

MARINES™

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE

FIRE, FORCE AND FURY

RESERVE MARINES SCORCH THE EARTH AT
INTEGRATED TRAINING EXERCISE 4-15





COMMANDER'S CORNER

FORCE IN READINESS

Marine Forces Reserve exists for one reason: to augment, reinforce and sustain the Total Force with units and individuals for employment across the full spectrum of crises and global engagement, and we will continue to focus on that. There are a number of methods we use to accomplish that mission, but two stand out as we stand in the midst of the busiest part of our training schedule. First, we seek to preserve and build upon the operational experience gained through continuous combat employment since 2001. Second, we focus our training in a cost-effective manner on mastering our mission essential tasks that directly support unit readiness to win our Nation's battles.

Continuous employment of MARFORRES forces since 2001 has produced a core of combat-experienced officers and enlisted leaders who are the most capable in our history. It is crucial this continue to be a source of strength for us. The summer affords many of our Marines and Sailors the only opportunities to operate and train with higher, subordinate and adjacent units. This is a key time that our newer Marines and Sailors can learn from more senior personnel. The Integrated Training Exercise is our largest exercise of the year and was a great success. Reserve Marines had the opportunity to operate as part of a Marine Air Ground Task Force and learn, first hand, how we do business. Exercises like African Lion in Morocco and Red Dagger in Great Britain allow our Marines to increase interoperability with the Active Component and partner nations.

Those opportunities are invaluable, but not always available. As a Reserve Force, our training is limited to 48 drill periods and 14 days of annual training each year. We also operate under increasingly tough fiscal constraints that make it necessary to focus our training and get the most "bang for our buck". Exercises like Arctic Eagle and the Innovative Readiness Training Program (IRT) in East Black Belt were perfect examples of doing just that. At Arctic Eagle, our Marines trained in military operations in urban terrain with a sister service and a partner nation's military, all during a drill weekend. At IRT East Black Belt, our Sailors increased their own MOS proficiency in providing medical support to our Marines, and they did so while providing medical care to an underserved community. That is focused, efficient training.

Today, we face an uncertain and volatile security environment and constrained fiscal resources, both of which place demands on us as a force. This environment demands that the participation of MARFORRES, as an element of the Total Force, be well planned, well understood and well executed. That is why we are here.

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

SNAP SHOT



Sgt. Rosendy Gabriel, the platoon sergeant and guide for 1st Plt, G Company, 2nd Bn., 25th Marines, stands ready to send his Marines onto a landing CH-47 Chinook helicopter for transport to Quantico, Va. during the final exercise of Heavy Metal 15 on June 24 in Ft. A.P. Hill, Va.

PHOTO BY CPL. TIFFANY EDWARDS

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QUARTER 2 2015

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PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. IAN LEONES

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6th ESB Marines train with British forces in bi-lateral exercise.

Lance Cpl. Adam A. Chandler, a musician with Marine Corps Band New Orleans, tunes the band with his clarinet before their performance at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, May 24. The band performed for onlookers in celebration of Memorial Day, which honors service members who died serving in the U.S. armed forces.

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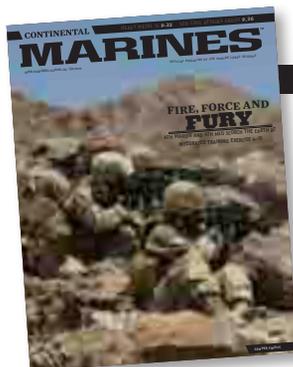
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ON THE COVER

Marines with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, shoot down range at simulated targets in a live-fire exercise during the Integrated Training Exercise 4-15 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 14. ITX allows Reserve Marines to train in realistic environments under realistic conditions, which helps Marines maintain a high level of proficiency and readiness for worldwide deployment.

PHOTO BY CPL. IAN FERRO



CORPS
COMMUNITY





A Day of Remembrance

Cpl. Jessica Thompson and Lance Cpl. Thomas Bengé, Marine Air Ground Task Force planners, G-3/5, Marine Forces Reserve, place flags at headstones at the Chalmette National Cemetery in Chalmette, La., May 22. Marines from MARFORRES volunteered to place hundreds of flags at headstones in observance of Memorial Day to honor the men and women who lost their lives in service to the country.

PHOTO BY SGT. BRYTANI MUSICK



FOREIGN AREA SERVICE PROGRAM:

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM NOW
LOOKING FOR RESERVE COMPONENT SNCOS

The Marine Corps International Affairs Program is now accepting applications for Reserve Component Foreign Area Staff Non-Commissioned Officers.

FAS Marines support the Commandant of the Marine Corps' mission to educate and train Marines to succeed in complex human environments. The FAS Marines provide the Corps with an expanded capacity to identify, track, and employ Marines with Language, Regional Expertise and Culture skills. FAS Marines serve as subject matter experts to Marine Air Ground Task Force commanders at tactical and operational level staffs across the range of military operations.

Marines in the FAS program may also be selected to serve on Marine Expeditionary Units or Marine Force-level staffs, with Marine Corps Information Operations Centers, Marine Corps Security Cooperation Groups, civil affairs detachments or embassy staffs. Marines with experience in any region and foreign language proficiency are encouraged to apply by August 10, 2015.

For more information about application requirements, deadlines and the selection process, see **MARADMIN 245/15**. ■

PROMOTION OPPORTUNITY: NEW INCENTIVES FOR MARINE CORPORALS



PHOTO BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE

Marine corporals who accept a 12-month drilling obligation with a Selected Marine Corps Reserve unit are now eligible to receive up to 60 additional points toward their composite score for promotion.

This new incentive is a recruiting tool that encourages corporals currently serving in the Active Component or the Inactive Ready Reserve to join a unit in the Selected Marine Corps Reserve. It also aims to retain qualified corporals who are currently serving in the Selected Marine Corps Reserve.

Eligibility requirements for this incentive vary between corporals currently serving in the Active Component, SMCR and IRR.

For more information, see **MARADMIN 326/15**. ■

UPDATING RESERVE MARINES' PRIMARY RESIDENCE:

NEW VALIDATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ESTABLISHING MARINES'
PRIMARY RESIDENCE



Validation requirements for establishing and updating the primary residence of Reserve Marines has now been updated. Effective immediately, and no later than August 31, 2015, all members of the Reserve Component must submit required documentation for validation of primary residence and the establishment of their address in the Marine Corps Total Force System. Any changes or updates to a Reserve Marine's primary residence address must be validated by source documentation and submitted through the unit diary by the Marine's Integrated Personnel Administration Center.

For more information and a complete list of acceptable documentation, see **MARADMIN 204/15**. ■



Two U.S. Marines, Capt. Paul O'Neal of Brighton, Mass. (left) and Capt. Milton Thompson of Upper Montclair, N.J., plant the American flag on Guam eight minutes after U.S. Marine and Army assault troops landed.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NARA (NATIONAL ARCHIVES) FILE #: 127-G-142484

THE BATTLE OF GUAM

During the Pacific campaign of World War II, the U.S. military chose July 21, 1944, to invade Guam. Asan Beach was selected for the main landing because of its size and suitability to support a large-scale amphibious assault. The mission of establishing the initial beachhead fell to the 3rd Marine Division, which was roughly 17,000 men strong and composed of the 3rd, 9th and 21st Marine Regiments.

The Allied plan for the invasion of the Marianas, Operation Forager, called for heavy preliminary bombardment. Saipan, Tinian and Guam were chosen as targets due to their size and their suitability as a base for supporting the next stage of operations toward the Philippines, Taiwan and the Ryukyu Islands.

The deep-water harbor at Apra, approximately 60 miles from Asan Beach, was also suitable for the large ships and airfields needed for Boeing B-29 Superfortresses to be built and launched to bomb Japan.

The 3rd Marine Division found itself in a tenuous situation at the end of the first day. The Marines had secured a foothold on the Asan beachhead, but the Japanese still held the surrounding high ground.

After several weeks of intense fighting, the Marines recaptured Guam. After the battle, four Marines were awarded the Medal of Honor for their heroic actions.

THE HARD FACTS

GENERALS/COMMANDERS

- **Allies:** Roy Geiger
- **Japanese:** Takeshi Takashina, Hideyoshi Obata

TROOPS

- **Allies:** 36,000
- **Japanese:** 22,000

CASUALTIES

- **Allies:** 1,747 killed, 6,053 wounded
- **Japanese:** 18,000 killed

CAPTURE AND RE-CAPTURE

- Guam was first taken by the Japanese in 1941, and then recaptured by Allied forces in 1944. After Guam was secured, it was made a base for Allied operations. Seabees constructed five airfields and B-29 bombers took off from there to Japan.

TOPOGRAPHY

- Apra harbor, ringed by reefs, cliffs and pounding surf that makes Asan Beach, made landing difficult. Yet on July 21, American forces landed on both sides of the Orote Peninsula on Guam's west side.

CAPTAIN LOUIS H. WILSON, JR., (1920-2005) USMCR

COMMANDING OFFICER OF COMPANY F, SECOND BATTALION, NINTH MARINES, THIRD MARINE DIVISION

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

Captain Louis H. Wilson Jr. took action against enemy Japanese forces at Fonte Hill, Guam, Marianas Islands, July 25-26, 1944. Ordered to take that portion of the hill within his zone of action, Captain Wilson initiated his attack in midafternoon, pushed up the rugged, open terrain against terrific machine-gun and rifle fire for 300 yards and successfully captured the objective. Assuming command of other disorganized units and motorized equipment in addition to his own company and one reinforcing platoon, he organized his night defenses in the face of continuous, hostile fire and, although wounded three times during this five-hour period, completed his disposition of men and guns before retiring to the company command post for medical attention. After he voluntarily rejoined his unit, Captain Wilson succeeded in capturing and holding the strategic high ground in his regimental sector, thereby contributing essentially to the success of his regimental mission and to the annihilation of 350 Japanese troops.



CITATION COURTESY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY ARCHIVE



Sources:

www.mca-marines.org
www.battleofguam.weebly.com/second-battle.html



EXERCISES AND OPERATIONS

RESERVE FORCES AROUND THE WORLD:

MARINES PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISES TO PREPARE THEM FOR REAL-WORLD CONFLICTS AND OPERATIONS. (QUARTER 2: APRIL - JUNE 2015)



Africa Command

AFRICAN LION

AFRICAN LION
African Lion 15 is an annual joint-force exercise in Morocco that aims to reinforce joint coalition crisis-response capabilities, creating a foundation for future military-to-military cooperation. U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa lead this exercise every year. This year, the 25th Marine Regiment was the Ground Combat Element for the exercise. African Lion provides partner nations the opportunity to train and sustain together for future joint operations.

MAY 15-27, 2015

Northern Command

ITX 4-15

HEAVY METAL 15

INTEGRATED TRAINING EXERCISE 4-15
in Twentynine Palms, Calif., is the largest annual integrated exercise for the Reserve and Active Components, focusing on the Marine Air Ground Task Force capabilities.

JUNE 9-24, 2015

HEAVY METAL 15

HM15 is an annual two-week infantry training exercise led by 4th Marine Division. The exercise focuses on MAGTF combat capabilities sometimes integrating units from other branches of service.

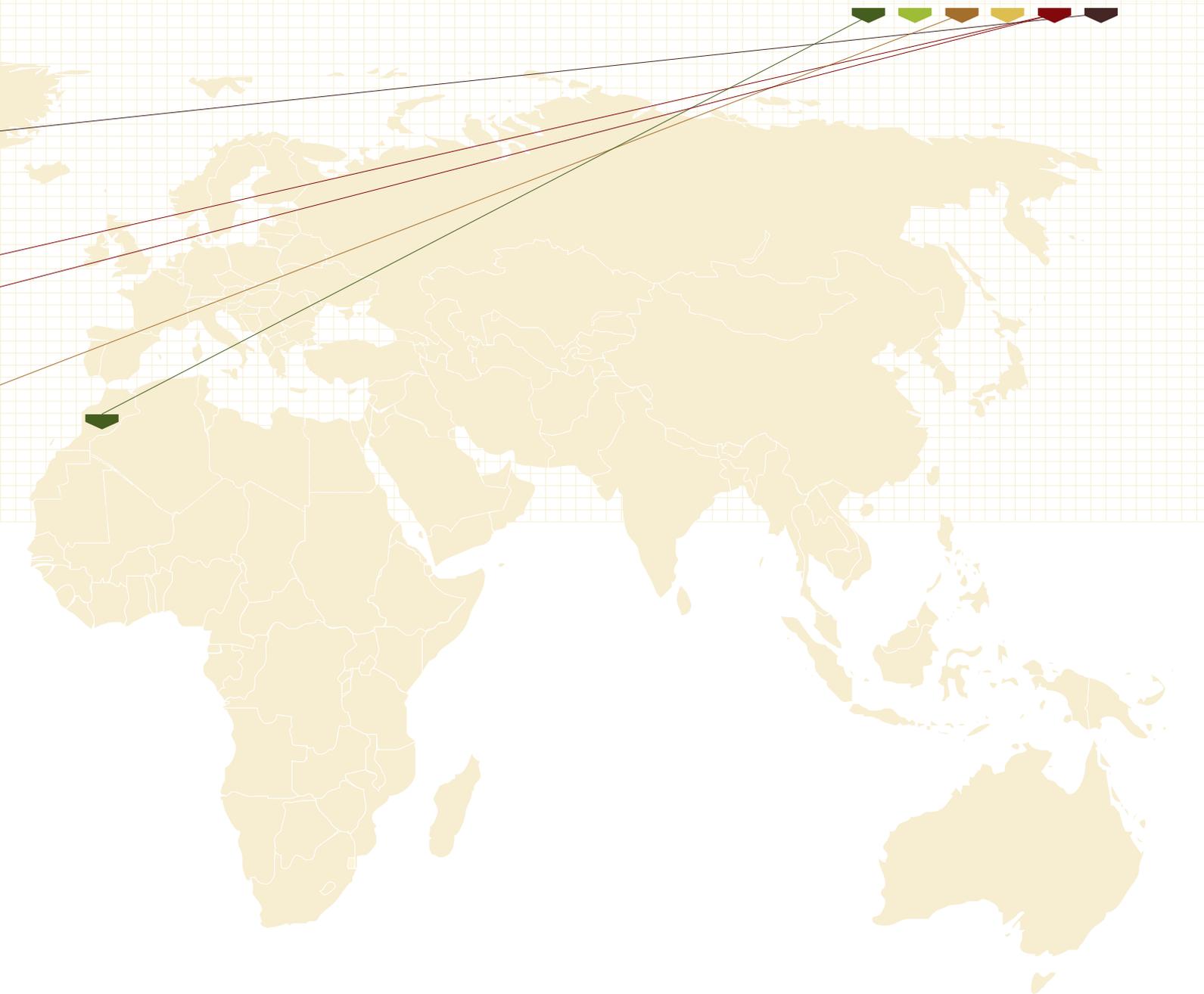
JUNE 14-26, 2015

European Command

RED DAGGER

RED DAGGER
Red Dagger is a company-level bilateral exercise between Marines of 6th Engineer Support Battalion and British engineering forces. The focus of the training is on infantry and engineering skills.

JUNE 5-19, 2015



▼ Southern Command

TRADEWINDS

TRADEWINDS

Tradewinds 2015 is an international civil affairs exercise that trains partner nations in effective responses to natural disasters as well as land and maritime threats, such as human and narcotics trafficking. The exercise was designed to conduct joint, combined and inter-agency training that fosters regional cooperation for complex multinational security operations and humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations.

JUNE 1-26, 2015

▼ Pacific Command

NORTHERN EDGE

NORTHERN EDGE

Northern Edge 2015 is one in a series of U.S. Pacific Command exercises that prepares joint forces to respond to crises in the Asia-Pacific region. It is Alaska's premier joint-training exercise designed to practice crisis response operations, techniques and procedures, and enhance interoperability among the services.

JUNE 15-26, 2015



AFRICAN LION

TAN TAN, MOROCCO

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. JARED GEHMANN

DATES: May 15-27

USMC UNITS: 25th Marine Regiment

PARTICIPATING NATIONS: United States, Morocco



“THEIR SOLDIERS AND OUR SOLDIERS GET TOGETHER AND THEY CONDUCT BILATERAL TRAINING WITH THE FOCUS NOT JUST BEING ON TRAINING, BUT ON COOPERATION AND THE INTEROPERABILITY OF OUR TWO NATIONS COMING TOGETHER AND FIGHTING SIDE BY SIDE.”

—Capt. Dale Hairston, commander of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment

About 200 Moroccan infantrymen trained on small arms weapons with three companies of U.S. Marines assigned to 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, during Exercise African Lion 15 in Tan Tan, Morocco, May 15-17.

The training not only enhanced the skills of both countries' forces but also built teamwork and integration between the two nations.

During the three-day weapons lanes event, the combined force of Moroccans and Marines trained on marksmanship skills and tactics with AK-47 assault rifles, M16 A2 rifles, M4 rifles, M240B machine guns, M203 grenade launchers, mortars, .50-caliber sniper rifles, and anti-aircraft guns.

“This was an opportunity for Marines to fire weapons that are not American and that they may never have the opportunity to fire ever again. [It's the] same with the Moroccans, and that just adds to the experience because it's memorable,” said Capt. Dale Hairston, commander of Alpha Company, 1st Bn., 25th Marines.

The exercise involved various types of training, including a combined joint task force command post exercise linked with an intelligence capacity building workshop, a field training exercise, an aviation training exercise, stability operations exercise, and a humanitarian/civic assistance event.

A platoon leader with Morocco's 6th Infantry Brigade instructs Marines on the assembly and disassembly of the AK-47 during the first day of African Lion 15, May 15. Marines with Alpha and Bravo Companies, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment spent the day conducting marksmanship training and integrated weapons exchanges with the Moroccan soldiers, focusing on the M4, and the AK-47.



Pfc. Adam Kennedy, an infantryman with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, practices a prone firing stance with an AK-47 assault rifle while his Moroccan shooting partner practices with the M16 A2 rifle during the first day of African Lion 15, May 15.



IRT EAST BLACK BELT

EUFAULA, ALABAMA

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. FRANS LABRANCHE

DATES: June 15-26

USMC UNITS: 4th Medical Bn.

PARTICIPATING NATIONS: United States

“A LOT OF FOLKS KNOW THE MILITARY AS COMBATANTS GOING OVERSEAS AND SPENDING OUR RESOURCES OVERSEAS, BUT ... I WANT PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE TAKE CARE OF CITIZENS INSIDE AMERICA.”

- Chief Hospital Corpsman Andrew Goodson, senior enlisted leader of IRT Black Belt

Thousands of Alabama's most underserved citizens received much-needed medical attention thanks to Marines and Sailors of 4th Medical Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, Marine Forces Reserve, who led a joint services team during a training exercise in the "Black Belt" region of Alabama, June 15-26.

The exercise was part of the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training program which provides the military with valuable training through various civil-military projects while also filling a community need.

The joint-service team included airmen, Sailors, soldiers, and Marines who brought care to the towns of Eufaula, Tuskegee and Clayton in Alabama's "Black Belt" region, so-named for the nutrient-rich soil in these largely agricultural areas.

The logistical challenge of being in three different towns separated by long distances was tackled by a small group of Marines who were able to transport needed equipment and personnel. Providing logistical support to geographically-dispersed operating areas is something Marines have to deal with in the modern day combat environment.

Navy Lt. Paul Campo, 4th Dental Battalion dentist and HN Mark Alvarado, Expeditionary Medical Facility Dallas dental technician, place fillings for a local resident during IRT East Black Belt, June 23.

PHOTO BY SGT. FRANS LABRANCHE



Air Force Staff Sgt. Jorge Delgadillo checks the eye pressure of a Navy corpsman during IRT East Black Belt, June 22.

PHOTO BY SGT. FRANS LABRANCHE

ARCTIC EAGLE:

1/24 MARINES PREPARE FOR URBAN WARFARE



Marines with 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, participated in Exercise Arctic Eagle at Camp Grayling, Michigan, April 24-25, 2015, during the unit's drill weekend.

The Marines joined soldiers from the Michigan National Guard's 272nd Regional Support Group and a detachment from the Danish Home Guard at this joint service and international exercise.

"The 272nd RSG approached the battalion to participate in Arctic Eagle and we jumped at the opportunity," said Maj. Jason A. Charkowski, the assistant operations officer for 1/24. "The Danish Home Guard was part of the package. They participated in all of the major operations of this exercise and the opportunity to attach them to us [was] valuable training."

The value of the training came from the chance to train with an allied force at Camp Grayling's unique facilities, which include multiple urban warfare training areas and several ranges.

The event also incorporated the Coast Guard and civilian agencies and spanned across different areas of northern Michigan.

"At Rockport State Recreation Area, they dealt with scenarios related to maritime security," Charkowski said. "Here in Grayling, we aimed to train counterinsurgency, stability operations, and interaction with local populous and local government agencies."

In order to practice those skills, the Marines, with an attachment of Danish troops, simulated retaking a city from enemy insurgents at Camp Grayling's Combined Arms Collective Training Facility, which consists of a collection of residential buildings designed to train military operations in urbanized terrain.

"There are a lot of different facilities at Camp Grayling we can take advantage of, including this [facility]," said Cpl. Caleb N. Skaggs, a squad leader with Charlie Company, 1/24. "It's going to help us develop our MOUT skills as well as our skills working with adjacent units, figuring out our strengths and weaknesses and what we can bring to the table to accomplish the mission."

Skaggs said he hoped his Marines would take away critical thinking skills from the exercise.

"I want my Marines to learn to think for themselves, and I think this is a great exercise for that because there are a lot of different types of things to deal with out here, not just threats," Skaggs said. "There are a lot of benign elements as well, and I want the Marines to be able to analyze that and determine a course of action for any given scenario."

Lance Cpl. Tyler G. Ruffer, a rifleman with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, leads a room clearing drill during Exercise Arctic Eagle at Camp Grayling, Mich., April 24.



Marines with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, position themselves to clear a building with suspected enemy insurgents at Exercise Arctic Eagle at Camp Grayling, Mich., April 25.

In the scenario, civilian and Army role players took up the task of playing the citizens and opposition forces, making it critical for the Marines and their Danish counterparts to adapt to the threats and non-threats of the situation.

"We wanted to learn from the American troops and how they conduct urban fighting," said Pvt. Rolf Paulsen, a rifleman with the Danish Home Guard. "If we should conduct multinational operations in the future, it's useful to have a take on how Marines operate."

Paulsen said he would take home many different lessons from training with the Marines.

"One thing we learned from the Marines is the speed, pace and aggressiveness that they use," he said. "It's not that common in the Danish military. We are a bit more cautious in how we advance on a position."

The Marines also gained perspective on how to communicate with and understand the tactics of a partner nation.

Lance Cpl. Joseph P. Davey, a field radio operator with Headquarters and Service Company, 1/24, was attached to a Danish squad during the main operation and learned firsthand how vital communication can be in a chaotic scenario.

"It's always a good thing to see how other people do things, what they think and how they go about accomplishing their mission. We can develop from that and become better Marines."

—CPL. CALEB N. SKAGGS
SQUAD LEADER, CHARLIE COMPANY

"What I took away from this was the importance of good communication," Davey said. "It can be difficult to communicate when there is a language barrier."

This training also gave the Marines an opportunity to gain a new outlook on skills they practice regularly.

"I think too often we get sucked into our own perspective," Skaggs said. "It's always a good thing to see how other people do things, what they think and how they go about accomplishing their mission. We can develop from that and become better Marines."

While many lessons were learned on both sides, exercises like Arctic Eagle make it possible for the Marines to meet their annual training goals despite fiscal constraints and limited resources.

"It was a unique opportunity to have a joint service, international exercise locally in Michigan," Charkowski said. "Normally, we would have to send Marines to a major base or training facility to achieve this type of training. In this case, we were able to leverage the local Army unit to achieve the same objective."

By prioritizing the available resources, the Marines were able to gain high-level training and remain ready to respond to future contingencies.



Members of the Danish Home Guard receive a safety brief prior to conducting urban warfare training at Camp Grayling, Mich., April 24. The troops joined the 24th Marine Regiment and the Michigan Army National Guard's 272nd Regional Support Group for Exercise Arctic Eagle, a joint service and international exercise designed to improve urban patrolling, stability operations and counterinsurgency tactics.

FIRE, FORCE and FURY: ITX 4-15

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. IAN FERRO



Cpl. Colton Derick, a rifleman with Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, lays down for cover during a simulated enemy explosion in the live fire company attacks during the Integrated Training Exercise 4-15 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 13. The unique terrain and weather conditions at the range combined with the exercise simulation provided the most realistic experience of what Marines would go through during a deployment to the Middle East.





Marines with Marine Forces Reserve participated in Integrated Training Exercise 4-15 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California, June 9 – 24.

ITX is the Reserve Component's largest exercise, which affords many the only opportunity to operate as a Marine Air Ground Task Force. Over the course of the two-week evolution, the ground combat, logistics, aviation and command elements all participated in the multi-phased exercise which culminated in a combined-arms attack in which all elements of the MAGTF came together.

"ITX is one of the best exercises the Marine Corps has; it brings all elements of the MAGTF together," said Lt. Col. James Martin, operations officer, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. "We bring aviation capabilities, logistics, infantry, tanks, artillery, engineers, reconnaissance and all other enablers together. We make them work together and operate as a cohesive force."

Each year at ITX, a different Reserve regiment is selected as the command element for the exercise, and this year, it was 25th Marines.

"Our responsibilities [were] to get everyone from their home training centers to [Twentynine Palms], get them to their training on time with the right ammunition, the right number of people, and with the right attitudes, to improve their combat readiness," said Col. Russell E. Smith, 25th Marine Regiment's commanding officer.

At the culmination of each ITX, there is a combined arms exercise which showcases all elements of the MAGTF joining together to assault an objective. The MAGTF is one of the Marine Corps' best assets and is crucial in maintaining readiness for worldwide deployment.

"The culminating exercise brings together all the elements of the MAGTF and Reserve Force, and they participate fully in a combined arms exercise," said Lt. Gen. Richard P. Mills, commander of Marine Forces Reserve. "It is challenging all across the board, from the logistics to the air support, artillery and the ground forces that have to engage the targets together in order to overcome them and push on to victory."

All exercises of this magnitude present unique challenges throughout the execution phase. The challenges create opportunities for

Marines to apply their training and solve each problem accordingly.

"What we look for in an exercise like this is the opportunity to stress the force and to replicate combat conditions as best as possible," said Brig. Gen. Patrick J. Hermesmann, 4th Marine Logistics Group commanding general. "To take each individual Marine from the lowest level up to the highest level, push them within their military occupational specialty skills and to have them stressed, but not broken, was my goal."

The Navy-Marine Corps Team

The cohesion between different units is a recurring theme at ITX, whether between different major subordinate commands or different branches of service. Without its own medical military occupational field, the Marine Corps relies on the presence of Navy hospital corpsmen to fill that need. Within Marine Forces Reserve, 4th Medical Battalion is a prime example of the exchange of capabilities between the Navy and Marine Corps.

"The Marines and Sailors here work great together, everyone steps up when needed," said HM1 Adam C. Strotz, lead petty officer



Lance Cpl. Michael Spencer, team leader with Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, and Lance Cpl. John Coleman, machine gunner with Bravo Company, shoot down range during the live fire company attacks during the Integrated Training Exercise 4-15 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 13.



Sgt. Charles Retter, motor transport maintenance chief, and Lance Cpl. Gustavo Arellano, radio operator, with 4th Medical Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, carry a Marine to an aircraft in a casualty simulation exercise during Integrated Training Exercise 4-15 June 20.



Lance Cpl. John Hernandez, rifleman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, provides security during a mechanized operations course during Integrated Training Exercise 4-15, June 15.

with 4th Med. Bn. “The Marines are definitely playing a vital part in maintaining security, communication and non-medical assets. All the corpsmen are stepping up and ensuring that any type of support the Marines need is being taken care of.”

HM2 Justin A. Henriquez, Fleet Marine Force hospital corpsman with 4th Med. Bn. said the logistics and precise execution the Marine Corps provides allows corpsmen to get their jobs done, highlighting the essential cohesion between the Marine Corps and Navy forces.

“Without the Marine Corps, there are a lot of things we can’t do here, not just because they provide security and drive our ambulances. We have countless Marines that will step up and do things they never thought they would. They give us an extra hand carrying patients off the ambulance and onto the aircraft, while providing security,” said Henriquez.

Realistic Conditions

With the combination of high temperatures and the continuous and strenuous physical stress within each exercise, heat-related illness is the most common type of health issue during ITX 4-15.

The climate and terrain found at the ranges in Twentynine Palms can be a crucial factor in the troop’s welfare during exercises. However, it provides a realistic environment and conditions similar to what Marines may face in future deployments, therefore enhancing their combat and deployment readiness.

“This is the premium training environment for the Marine Corps; you can’t shoot on any other ranges like this in the world as a Marine,” said Col. Morgan Mann, 25th Marine Regiment deputy commander. “For the junior Marines, it’s all about getting that individual proficiency and those small unit leader skills they need to do their job. This is what is getting them ready for mobilization and service wherever the Marine Corps asks.”

As ITX came to a close, Marines successfully overcame the hardships within the exercises, growing stronger and better prepared as a Reserve Force, ready to support their active duty counterparts whenever and wherever needed.

“Any time you go through hard challenges like this, it always brings the unit together,” said Lance Cpl. Andrew Morris, rifleman with 2nd Platoon, Company L, 25th Marine Regiment.

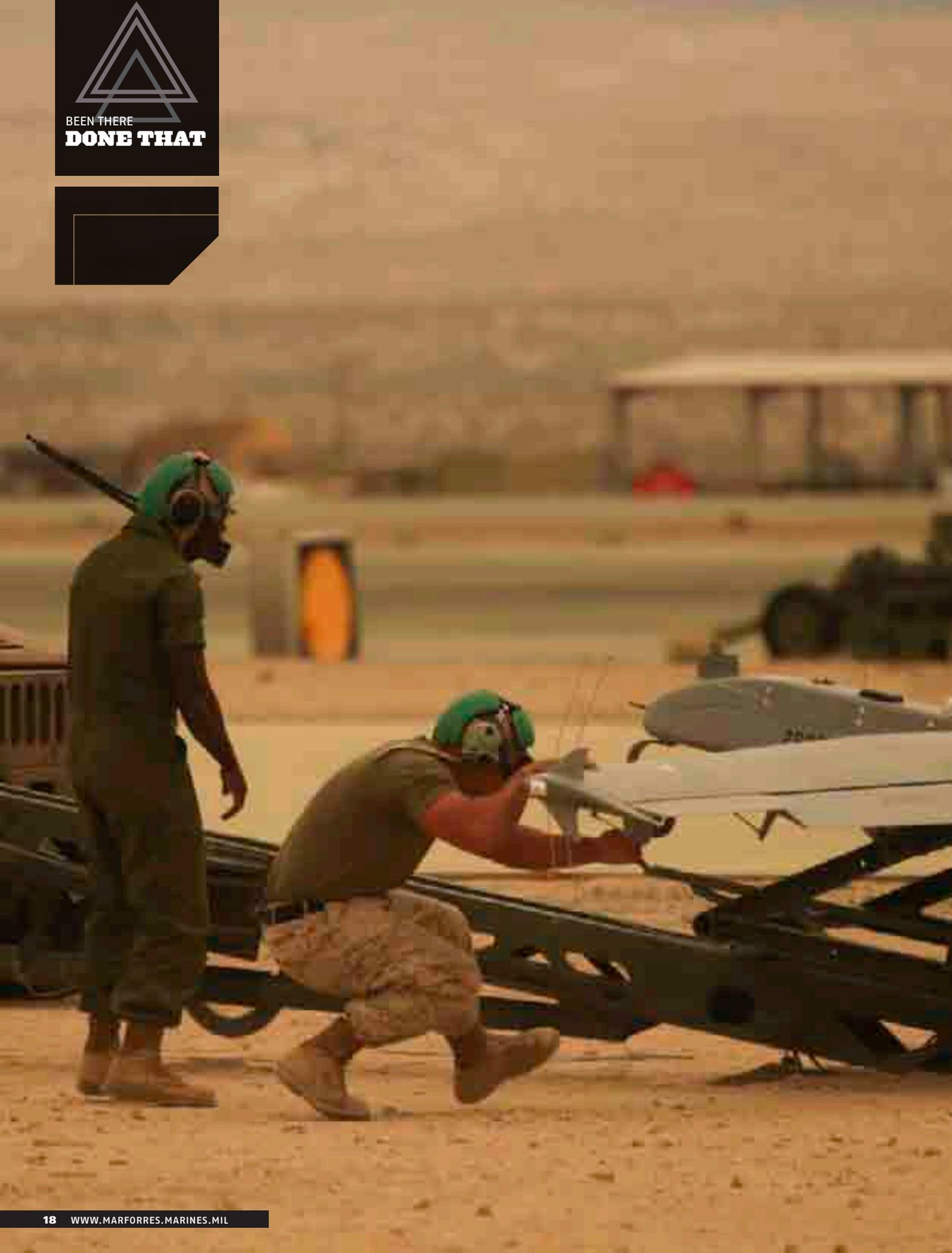
The culminating event at ITX 4-15 was a combined arms exercise that showcased all the elements of the MAGTF.

“This is what Marines and Sailors joined to do: to get out in the field and show off their skills,” said Lt. Gen. Richard P. Mills. “They are being tested hard and responding extremely well. I am very proud of these warriors.”





BEEN THERE
DONE THAT





4th Marine Aircraft Wing **SUPPORT FROM ABOVE**

Lance Cpl. Onterrio D. Morris, avionics and maintenance technician, and Sgt. Gene H. Williams, quality assurance representative, with Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 4, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, prepare the RQ-7 UAV for launch during Integrated Training Exercise 4-15 on the Camp Wilson flight line aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 18. The UAVs used by Marines during ITX 4-15 are used to support other units' exercises and missions providing reconnaissance and simulated aerial target acquisitions.

PHOTO BY CPL. IAN FERRO



BEEN THERE
DONE THAT



4TH MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

LANCE CPL. JASON BARKE, an automotive organizational mechanic for Combat Logistics Battalion 451, installs doors onto a cargo truck in Norway, June 25, as part of the Personnel Temporary Augmentee Program-Norway 2015.

CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE



SGT. JONATHAN ARENAS, a vehicle recovery operator for Combat Logistics Battalion 451 and the training noncommissioned officer at the Personnel Temporary Augmentee Program-Norway 2015, performs a road test on a high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle in Norway, June 25.

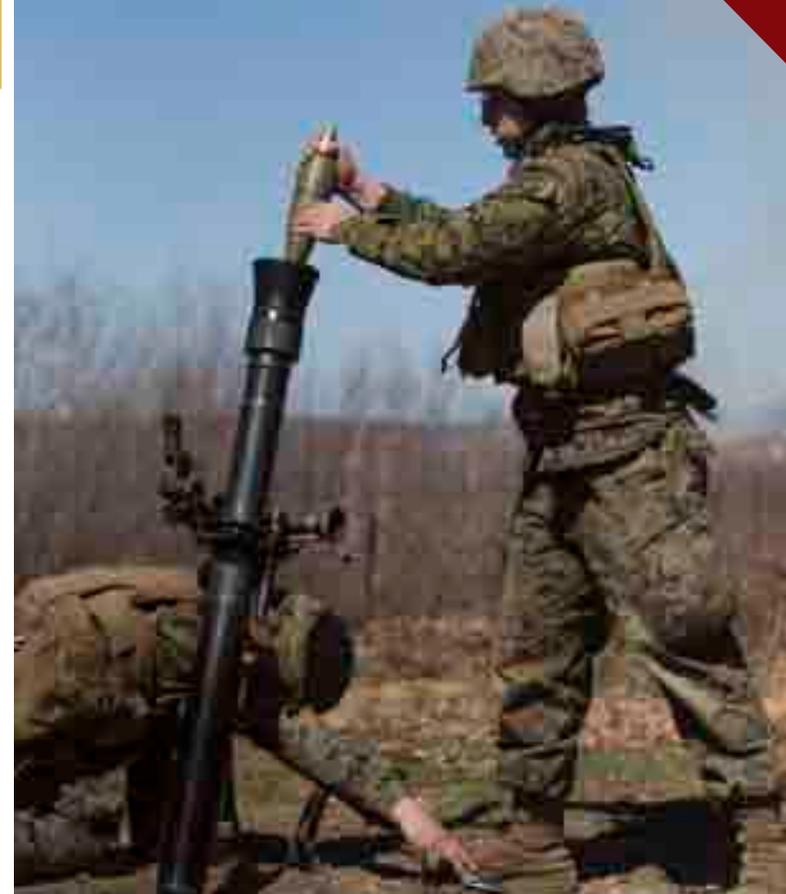
CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE

(BOTTOM)

U.S. MARINES with Engineer Company C, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group and commandos with the British Royal Army Reserve, repel off cliffs taking place at Dartmoor, England on June 10.

LANCE CPL. RICARDO DAVILA





4TH MARINE DIVISION

(TOP)

CPL. PHILLIP M. TUENTE (LEFT) AND PVT. ALEC M. DUGAN (RIGHT), mortarmen with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, prepare to fire a M252 mortar during Exercise Arctic Eagle at Camp Grayling, Mich., April 24.
CPL. IAN LEONES

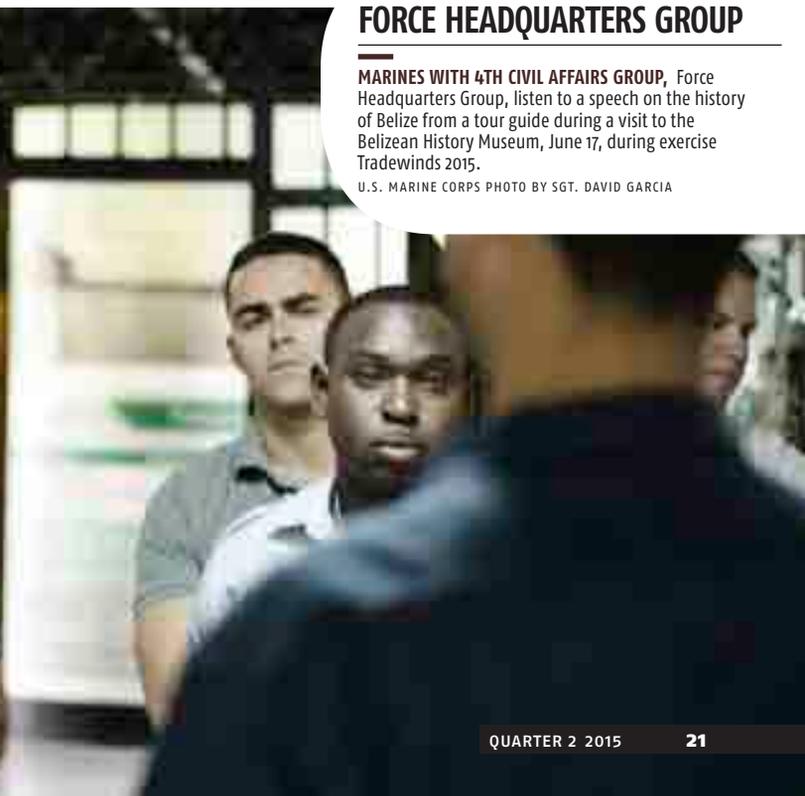
(RIGHT)

A PLATOON LEADER with Morocco's 6th Infantry Brigade instructs Marines on the functions of the AK-47 during the first day of African Lion 15, May 15. Marines with Alpha and Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment spent the day conducting marksmanship training with the Moroccan soldiers and cross training on weapons, focusing on the M4 and the AK-47.
STAFF SGT. JARED GEHMANN



FORCE HEADQUARTERS GROUP

MARINES WITH 4TH CIVIL AFFAIRS GROUP, Force Headquarters Group, listen to a speech on the history of Belize from a tour guide during a visit to the Belizean History Museum, June 17, during exercise Tradewinds 2015.
U.S. MARINE CORPS PHOTO BY SGT. DAVID GARCIA





A group of Marines in camouflage uniforms and helmets are running through a grassy field. They are carrying large backpacks and holding rifles. The background is a dense line of green trees.

HEAVY METAL 15

STORY, PHOTOS AND ART BY CPL. TIFFANY EDWARDS

Marines from 1st, 2nd and Weapons Platoons, Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, rush to board a CH-47 Chinook helicopter for troop transport to Quantico, Va. during the final exercise of Heavy Metal 2015, June 24.



Marines from 1st, 2nd and Weapons Platoons, Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, wait to board a CH-47 Chinook helicopter for troop transport to Quantico, Va. during the final exercise of Heavy Metal 2015 Monday, June 24.



Deep in the sprawling forests of northeast Virginia, Reserve Marines shook the earth with the resounding booms of artillery fire and the sharp cracks of M19 machine guns filling the air. The Marines of 2nd Bn., 25th Marine Regiment joined forces with Combat Logistics Battalion 25, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 6th Communications Battalion, 4th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, and the Maryland Army National Guard 1-224th Aviation Security and Support Battalion at Ft. A.P. Hill, Virginia for Heavy Metal 15, 4th Marine Division's annual combined arms exercise June 14-26, 2015.

"The mission objectives for our battalion during Heavy Metal 15 are to combine the assets from organic 2nd Bn. units with the assets of adjacent units at this exercise - such as communications, engineering, motor

transport and air support from the National Guard - to display MAGTF capabilities at the battalion landing team level," said Sgt. Maj. Christopher Armstrong, battalion sergeant major of 2/25.

The exercise gave the Reserve units the opportunity to complete their annual training requirements, while giving them the chance to build upon the current offensive and defensive skills of individual Marines and entire companies by conducting enhanced, live-fire training in a simulated combat environment.

"Annual training provides us with the opportunity to bring the battalion together not just for standard training, but to integrate them with all of the moving parts of a Marine Air-Ground Task Force, to experience what it's like to be a part of a battalion landing team," said Lt. Col. Curtis Mason, 2/25 commanding officer. "We want to ensure

that the battalion remains ready to deploy in the event a combatant commander requires augmentation."

According to Mason, the battalion faced not only strenuous combat training, but extreme weather, such as excessive heat or sudden thunderstorms that forced units to stop training and take cover. Despite these challenges, the battalion was able to integrate their ground combat element with logistical, air support and headquarters elements to accurately simulate a functioning MAGTF in a combat zone.

"The operational tempo for Reserve forces has increased exponentially since 9/11," Mason said. "More than three-quarters of the Marines in this battalion have completed some form of combat deployment since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. That is what we are trying to prepare for. There



"WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT THE BATTALION REMAINS READY TO DEPLOY IN THE EVENT A COMBATANT COMMANDER REQUIRES AUGMENTATION."

-LT. COL. CURTIS MASON, 2/25 BATTALION COMMANDER



Marines from 1st, 2nd and Weapons Platoons, Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, rush to board a CH-47 Chinook helicopter for troop transport to Quantico, Va. during the final exercise of Heavy Metal 2015 Monday, June 24.



Marines from 1st, 2nd and Weapons Platoons, Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, wait to board a CH-47 Chinook helicopter for troop transport to Quantico, Va. during the final exercise of Heavy Metal 2015 Monday, June 24.

will always be the opportunity for us to augment a combatant commander, and we want to ensure that at the platoon, company and battalion levels, we will be able to deploy when ready.”

For many of the battalion’s junior Marines, Heavy Metal 15 offered unique training opportunities that their peers may not get to experience as often.

“Not many Reserve units get to do the stuff that we do,” said Lance Cpl. Erik Rosell, an infantry rifleman with G Company, 2/25. “When I tell some of my friends who are in other Reserve units about riding in helicopters and clearing buildings, I realize that’s not something everyone gets to do in their training. It definitely keeps you on your toes.”

The exercise has given the battalion’s non-commissioned officers a look at how well their Marines have absorbed a year’s worth

of weekend drills, and in what areas their units can better themselves.

“At Heavy Metal, we have combined all of the training we have done over the past year into two weeks, which culminates in our final exercise,” said Sgt. Curtis Nagel, a platoon sergeant with G Co., 2/25 Marines. “Afterward, we can go through our evaluation checklists to see the things that we are good at, the things we are bad at, and the things we can focus on improving for the next year.

Negel said two-week annual training evolutions allow his Marines to get themselves into a combat mindset, which gives the unit leaders an idea of how well these Marines would adapt during a deployment work-up if they were mobilized.

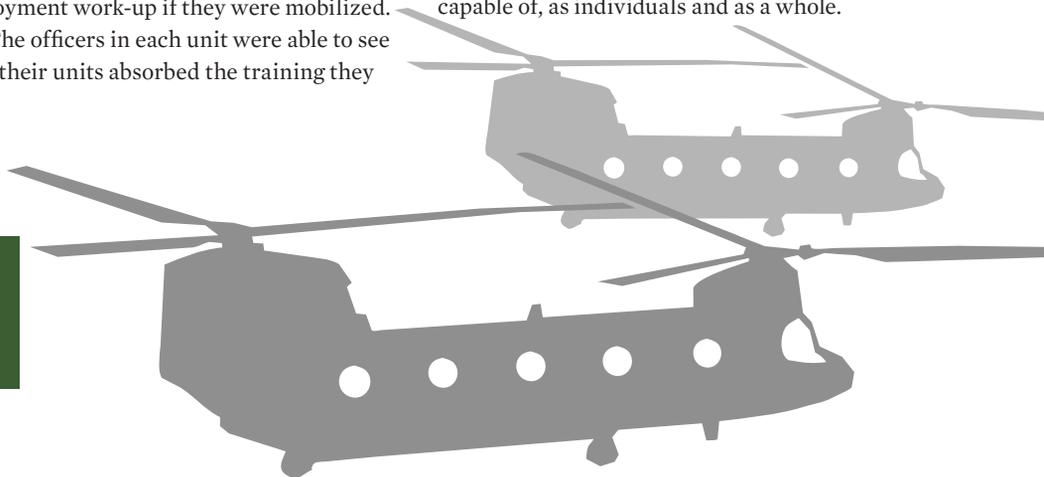
The officers in each unit were able to see how their units absorbed the training they

received, and how they worked to retain and cultivate their newly-gained knowledge.

“It has been a great experience seeing how hard these Marines have been working out here during this exercise,” said Capt. Kyle Bibby, an infantry platoon commander with G Co., 2nd Bn., 25th Marines. “Even on our free time, I always see Marines out doing physical training, or in their gear going over what they learned that day, which gives us as a unit more time to focus on the high-skill maneuvering we tackle during the exercise. It has been a pleasant surprise seeing how engaged these Marines are.”

For 2nd Bn., 25th Marines, the two weeks of arduous training in the unforgiving heat was an opportunity to see what they were capable of, as individuals and as a whole.

See pg. 28 for more about 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division.





RED DAGGER

STORY BY
CPL. TIFFANY EDWARDS

U.S. Marines with Engineer Company C, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group and commandos with the British Royal Army Reserve, repel off cliffs at Dartmoor, England on June 10.
PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. RICARDO DAVILA



U.S. Marines with Engineer Company C, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, and commandos with the British Royal Army Reserve, conduct their final training exercise at Red Dagger 15 in Dartmoor, England on June 14.
PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. RICARDO DAVILA



Marines with Engineer Company C, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, and commandos with the British Royal Army Reserve, run the commandos' "Tarzan Course" in Dartmoor, England on June 5.
PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. RICARDO DAVILA

The Red Dagger exercise began as a British military exchange program started by 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, in 2006. It was revitalized in 2014, and 6th ESB conducted the first iteration of the exercise at Marine Corps Base Quantico in June 2014 with the 131 Independent Commando Squadron, British Royal Army, a squadron that supports the British Royal Marine Commandos. This year, Engineer Company C, 6th ESB traveled to Dartmoor, England to train alongside the 131 ICS June 5-19.

Red Dagger is a bilateral training exercise that allows the two forces to exchange tactics, techniques and procedures, with the Marines of 6th ESB conducting engineering and infantry training alongside British Army commandos. The training at Red Dagger typically includes demolition ranges, bridge construction, marksmanship training and infantry tactics.

Different training, different arenas

In 2014, the focus was on completing infrastructure projects and engineer training that was not possible in England. The focus this year, however, was on completing infantry training that normally wouldn't be conducted during drill weekends for the Marines, such as mountain climbing and rappelling.

"Engineering projects are not as easy to coordinate for the British engineer commandos in the UK. This gives our company the chance to form different projects for training purposes," said Capt. Ethan Akerberg, Engineer Company C Inspector-Instructor. "These are operations our Marines may not have the opportunity to do during standard training, but the British commandos can conduct with them."

Red Dagger has thus evolved into a mutually beneficial exercise in which American and British participants travel

back and forth between each other's backyards. The varied focus from year to year has allowed the participants to become proficient in a wider range of military skills.

"That's the real beauty of this exercise: integrating at fundamental levels to gain tactical infantry knowledge as well as engineering tactics, techniques and procedures," Akerberg said. "This expands the Marines' horizons and teaches them how to interact and integrate with their partner nations."

Interoperability

Integrating the two units also revealed the similarities in their operational planning and execution, according to Master Sgt. Michael Wenzel, company operations chief, Engineer Company C, 6th Engineer Support Battalion.

"Having the two forces together allowed for a lot of healthy competition between them to see who would do better during the tasked exercises," Wenzel said. "We got to understand how each side operates and the differences in our equipment, so we could successfully integrate during combat operations."

The competition also runs within the company, between the individual Marines who want to earn a spot in the exercise, which is highly selective.

"Red Dagger serves as good retention tool for the Marines," Akerberg said. "The company was notified well in advance that they be a part of this exercise, which encouraged them to compete to be a part of it. We saw each Marine increase their individual proficiency, which boosted overall unit performance. This gave the Marines something positive and motivating to work towards throughout the year."

The leadership of Engineer Co. C hopes Red Dagger has served to open the door for more Marines to gain the rare opportunity to work with the British Army engineers in the near future.



UNIT
PROFILE



2ND BATTALION, 25TH MARINES

LOCATION: Garden City, New York

Sgt. Mario Zamora (right) and Lance Cpl. Check Diop (left), mortarmen with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, review the procedures for forward observers on mortar ranges during the final exercise of Heavy Metal 2015, June 24.

PHOTO BY CPL. TIFFANY EDWARDS

Second Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment is headquartered in Garden City, New York, and is composed of approximately 1,000 Marines and Sailors.

First activated on May 1, 1943, in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, the unit relocated during August to September 1943 to Camp Pendleton, California. In September 1943, 2/25 was assigned to the 4th Marine Division. They participated in four World War II campaigns: Kwajalein, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. The battalion was deactivated October 1945, eventually being reactivated July 1962 at Garden

City, New York and assigned to the 4th Marine Division.

Since then, the battalion has mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as Operation Shared Accord in Senegal during the summer of 2007.

In September 2008, 2/25 deployed to Al Anbar Province to provide force protection of Al Asad Air Base and counter insurgency operations in the area around Camp Korean Village, Iraq until April 2009.



2ND BATTALION, 25TH MARINE REGIMENT QUICK FACTS

Nickname: Empire Battalion

Motto: Vis Pugnare – Constantia Vincere
“Power to Fight – Always to Triumph”

Mobilizations:

- November 1990 – January 1991: F Co., 2/25 mobilized in support of Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm
- September/October 1994: deployed as a part of Operation Sea Signal in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- 1995/1996: deployed as a part of Joint-Task Force 6 counter-drug missions in the Southwest United States.
- February 1999: the battalion deployed to Norway for Operation Battle Griffin.
- January 2002 – January 2003: deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.
- March 2003: deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- March 2005: 75 Marines deployed to Iraq as individual augments with 3/25.
- December 2005: 250 Marines deployed to Iraq as individual augments with 1/25.
- 2007: deployed as a part of Operation Shared Accord in Senegal

BATTALION CO: Lt. Col. Curtis Mason

BATTALION SGT MAJ: Sgt. Maj. Christopher Armstrong

MISSION: to provide trained and qualified units and individuals to augment, reinforce, or reconstitute the Active Component of the Marine Corps in times of war, national emergency, and such other times as the national security may require.



BE SMART,
BE SAFE



IMAGE COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.NOTARYPUBLICANAHEIM.COM](http://www.notarypublicanaheim.com)

TRAVEL SAFETY

BY CPL. SARA GRAHAM



V

acation season is here and with it comes fun, travel and days on the beach. During the summer season, traveling is on the top of the list for Marines and their families. Following a few tips may help ease the stress of traveling while keeping everyone safe.

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FLYING:

Make air and lodging reservations early:

-As soon as you know your travel dates, especially if you plan to stay over a holiday weekend. Make sure you know the cancellation policies if your travel plans change.

Have a backup plan:

-Be prepared if you happen to get "bumped" from your flight or room reservation.

Make sure you follow this traveler's checklist if you take a trip anywhere outside the United States:

-First, you must abide by the Defense Department's Foreign Clearance guide, which outlines specific requirements for each country and type of travel.

-Ensure you have a U.S. passport, I.D. and credit cards with you at all times. Have contact information for the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate and carry photocopies of your travel documents and itinerary in case one of your documents is lost or stolen.

-Make sure you have any prescriptions or medications to last your entire trip if needed.

SOURCE:

[HTTP://WWW.MILITARYONESOURCE.MIL/MWR](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/mwr)



DRIVING:

Before you Start:

Ensure your vehicle undergoes regular maintenance to avoid any issues while on the road.

Traveling with children:

-Take the appropriate precautions. Use properly installed booster seats. Children 13 and under should ride in the back seat and always buckle up.

-Do not leave children unattended in a parked vehicle. Vehicles heat up quickly, especially during your summer travels. Temperatures can reach deadly levels within just a few minutes.

Don't Drive Distracted:

-While driving, watch for pedestrians and remove distractions like eating and drinking while driving, talking on your cell phone or with other passengers.

Plan Your Route:

-Have a travel plan in place before you hit the road, including planned stops.

SOURCE:

[HTTP://TRAVEL.STATE.GOV/CONTENT/PASSPORTS/ENGLISH/GO/CHECKLIST.HTML](http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/go/checklist.html)



CELEBRATING THE SEASON

CELEBRATING DURING THE SUMMER USUALLY INVOLVES A FEW DRINKS, BUT MIXING DRINKING AND TRAVELING CAN HAVE CONSEQUENCES IF YOU DON'T PLAN AHEAD.

DRIVING IMPAIRED:

-ALCOHOL AND DRUGS CAN IMPAIR PERCEPTION, JUDGMENT, MOTOR SKILLS AND MEMORY SKILLS CRITICAL TO SAFE DRIVING.

-DRIVING IMPAIRED NOT ONLY PUTS DRIVERS AT RISK BUT THE LIVES OF PASSENGERS AND OTHERS SHARING THE ROAD.

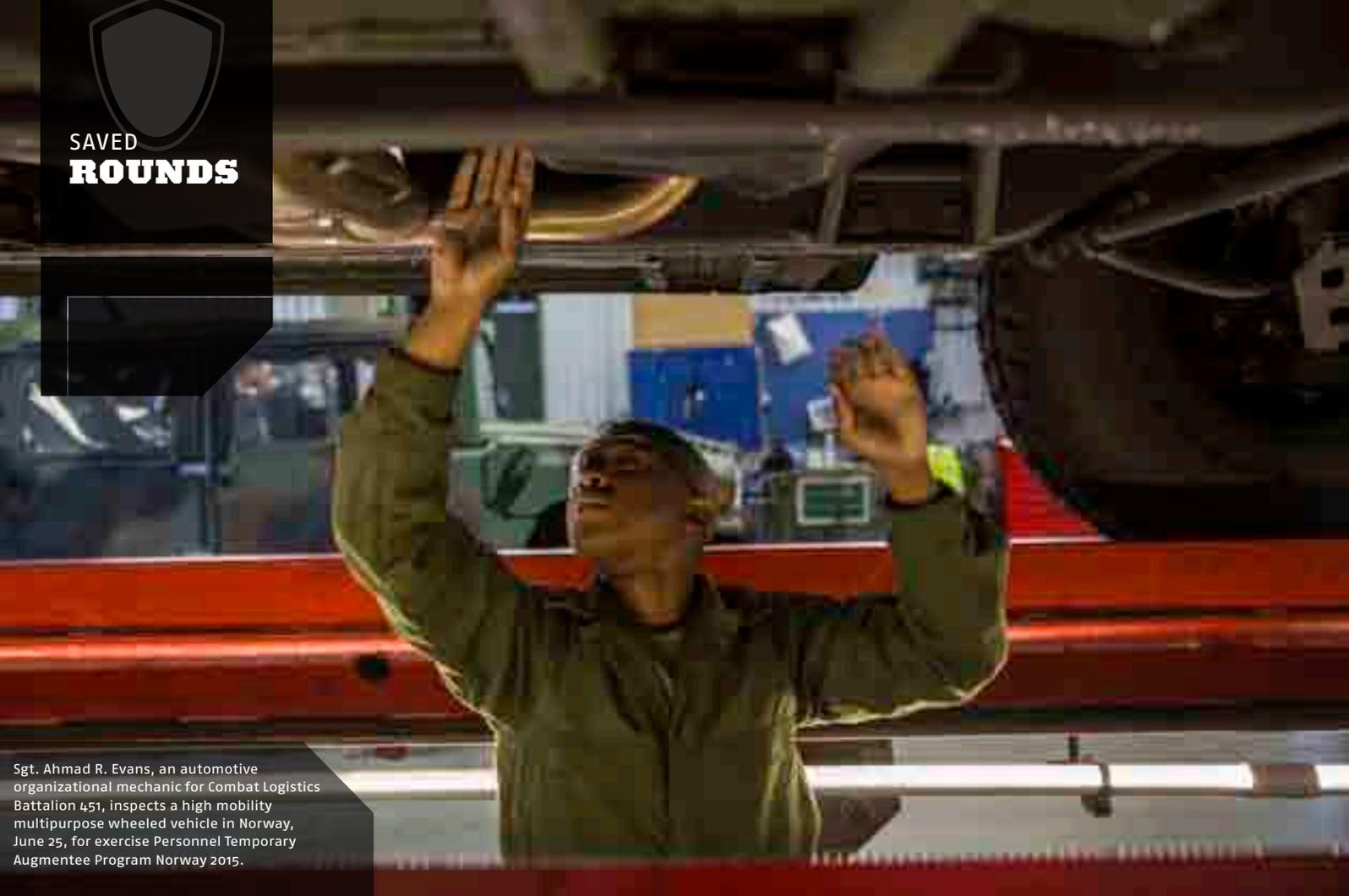
-IF YOU PLAN TO DRINK, ALWAYS DESIGNATE A SOBER DRIVER.

SOURCE:

[HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV/VEHICLE+OWNERS/RESOURCES/SUMMER+DRIVING+TIPS+\(STATIC\)](http://www.safercar.gov/vehicle+owners/resources/summer+driving+tips+(static))



SAVED
ROUNDS



Sgt. Ahmad R. Evans, an automotive organizational mechanic for Combat Logistics Battalion 451, inspects a high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle in Norway, June 25, for exercise Personnel Temporary Augmentee Program Norway 2015.

PERSONNEL TEMPORARY AUGMENTEE PROGRAM NORWAY 2015

MARINES PROVIDE MAINTENANCE, SUPPLY SUPPORT FOR MARINE CORPS PREPOSITIONING PROGRAM-NORWAY

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE

The Personnel Temporary Augmentee Program Norway 2015 combined elements of 4th Marine Logistics Group, 4th Marine Division and 4th Marine Aircraft Wing to provide two weeks of maintenance and supply support for the Marine Corps Prepositioning Program located in the Trondheim area of Norway.

MCPN is designed to support an expeditionary brigade of roughly 15,000 Marines for 30 days. A series of fortified caves in Norway are stocked with equipment for the Marines, with everything from rations to high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles, kept in a constant state of readiness. “The purpose of PTAP Norway for 2015 is to maintain the United States Marine Corps’ gear that is pre-staged in Norway,” said Gunnery Sgt. Damon Hummel, the maintenance chief for Combat Logistics Battalion 451. “We maintain and make sure that all the gear here is operationally ready to go wherever the Marine Corps needs it worldwide.”

Over the past decade, MFR has been responsible for organizing and conducting operations for the MCPN, which was initiated in the late 1980s with Norwegian Defense Logistics Organization.

CLB-451 was deployed to Norway during their two-week annual training. The Marines were divided into separate

caves in order to facilitate a simultaneous, continuous workflow within each military occupational specialty, while working with local Norwegian contracted logistics personnel.

Marines from CLB-451 filled maintenance gaps and provided much-needed manpower, increased MOS proficiency, improved interoperability with a host nation, and contributed to a key component of Marine Corps expeditionary logistics.

“The Norwegians are very helpful, they’ll go out of their way to get anything they can do for us,” said Lance Cpl. Kevin Gaber, an automotive organizational mechanic for CLB-451. “We spend the day working with them, listening to their music, learning about their culture and how they work, which is great because they want to learn about us just as much as we want to learn about them.”

PTAP Norway 2015 greatly increased the Marine Corps’ readiness by fostering a cooperative relationship with another nation, enhancing MOS proficiency and ensuring all the equipment stored in the cave sites are ready to go at a moment’s notice. ■

MCSCG PRE-DEPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

GEORGIA DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE



U.S. Marines and soldiers from the Republic of Georgia conduct a squad-patrol and Close Air Support (CAS) familiarity exercise as part of the Georgia Deployment Program- ISAF at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, Feb. 10, 2014. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Tatum Vayavananda)

Marines from Marine Forces Reserve completed the Marine Corps Security Cooperation Group pre-deployment training program at MCSCG on Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Virginia, March 26.

The Marines are currently deployed to the Republic of Georgia for six months in support of the Georgia Deployment Program's Resolute Support Mission.

The MCSCG pre-deployment training program's objective is to properly prepare Marines by providing knowledge which will enhance their ability to engage foreign security forces in order to conduct planning,

training and achieving national-level objectives effectively.

Twenty Marines spent 24 days in training that taught them advisor skills, training management, force protection techniques, weapons familiarization, language proficiency and culture and customs in the Republic of Georgia.

More than 2,000 active-duty and Reserve Marines have deployed to Georgia over the last five plus years as part of the GDP-ISAF program, and have helped the Georgian Armed Forces train 14 Georgian Battalions to deploy in support of the ISAF mission. ■

4TH FORCE RECONNAISSANCE CO.

FOREIGN DIGNITARIES VISIT UNIT FOR STATIC DISPLAY, MEETING AND LUNCH

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. IAN FERRO



A foreign flag officer handles a display rifle in Alameda, California, June 2. During the static display of weapons and gear presented by the Marines, military attaches from partner nations were allowed to handle the equipment and ask questions.

Foreign military attaches visited the 4th Force Reconnaissance Company in Alameda, California, June 2. The Marines displayed vehicles, weapons and gear used by force reconnaissance Marines during exercises and missions.

The visit featured a brief presentation of the history of the unit, followed by an interactive display where the dignitaries were able to handle weapons and gear, ask questions, and explore different vehicles and boats.

The day ended with a relaxed lunch where the Marines and foreign officers had the opportunity to sit together, talk and exchange stories. ■

CIVIL AFFAIRS

4TH CIVIL AFFAIRS GROUP DEPLOYS TO BELIZE FOR HUMANITARIAN OPS

STORY BY CPL. JOSEPH KARWICK



Belize Defense Force Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Raymond Shepherd, right, watches U.S. Marine Capt. Thomas Cahill, civil affairs team member assigned to 4th Civil Affairs Group, as he writes notes during a key leader engagement May 6, 2013, at Price Barracks, Belize. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. James Law)

Marines with 3rd and 4th Civil Affairs Groups, Force Headquarters Group, Marine Forces Reserve, are currently deployed to work alongside the Belizean military and government in order to train personnel in civil-military operations and establish a shared understanding of the environment between the Belizean government, military and community.

Conducting civil-military operations in an unfamiliar environment can be a difficult job, particularly when U.S. civil affairs representatives are not familiar with the culture and location of the population. Civil Affairs Marines, therefore, are streamlining CMO and fine tuning the Belizean Defense Force's CMO efforts to enable them to combat some of the issues the country faces.

"Part of our main mission here is enabling the BDF to counter international organized crime," said Staff Sgt. Sean Hackney, staff noncommissioned officer of civil affairs team Belize. "The way we do that is by promoting CMO within the government and military forces of Belize. Whether it's buildings, public works or public administration, they can identify those areas where the government might assist and increase its legitimacy and presence, before criminal organizations bring their drug and trafficking money in and take over." ■



WITH THE
GEAR

SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer: MILSPRAY
Length: 44.25 inches
Barrel length: 24 inches
Weight: 16.5 pounds
Bore diameter: 7.62mm
Maximum effective range: 1000 yards (914 meters)
Muzzle velocity: 2550 feet (777 meters) per second
Magazine capacity: 5 rounds

QUICK FACTS

MORE FEATURES

- THE EXV-1 HAS A MAXIMUM SPEED OF 96.5KM/H (60MPH) AND ELEVATION OPERATING RANGE OF UP TO 10,000FT.
- IT IS FITTED WITH FOUR 26IN, RUN-FLAT, BEAD-LOCK TIRES.
- AN ADJUSTABLE DOUBLE-A ARM INDEPENDENT SUSPENSION ON ALL FOUR WHEELS ENSURES A GROUND CLEARANCE OF 10IN AND MOBILITY ON THE MOST DEMANDING TERRAINS.
- THE EXV-1 CAN OPERATE IN TEMPERATURES RANGING BETWEEN -25°F AND 120°F.
- IT HAS TOWING CAPACITY OF 1,000LB AND CAN CARRY A PAYLOAD OF 1,000LBS.
- IT IS EQUIPPED TO OFF-BOARD POWER OF 6KW (240V AC) IN ADDITION TO AN AUXILIARY 12V / 24V DC POWER SUPPLY.



eXV-1™ ULTRA-LIGHT MISSION VEHICLE

The eXV-1™ is a highly-maneuverable and transportable, 4x4 ultra-light mission vehicle that was designed for special operating forces. The vehicle offers enhanced endurance parameters, increased protection, enemy detection and avoidance capabilities. The vehicle is operationally configured for the C-130, V-22 and CH-47 aircraft and is air-droppable.

It accommodates four people with full equipment and offers ballistic protection for critical components and occupants, with a lightweight, laboratory and field-tested composite armor.

It is also currently fitted with an overhead weapons mount and one

swing-arm universal weapons mount. The weapon mounts can be fitted for mission-specific operations weapon systems and can be outfitted with additional weapon mounts.

The exterior of the vehicle is coated with MILSPRAY's proprietary Tough Coat™, which is a lightweight, anti-corrosive coating system that provides protection from corrosion, scratches and other deteriorations. The coating system ensures a chemically bonded integration of chemical agent resistant coatings offering ocular camouflage, while reducing infrared signature. This solution avoids detection under visual and IR surveillance.

SOURCES:

[HTTP://WWW.MILSPRAY.COM/PRODUCTS-SERVICES/ THE-EXV](http://www.milspRAY.com/products-services/the-exv)

SOURCES:
[HTTP://WWW.MILSPRAY.COM/PRODUCTS-SERVICES/THE-EXV](http://www.milspRAY.com/products-services/the-exv)



DOUBLE DUTY

PHOTO BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE



PHOTO BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE



LANCE CPL. MIKAYLA A. WALKER

BILLET: Food service specialist

TIME IN SERVICE: 2 years

REASON FOR JOINING: I joined the Marine Corps to better myself as a person.

RESPONSIBILITIES: My responsibilities include cooking food in mass to feed the Marines at the chow hall, making sure everything is properly sanitized before food preparation and making sure food is ordered and cooked correctly.

MEMORABLE MOMENT: My most memorable moment is being at Integrated Training Exercise 2015. I got a chance to meet different Marines from other units and see how they can come together and work together as a team.

MIKAYLA A. WALKER

BILLET: Sous Chef

TIME IN SERVICE: 1 Year

REASON FOR JOINING: In high school, I started doing college courses. I took a two-year culinary course that certified me as a junior culinarian. That triggered my interest.

RESPONSIBILITIES: I am basically an assistant manager to the executive chef. I overlook operations in the kitchen when the executive chef is not there, I make sure the staff I am in charge of is preparing food properly and I step in when they need help.

MEMORABLE MOMENT: I had a chance to cook for Martha Stewart and Kelsey Grammer.



MILITARY EXPRESSIONS FROM AROUND THE CORPS

FIELD-STRIP : Disassemble weapon or gear. Commonly used in reference to discarding unwanted parts of an MRE.

GAFF OFF: Disregard or ignore a person or an order.

GRAPE: A Marine's head.

HIGH-AND-TIGHT: The standard Marine haircut.

K-BAR: Marine-issue fighting knife.

THE WIRE: Defensive perimeter of a firm base.

SQUARED AWAY: Neat, orderly, organized.



DSTRESS

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1.877.476.7734

The DSTRESS Line is Corps-wide, available around the globe through an international phone number or this website.

* The DSTRESS Line is an anonymous behavioral health counseling service that gives Marines, attached Sailors, and family members a place to call and speak with "one of their own." It's a place to call and talk about stress in our lives—from the common everyday stressors to post-traumatic stress to life-threatening crises. It's non-medical. DSTRESS Line counselors won't diagnose symptoms, but they will work with callers to help with a way forward.

* The DSTRESS line is available to all Marines, attached Sailors, and family members. Callers can speak with veteran Marines, former FMF corpsmen with years of experience on 'the green side,' Marine Corps spouses or other family members, and licensed behavioral health clinical counselors who have taken Marine Corps-specific training to understand our culture.