostia–Bolling, Dec. 9. The Toys for Tots program was created in 1947 by a Marine Reservist and provides new, unwrapped toys to millions of less fortunate children in communities across the country every year.

PHOTO BY CPL. IAN LEONES



PHOTO BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE



PHOTO BY CPL. IAN FERRO

SMCR AVIATION:

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE WITH SMCR SQUADRONS

Incentives for aviation retention pay and bonus eligibility are now available to Marine Corps Reserve Aviators who meet the eligibility requirements and are approved for the bonuses by Reserve Affairs, in exchange for three years of satisfactory service in a Selected Marine Corps Reserve squadron. The incentives are designed to attract transitioning Active Component aviators to serve with SMCR squadrons. Eligible officers:

- Must be Captain or Major;
- Be qualified and approved to perform operational flying duty with 4th Marine Aircraft Wing;
- Be entitled to aviation career incentive pay;
- Have no more than 16 years of commissioned service.

For more information see **MARADMIN 483/15**. ■

PRIOR SERVICE:

FIND OUT WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO PRIOR SERVICE MARINES

Marine administrative message 481/15 announces the Fiscal Year 2016 Selective Reenlistment Bonus program and FY16 Broken Service Selective Reenlistment Bonus program.

The programs provide prior service Marines who possess critical skills in designated Military Occupational Specialties a monetary incentive to resume their careers in the Marine Corps.

The PSEP will allow eligible Marines to request reenlistment back into the Active Component, while the BSSRB program provides a financial incentive to Marines in specific occupational specialties to strengthen our enlisted career force. For more information see **MARADMIN 481/15**. ■

GUIDANCE:

KNOW WHAT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES YOU CAN SUPPORT AS A UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBER



PHOTO BY PFC MIKE GRANAHAN

Guidance is being offered to Marines and Sailors looking to exercise their political rights without violating statutes, regulations or policies prohibiting the involvement or appearance of involvement in political activities.

Marines and Sailors may register to vote and express personal opinions on political candidates or issues, but not as a representative of the armed forces. Marines and Sailors may also join partisan or nonpartisan political clubs while not in uniform and make monetary contributions to a political organization favoring a specific candidate.

Marines and Sailors must ensure they are not participating in partisan political fundraising activities, speaking before a partisan political gathering that is promoting a political party, candidate, or cause. Participating in a political activity while in uniform is also prohibited.

Marines and Sailors are free to participate in the political process, but must do so as a private citizen. For more information on what you may and may not participate in see **MARADMIN 603/15**. ■



VIETNAM: OPERATION DEWEY CANYON

Infantrymen of the 9th Marine Regiment secure another battle scarred hilltop following an encounter with North Vietnamese Army forces during Operation Dewey Canyon. From the start of the operation Jan 22, through the end of February, the 9th Marines accounted for more than a thousand enemy dead in the Ashau Valley complex.

Photo by Sgt. Mike Padilla

In the winter of 1969, Brig. Gen. Frank E. Garretson, commander of Task Force Hotel at Vandegrift, was ordered to plan for a regimental-sized search and clear operation into the Song Da Krong Valley, just northwest of the A Shau Valley and north of NVA Base Area 611 in Laos. This would become Operation Dewey Canyon, the purpose of which was not only to kill the enemy and deny him supplies, but also to block his access to the densely populated areas of the coastal lowlands.

Operation Dewey Canyon was one of the most successful high-mobility regimental-sized action of the Vietnam War. It took only five days of planning command reconnaissance and support arrangements to launch Dewey Canyon. By March 18, the enemy's base area had been cleared out, there were 1,617 enemy dead, and more than 500 tons of weapons and ammunition unearthed.

For more information visit:
<http://www.mcu.usmc.mil/historydivision> and <http://www.historynet.com>



2ND LT. JOHN P. BOBO (1943-1967), USMC RESERVE
 SECOND PLATOON COMMANDER IN COMPANY I, 3RD BATTALION, 9TH MARINES, 3RD MARINE DIVISION
MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT



CITATION COURTESY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY ARCHIVE

Company I was establishing night ambush sites when the command group was attacked by a North Vietnamese company supported by heavy automatic weapons and mortar fire. 2nd Lt. Bobo immediately organized a hasty defense and moved positions, encouraging the outnumbered Marines despite enemy fire. Recovering a rocket launcher from among the friendly casualties, he organized a new launcher team and directed its fire into the enemy machine gun positions. When an exploding enemy mortar round severed 2nd Lt. Bobo's right leg below the knee, he refused to be evacuated and insisted upon being placed in a firing position to cover the movement of the command group to a better location. With a web belt around his leg serving as a tourniquet and with his leg jammed into the dirt to curtain the bleeding, he remained in this position and delivered devastating fire into the ranks of the enemy attempting to overrun the Marines. 2nd Lt. Bobo was mortally wounded but his valiant spirit inspired his men to heroic efforts, and his tenacious stand enabled the command group to gain a protective position where it repulsed the enemy onslaught. 2nd Lt. Bobo's superb leadership, dauntless courage and bold initiative reflected great credit upon him and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the U.S. Naval Service.

THE HARD FACTS

- OFFICIALLY, 1,617 NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WERE REPORTED KILLED AND FIVE CAPTURED, WHILE 130 MARINES WERE KILLED AND 920 WOUNDED.
- THE MARINES HAD EFFECTIVELY DISRUPTED A MAJOR ENEMY LOGISTICAL CENTER IN BASE AREA 611, INCLUDING IN THEIR TOTAL HAUL MORE THAN 1,000 NVA SMALL ARMS, SOME 807,000 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION AND ABOUT 220,000 POUNDS OF RICE.
- MARINE FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT FLEW 461 CLOSE AIR SUPPORT MISSIONS, AND MARINE HELICOPTERS FLEW NEARLY 1,200 SORTIES (A DEPLOYMENT OR DISPATCH OF ONE MILITARY UNIT).
- U.S. ARMY HELICOPTERS ALSO FLEW NUMEROUS SORTIES IN SUPPORT OF THE MARINES.
- THE ARTILLERY FIRED ABOUT 134,000 ROUNDS DURING THE OPERATION.



RESERVE FORCES AROUND THE WORLD:

MARINES PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISES TO PREPARE THEM FOR REAL-WORLD CONFLICTS AND OPERATIONS. (QUARTER 4: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2015)



European Command

TRIDENT JUNCTURE 15

TRIDENT JUNCTURE 15

Trident Juncture was the largest NATO exercise in the past 10 years. It included more than 5,000 U.S. service members out of 36,000 troops from more than 30 allied nations. An exercise of this magnitude demonstrated NATO's ability to respond to global threats to peace and security.

OCT. 21-NOV. 6

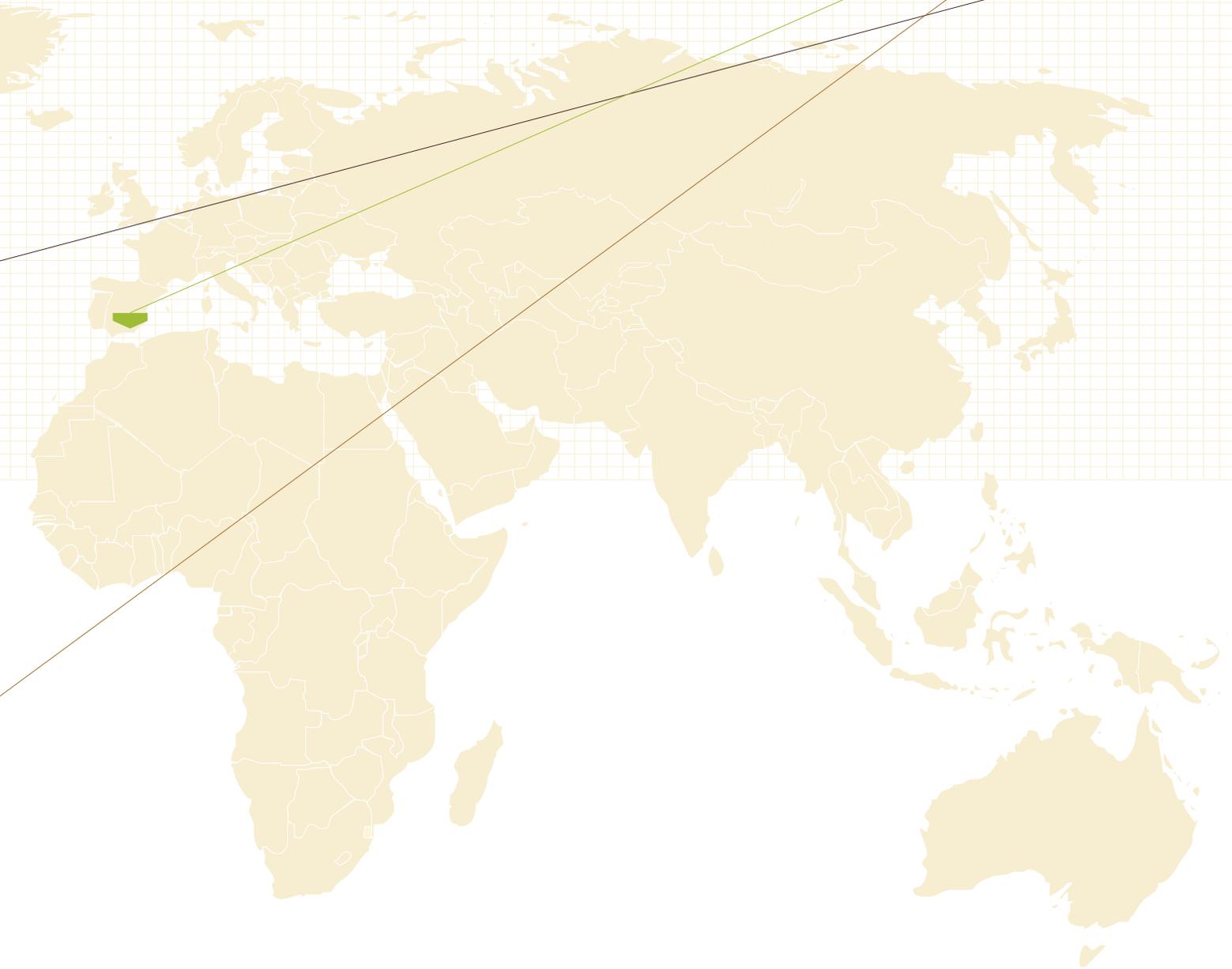
Southern Command

UNITAS AMPHIBIOUS 15

UNITAS AMPHIBIOUS 15

Partner Nations from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and the United States gathered together to participate in UNITAS Amphibious 2015 at Ilha do Governador and Ilha da Marambaia, Brazil. Marines with Marine Forces Reserve joined their allies during the exercise to train and exchange best practices in field training exercises and ship-to-shore operations.

NOV. 14-25



 **Pacific Command**

LAVA VIPER 

LAVA VIPER

Reserve Marines participated in exercise Lava Viper, which takes place twice a year at the Pohakuloa Training Area of U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii. The exercise consists of training operations including assault support, anti-air warfare, offensive air support, electronic warfare, control of aircraft and missiles and aerial reconnaissance.

NOV. 7-20

4TH LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

4TH MARDIV PARTICIPATES IN THE
LARGEST NATO EXERCISE IN 10 YEARS

STORY BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE



Marines with 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, lookout for the enemy during night exercises for Trident Juncture 2015 at Alverez de Sotomayor in Almería, Spain, Oct. 31. British Royal Marines served as the opposing force during the exercise, allowing both sides to learn about each other's tactics, techniques and operating procedures.

PHOTO BY SGT. SARA GRAHAM



LOCATION: ALMERIA, SPAIN



Marines with 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, report the enemy's position during their final exercise for Trident Juncture 2015 at Alvarez de Sotomayor in Almería, Spain, Oct. 31.

PHOTO BY SGT. SARA GRAHAM



TRIDENT JUNCTURE 15

U.S. Marines of 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion participated in exercise Trident Juncture 2015 in Alvarez de Sotomayor, a Spanish military training area north of Almería, Spain, from Oct. 25 to 31.

Trident Juncture was the largest NATO exercise in more than 10 years with more than 5,000 U.S. service members participating along with 36,000 troops from more than 30 nations. The exercise supported training for the NATO Response Force and to demonstrate NATO's ability to respond to threats.

A U.S. Marine with 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, engages a British Royal Marine while conducting field operations during Trident Juncture 2015 at Alvarez de Sotomayor in Almería, Spain, Oct. 31.

PHOTO BY SGT. SARA GRAHAM

TRAINING

Marines faced off with British Royal Marines with simulated opposition forces for three days. The training taught the Marines each other's strengths and weaknesses, allowing them to seek improvement and apply new skills and strategies to their standard operating procedures.

"We've been conducting training with the British Royal Marines and doing some of our own training within the unit itself, getting used to the terrain and trying out different tactics that we haven't had the opportunity to do in the states," said Cpl. Benjamin Atha, light armored vehicle driver, 4th LAR, 4th Marine Division.

"AS MARINES YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE TIP OF THE SPEAR, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO GO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD AND CONDUCT OPERATIONS AT THE DROP OF A HAT, BY DOING THIS IT KEEPS US SHARP, KEEPS US ON POINT AND KEEPS US FOCUSED."

-SGT. BRYSON, SCOUT SECTION LEADER



Marines from 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, hit their targets in a live fire drill in Almería, Spain for exercise Trident Juncture 2015, Oct. 27. Live-fire drills allow Reserve Marines to train in realistic environments and maintain a high state of readiness.

PHOTO BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE



Lance Cpl. Arturo Campos, assistant fire team leader for Delta Co., 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, run through dry-fire drills during exercise Trident Juncture 2015 in Almería, Spain, Oct. 27.

PHOTO BY SGT. SARA GRAHAM



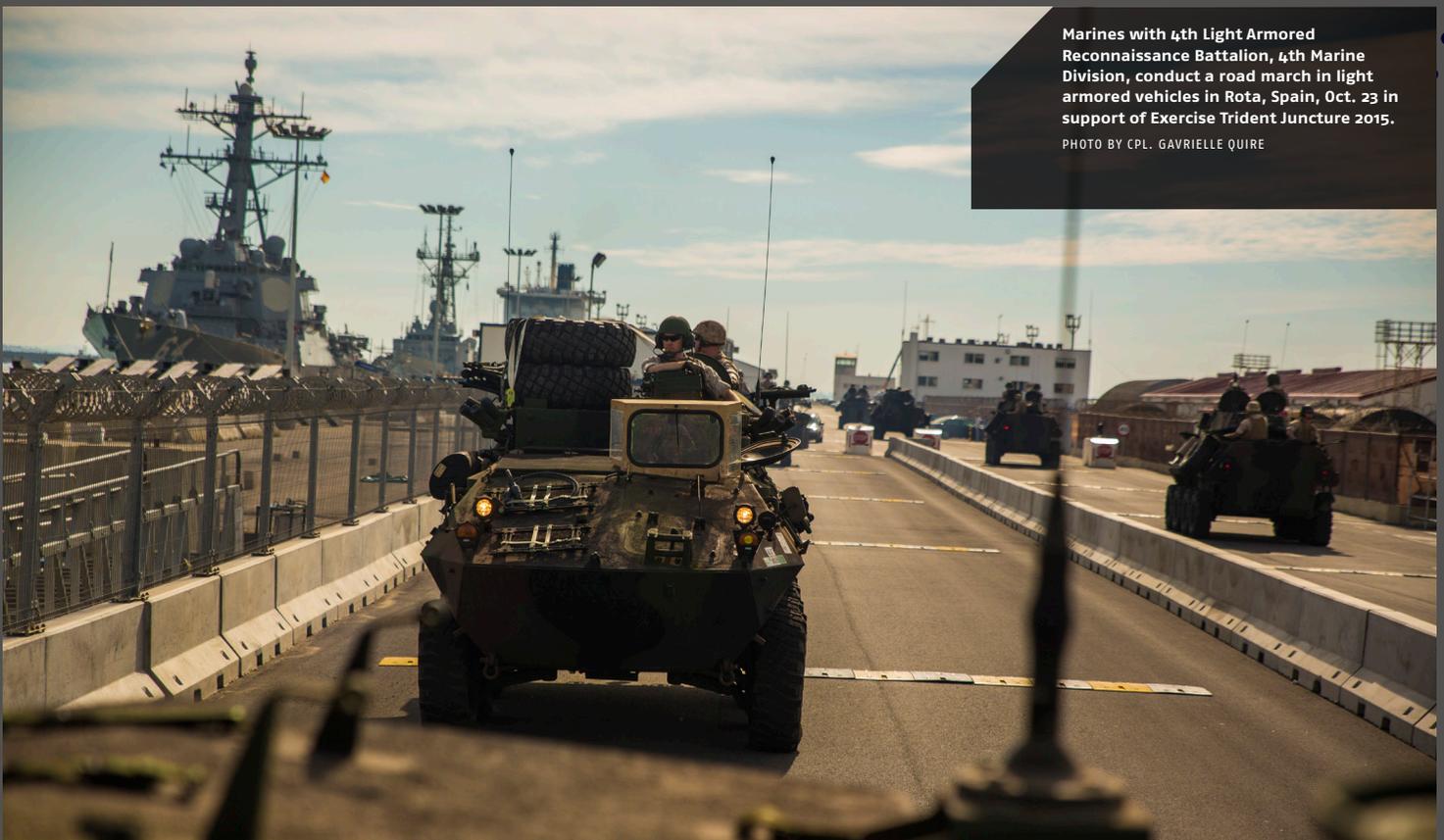
Lance Cpl. Mitchell Davidson, a light armored reconnaissance vehicle gunner with 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, helps get his vehicle up and running during exercise Trident Juncture 2015 at Alverez de Sotomayor in Almería, Spain, Oct. 31.

PHOTO BY SGT. SARA GRAHAM

COMMUNICATION

The ability to communicate and understand how each other's militaries operate played a large role in the exercise.

"The Spanish were very helpful, especially in our road march here from Rota," said Sgt. Kyle Foster, scout team leader for 4th LAR Bn. "They gave us everything we needed including logistics and it was a great experience working with them."



Marines with 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, conduct a road march in light armored vehicles in Rota, Spain, Oct. 23 in support of Exercise Trident Juncture 2015.

PHOTO BY CPL. GAVRIELLE QUIRE

Marines with 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, convoy during their final exercise in Trident Juncture, Oct. 28. The simulated exercise taught the Marines each other's strengths and weaknesses, allowing them to seek improvement as well as build interoperability among the warfighters.

PHOTO BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE



THE TAKE AWAY

The exercise provided an opportunity for Reserve Marines to gain experience within their military occupational specialties and demonstrate their readiness and proficiency with NATO allies.

"In the Reserve, we're typically not doing this every day," said Atha. "This is a good test to see how well we can just hop on a plane and go somewhere we need to be and get to work without any problems."



Marines with 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, conduct a road march in light armored vehicles in Rota, Spain, Oct. 23 in support of Exercise Trident Juncture 2015, the largest NATO exercise in the past 10 years.

PHOTO BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE



AN AERIAL VIEW: RECON MARINES TAKE FLIGHT DURING PARACHUTE TRAINING

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE

A Marine with 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company, 4th Marine Division, touches down on his designated drop zone following a high altitude – high opening jump during parachute insertion training at Stennis International Airport, Miss., Oct. 15. The goal of the training was to sharpen a skill set that is of great advantage to expeditionary forces, allowing the jumpers to infiltrate locations where access would be too difficult for vehicles.



Marines with 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company, 4th Marine Division, jump exit a C-130 Hercules aircraft during high altitude – high opening parachute insertion training at Stennis International Airport, Miss., Oct. 15. The goal of the training was to sharpen a skill set that is of great advantage to expeditionary forces, allowing the jumpers to infiltrate locations where access would be too difficult for vehicles.

Marines with 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company, 4th Marine Division, conducted parachute training operations at Stennis International Airport Mississippi, Oct. 15.

Reconnaissance Marines are some of the first responders to potential crises, and maintaining readiness is critical to completing their missions.

The training goal was to increase proficiency in insertion tactics, which provides advantages to expeditionary forces by allowing the jumpers to infiltrate locations where vehicles cannot go.

"Parachuting is one of our mission essential tasks that we have to be able to provide to forward units," Gunnery Sgt. Chadwick Charlton, operations chief for 3rd Force Reconnaissance Co., said. "We use it for insertion missions and it's crucial to be able to provide that capability."

The Marines conducted two different types of jumps for the training based on their individual jump qualifications. These included high-altitude high-opening and low-level static line jumps out of a C-130 Hercules aircraft, outfitted with parachute setups for different types of insertion. Both jump methods are valuable for giving them a stealthy approach on the enemy during real-world missions.

"Today we were jumping at an altitude of 12,500 feet, which is our basic release for high-altitude high-opening jumps, and our lower-level guys were jumping at 1,500 feet, which is our low-level static line jumps," Charlton said.

The training had a dual purpose; to keep the Marines up-to-date with their jump qualifications and to increase proficiency.

"We have to jump at least four times a year to maintain training standards. Right now, we're doing it monthly for more effective sustainment as well as to get in some jumps for our lower level guys that don't have as much experience," Staff Sgt. Robert E. Thomason, maintenance management S-4 chief, 3rd Force Reconnaissance Co., said.

Exercises like these promote mission readiness and prepare for real-life scenarios such as deployments in hostile areas.

"Being proficient in parachuting is important to the reconnaissance community because we're often the first ones to enter behind enemy lines to collect information to send back to our friendly forces and head off the mission," Thomason said.

The training allowed the Marines to apply parachute and insertion methods, ensuring they are ready and have the capabilities to complete their mission.



BEEN THERE
DONE THAT



4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

PARTNER NATIONS

An MV-22B Osprey from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 764, 4th Marine Air Wing, conducts embarking and disembarking drills during UNITAS Amphibious 2015 at Ilha do Governador, Brazil, Nov. 17. This exercise demonstrates the commitment of partner nations to ensure their Marine Corps/Naval infantry are postured to provide ready forces to respond to emergencies anywhere in the Western Hemisphere.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. RICARDO DAVILA





BEEN THERE
DONE THAT



4TH MARINE DIVISION

(TOP)

SGT. DUANE A. PEPPER, scout team leader 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, scans the horizon during the final stages of exercise Trident Juncture 15 in Almería Spain, Oct. 28.

CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE

(BOTTOM LEFT)

MARINES with 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, conceal their Light Armored Vehicle during their final exercise in Trident Juncture 2015 in Almería, Spain, Oct. 30.

CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE

(BOTTOM RIGHT)

MARINES with 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division scout for enemy positions during their final exercise for Trident Juncture 2015 at Alvarez de Sotomayor in Almería, Spain, Oct. 31.

SGT. SARA GRAHAM





FORCE HEADQUARTERS GROUP

LT. COL. ESTEBAN BEAMON, team leader, 4th Civil Affairs Group, interacts with students at Jornalista Dantas school in of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during UNITAS Amphibous 2015 Nov. 17.

LANCE CPL. ISSAC VELASQUEZ

4TH MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

(BOTTOM LEFT)

Lance Cpl. Nicholas J. Roach, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialist with CBRN platoon, Combat Logistics Regiment 4, calibrates his detectors before conducting CBRN training at Camp Shelby, Miss., Nov. 17, as part of a week-long Advanced Consequence Management course.

PHOTO BY CPL. IAN LEONES

(BOTTOM RIGHT)

Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Golding, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialist with CBRN platoon, Combat Logistics Regiment 4, puts on his level A suit before conducting CBRN training at Camp Shelby, Miss., Nov. 17.

PHOTO BY CPL. IAN LEONES



INTEGRATED OPERATIONS:

MARINE FORCES RESERVE BUILDS PARTNERSHIPS DURING UNITAS AMPHIBIOUS 2015

STORY BY MASTER SGT. KATESHA WASHINGTON



U.S. Marines with Golf Company, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, share a moment and camaraderie with counterparts from the Brazilian Marine Corps during UNITAS 2015 taking place at Ilha do Governador, Brazil, Nov. 16. UNITAS is a multi-nation exercise designed to increase interoperability among participating countries.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. ISSAC VELASQUEZ



An MV-22B Osprey from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 764, 4th Marine Air Wing, lands to disembark partner nations onboard during UNITAS 2015 at Ilha do Governador, Brazil, Nov. 17. This exercise demonstrates the commitment of partner nations to ensure respective Marine Corps/Naval infantries are postured to provide ready forces anywhere in the Western Hemisphere.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. RICARDO DAVILA

Brazilian Marines conduct a breaching exercise during UNITAS 2015 taking place at Ilha do Governador, Brazil, Nov. 16. UNITAS is a multi-nation exercise designed to increase interoperability in areas such as military operations in urban terrain among participating countries.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. ISSAC VELASQUEZ



PARTNER NATIONS TRAIN TOGETHER

Nearly 1,000 Marines from eight countries in the Western Hemisphere participated in one of the largest multinational field training exercises south of the equator from Nov. 14-25 in Ilha do Governador, Brazil.

Marines from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and the United States worked together during UNITAS Amphibious 2015, a combined field training exercise designed to enhance interoperability in amphibious operations and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HA/DR) missions.

The exercise develops and sustains relationships that improve the capacity of partner nation security forces to achieve common desired regional goals. Ultimately, UNITAS fosters friendly cooperation and understanding among all participating forces.

"It's a very rich experience. Being able to work with Brazilians, Colombians, and Mexicans is unique because we have not had the chance to work with them very much in the past and this is a good way to become familiarized with the [environment and humidity] of South America," Sgt. Christian Plante, an infantryman with the Canadian Royal 22nd Regiment, said.



Members of the Brazilian Marine Corps conduct an amphibious landing exercise during UNITAS 2015 at Ilha de Marambaia, Brazil, Nov. 20. UNITAS is a multi-nation exercise designed to increase interoperability in amphibious operations between participating countries.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. ISSAC VELASQUEZ

REAL-LIFE SCENARIOS

The individual training events gave participating countries' staff and troops opportunities to walk through real-life scenarios which they currently face in the western hemisphere. These scenarios were designed to simulate conditions for which any of the participating nations could be called upon to support, including peace support operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. There were many highlights to the training schedule but some of the most noteworthy were the ship-to-shore movement portions of the exercise, military operations in urban terrain, noncombatant evacuations, civil military operations, medical treatment and evacuation, and live-fire ranges.



Mexican rifle platoon Marines conduct a breaching exercise during UNITAS 2015 at Ilha do Governador, Brazil, Nov. 16. UNITAS is a multi-nation exercise designed to increase interoperability in areas such as military operations in urban terrain among participating countries.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. ISSAC VELASQUEZ

INTEGRATION



For Brazilian Marine Ricardo Dos Santos Carballo Dominguez, a 105 mm cannon operator with the Brazilian Artillery Battalion, the exercise opened his eyes to new tactics and techniques to incorporate into his own unit's training.

"It's really interesting because we get to see new technology that the other countries bring to the fight, such as your MV-22B Osprey helicopter, which we don't have here. And we can see the tactics they use in large-scale combat. On the other hand, we bring the tactics used in close quarter combat in the favelas here to show them ways to operate in that type of environment," he explained.

According to Col. Paul Konopka, 23rd Marine Regiment senior advisor, exercises like UNITAS provide real-world scenarios for Reserve Marines to train in, which allows them to seamlessly integrate with their active duty counterparts and maintain readiness.

"We accomplished a lot during this exercise, because we not only integrated with so many different nations from South America and the Western Hemisphere but we were able to do so alongside our Active Duty counterparts," he said.

Mexican Marines prepare for a rifle range alongside partner nations during UNITAS 2015 at Ilha do Governador, Brazil, Nov. 17. Exercises like UNITAS bring together countries in the Western Hemisphere to exchange knowledge and tactics.
PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. RICARDO DAVILA

THE WRAP UP

Throughout the exercise, Konopka's Marines and Sailors, along with the 4th Marine Logistics Group, 4th Civil Affairs Group, and Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 764, integrated not only with their partner nation allies, but also with numerous active component Marines with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion and 2nd Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company.

As the partner nation participants involved in UNITAS 2015 wrapped up their training objectives and simultaneously forged new relationships, the Marines look forward to the next iteration of UNITAS, which is scheduled to be held in Peru, where they hope to continue to foster friendly cooperation and understanding among all of their brothers-in-arms.

Capt. Ismael Lopez, team leader, 4th Civil Affairs Group, Force Headquarters Group, interacts with the students at Jornalista Dantas during UNITAS 2015 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Nov. 17.
PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. ISSAC VELASQUEZ





High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) crewmen assigned to Battery D, 2d Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment prepare their launcher for live-fire operations after debarking KC-130J aircraft supporting their raid operations.

Photo Courtesy of White Sands Missile Range Public Affairs

Rockets Down Range

STORY BY CPL. IAN LEONES

The hum of turbine engines fills the air on a chilly December morning at the White Sands Missile Range in southern New Mexico. Cresting the horizon, two C-130 Hercules military transport aircraft approach a makeshift runway on the desert floor. The first plane lands and offloads Marines and tactical communications gear. The second aircraft lands downrange of the first and offloads an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System and a launch team.

Within minutes, the Marines are ready to send rounds downrange. The fire mission comes over the radio from the Force Artillery Headquarters and the communications team quickly relays it to the launcher.

A countdown begins and observers hold their breath awaiting the launch.

The rocket pierces the air and the HIMARS is enveloped in smoke. Seconds later, a second rocket leaves the launcher and follows the trajectory of the first. More than

30 kilometers away, the target is split in half as impacts from the rockets erase its existence across the white desert sand.

These are the Marines of Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, and they conducted a live-fire HIMARS air raid exercise at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, Dec. 4.

"We were essentially trying to test the capability of the HIMARS to launch an air raid from any position," Sgt. Garrett S. Zurich, HIMARS launcher section chief, 1st platoon, Battery D. said. "We were able to land, fire a guided munition at an enemy target, re-embark and get out of the firing position."

In the span of a few hours, the Marines were able to transport two separate HIMARS launcher teams from Biggs Army Airfield in Fort Bliss, Texas, and fire six guided multiple launch rocket system unitary rounds to eliminate a target 31 kilometers away.

Battery D, 2d Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment fires an M31 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Missile from the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) during a raid exercise. The M31 provides Battery D with the capability to precisely strike targets over 70 kilometers away with a 200 lbs blast fragmentation warhead.

Photo Courtesy of White Sands Missile Range Public Affairs



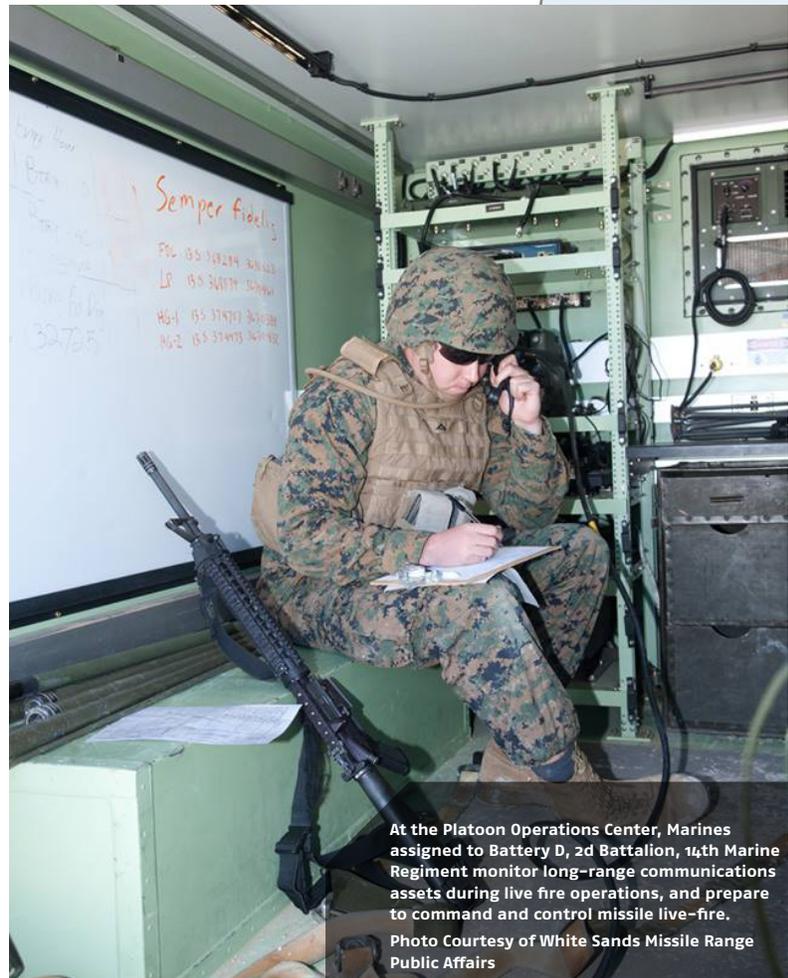
To accomplish this mission over a single drill weekend, the Marines required coordination from the 14th Marines regimental headquarters, which served as a Force Artillery Headquarters, 2nd Battalion inspector and instructor staff, the Army's 1st Armored Division Artillery, White Sands Missile Range personnel, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 452, Marine Aircraft Group 49, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing and VMGR-234, MAG-41, 4th MAW.

"We originated the mission at the force artillery headquarters in Fort Worth, and transmitted it 800 miles via digital high-frequency transmission to a mobile platoon operations center at White Sands Missile Range that had gotten off a C-130 just five minutes prior, and put rounds on target," said Col. Joseph Russo, commanding officer, 14th Marine Regiment.

Although many aspects of this mission had been practiced in the past, this event was the first time a Marine Corps unit has employed this tactic using HIMARS and live ammunition.

"We had exercised several of the individual portions of this event in the past, but hadn't brought them all together," Russo said. "We've conducted long-range digital HF communications over 800 miles before, but hadn't tied them into a live-fire raid event. We've loaded HIMARS launchers into aircraft before, but never live-fired them during a raid exercise. We've live-fired GMLRS unitary rounds before, but not done so within the constraints of a tactical scenario."

The Marines of 14th Marine Regiment proved the individual weekend training can be combined seamlessly to achieve successful over-all mission accomplishment without being rehearsed.



At the Platoon Operations Center, Marines assigned to Battery D, 2d Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment monitor long-range communications assets during live fire operations, and prepare to command and control missile live-fire.

Photo Courtesy of White Sands Missile Range Public Affairs



Battery D, 2d Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment fires an M31 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Missile from the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) during a raid exercise. The M31 provides Battery D with the capability to precisely strike targets over 70 kilometers away with a 200 lbs blast fragmentation warhead.

Photo Courtesy of White Sands Missile Range Public Affairs



UNIT
PROFILE



MARINE MEDIUM TILTROTOR SQUADRON 764 (VMM-764)

LOCATION: Sand Diego, Calif.

An MV-22B Osprey from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 764, 4th Marine Air Wing, prepares to land during UNITAS Amphibious 2015 at Ilha do Governador, Brazil, Nov. 17.

PHOTO BY LCPL. RICARDO DAVILA

Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 764 (VMM-764), the "Moonlight" squadron, was redesignated from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764 (HMM-764) on January 13, 2013. It was relocated to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego, California, becoming the first Reserve squadron to transition to the MV-22B Osprey. VMM-764 falls under Marine Aircraft Group 41, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, which is composed of eight total squadrons (five flying, one maintenance, and three support squadrons) that operate across the country.

Dating back to April 15, 1958, VMM-764 shares a rich and storied history in the Reserve. It participated in operations such as the Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. In 2008, the squadron participated in exercise Partnership of the Americas, where it provided essential air-lift capability to operations in Guatemala, El Salvador and Peru, allowing the various medical and engineering work site professionals the ability to get ashore.



VMM-764 QUICK FACTS

• Since being redesignated to VMM-764 and transitioning to the MV-22B Osprey, the squadron has provided essential air-lift capabilities to both Active and Reserve Component Marines all over the world.

• In November 2015, the Moonlight supported exercise UNITAS Amphibious 2015. The exercise began with a transit from Miramar, California to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which was the longest to date for the Osprey in the western hemisphere.

• Once in country, the tiltrotor aircraft took part in an exercise with partner nation militaries from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, and Peru. During the exercise, VMM-764 conducted assault support operations, embark and debark drills, and training area reconnaissance for partner nation personnel.

SQUADRON COMMANDER: Lt. Col. David Weinstein

SERGEANT MAJOR: Sgt. Maj. Kevin M. Walsh

MISSION: Provides essential air-lift capabilities to both Active and Reserve Marines around the world.



BE SMART,
BE SAFE

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY: RIDING TIPS

PHOTO BY PFC ROBERTO VILLA JR.

STORY BY CPL. IAN LEONES

For those who love speed and the open road, a motorcycle can be an exhilarating experience. Motorcyclists do not need to be told how good it feels to fly through an empty highway with the wind at their back. Even though motorcycles are fun and fuel-efficient modes of transportation, they can also be extremely dangerous. The reality is that someone is 30 times more likely to die in a motorcycle accident than in a car accident, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Crashes that result in serious injuries and fatalities degrade Marine Corps combat readiness. However, many enthusiasts are able to enjoy motorcycles as a lifelong passion by taking necessary precautions.

A Marine would not go into combat without personal protective equipment or proper training first, so why take that risk with a

bike? The Marine Corps requires its riders to wear a helmet, eye protection, hard soled shoes and protective clothing while operating a motorcycle. In addition to proper gear, Marines purchasing or operating a motorcycle are required to obtain a motorcycle operator licensing and take a Level I motorcycle safety course. This ensures all riders have the minimum skills to operate a motorcycle safely. A mandatory follow-on Level II course must also be completed within 120 days of completing the basic course and refresher courses (level II or III) must be completed every three years.

Before you hop on a bike, make sure that you have the proper gear and training to ensure your safety on the road. If you are unsure of the gear or training requirements, or want to learn more about Marine Corps motorcycle policy, see Marine Corps Order 5100.19F for more information.

PPE Must Be Worn By All Military Personnel While Operating A Motorcycle

- 1. A PROPERLY-FASTENED (UNDER THE CHIN) PROTECTIVE HELMET THAT MEETS THE STANDARDS OF THE SNELL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION (SNELL), THE AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE (ANSI), OR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT).**
 - 2. IMPACT OR SHATTER-RESISTANT GOGGLES OR FULL-FACE SHIELD ATTACHED TO THE HELMET. A WINDSHIELD OR EYEGLASSES ALONE IS NOT CONSIDERED PROPER EYE PROTECTION.**
 - 3. HARD-SOLED SHOES WITH HEELS. THE USE OF LEATHER BOOTS OR OVER-THE-ANKLE SHOES IS ENCOURAGED.**
 - 4. PROPERLY WORN LONG-SLEEVED SHIRT WITH SLEEVES ROLLED DOWN OR JACKET, FULL LENGTH TROUSERS, AND FULL-FINGERED GLOVES OR MITTENS. TO CLARIFY, CIVILIAN ATTIRE, SUCH AS LONG-SLEEVED T-SHIRTS OR JACKETS (EXCEPT AS DESCRIBED BELOW), MAY NOT BE WORN OVER THE UNIFORM.**
 - 5. MARINES ARE AUTHORIZED AND ENCOURAGED TO WEAR A MOTORCYCLE-RIDING JACKET CONSTRUCTED OF ABRASION-RESISTANT MATERIALS SUCH AS LEATHER, KEVLAR, AND/OR CORDURA AND CONTAINING IMPACT-ABSORBING PADDING OVER THE UNIFORM WHILE ON THE MOTORCYCLE.**
-

[HTTP://WWW.MCIEAST.MARINES.MIL/STAFFOFFICES/SAFETY/TRAFFIC/MOTORCYCLE.ASPX](http://www.mcieast.marines.mil/staffoffices/safety/traffic/motorcycle.aspx)

What is required?

- **Motorcycle Operator Licensing:**
All operators of government and privately-owned motorcycles must be properly licensed when operating such vehicles on public highways/roadways.
- **Motorcycle Safety Training:**
The purpose of the Marine Corps Motorcycle Safety training program is to provide entry-level riders with the minimum skills necessary to begin riding safely and to provide opportunities for renewal training (e.g., sustainment or lifelong learning) for experienced motorcycle operators throughout their riding career.
- **Initial (Level I) Training:**
All Marines who plan to purchase or operate a motorcycle (regardless of their intent to register the motorcycle on a Marine Corps installation) and all operators of government-owned motorcycles are required to attend and successfully complete a motorcycle rider safety course approved by CMC.
- **Motorcycle Follow-on Training:**
All Marine motorcycle riders will attend mandatory follow-on Level II motorcycle training within 120 days of completion of Level I course (dependent on the local riding season).
- **Refresher Training:**
Commanders will ensure motorcycle riders receive refresher training/continuing education (Level II or III) every three years.

FOR MORE INFORMATION REFER TO MCO 5100-1.19F

SAVED
ROUNDS



Lt. Gen. Rex C. McMillian, commander of Marine Forces Reserve, presents Sgt. Kenneth A. Altazan, Vietnam War veteran, with the Navy Cross Medal certificate aboard the USS Kidd Veterans Museum, Baton Rouge, La., Oct. 13.
PHOTO BY CPL. IAN FERRO

NO MARINE LEFT BEHIND

SGT. KENNETH A. ALTAZAN PRESENTED NAVY CROSS

STORY AND BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE

Forty-six years after Kenneth A. Altazan responded to a call of 10-plus Marine casualties in an area overwhelmed by enemy forces in Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam, the commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North, Lt. Gen. Rex C. McMillian, presented the Marine Corps veteran with the Navy Cross, the second-highest award a Marine can receive for valor. The award was presented during a ceremony at the USS Kidd Veterans Memorial Museum, October 13.

On May 9, 1969, Sgt. Altazan, crew chief for Marine medium helicopter squadron 364, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 1st Marine Air Wing, was conducting emergency medical evacuations for a Marine infantry company that was being suppressed by a large enemy force during the Vietnam War. Altazan's heroic efforts during this time were recognized with a Silver Star.

Though Altazan received the Silver Star years ago, additional evidence of his heroics was recently submitted to the Marine Corps that led to upgrading his Silver Star to the Navy Cross.

That evidence was a recording taken by a serviceman whose plane was flying above Altazan's helicopter that day, and his recording showed that Altazan jumped into the line of fire not once to rescue others but twice, the second time after suffering an injury to his

knee.

Altazan was the appointed crew chief on the lead aircraft of two CH-46 transport helicopters that were assigned to extract the 10-plus Marines who were heavily engaged in combat with the North Vietnamese Army Force.

The plan was to land the helicopter in two places to rescue the injured, but the aircraft immediately came under heavy fire, and the wounded Marines were scattered. Undaunted by the volume of fire directed at his aircraft, Altazan directed his crew that they were to extract the dispersed Marines from five locations instead, touching the helicopter down each time.

At the second extraction location, Altazan saw a Marine evacuating a casualty get shot and fall to the ground. Without a second thought, he ran to them, lifted one onto his shoulder and grabbed the other by the arm and began to haul them to the helicopter. In the midst of his rescue effort, an enemy bullet hit the Marine he was carrying causing all three to hit the ground and injuring Altazan's knee. After all three men fell to the ground, Altazan picked himself back up and continued to carry the Marines to safety.

"In boot camp, they taught us to react. You react to something more than you think it through," Altazan said. "If I had sat back and thought about what was going on, none of this

would have ever happened."

Landing the helicopter at the final fifth zone, dangerously close to the enemy's position, Altazan noticed another Marine casualty in the distance waving a green shirt. The Marine was unable to get to the helicopter due to his injuries and enemy fire. Again, with no regard for his own injuries, Altazan jumped out of the doorway of his aircraft and began to run toward the Marine. Running out of time and in significant pain, he pulled off his heavy body armor and continued on. Upon arrival, he discovered not one, but two wounded Marines. One he pulled over his shoulders into a fireman's carry, the other he dragged by his belt approximately 30 meters to the safety of the helicopter.

According to Altazan's Navy Cross citation, his bold initiative and selfless concern helped save the lives of his fellow Marines, inspired all who observed him and was instrumental in completing the hazardous mission.

"He left the safety and comfort of his aircraft and personally carried wounded back," said Sgt. Maj. William F. Fitzgerald III, sergeant major of 4th Marine Aircraft Wing.

Fitzgerald added it's important for Marines to recognize achievements like Altazan's, not only because it fills them with pride, but also because they too may be called to display that kind of courage. ■

Staff Sgt. Freddie R. Duncan, weapons platoon sergeant, Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, poses for a picture after receiving the Bossier Patriot of the Year Award at the Bossier Civic Center in Bossier City, La., Sept. 11. COURTESY PHOTO

HOME TOWN HERO

MARINE RECEIVES BOSSIER PATRIOT OF THE YEAR AWARD

STORY BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE

In Patriot Day, Sept. 11, Staff Sgt. Freddie R. Duncan, weapons platoon sergeant with Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, received the Bossier Patriot of the Year Award. The Patriot Awards are presented annually by the Bossier City Chamber of Commerce. The award recognizes individuals who go above and beyond to make their community a better, safer place.

The men and women who are recognized are the kind of people who go out each day to face unknown battles to keep the people in their community safe. People such as local law enforcement, first responders and Active and Reserve military members are recognized for their service. The award recipients are chosen for their tenacity on and off duty and their contributions to their community.



In the Marine Corps, Duncan has deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and a tour in Cuba. In 2004, he served in the battle of Fallujah as a 60-millimeter gunner, where he gained a great deal of combat experience and knowledge. Outside of the Marine Corps, Duncan is a fire fighter in Shreveport, Louisiana.

“Being a firefighter means a lot to me, it’s an exciting job and it is very similar to the Marine Corps,” said Duncan. “We’re a brotherhood and we’re here to help people. In the Marine Corps, we go overseas and help people and as firefighters, we help people here in the community.” ■

CUB SCOUT PACK 48

SCOUTS RECEIVE FIRST AID TRAINING FROM MARINE AND CORSPMAN

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. TIFFANY EDWARDS

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Aaron Bevan, and Staff Sgt. Charlee Law, both with 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, lead Cub Scout Pack 48 in first aid training at Marine Corps Support Facility New Orleans on Dec. 5. The training included identifying different types of ailments and injuries that required first aid, as well as an analysis of the contents in a common first-aid kit and its correct usage. The scouts attended the training as a requirement for earning their First Responder achievement badge. Den leader and MARFORRES Civilian Personnel Officer Linda Allen then took Pack 48 on a tour of the facility’s Hall of Sacrifice, where the scouts learned about the Reserve Marines and Sailors who gave their lives during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. ■



Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Aaron Bevan, leads Webelos Cub Scout Pack 48 in first aid training at Marine Corps Support Facility New Orleans on Dec. 5. The training, led by Bevan and Staff Sgt. Charlee Law, included identifying different types of ailments and injuries that required first aid, as well as an analysis of the contents in a common first-aid kit and their correct usage.

CBRN TRAINING

MARINES CONDUCT WEEK-LONG ADVANCED CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT COURSE

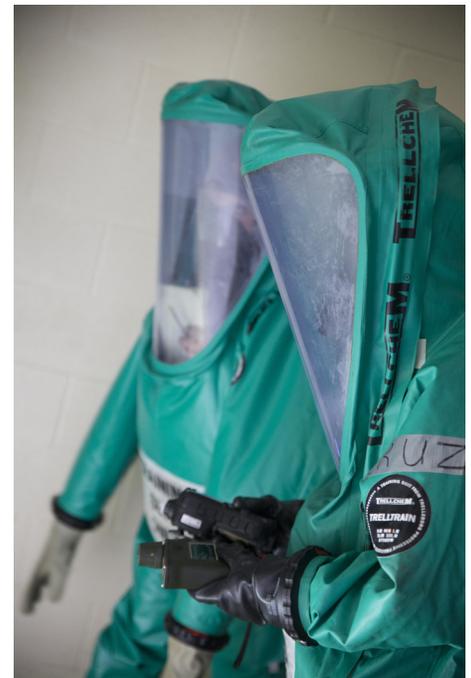
STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. IAN LEONES

Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialists from across Marine Forces Reserve conducted advanced CBRN training at Camp Shelby, Miss., Nov. 17.

The training events were part of a week-long Advanced Consequence Management course held Nov. 16–20 designed to teach the CBRN defense specialists more advanced skill sets.

“This course gives leaders the opportunity to send Marines into an unknown environment to determine what is happening and how to respond to the situation,” Sgt. Robert N. Potenziani, ACM student and CBRN defense chief with Detachment A, Marine Wing Support Squadron-472, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing said.

The day’s scenarios involved the release of anhydrous ammonia and chlorine gas, both substances that pose a serious threat when released in a human environment. In each scenario, the Marines had to determine which gas was present in order to decide how much gear and protection they needed in order to accomplish their mission. ■



Lance Cpl. Alex Cruz (right), chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialist with 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, and Lance Cpl. Cameron M. Dale (left), CBRN specialist with Marine Aircraft Group 41, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, enter a building filled with simulated anhydrous ammonia gas as part of a CBRN reconnaissance team during a training event at Camp Shelby, Miss., Nov. 17.



WITH THE
GEAR

SPECIFICATIONS

WEIGHT: 84 LBS
LENGTH: 65 IN
BARREL LENGTH: 45 IN
CALIBER: .50 BMG
ACTION: SHORT-RECOIL OPERATED
MAX RATE OF FIRE: 850 RPM
MUZZLE VELOCITY: 2,900 FT/S
MAX RANGE: 6,800 M



IMAGE COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.MILITARY-TODAY.COM/FIREARMS/M2.JPG](http://www.military-today.com/firearms/m2.jpg)

M2 .50 CALIBER MACHINE GUN

Since 1933, the Browning M2 .50 caliber machine gun has seen battlefronts during World War II and the Korean War, to anti-insurgency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as cartel-busting operations in Mexico. Automatic, recoil operated and air cooled, the belt-fed and crew-operated M2's versatility allows it to be used as an anti-aircraft gun with the M63 anti-aircraft mount, as well as an anti-personnel gun when mounted on the M3 tripod mount. The M2 has most notably been used as a sniper rifle when equipped with a telescopic sight.

In June 2011, the U.S. Army began upgrading their M2's to the M2A1, which features a flash suppressor that reduces muzzle flash by 95 percent, a quick-change barrel with removable carrying handle, and most importantly, fixed "headspace and timing." "Headspace" is the distance between the bolt face and the base of the cartridge case when fully seated in the chamber. "Timing" is the adjustment of M2 so firing takes place when the recoiling parts are in the correct position for firing. The original M2 required the headspace and timing to be manually set every time there was a barrel change, which meant improper adjustment could damage the weapon and cause serious injury to the operator. Fixed headspace and timing reduces risk, and the carrying handle allows the barrel to be switched in seconds.

SOURCES: [HTTP://WWW.MILITARY.COM/EQUIPMENT/M2-50-CALIBER-MACHINE-GUN](http://www.military.com/equipment/m2-50-caliber-machine-gun)
[HTTP://WWW.GLOBALSEcurity.ORG/MILITARY/SYSTEMS/GROUND/M2-50CAL.HTM](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/ground/m2-50cal.htm)

QUICK FACTS

50 CAL

•The Browning M2, also known as "Ma Deuce" due to its nomenclature, has been in use longer than any other small arm in U.S. inventory, except the .45 caliber M1911 pistol, which was fielded in 1911 and also designed by American weapons firearms designer John Browning.

•Gunnery Sgt. Carlos Hathcock set the world record for the longest-range confirmed kill with the M2 at 2,250 meters during the Vietnam War, which stood until 2002, when it was broken by Canadian Forces sniper Arron Perry during Operation Enduring Freedom with a McMillian TAC-50 sniper rifle.

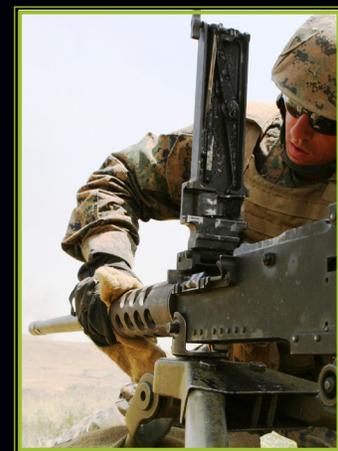


PHOTO BY CPL. ZAID DANNSA



DOUBLE DUTY

PHOTO BY CPL. IAN LEONES



COURTESY PHOTO

LANCE CPL. LUIS A. MEDINA

BILLET: Maintenance management specialist

TIME IN SERVICE: 2 years

REASON FOR JOINING: I wanted to do something different. I wanted to be able protect those who don't know how to defend themselves or can't defend themselves.

RESPONSIBILITIES: My responsibilities include helping organize the supply cage, ordering supplies and making sure the parts are being ordered correctly.

MEMORABLE MOMENT: The most memorable part of the Marine Corps is the camaraderie and the people I've met.

LUIS A. MEDINA

BILLET: Mariachi guitar player

TIME IN SERVICE: 8 years

REASON FOR JOINING: I grew up in Arlington, Texas, and wasn't really exposed to Mariachi music, but my mom would listen to it. Then my family moved to El Paso and I began hearing more of it and thought it was cool.

RESPONSIBILITIES: We perform almost every weekend, so my primary responsibilities are to practice and become more proficient at playing the guitar.

MEMORABLE MOMENT: The most memorable part is the people we play for. One lady requested to sing with us. She didn't know all the words, and would ask us to feed her lines in the middle of the songs, but it was a lot of fun.



MILITARY EXPRESSIONS FROM AROUND THE CORPS

180: one-hundred-eighty degrees on a compass (180°); to change to the opposite one's point of view

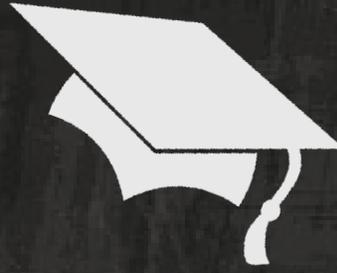
MWCS: Marine Wing Communications Squadron

THE BRICKS: Barracks

FRAGO: Fragmentary Order, an addendum to published operational orders.

MBT: Main Battle Tank, currently the M1 Abrams

POST 9/11 GI



GOING BACK TO
SCHOOL?

LEARN ABOUT
YOUR BENEFITS

The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service after Sept. 10, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. This benefit provides up to 36 months of education benefits, generally benefits are payable for 15 years following your release

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