

MARINES™

WWW.MARFORRES.MARINES.MIL | Q1:2016

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE

COLD STEEL WARRIORS

MARINES TRAIN IN BELOW-FREEZING WEATHER
DURING EXERCISE NORDIC FROST



SEMPER FI AMERICA

MARINE CORPS RESERVE CENTENNIAL

ALWAYS FAITHFUL. ALWAYS READY.



COMMANDER'S CORNER

FORCE IN READINESS

With more than one quarter of the calendar year behind us, we are quickly approaching the high season for training. Further, we will soon celebrate the Marine Corps Reserve Centennial on Aug. 29, 2016. It is important for us to reflect on our history, celebrate our past accomplishments and ensure we hold ourselves accountable to maintain the outstanding legacy forged over the last 100 years.

We have always been an operational force. Our footprint tracks across the globe. During this quarter, our Marines have continued to integrate with the active component and important allies during exercises like Cobra Gold and Key Resolve. Reserve Marines are likewise preparing for the next mobilization to Central and South America for the Special Purpose MAGTF in the SOUTHCOM area of operations. Here at home, our Marines continue to keep fundamental skills sharp, whether training in frigid conditions in Vermont or employing combined arms in a fire-support coordination exercise in California. Any clime, any time – this is how Marines fight, so this is how Marines train.

I am also proud of the way we have represented the Marine Corps to our fellow Americans. Whether one of our Marines is winning an international sniper competition or competing – and winning – shooting competitions against our active duty brothers and sisters, or discussing the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with college students, we are the face of the Marine Corps nationwide. We must continue to be outstanding ambassadors for our force.

As we continue this year's operations, our rich history must be with you through every training exercise, operation and interaction we have. Stay engaged with your Marines the entire year. Whether through PME or ensuring our Marines are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy, it is our collective responsibility as leaders to ensure the force is ready to fight tonight. Semper Fidelis.

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

CONTINENTAL MARINES™

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE
QUARTER 1 2016
WWW.MARFORRES.MARINES.MIL

COMMANDER OF MARINE FORCES RESERVE
Lt. Gen. Rex C. McMillian

SERGEANT MAJOR OF MARINE FORCES RESERVE
Sgt. Maj. Anthony A. Spadaro

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF OF MARINE FORCES RESERVE
Master Chief Petty Officer Christopher Kotz

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Lt. Col. Tanya Murnock

DEPUTY ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Mr. Adam Bashaw, APR + M

MANAGING EDITOR
Capt. Andrew Chrestman

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF
Master Sgt. Katesha Washington

MULTIMEDIA CHIEF
Sgt. Bryant Musick

CONTINENTAL MARINES CREATIVE DIRECTORS
Sgt. Sara Graham

Cpl. Tiffany Edwards

COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS

Cpl. Ian Leones

Cpl. Gabrielle Quire

Cpl. Ian Ferro

Lance Cpl. Devan Barnett

Lance Cpl. 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

COMBAT CAMERA
(504) 697-9887

MARINE CORPS BAND NEW ORLEANS
(504) 697-7861

SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST
(504) 697-8115

WEBMASTERS
(504) 697-8194/8195

ON THE WEB

FIND STORIES FEATURED IN THIS MAGAZINE, AND MORE
www.marforres.marines.mil

FOLLOW US
www.facebook.com/marforres

TWEET WITH US
www.twitter.com/marforres

WATCH OUR VIDEOS
www.youtube.com/marineforcesreserve1

CHECK OUT OUR PHOTOS
www.flickr.com/photos/marforrespao

SUBMIT A COMMUNITY RELATIONS REQUEST
www.marforres.marines.mil/About/CommunityRelationsRequests

OPEN BILLET INFORMATION

RESERVE CAREER/BILLET INFORMATION
www.marforres.marines.mil/about/ReserveCareerBillets

GLOBAL BILLETS
www.marforres.marines.mil/GeneralSpecialStaff/G1/GlobalBillets

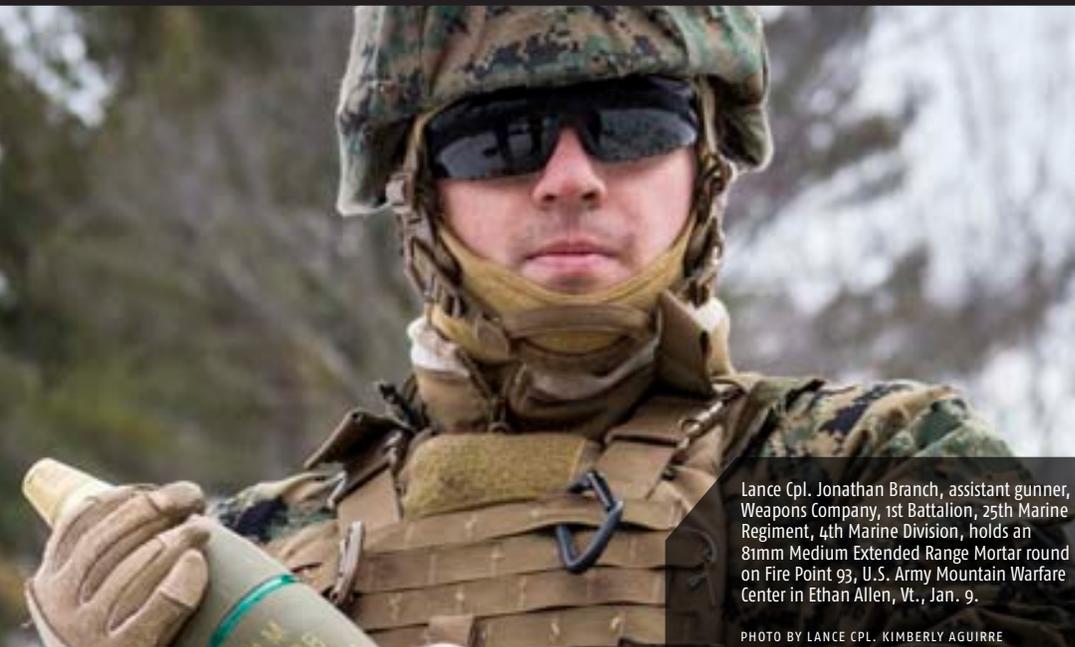
SMCR OPPORTUNITIES
(504) 697-8381

The Secretary of the Navy has determined that this publication is necessary in the transaction of business, required by law, of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing Policy Committee. All photos not credited are official USMC photos.

Postmaster: Send change of address to:
Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office
Marine Corps Support Facility
2000 Opelousas Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70114

DOD Disclaimer: This is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of Continental Marines are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the DOD or the U.S. Marine Corps.

SNAP SHOT



Lance Cpl. Jonathan Branch, assistant gunner, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, holds an 81mm Medium Extended Range Mortar round on Fire Point 93, U.S. Army Mountain Warfare Center in Ethan Allen, Vt., Jan. 9.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. KIMBERLY AGUIRRE

QUARTER 1 2016

WWW.MARFORRES.MARINES.MIL

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. KIMBERLY AGUIRRE



FEATURES

12 | NORDIC FROST

Marines conduct cold weather operations in rural Vermont

16 | SHOOTING FOR THE GOLD

Reserve Marines outshoot active counterparts during shooting competition

22 | CALL FOR FIRE

6th ANGLICO Marines perfect their skills in forward observation and indirect fire

26 | TOP SPOTTER

Sgt. Robert M. Bagley, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, was awarded "Top Spotter" at an International Sniper event

Lance Cpl. Jordan Sandman (left), gunner, and Lance Cpl. Jonathan Mendez (right), assistant gunner, both with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, fire an M252 81mm Medium Extended Range Mortar on Fire Point 93, U.S. Army Mountain Warfare Center in Ethan Allen, Vt., Jan. 9. The annual training is conducted in a cold weather mountainous environment in order to sustain offensive and defensive core competencies.

04 | CORPS COMMUNITY

- MARINE FORCES RESERVE COMMUNITY INTERACTION AROUND THE COUNTRY

06 | NEWS AND POLICY

- FIND OUT ABOUT POLICIES THAT AFFECT YOU

07 | HARD CHARGERS & HISTORY

- WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

08 | TOTAL FORCE RESERVE

- SEE WHAT RESERVE MARINES AND SAILORS ARE DOING AROUND THE GLOBE

10 | HOT TOPICS

- LATEST ACTIONS AND POLICIES AFFECTING YOU AND YOUR CORPS

18 | BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

- PHOTOS OF MARINES AROUND THE RESERVE FORCE

28 | UNIT PROFILE

- LEARN MORE ABOUT 2ND BATTALION, 14TH MARINE REGIMENT

30 | BE SMART, BE SAFE

- KNOW THE RISKS OF USING TOBACCO

32 | SAVED ROUNDS

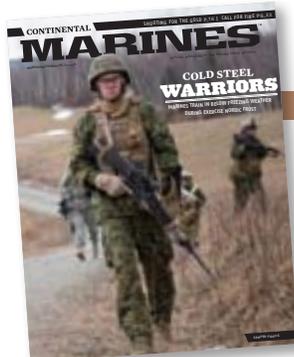
- IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

34 | WITH THE GEAR

- FIND OUT ABOUT THE RQ-21A BLACKJACK

35 | DOUBLE DUTY

- WHAT RESERVE MARINES DO IN AND OUT OF UNIFORM



ON THE COVER

Marines with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, move toward an objective during a live-fire exercise at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site, Jericho, Vt., Jan. 12. The Marines sustained offensive and defensive core competencies while conducting cold weather annual training in a mountainous environment.

PHOTO BY TECH SGT. SARAH MATTISON, U.S. AIR FORCE



CORPS
COMMUNITY





War Stories at Columbia College

Staff Sgt. Justin Reese, maintenance chief, 2/24 Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, speaks to Columbia College Chicago students about the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan during an informal discussion at their training center in Chicago, Jan. 20. During the event, the Marines and students were separated into small groups where they shared personal stories and experiences about their military career. Many Americans, like the majority of these students, do not have regular interactions with Marines. As the most geographically dispersed command in the Marine Corps, however, Marine Forces Reserve is uniquely positioned to have these kinds of community interactions.

PHOTO BY CPL. IAN FERRO

(FULL STORY PG. 33)

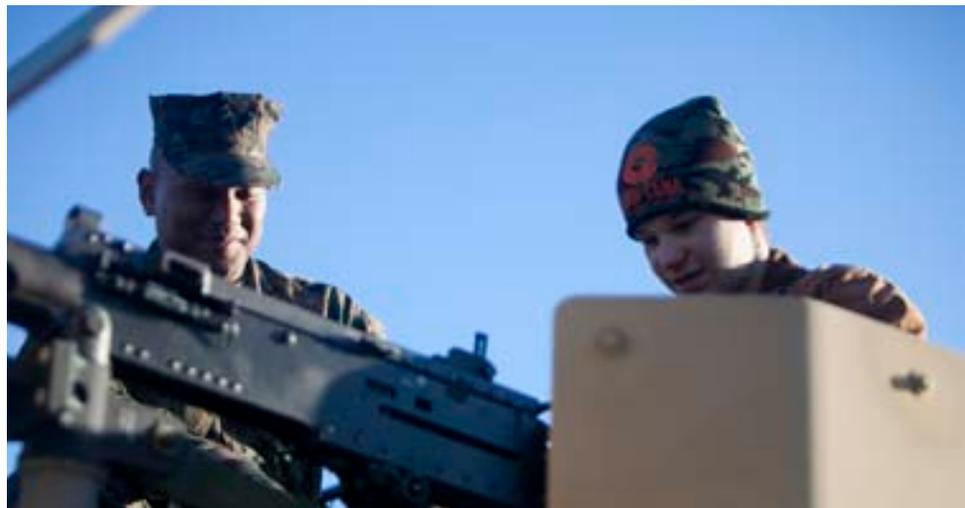


MARINE FORCES RESERVE CENTENNIAL

August 29, 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Lieutenant General Rex C. McMilliam, Commander, MARFORRES and MARFORNORTH, will use this milestone to launch a campaign of awareness of the Marine Corps Total Force. The year-long commemoration provides a national outreach opportunity for the Marine Corps, and will begin with a multi-city media and community relations effort, followed by a surge campaign across the nation.

The goals of the commemoration are to recognize our extraordinary Marines and their contributions; thank our families, employers and supporters; and celebrate our history heritage and our unique esprit de corps. This campaign will demonstrate our warfighting capabilities and expertise from civilian experiences to show Reserve Marines are ready, agile and skilled to serve in whatever mission our nation requires. For more information reference ALMAR 005/16. ■

GUIDANCE: COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Marine Administrative Message 643/15 provides guidance to commanders for conducting community outreach events in fiscal year 2016 to ensure consistency in execution across the Marine Corps. The intent is to emphasize support to local events that occur at no-cost to the government and focus authorized expenditures primarily on areas not normally reached.

This community outreach plan allows maximum public outreach within prescribed funding limits and gift acceptance policies. Community outreach events are approved for execution for events such as the Marine Corps birthday and other significant historical commemorations.

For more information, see the **MARADMIN 643/15**. ■



PHOTO BY CPL. TYLER THORNHILL

ANNUAL TRAINING:

KNOW HOW BEING IN A DANGER PAY AREA CAN AFFECT YOUR ANNUAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Marine administrative message 016/16 announces a change to the Department of Defense's policy for Reserve Component members conducting annual training in a designated "imminent danger" pay area.

The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness instituted a change in policy that authorizes Reserve Marines, assigned to either a Selected Marine Corps Reserve unit or to a command as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee, to be able to conduct the annual training in an imminent danger pay area.

For more information and a complete list of requirements, see **MARADMIN 016/16**. ■

PHOTO BY SGT. JESSICA ITO



Courtesy photo by the Marine Corps Women's Marine Reserve/Marine Corps Archives & Special Collections

Reserve female Marines pose for a photograph at Headquarters, Marine Corps, Washington D.C., 1918.

Since 1918, women have answered the call to serve in the United States Marines, and the role of women in the Marines has evolved and expanded significantly. All female Marines can look forward to the future proudly, never forgetting the women who made this future possible.

In 1918, the Secretary of the Navy allowed women to enroll for clerical duty in the Marine Corps. Officially, Opha Mae Johnson is credited as the first woman Marine. Johnson enrolled for service Aug. 13, 1918. That year,

approximately 300 women entered the Marine Corps for the first time to take over stateside clerical duties from battle-ready Marines who were needed overseas. The Marine Corps Women's Reserve was established on February 13, 1943. On June 12, 1948, Congress passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act and made women a permanent part of the Marine Corps.

In 1950, the Women Reserves were mobilized for the Korean War where 2,787 women served proudly.

TIMELINE

- 1918-** PVT. OPHA MAE JOHNSON BECOMES THE FIRST WOMAN TO ENLIST IN THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE
- 1943-** COL. RUTH C. STREETER APPOINTED FIRST DIRECTOR OF WOMEN MARINE RESERVISTS
- 1953-** STAFF SGT. BARBARA BARNWELL FIRST FEMALE MARINE TO BE AWARDED THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL FOR HEROISM FOR SAVING A FELLOW MARINE FROM DROWNING IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN IN 1952.
- 1997-** FIRST GROUP OF WOMEN MARINES COMPLETE MALE/FEMALE INTEGRATED MARINE COMBAT TRAINING COURSE AT CAMP GEIGER, N.C.
- 2002-** MARINE CORPS SERGEANT JEANNETTE L. WINTERS THE FIRST SERVICEWOMAN TO DIE IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.
- 2005-** CPL. RAMONA M. VALDEZ AND LANCE CPL. HOLLY A. CHARETTE ARE THE FIRST WOMEN MARINES KILLED IN IRAQ WHEN AN IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DETONATED NEAR THEIR CONVOY VEHICLE IN FALLUJAH, IRAQ.
- 2006-** MAJ. MEGAN MCCLUNG BECOMES THE FIRST FEMALE MARINE OFFICER KILLED IN IRAQ DURING OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.
- 2009-** ALL-FEMALE MARINE TEAM CONDUCTS FIRST MISSION IN SOUTHERN AFGHANISTAN.
- 2011-** BRIG. GEN. LORETTA E. REYNOLDS IS THE FIRST FEMALE MARINE COMMANDER OF THE CORPS' ICONIC TRAINING GROUND FOR RECRUITS AT PARRIS ISLAND, S.C.
- TODAY-** WOMEN SERVE IN 93 PERCENT OF ALL OCCUPATIONAL FIELDS AND 62 PERCENT OF ALL BILLETS. WOMEN CONSTITUTE 7.11 PERCENT OF THE CORPS' END STRENGTH AND ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE MARINE CORPS.

COL. RUTH CHENEY STREETER, MARINE CORPS RESERVE FIRST DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WOMEN'S RESERVE

LEGION OF MERIT RECIPIENT



Col. Ruth Cheney Streeter became the first Director of the United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve from the time it was activated on Feb. 13, 1943, until her resignation

Dec. 7, 1945. Streeter was also

the first woman to be appointed to the rank of major in the Marine Corps. She earned the Legion of Merit on Feb. 4, 1946, for outstanding services during World War II. The citation states in part:

"Exercising judgment, initiative and ability, Col. Streeter rendered distinctive service in directing the planning and organization of the Women's Reserve of the Marine Corps and skillfully integrating women into the basic structure of the Corps,

carefully selected, trained and assigned them as replacements for men in shore establishments."

When Col. Streeter left the Marine Corps in 1945, Gen. Alexander A. Vandegrift, then Commandant of the Marine Corps, wrote her a commendatory letter:

"It is with deep regret that I contemplate your leaving, and I cannot let the occasion pass without conveying to you some expression of my admiration and appreciation of your outstanding service as Director of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve from its inception. Over that period, the Marine Corps Women's Reserve grew in size to a maximum strength of 831 officers and 17,714 enlisted. It set a standard of excellence which, in my opinion, could not have been excelled and would be difficult to equal."





RESERVE FORCES AROUND THE WORLD:

MARINES PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISES AND OPERATIONS TO PREPARE THEM FOR REAL-WORLD CONFLICTS. (QUARTER 1: JANUARY - MARCH 2016)



Pacific Command

- KEEN EDGE
- COBRA GOLD
- KEY RESOLVE
- KMEP 16-6
- SSANG YONG

KEEN EDGE

During Keen Edge 16, units from Japanese Self Defense Forces and U.S. military forces increased combat readiness and interoperability by employing computer simulations to practice the steps they would take in the event of a crisis or contingency.

JAN. 19-29

COBRA GOLD

Cobra Gold, in its 35th iteration, focuses on humanitarian civic action, community engagement, and medical activities to support the needs and humanitarian interests of civilian populations around the Thailand region.

JAN. 19 TO FEB. 17

KEY RESOLVE

Key Resolve is an annual exercise that ensures interoperability between U.S. Marines and the Republic of Korea. It allows Marines to train with their allies to become a cohesive team.

MARCH 17-22

KMEP 16-6

The Korean Marine Exchange Program is a bilateral and collaborative effort between the Republic of Korea and U.S. Marine Corps forces from planning to execution. Marines from each country work alongside each other to become more effective partners.

FEB. 17 TO MARCH 6

SSANG YONG

Ssang Yong is conducted annually in the Republic of Korea to enhance the interoperability of U.S. and ROK forces by performing a full spectrum of amphibious operations while showcasing sea-based power projection in the Pacific.

MARCH 3-18

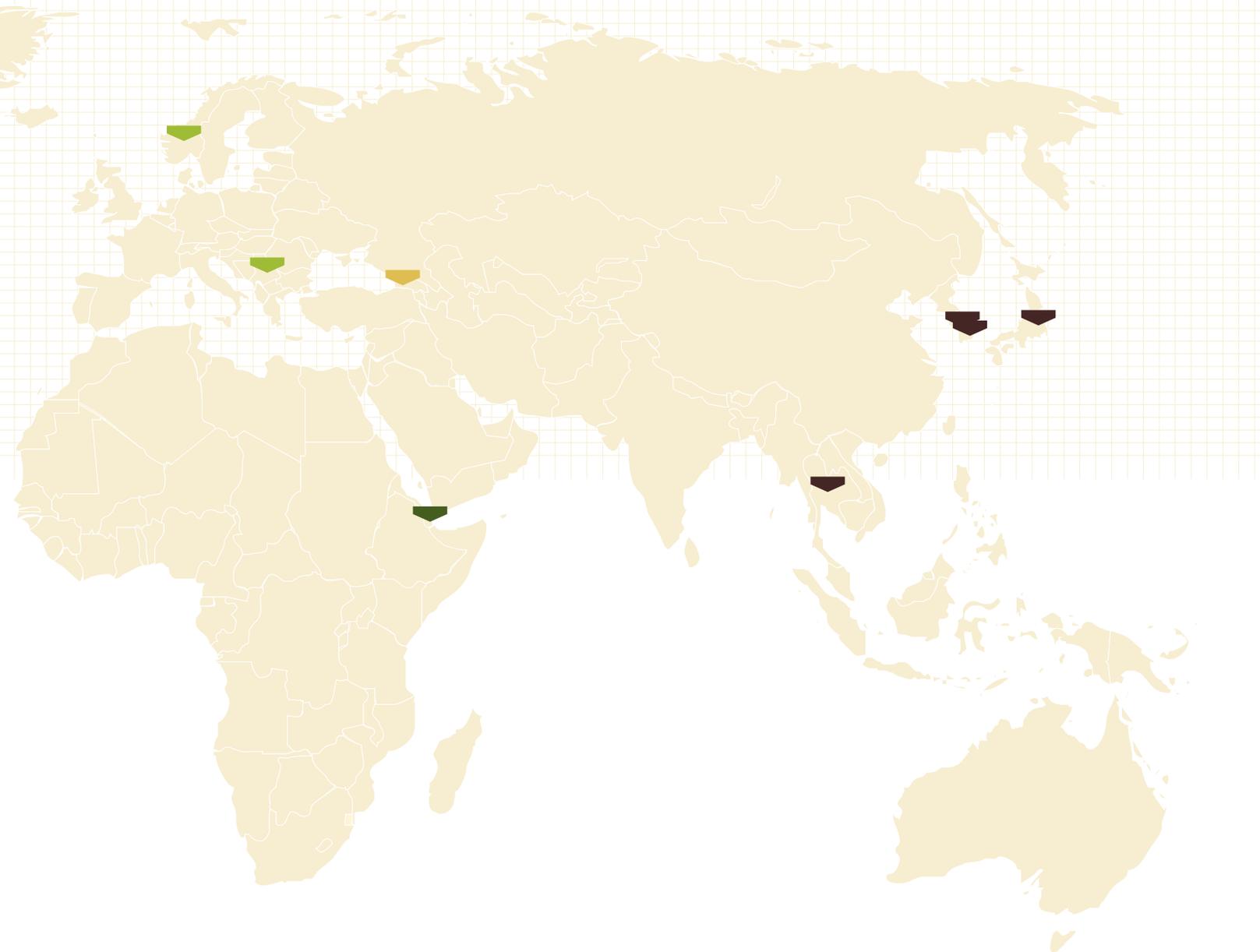
Northern Command

- VIRTUAL FLAG 16-2

VIRTUAL FLAG 16-2

Virtual Flag is a recurring exercise that focuses on joint operations utilizing a simulated battlespace distributed to connected participants. Thousands of training events occurred during the scenario which mirrored contested and degraded environments in current conflicts.

MARCH 1-10



Africa Command

LONG HAUL COMM DET 16.1

LONG HAUL COMM DET 16.1

The mission of Long Haul Comm Det 16.1 is to provide command, control, communication, computer and intelligence support to operations. Marines also trained to install and operate tactical radios, tactical satellite nets and a data network extension to support small teams deployed to remote areas.

SEP. 1-APRIL 1

Central Command

GEORGIA DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM

GEORGIA DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Through the Georgia Deployment Program, coordinated by U.S. Marine Forces Europe, the Georgian military has trained with U.S. forces to support the international Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and serve alongside U.S. forces and other partner nations.

AUG. 1-JUNE 23

Southern Command

SPMAGTF SC TM 16.1

SPMAGTF CR CC 16.1

The Reserve Marines of this Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force serve as an expeditionary, crisis-response force tasked with supporting operations, contingencies and security cooperation.

AUG. 1-JUNE 23



PROTECT WHAT YOU'VE EARNED



The majority of Marines already do the right thing. Making good decisions is important to the overall readiness of the Marine Corps.

On Jan. 20, 2016, Sgt. Maj. Green, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, visited Marines at Marine Corps Support Facility New Orleans, to discuss the “Protect What You’ve Earned” campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to encourage Marines to practice good decision-making in the Corps by raising awareness on decisions that lead down the wrong path rather than toward success.

Marines are held to the highest standards and are expected to uphold Corps values on and off duty.

“It’s not about the individual. It’s about the Marines to our left and to our right. Not just in combat, but when we choose liberty,” said Green.

The campaign is a reminder to Marines that they have a responsibility to themselves and to the Corps to protect what they’ve earned as a Marine. A unit is only as strong as its weakest link. Marines hold accountability for each other as well as themselves in and out of the uniform, keeping the nation safe and the Corps at peak readiness.

“THERE ARE TWO NAMES ON YOUR CHEST, THE ONE YOU WERE BORN INTO, AND THE ONE YOU ENLISTED INTO. BOTH MEAN FAMILY. MAKE SURE YOU DON’T LET EITHER ONE OF THEM DOWN.”

—SGT. MAJ. RONALD L. GREEN, SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Green, addresses Marines of Marine Aircraft Group 49, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans, Jan. 19.

PHOTO BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE



Seeking Help is a Sign of Strength

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Suicide is the third leading cause of death in the Marine Corps. It is the personal duty of each Marine to encourage others to seek help in the midst of trouble. A single death by suicide is one too many.

Seeking help is not a sign of weakness. There are a number of resources available to every Marine to access, no matter where they may be geographically.

Most Marines forget their Chaplains are always willing to help. Chaplains will listen without judgement and can help a Marine get the right resource for help with problems that cause them to think about hurting themselves or others.

Every Marine and Sailor, from the unit leader up the chain of command, should pay attention to their personnel and monitor attitude changes which may be indicators of suicidal thoughts. Leadership must especially stay engaged with Reserve Marines during “the other 28 days.”

Relationships built on mutual trust and understanding will ensure troubled Marines feel confident about

approaching their chain of command with problems before a situation gets out of hand. There should never be surprises about what is happening in each other’s lives.

“Leaders are the first line of defense for us to recognize the warning signs that allow us to intervene before a situation escalates,” said Sgt. Maj. Anthony A. Spadaro, Sergeant Major of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North.

Suicide affects fellow Marines and Sailors, friends and families, the unit cohesion and mission readiness.

There is no greater leadership calling than to protect your own.

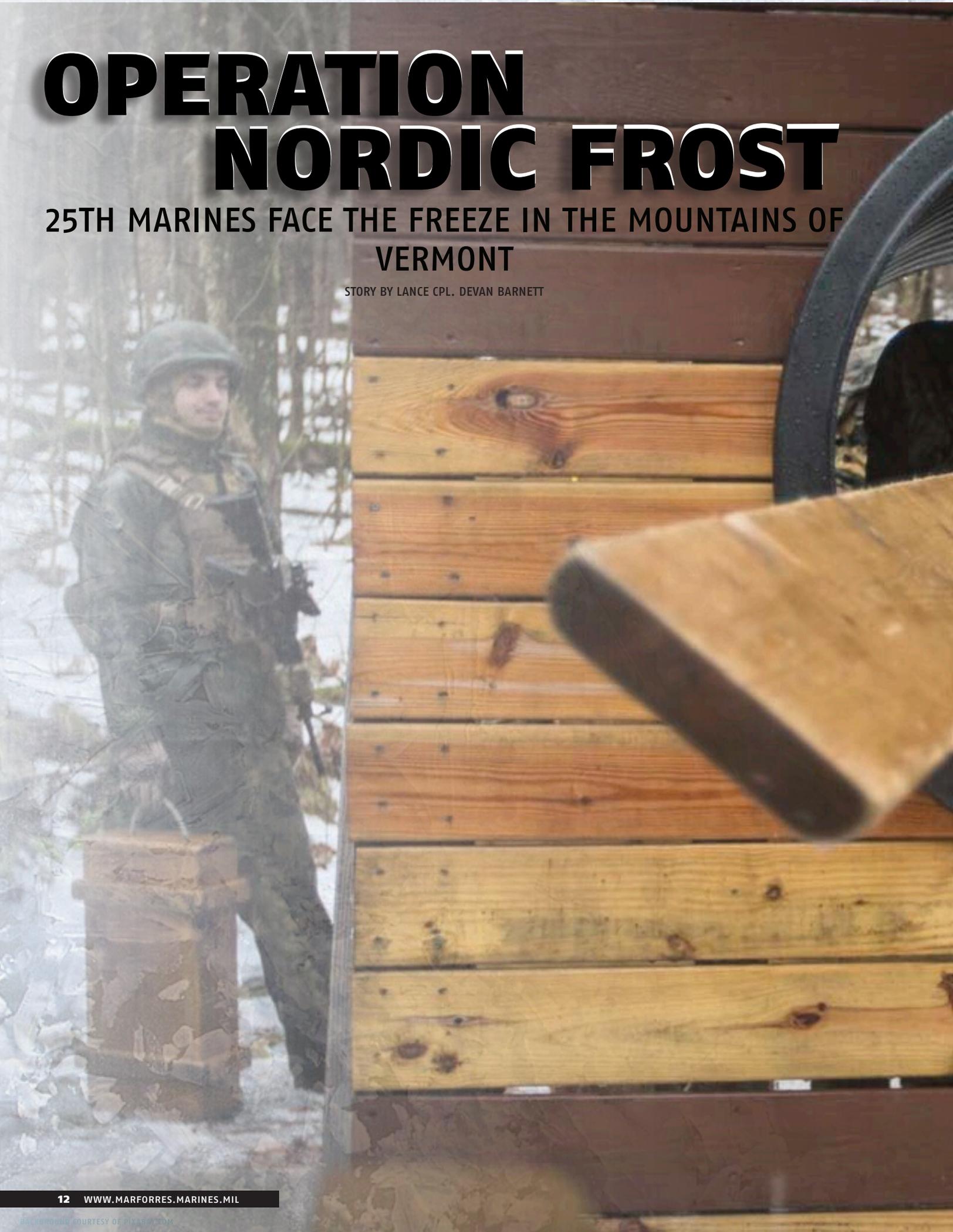
To take an active role in suicide preventions and intervention, follow the R.A.C.E. acronym if you notice a fellow Marine in distress.

- Recognize the signs of distress
- Ask about the signs of distress
- Care about the Marine and show it
- Escort the person to safety

OPERATION NORDIC FROST

25TH MARINES FACE THE FREEZE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF
VERMONT

STORY BY LANCE CPL. DEVAN BARNETT





Pfc. Brian Ackley, mortarman, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, runs through a leadership reaction course at the U.S. Army Mountain Warfare Center in Ethan Allen, Vt., Jan. 10. The Marines were split into three teams and given a different challenge at each station. The course is designed to make every Marine work together as a team.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. KIMBERLY AGUIRRE

The Scout Sniper Platoon with Company B, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, provides fire support to its company during training exercise Nordic Frost, Jan. 8, at Ethan Allen Training Center in Jericho, Vt.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. DEVAN BARNETT



Marines with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, conduct their final exercise of Nordic Frost at U.S. Army Mountain Warfare Center in Ethan Allen, Vt., Jan. 13.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. KIMBERLY AGUIRRE



M

arines with 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division, conducted exercise Nordic Frost in the mountains of Vermont at Ethan Allen Training Center Jan. 5-14.

More than 750 Reserve Marines from Maine to Western New York gathered in the cold environment for their collaborative, annual exercise.

During the exercise, Marines conducted multiple simulated combat scenarios in below-freezing weather to improve their offensive and defensive capabilities, execution of combat logistics and mountain warfare.

“All of our training is focused around being able to survive and fight in the environment that we find ourselves,” said 1st Sgt. Daniel P. Healey with Company A, 1st Bn., 25th Marines. “In the mountains and cold, we need to be able to execute offense, defense, combat logistics and command and control.”

Each company took turns at different ranges to practice essential core competencies.

“For the conduct of the offense, one of the things we did was a squad-supported attack,” said Healey. “We had a squad attack while being supported by our own





internal assets such as medium machine guns, mortars and scout snipers. The intent was to familiarize Marines with live-fire attacks and using all the tools at their disposal to locate, close with and destroy the enemy.”

The Marines made the simulated events as realistic as possible, adding movements and live rounds to the training.

“We had basic riflemen run up the range and meet a squad-sized element and then a platoon-sized element,” explained Pfc. Carl G. Shoup, a machine gunner with 1st Battalion, 25th Marines. “The machine gunners posted on top of Machine Gun Hill to provide cover fire and simulate a real operation.”

The simulated operations honed the Marines’ skills and prepared them for unique environments and situations.

The Marines trained hard while enduring freezing cold temperatures to improve their capabilities and their ability to deal with these realistic situations. Their mental toughness and perseverance continues to show the world that 4th Marine Division will be ready at a moment’s notice.



SHOOTING FOR GOLD

MARINES COMPETE AT THE WESTERN DIVISION MATCHES

STORY BY CPL. IAN LEONES



Marines from 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, shoot in a pistol competition during the Western Division Matches aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 4. The Western Division Matches are part of a Marine Corps wide competition designed for self-improvement in marksmanship in order to improve Marines' combat readiness.

COURTESY PHOTO



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, posted a strong performance during the Western Division Matches aboard Camp Pendleton, California, March 4, 2016.

The Western Division Matches are part of a Marine Corps-wide program designed to enhance proficiency within the Marine Corps in the use of individual small arms through advanced marksmanship training and competition. More than 160 Marines from Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California; Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California; Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona; and various Reserve Training Centers on the West Coast participated in both rifle and pistol matches.

The Western Division Matches are one of four division competitions hosted by the Marine Corps' Competition-in-Arms program. With three other competitions in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; Marine Corps Base Hawaii; and Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan; the best Marine Corps shooters in the world have an opportunity to compete. Even against such stiff competition, two MARFORRES Marines took the spotlight.

Staff Sgt. Justin L. Santiago, communications maintenance chief with Headquarters and Services Co., 2/23, received the gold medal for the rifle competition and a bronze medal for the pistol competition, and Cpl. Alvin H. Mei, an electro-optical ordnance repairer with H&S Co., received a gold medal for the pistol competition. Mei will go on to compete in the Marine Corps Championship program in Camp Lejeune, April 5-23. Santiago relocated to Okinawa and will be unable to attend the program.

"I wasn't really expecting to win," said Mei. "I just wanted a chance to come out here, learn from the best shooters in the Marine Corps, and have fun."

The Participants received a two week training course that fulfills annual rifle qualification requirements.

"Training for the division matches consists of a lot of snap-in and classes, similar to annual rifle and pistol training, but more in depth," said Santiago. "We learned the division match course of fire for rifle and pistol the first week and we shot those every day in order to prepare for the competition."



Col. Darric Knight, command inspector general, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Installations West-Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, presents Staff Sgt. Justin Santiago with 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, a gold medal for the rifle and a bronze medal for the pistol competition during the Western Division Matches aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 4.

PHOTO BY CPL. ASHTON BUCKINGHAM



Col. Darric Knight, command inspector general, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Installations West-Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, presents Cpl. Alvin Mei with 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, the gold medal for the pistol competition during the Western Division Matches aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 4.

PHOTO BY CPL. ASHTON BUCKINGHAM

After the first week of classroom instruction, live-fire training and preliminary matches, the shooters moved directly into a second week of rifle, pistol and team competitions.

"The top 10 percent from every competition will earn medals," said Santiago. "After that, units get to choose their top shooters to represent them come team day."

These matches provide world-class instruction from members of the Marine Corps shooting team. Participating Marines receive a unique training opportunity that they would not otherwise receive through their annual training requirements.

"I learned how to shoot [the pistol] one-handed," said Mei. "I had never shot like this before, so it did teach me a lot. Especially with the time limits and the rapid fire, it taught me to pace my shots and focus a little bit more on the sight-picture process."

While the pistol match differs greatly from annual qualification, the rifle course of fire is similar, but with a few changes

"You still shoot from the 200-, 300- and 500-yard line," said Maj. Andrew Orth, the assistant operations officer for H & S Co, 2/23. "You end up shooting more rounds from the 500 and more rounds in the standing. The scores can later be converted to count for annual qualification."

With 38 training days a year, Reserve Marines often find it difficult to match the training time of their active duty counterparts, so they must make every training opportunity count.

"The Marines' performance speaks to their professionalism and dedication toward doing a good job," Orth said. "They spent a fair bit of time prior to the competition going through the combat marksmanship coaches and trainer courses. That dedication to training is what really got these Marines this far."

With the accomplishment of medaling in these matches, the Marines will return to their unit ready to train their Marines to respond to any future challenges.



BEEN THERE
DONE THAT



4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

PROTECT WHAT YOU'VE EARNED

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Ronald L. Green (right), addresses Marines with Marine Aircraft Group 49, 4th MAW, at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, Jan. 19. Sgt. Maj. Green commended Marines for their hard work and encouraged them to protect what they've earned as Marines.

PHOTO BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE





BEEN THERE
DONE THAT



4TH MARINE DIVISION

(TOP)

MACHINE GUNNERS, Pfc. Carl G. Shoup (left) and Lance Cpl. Kelsey S. Markee (right), with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division, man their machine gun in a simulated platoon-sized attack during exercise Nordic Frost, Jan. 7, at Ethan Allen Training Site in Jericho, Vt.

LANCE CPL. DEVAN BARNETT

(BOTTOM LEFT)

MARINES with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, assault on an objective at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site, Jericho, Vt., Jan. 12.

TECH SGT. SARAH MATTISON

(BOTTOM RIGHT)

MARINES with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, conduct a leadership reaction course on U.S. Army Mountain Warfare Center in Ethan Allen, Vt., Jan. 10.

LANCE CPL. KIMBERLY AGUIRRE





FORCE HEADQUARTERS GROUP

(TOP)

STAFF SGT. MARC HARRISON, civil affairs staff non-commissioned officer, 3rd Civil Affairs Group, Force Headquarters Group, and a student from Ban Sri Pracha in Rayong Province play soccer during exercise Cobra Gold. Marines participated in an engagement with school leaders, members of the community and students during the exercise.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LT. COL. DAVID COX

(TOP RIGHT)

LT. COL. DAVID C. COX, officer-in-charge, 3rd Civil Affairs Group, Force Headquarters Group is presented a gift basket by the principal of Ban Cham Kho school in Ban Cham Khon, Rayong Province, during exercise Cobra Gold. Cox represented the U.S. as the senior distinguished visitor.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LT. COL. DAVID COX



4TH MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

(BOTTOM)

MARINES with 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, completed their corporals course at Battle Creek, Mich., March 1-14. The Course develops key leadership traits among newly promoted non-commissioned officers in the Marine Corps.

COURTESY OF 4TH MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

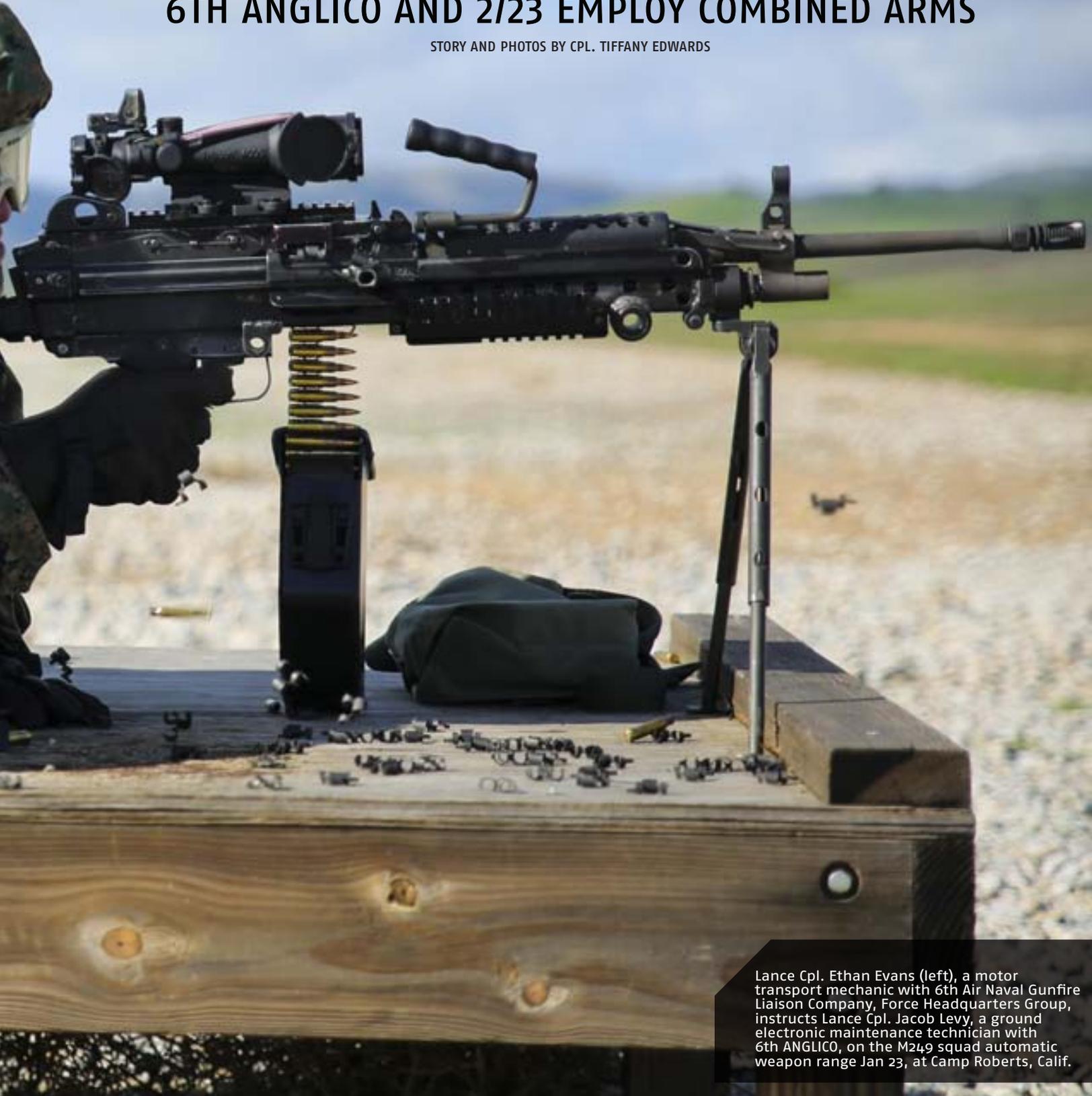




CALL FOR FIRE

6TH ANGLICO AND 2/23 EMPLOY COMBINED ARMS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. TIFFANY EDWARDS



Lance Cpl. Ethan Evans (left), a motor transport mechanic with 6th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, Force Headquarters Group, instructs Lance Cpl. Jacob Levy, a ground electronic maintenance technician with 6th ANGLICO, on the M249 squad automatic weapon range Jan 23, at Camp Roberts, Calif.

“There is no substitute for live-fire training.”

—Col. Seth Milstein, 6th ANGLICO commanding officer

Story and photo by Cpl. Tiffany Edwards



As clouds rolled across the wide California sky, sending shadows racing across the green hills at Camp Roberts National Guard training center, thundering booms echoed through the valley as mortars found targets. Half a mile away, Marines with 6th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, Force Head Quarters Group, relayed target trajectories and coordinates to the mortarmen of 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. The units partnered together Jan. 23, to conduct live call-for-fire training with mortars, as well as machine gun ranges to qualify their Marines.

“For this drill weekend, our mission was to conduct indirect and supporting arms training,” said Col. Seth Milstein, commanding officer of 6th ANGLICO. “We completed that in conjunction with a mortar platoon from 2/23, as well as continued illumination fire and machine gun ranges for our Headquarters and Service element and brigade element.”

The Marines of 6th ANGLICO provided target coordinates and trajectories for the mortar platoons to affect with suppressive fire, illuminating fire, or fire-for-effect drills. In addition to the live-fire event, training alongside the mortarmen from 2/23 gave the unit unexpected benefits.

Since its inception in 2013, 6th ANGLICO faces unique challenges as a young unit, such as quickly retraining Marines in new military occupational specialties to bring the unit to optimum readiness. Having the chance to complete live-fire training was a crucial step to reaching the unit’s training objectives.

“As a newer unit, we face a number of interesting challenges, the biggest being getting our Marines through the high-demand, low-density school seats to complete their training and specialty requirements,” Milstein said. “It’s the issue of forming these teams and developing their skills to the level that’s required to maintain optimum unit functionality. “There is no substitute for live-fire training,” Milstein continued. “Being able to participate in live-fire drills with indirect fire units is valuable training for the Marines, and

also gives other units insight into our capabilities and functions as an ANGLICO unit.”

According to Milstein, much of the Marine Corps’ ANGLICO capabilities have been shifted to the Reserve Component. In recent years, there has been heavier use of Reserve units to fulfill capabilities which cannot be covered by the Active Component due to budget restrictions. This means it is imperative to have all Reserve Marines fully and comprehensively trained for missions that may surface at any time.

“They are building better unit integrity at the small unit level,” Milstein said. “Our firepower control teams and supporting arms liaison teams have the opportunity to work together to complete basic ANGLICO training readiness standards, particularly on indirect fire support, with firepower support teams working with their headquarters element, the supporting arms liaison teams.”

The ANGLICO Marines were able to practice technical proficiencies unique to their mission such as radio functions, etiquette, programming and troubleshooting, as well as call-for fire formats.

“We often train using virtual simulations, so conducting live-fire training with a different unit exposes us to the many variables that can come about in combat situations, which gives us experience in how to deal with those variables,” said Sgt. Christopher Cropley, a forward observer with 6th ANGLICO.

“This has been a valuable experience for me and my fellow Marines. Our technical proficiency is something that needs to be practiced regularly, and conducting live-fire training is invaluable for that.”

The brief training exercise allowed 6th ANGLICO to hone their skills in forward observation and indirect fire, leaving the training center’s hills speckled with smoking craters. Employing combined arms is a critical element of maneuver warfare and thus a fundamental skill for Marines. Despite the challenges it faces, the young unit aims for explosive development into a formidable element in the Marine Corps Reserve’s ongoing mission to remain technically and tactically proficient.





Radio operators with 6th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, Force Headquarters Group, program and troubleshoot a radio during call-for-fire training Jan. 23, at Camp Roberts, Calif.

TOP SPOTTER

4TH RECONNAISSANCE MARINE TAKES THE TOP SPOT AT INTERNATIONAL SNIPER COMPETITION

STORY BY CPL. TIFFANY EDWARDS



Sgt. Robert M. Bagley, a scout sniper with Headquarters and Service Company, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, was awarded “Top Spotter” at the Canadian International Sniper Concentration in August 2015.

Bagley, a Houston, Texas native, attended the week-long engagement at Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada, as part of a two-man sniper team with Sgt. Dustin Johnson of 4th Recon Bn.

Although the participants did compete during the event, organizers deliberately call it a “concentration” to keep the focus on exchange of information.

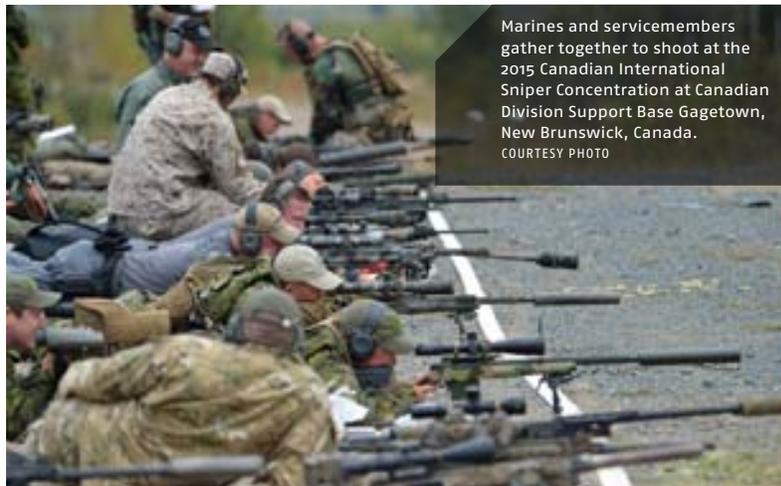
The event, hosted by the Combat Training Centre Infantry School, hosted military and civilian law enforcement snipers from 11 NATO-allied countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and others.

Bagley won the award for Top Spotter, one of the four awards available at the concentration, including Top Individual Sniper, Top Sniper Team, and Top Pistol Marksman.

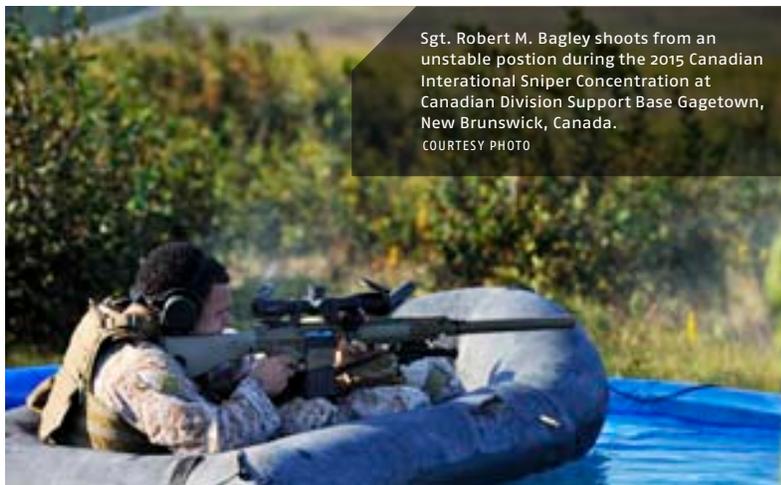
Sgt. Dustin Johnson (left) and Sgt. Robert M. Bagley (Right) stand by to board a helicopter to begin aerial precision firing at the 2015 Canadian International Sniper Concentration at Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada. COURTESY PHOTO



Marines and servicemembers gather together to shoot at the 2015 Canadian International Sniper Concentration at Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada. COURTESY PHOTO



Sgt. Robert M. Bagley shoots from an unstable position during the 2015 Canadian International Sniper Concentration at Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada. COURTESY PHOTO



Bagley shot with the M110 semi-automatic sniper system from Knights Armament.

According to Bagley, the spotter is traditionally responsible for target identification, calculating target distance, windage, atmospheric conditions, weapon mechanics, as well as accurate and timely adjustments on target.

“It was a great time, and I enjoyed working with military, law enforcement and special operations specialists from these other countries,” Bagley said. “Everyone does things differently, and many people gave informal classes on their tactics and techniques. It was a big exchange of information. The infantry school that sponsors it specifically doesn’t call it a competition, because they wanted it to be that way.”

Bagley said that each nation was able to bring different forms of marksmanship expertise to share at the concentration. For example, the Dutch attendees gave informal classes on maritime marksmanship, and the Australian attendees demonstrated effective stalking as well as shooting from alternate aiming points.

“I was really humbled to be able to attend, and to be awarded Top Spotter,” Bagley said. “I’ve been a sniper since 2011, and I attended the Expeditionary Operations Training Group Urban Sniper Course. Despite that, I don’t think of myself as an expert in my craft, because you’re always learning. When you think you’ve learned it all, you need to go back and learn some more.”

Bagley is the first U.S. service member to win an individual award at CISC in nine years. According to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Skinta, the 4th Recon. Bn. gunner and coach to the Marine sniper teams who attended the 2015 CISC, Bagley’s win is a landmark because he had only been a sniper for four years at the time.

“Sgt. Bagley is one of our youngest snipers, and his win adds credibility to the battalion, as well as the teaching capabilities of the Marine Corps’ scout sniper school in Quantico, Virginia,” Skinta said.

Skinta said the CISC provided the battalion with valuable information about weapons systems, combat strategies, marksmanship concepts, tactics, techniques and procedures from other nations.

“Since I began as a sniper in 1999, it has always been great to see new sniping concepts,” Skinta said. “This allows us to bring back new things to add to our sniper training program for 4th Recon. Bn.”

With this new knowledge, the battalion is able to train snipers from across the U.S. more effectively during the 4th Marine Division Advanced Sniper Package, an event similar to the CISC that hosts snipers from different U.S. military branches and law enforcement agencies.

Exposing their snipers to different marksmanship fundamentals and tactics from NATO allies gives 4th Recon Bn. the unique opportunity to train their trainers, and to bring back new marksmanship knowledge to be taught to Reserve Marines within the battalion and across the Corps.





UNIT
PROFILE



2ND BATTALION, 14TH MARINE REGIMENT

LOCATION: Grand Prairie, Texas

Marines with 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment unload the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) from a C-130 Hercules military transport aircraft, during a raid exercise at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, Dec. 4, 2015.
COURTESY PHOTO

Second Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, is a Reserve artillery battalion comprised of three firing batteries and a headquarters battery.

The battalion was activated on March 26, 1943, as 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines, at Camp Pendleton, California. During World War II, the battalion made significant contributions during Operation Flintlock and Operation Forager. The Marines were awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for actions in the Marianas Islands from June 15 to Aug. 1, 1945, and awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for actions during the seizure of Iwo Jima as part of Fifth Amphibious Corps.

The unit was deactivated Nov. 15, 1945, and reactivated at Naval Air Station Dallas, in Grand Prairie, Texas, July 1, 1962.

On June 30, 1991, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines received the Meritorious Unit Commendation following operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In 2006, the battalion became the first fully operational M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System battalion in the Marine Corps. Battery F, based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was deployed in July 2007 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and has the distinction of being the first Marine Corps HIMARS battery to deploy into combat.



Marines with Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, fire an M31 Guided Multiple Launch System (GMLRS) Missile from the M142 High Mobile Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) during a raid exercise at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, Dec. 4, 2015.

COURTESY PHOTO

2ND BATTALION 14TH MARINE REGIMENT QUICK FACTS

Founded: March 26, 1943

Awards Received:

- Presidential Unit Citation, World War II for action on Saipan and Tinian - 1944
- Navy Unit Commendation, World War II for action on Iwo Jima - 1945
- Meritorious Unit Commendation, Southwest Asia - 1990-1991
- Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Streamer with four bronze stars
- World War II Victory Streamer
- National Defense Service Streamer

HIMARS: Battery D, 2nd Bn., 14th Marine Regiment was the first unit to fire HIMARS Combat Rocket Fire in Afghanistan in support Operation Enduring Freedom

COMMANDING OFFICER: Lt. Col. Francisco P. Delgado

SERGEANT MAJOR: Sgt. Maj. Kevin M. Walsh

INSPECTOR-INSTRUCTOR: Lt. Col. John Lehane

INSPECTOR-INSTRUCTOR SERGEANT MAJOR: Sgt. Maj. Joseph D. Gaines

MISSION: Provides the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) with timely and accurate rocket and missile fire in general support, general support-reinforcing, and reinforcing roles in order to suppress, neutralize, or destroy the enemy.



BE SMART,
BE SAFE



PHOTO BY BRIAN PARKER

TOBACCO RISKS

STORY BY CPL. IAN LEONES

T

obacco use is a major preventable cause of premature death and disease worldwide. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately six million deaths related to tobacco use occur each year, including 600,000 from secondhand smoke. In the United States, an estimated 42.1 million people currently smoke, and an estimated 480,000 people die prematurely from diseases caused by smoking or secondhand smoke exposure.

Tobacco use is even more prevalent among service members, who say they use it especially during long deployments due to the stressful environment. While smoking or dipping is looked at as a norm in the military, prolonged use and consumption can degrade unit readiness. According to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, the Department of Defense spends more than \$1.6 billion each year on tobacco-related medical care.

Quitting can be difficult, but with proper planning and a commitment to stop, it's possible to kick the habit.

[HTTP://WWW.CDC.GOV/WINNABLEBATTLES/TOBACCO/](http://www.cdc.gov/winnablebattles/tobacco/)

The Dangers of Dip

Some people say that smokeless tobacco, (i., chewing tobacco, snuff, dip and snus) is a safer alternative to smoking. However, smokeless tobacco contains 28 carcinogens, or cancer-causing chemicals, including the harmful nitrosamine. Smokeless tobacco is related to increased risk of oral cancer, esophageal cancer, heart disease, gum disease and oral lesions.

A health survey conducted by Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, found that 12.8 percent of military personnel use smokeless tobacco compared to 2.7 percent of U.S. adults.

The numbers by branch:

Marine Corps – 32%
Army – 21%
Navy – 17%
Air Force – 13%

[HTTP://WWW.MED.NAVY.MIL/SITES/NMCPHC/HEALTH-PROMOTION/TOBACCO-FREE-LIVING/PAGES/TOBACCO-CESSATION-HEALTH-EDUCATORS.ASPX](http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/health-promotion/tobacco-free-living/pages/tobacco-cessation-health-educators.aspx)

Preparing to Quit

There's no easy way to quit smoking or dipping. But planning for it can help you overcome the hurdles you're likely to face. Here are steps you can take as you prepare for your quit day:

- **Mark the day.**
 - Make a big notation of your quit day on your calendar. It's an important day in your life, so treat it like one.
- **Talk to your health care provider.**
 - Talk to your doctor or health care provider about quitting smoking or dipping. Ask about counseling and medications. Using either counseling or medication improves your odds of
- **Tell people.**
 - Let family, friends and co-workers know about your quit day. They can provide moral support.
- **Clean house.**
 - Rid your home, car, office and other places of smoking and tobacco supplies. Don't keep any cigarettes or dip cans around to resist temptation. Also, consider getting your teeth pro-
- **Stock up.**
 - Keep items on hand that can substitute for the cigarette you're used to having in your mouth, such as sugarless gum, hard candy, cinnamon
- **Join up.**
 - The more support you have, the more likely you are to stop successfully. Every state has a telephone quit line with professional coaches to help you develop your quit plan and support you through the process. Call 800-784-8669 (800-QUIT-NOW).
- **Reflect.**
 - If you've tried to quit smoking before, but failed, think about what challenges you faced and why you started again. What can you do differently this time? Keeping a journal about your quit-smoking efforts may help you monitor feelings and situa-

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
[HTTP://WWW.MAYOCLINIC.ORG/HEALTHY-LIFESTYLE/QUIT-SMOKING/IN-DEPTH/SMOKING-CESSATION/ART-20045441?PG=1](http://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/quit-smoking/in-depth/smoking-cessation/art-20045441?pg=1)



FY16 PME OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESERVE MARINES

FURTHER YOUR MILITARY EDUCATION
 STORY BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE

PME is an integral part of every Marine's professional military development.

Marine Administrative Message 433/15 outlines the importance of professional military education courses as a part of new promotion requirements, as well as the regulations and requirements for enrollment within each specific course.

To maintain a level of military excellence, sergeants, staff sergeants, and gunnery sergeants must actively participate in PME. Participation in and completion of PME for their grade enhances Marines' qualifications and competitiveness for promotion. This ensures Marines will be in the best position to use the newly gained knowledge and skills in their present rank. For more information reference the MARADMIN. ■

COURSE	DATES	LOCATION	PREREQS
Career Course	21 April – 5 May 2016	Camp Pendleton	- SSgt or SSgt (select) - Completed EPME6000AA
Sergeant's Course	11 – 25 June 2016	Quantico	- Must be Sgt - Completed EPME5000AA
Advanced Course	11 – 25 June 2016	Quantico	- GySgt or GySgt (select) - Completed EPME7000AA
Sergeant's Course	9 – 23 July 2016	Quantico	- Must be Sgt - Completed EPME5000AA
Career Course	9 – 23 July 2016	Quantico	- SSgt or SSgt (select) - Completed EPME6000AA
Advanced Course	9 – 23 July 2016	Quantico	- GySgt or GySgt (select) - Completed EPME7000AA
Sergeant's Course	30 July – 13 August 2016	Quantico	- Must be Sgt - Completed EPME5000AA
Career Course	30 July – 13 August 2016	Quantico	- SSgt or SSgt (select) - Completed EPME6000AA



Staff Sgt. Justin Reese, maintenance chief, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, speak to Columbia College Chicago students about the global war on terrorism during an informal discussion at their training center in Chicago, Jan. 20.

PHOTO BY CPL. IAN FERRO

GEORGIAN TRAINING TEAM

MARINES BUILD ENDURING PARTNERSHIPS

STORY BY SGT. SARA GRAHAM



Marines with 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division are changing out the latest rotation of the Georgian Deployment Program. During the program, the Marines partner with, mentor, advise and train with a Georgian Light Infantry Battalion.

Since the inception of the GDP in 2009, Marines have trained, advised, and deployed with Light Infantry Battalions of the Georgian Armed Forces. Georgians have shared battle space alongside Marines in combat operations in Helmand Province and continue to support U.S. military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The GDP maintains a permanent presence in the Republic of Georgia by cycling personnel through partially overlapping seven-month rotations of approximately 40 U.S. Marine and Navy personnel who form a base unit designated as the Georgia Training Team.

The training focuses on collective actions at the squad and platoon levels, then moves on to company and battalion field exercises at the Vaziani South Training Area. The final portion of the exercise is the Mission Rehearsal Exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany.

The training focuses on skills necessary for Georgian forces to conduct force protection and Quick Reaction Force missions in Afghanistan alongside NATO and partner forces.

During the program Marines also volunteer in community relations projects throughout Georgia such as participating in the International Woman's Association benefit and raising money for 300 fruit trees to be planted in the Prezeti Village.

Through the training and volunteer projects during their seven months, the Marines build lasting partnerships with their allies. ■



U.S. Marines and Krtsanisi National Training Center instructors with the Georgian 52D Light Infantry Battalion, conduct control squad live-fire and movement training in Hohenfels, Germany.

Photo Courtesy of Georgia Training Team

COMMUNITY

MARINES EDUCATE AND EMPOWER STUDENTS

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. IAN FERRO

Marines with 2/24 Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, spoke to Columbia College Chicago students about the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan during an informal discussion at their training center in Chicago, Jan. 20, 2016.

The students were part of a "War Stories" class, studying the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The students wanted to talk to a few Marines who were involved in those operations, to have a better understanding of what happened back then," said Lt. Col Greg Thiele, inspector-instructor for 2/24. "Most students were in preschool when the two towers fell in on September 11th, so they don't understand exactly what caused the war or what was going on back then, at least not like some of us who were in the military at the time."

According to Thiele, it is important that the American people understand what the military does, why they go to war and what services the military provides.

"There is a very small number of Americans who wear the uniform at any given time, and because of that, even fewer civilians truly understand what our military does," he said. "If we don't take opportunities like this in which we bring them in, talk to them about what we do and let them ask questions, then they will continue to be ignorant about what we do. They will continue to have misunderstandings about us."

Students asked questions about the differences between Iraq and Afghanistan, how Marines trained for each deployment,

how they were able to identify the enemies and how they were able to build trust with the native population. Each Marine answered the questions with different opinions based on individual experiences.

"The Marines engaged with the students. It was very humbling for us to see how much time they took to talk to us. It was very important for this generation to understand the sacrifices that have been made on their behalf," said Jackie Spinner, class professor.

Eighty percent of the students enrolled in the class had no prior connection to the military. Some students said they didn't know what to expect before the event, but they admitted afterward that having a non-filtered and first-hand source of information was an eye opening experience.

"I think there was a really good connection between the Marines and the students. The students were just as curious and receptive to receive information as the Marines were willing to give it to them and to talk to them about their experiences," said Sgt. Maj. Oscar D. Jordan, inspector-instructor sergeant major. "They had a lot of questions about what happened, what we did and what went on when we were in Afghanistan and Iraq."

The majority of these students, like many Americans, do not regularly interact with Marines. As the most geographically dispersed command in the Marine Corps, Marine Forces Reserve is uniquely positioned to have community interactions like this.

The day ended with Marines and students shaking hands and having a better understanding of each other. ■



WITH THE
GEAR

SPECIFICATIONS

- CRUISE SPEED: 69 MPH
- ENDURANCE: UP TO 16 HOURS
- MAX SPEED: 104 MPH
- CEILING: 19,000 FT.
- WING SPAN: 16 FT.
- LENGTH: 8.2 FT.
- MAX TAKEOFF WEIGHT: 135 LB.

QUICK FACTS

RQ-21A

•A Blackjack system is composed of five air vehicles, two ground control systems and launch and recovery support equipment.

•Can provide intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and communications relay for up to 12 hours per day.

•Does not require a runway for launch and recovery, enabling deployment from small sites and ship decks.

•Can safeguard military bases and activities through pattern of life identification and bomb and explosive device detection.

SOURCES: [HTTP://WWW.NAVAIR.NAVY.MIL/INDEX.CFM?FUSEACTION=HOME.DISPLAYPLATFORM&KEY=5909B969-2077-41C2-9474-C78E9F60798C](http://www.navair.navy.mil/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.displayplatform&key=5909B969-2077-41C2-9474-C78E9F60798C)
[HTTP://WWW.LIVESCIENCE.COM/41793-MARINE-CORPS-BLACKJACK-DRONE.HTML](http://www.livescience.com/41793-marine-corps-blackjack-drone.html)

IMAGE COURTESY OF [HTTP://UAV-TECH.INFO/UAVS-BY-COUNTRY/USA/](http://uav-tech.info/uavs-by-country/usa/)



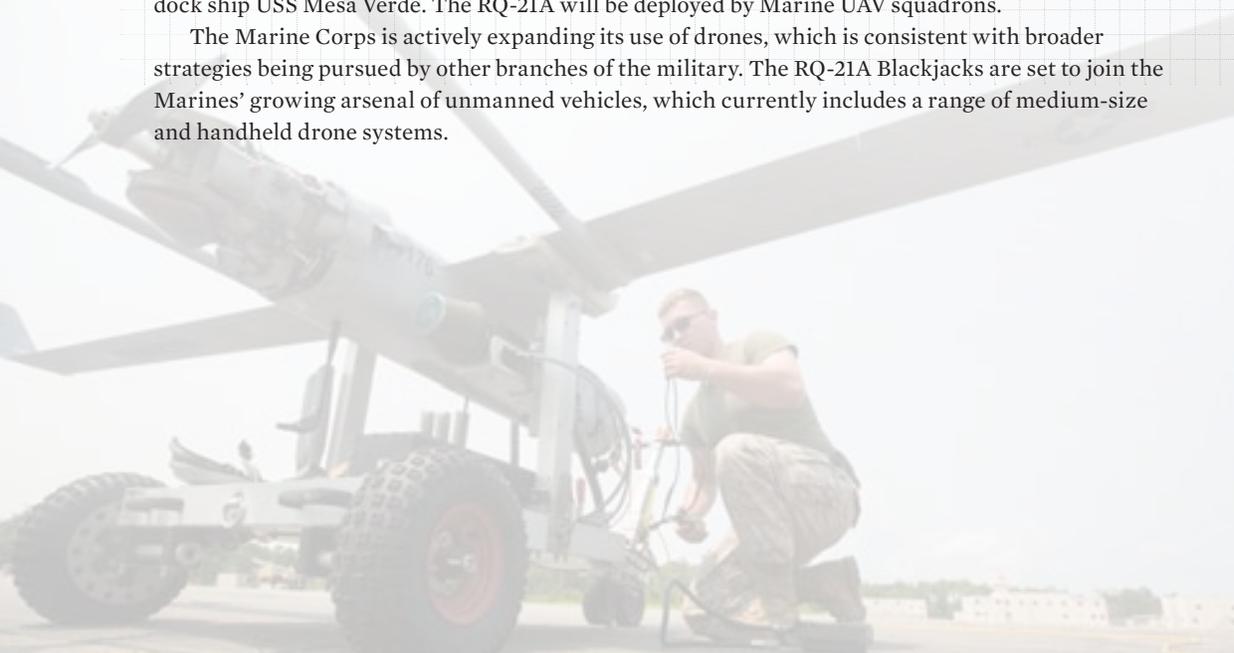
RQ-21A BLACKJACK

The RQ-21A Blackjack is a larger twin-tailed follow-on to the ScanEagle that will fill the requirement for a small tactical unmanned aircraft system capable of operating from land and sea.

“Blackjack will bring new capabilities to the warfighter and provide them greater target acquisition capability with multiple plug-and-play sensors allowing them to stay ahead of the threat,” said Col. Jim Rector, Navy and Marine Corps Small Tactical Unmanned Aircraft Systems program manager who oversees the RQ-21A program.

The RQ-21A completed its first shipboard flight in February 2013 from the amphibious transport dock ship USS Mesa Verde. The RQ-21A will be deployed by Marine UAV squadrons.

The Marine Corps is actively expanding its use of drones, which is consistent with broader strategies being pursued by other branches of the military. The RQ-21A Blackjacks are set to join the Marines’ growing arsenal of unmanned vehicles, which currently includes a range of medium-size and handheld drone systems.





DOUBLE DUTY

PHOTO BY CPL. IAN LEOMES



COURTESY PHOTO



LANCE CPL. MILES KLEIN

BILLET: Electro-optical ordnance repairer

TIME IN SERVICE: 1.5 years

REASON FOR JOINING: I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself. I already volunteer with a local Sea Cadet program in my hometown, where mentorship is a big aspect.

RESPONSIBILITIES: I perform maintenance and repair on ground ordnance laser and night vision devices, as well as other fire control equipment.

MEMORABLE MOMENT: Time management is a big part of being a Reserve Marine, but the Marine Corps comes first. I've definitely become more responsible and I take more action on my own to get things done in a timely manner.

MILES KLEIN

BILLET: Moving company employee

TIME IN SERVICE: One month

REASON FOR JOINING: I was recommended to the organization by a friend. It's a reputable company but the job is a lot of work.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Packaging and safely transporting people's belongings between residences.

MEMORABLE MOMENT: I was hired recently, so I'm still learning my way around the company and its policies. My fellow employees are great guys to work with.

MILITARY EXPRESSIONS FROM AROUND THE CORPS



CACO: Casualty Assistance Counseling Officer

EMBED: embedded journalist assigned a slot within a combat unit

OJT: On the job training

T/O&E: Table of Operations and Equipment

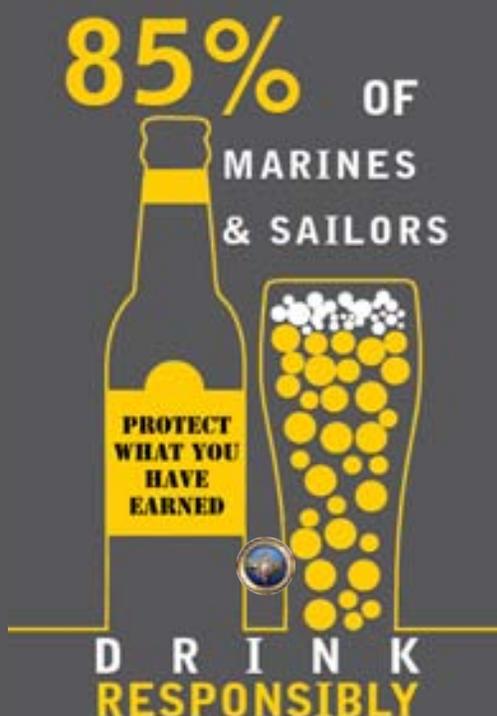
UD: Unit diary, computerized system that maintains all administrative records for a unit

Today's Marines know what's at stake, and will do everything to **protect their legacy.**

Protect What You've Earned

- Pay and Benefits
- Rank
- Education
- Family Support
- Career

Send the right message, reinforce that
"Marines and Sailors do drink responsibly."



Goals:

- Reduce the number of alcohol-related incidents and instill a culture of responsible alcohol consumption.

- Educate to bring about changes in belief systems and attitudes

- Support for sustaining new responsible behaviors-learning self management techniques to sustain new behaviors and know where to go for help if old habits resurface.

- Marines, Sailors and the media may tend to overestimate how many of their peers engage in irresponsible, high-risk alcohol consumption. If Marines and Sailors believe most peers drink heavily, they will likely conform to such perceived peer group behavior.

Your choices are your legacy.

- Self-monitoring

- Peer support and

- Setting the example

- are key tools for the 85% to assist the 15% in making life- and career-saving decisions.

For more ways to implement the "Protect What You've Earned" campaign visit the **commander's tool box.**