

MARINE FORCES | MARINE FORCES
RESERVE | SOUTH

CELEBRATE
THE MARINE CORPS
248TH
Birthday Ball

November 10, 2023





EVENTS

1700 - 1845

GUEST ARRIVAL

1700 - 1845

COCKTAIL HOUR

1900

CEREMONY BEGINS

Commandant's Video

*Invocation

*Arrival of Guest of Honor

*March on of Colors

*Entrance of Birthday Cake

*General Lejeune's Message

Cake Cutting Ceremony

*Retiring of Colors

*Anchors Aweigh & Marines' Hymn

Commander Remarks

SgtMaj of the Marine Corps Remarks

2000

DINNER

2100 - 0100

MUSIC AND DANCING

*PLEASE RISE **



BALL PARTICIPANTS

COMMANDER

LTGEN DAVID G. BELLON

BAND DIRECTOR

CWO2 STEPHEN TALBOT

CEREMONY DIRECTOR

SGTMAJ MICHELLE J. HILL

COLOR GUARD

SGT VELEZ

CPL MARTIN

CPL HARDWICK

CPL MCKINLEY

CPL ALMODOVARSEMPRIT

CAKE ESCORTS

CWO2 BROOKS

SSGT ROMO

SGT CRUCETA

CPL DONLEY

HONOR GUARD / SWORD DETAIL

LTCOL NEFF

CAPT ALEXANDER

2NDLT CLOHERTY

CWO2 FLEISCHMAN

MSGT ARISMENDY

SSGT NORTHINGTON

CPL WALKER

PFC JAPPAH

MAJ SEPEDA

1STLT TROGDON

CWO2 GONZALEZGONZALEZ

1STSGT BROOKS

GYSGT HUGHLEY

SGT PRYOR

LCPL BRANDENBURG

KEY PERSONNEL

NARRATOR

GUEST OF HONOR

ADJUTANT

OLDEST MARINE

YOUNGEST MARINE

MAJ WOODS

SGTMAJ RUIZ

MAJ DONATELLI

COL (RET) EBBERT

PFC BRESHEARS



YOUNGEST MARINE



**PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
GRACE BRESHEARS**

**MOS: 3051 SUPPLY
WAREHOUSE CLERK**

BORN: DEC 28, 2004

JOINED: JAN 10, 2023



OLDEST MARINE



COLONEL TERRY EBBERT

**MOS: 0302 INFANTRY
OFFICER**

BORN: OCT 2, 1942

**JOINED: 1961 (27 YEARS
OF SERVICE)**





BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

BY THE 13TH COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN A. LEJEUNE

On November 10, 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of the Continental Congress. Since that date many thousand men have borne the name Marine. In memory of them it is fitting that we who are marines should commemorate the birthday of our corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history. The record of our corps is one which will bear comparison with that of the most famous military organizations in the world's history.

During 90 of the 146 years of its existence the Marine Corps has been in action against the Nation's foes. From the Battle of Trenton to the Argonne, marines have won foremost honors in war, and in the long eras of tranquility at home generation after generation of marines have grown gray in war in both hemispheres, and in every corner of the seven seas that our country and its citizens might enjoy peace and security.

EFFICIENCY AND VIRTUE

In every battle and skirmish since the birth of our corps marines have acquitted themselves with the greatest distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term marine has come to signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue. This high name of distinction and soldierly repute we who are Marines to-day have received from those who preceded us in the corps.



DISTINGUISHING THE MARK

With it we also received from them the eternal spirit which has animated our corps from generation to generation and has been the distinguishing mark of the marines in every age. So long as that spirit continues to flourish marines will be found equal to every emergency in the future as they have been in the past, and the men of our Nation will regard us as worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as "Soldiers of the Sea" since the founding of the corps.

LtGen Lejeune was born in Pointe Coupee Paris, Louisiana, and he was educated at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La.



IN RECOGNITION

COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS



In recognition of General Eric M. Smith, our 39th Commandant, we send our thoughts and prayers to him and his family during this time. We will continue to march forward on behalf of our fellow Marines and Nation in any uncertainty we may face. The Commandant wants us to celebrate tonight, to honor those who have come before us, and to remember why we joined this Corps of warriors.

We wish you a speedy recovery Sir!



GUEST OF HONOR

SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS



Enduring Freedom. After acting as the Inspector-Instructor First Sergeant in Sacramento, California he received orders to 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment upon his selection to Sergeant Major. Prior to being selected as the 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, he served as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader for both U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Reserve and U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South. Sergeant Major Ruiz has earned various personal awards for his dedication and service to the Marine Corps. Most notably the Legion of Merit with the gold star and the Bronze Star Medal with combat distinguishing device.

SGTMAJ CARLOS A. RUIZ

Sergeant Major Ruiz assumed his current post as the 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps on August 10, 2023. A native of Sonora, Mexico, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on November 2, 1993, out of Buckeye, Arizona. Assigned as a warehouse supply clerk, from May 1994 to May 2016, Sergeant Major Ruiz took on various duties in multiple units around the world to include, but not limited to: Supply Company, 3d Supply Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Group, Okinawa, Japan; Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, California; Recruiting Station Los Angeles, 12th Marine Corps District; Drill Instructor School MCRD, San Diego where he held multiple billets. Sergeant Major Ruiz deployed and took part in multiple operations to include Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation





COMMANDER

MARINE FORCES RESERVE & MARINE FORCES SOUTH



LIEUTENANT GENERAL DAVID G. BELLON

Lieutenant General Bellon is a native of Fort Polk, Louisiana, and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. He graduated from the University of Kansas in 1987 and the University of Missouri School of Law in 1990 and was commissioned in 1989. Bellon served as an Infantry Officer with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment before being a Judge Advocate with 1st Force Service Support Group. In 1997, he joined the Selected Marine Corps Reserve serving six years with 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) Battalion. As a civilian, Bellon founded his own law firm in 1999 located in Oceanside, CA.

After 9/11, he returned to active duty for four combat tours in support of both OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) and OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF). During these combat tours, he served as Operations Officer for 4th LAR, Intelligence Officer for Regimental Combat Team 1, and took

Command of Battalion Task Force 3d Battalion, 23d Marine Regiment. In 2008, Bellon was selected as the Marine Corps Reserves representative while attending the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. While there, he was promoted to Colonel and received subsequent orders for deployment in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Bellon deployed to Afghanistan in September 2009 with the British 6th Division, serving as the Chief of Operations for Southern Afghanistan. Bellon was promoted to Brigadier General in 2013. His assignments as a General Officer include Deputy Commander, (Mobilization) 1st Marine Expeditionary Force; Deputy, Marine Forces Command; Director, Reserve Affairs; Commander, Marine Forces South; and Director of Strategy, Policy, and Plans (J5) U.S. Southern Command. He was promoted to his current rank as Commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces South.





MARINE FORCES RESERVE

LINEAGE

1962 - 1989

4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE,
REACTIVATED 1 JULY 1962 AT NAVAL AIR STATION GLENVIEW,
ILLINOIS

4TH FORCE SERVICE REGIMENT, FORCE TROOPS, U.S. MARINE
CORPS RESERVE ACTIVATED 1 FEBRUARY 1966 AT CAMP
PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA.

4TH MARINE DIVISION, U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE
REACTIVATED 14 FEBRUARY 1966 AT CAMP PENDLETON,
CALIFORNIA

4TH FORCE SERVICE REGIMENT RELOCATED TO ORLANDO,
FLORIDA DURING JANUARY 1968

4TH FORCE SERVICE REGIMENT RELOCATED TO ATLANTA,
GEORGIA DURING OCTOBER 1971

4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING RELOCATED TO NEW ORLEANS,
LOUISIANA DURING JUNE 1974

4TH FORCE SERVICE REGIMENT REDESIGNATED 17 MAY 1976 AS
4TH FORCE SERVICE SUPPORT GROUP

4TH MARINE DIVISION RELOCATED TO NEW ORLEANS,
LOUISIANA, DURING AUGUST 1977

4TH FORCE SERVICE SUPPORT GROUP RELOCATED TO
MARIETTA, GEORGIA, DURING JANUARY 1987

1990 - 1999

ELEMENTS OF THE 4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, 4TH
MARINE DIVISION AND 4TH FORCE SERVICE SUPPORT GROUP
PARTICIPATED IN OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD AND



MARINE FORCES RESERVE

LINEAGE CONTINUED

DESERT STORM, SOUTHWEST ASIA, AUGUST 1990 - JUNE 1991

ELEMENTS OF THE 4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, 4TH MARINE DIVISION AND 4TH FORCE SERVICE SUPPORT GROUP PARTICIPATED IN OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD, AND DESERT STORM, SOUTHWEST ASIA, AUGUST 1990 - JUNE 1991

U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE FORCE ACTIVATED 6 JUNE 1992 AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA CONSISTING OF 4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, 4TH MARINE DIVISION, AND 4TH FORCE SERVICE SUPPORT GROUP.

REDESIGNATED 10 NOVEMBER 1994 AS U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES RESERVE

2000 - 2019

4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, 4TH MARINE DIVISION AND 4TH FORCE SERVICE GROUP PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION NORTHERN WATCH, IRAQ, AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2000

PARTICIPATED IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, IRAQ MARCH 2003 - DECEMBER 2011

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2005

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN DEFENSE IN SUPPORT OF CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES, IN SUPPORT OF COUNTER-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS, IN THE CARIBBEAN, SOUTH AMERICA, AND NORTH AMERICA, MAY 2007 - 2014

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM, OPERATION FREEDOMS SENTINEL, IRAQ AND SYRIA, JANUARY 2015 - 2019



MARINE FORCES RESERVE

LINEAGE CONTINUED

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS
IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE HARVEY, FORT WORTH, TEXAS,
AUGUST 2017

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS
IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE MARIA, PUERTO RICO, SEPTEMBER
2017

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS
IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE IRMA, ALABAMA AND FLORIDA,
SEPTEMBER 2017

HONORS AWARDED

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH TWO BRONZE STARS

SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE STREAMER WITH THREE BRONZE STARS

AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

IRAQ CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE STREAMER





MARINE FORCES SOUTH

LINEAGE

1999 - 2004

ACTIVATED 1 OCTOBER, 1999 AT MIAMI, FLORIDA, AS U.S.
MARINE CORPS FORCES, SOUTH

PARTICIPATED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM,
AFGHANISTAN, JANUARY - OCTOBER 2002

ELEMENT PARTICIPATED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION SECURE
TOMORROW, HAITI, FEBRUARY - JULY 2004

HONORS
AWARDED

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE STREAMER





4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

LINEAGE

1942 - 1946

ACTIVATED 22 AUGUST 1942 AT EWA, TERRITORY OF HAWAII, AS THE 4TH MARINE BASE DEFENSE AIRCRAFT WING DEPLOYED DURING AUGUST SEPTEMBER 1943 TO TUTUILA, SAMOA REDEPLOYED DURING NOVEMBER DECEMBER 1943 TO TARAWA, GILBERT ISLANDS REDESIGNATED

10 NOVEMBER 1944 AS THE 4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II CAMPAIGNS MARSHALL ISLANDS MARIANAS OPERATIONS REDEPLOYED DURING OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1945 TO GUAM RELOCATED DURING MARCH 1946 TO SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

DEACTIVATED 26 MARCH 1946

1962 - 2006

REACTIVATED 1 JULY 1962 AT GLENVIEW, ILLINOIS, AS THE 4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

RELOCATED DURING JUNE 1974 TO NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING UNITS MOBILIZED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM, SOUTHWEST ASIA, AUGUST 1990 - APRIL 1991

4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING UNITS MOBILIZED AND PARTICIPATED IN OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM, 2002 INTO 2006



HONORS AWARDED

4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER WITH TWO
BRONZE STARS
SOUTHWEST ASIA

ASIATIC- PACIFIC CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH TWO BRONZE STARS
WORLD WAR II VICTORY STREAMER

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE STREAMER WITH THREE BRONZE STARS

AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN STREAMER

IRAQ CAMPAIGN STREAMER

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITONARY STREAMER

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE STREAMER



MAJGEN JOHN F. KELLIHER III
SGTMAJ LYNETTE C. MARR-GAYE



4TH MARINE DIVISION

LINEAGE

1943 - 1945

ACTIVATED 16 AUGUST 1943 AT CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA, AS THE 4TH MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE DEPLOYED DURING JANUARY 1944 TO ROI NAMUR, MARSHALL ISLANDS PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II CAMPAIGNS

MARSHALL ISLANDS

SAIPAN

TINIAN

IWO JIMA

RELOCATED DURING APRIL 1945 TO MAUI, TERRITORY OF HAWAII
RELOCATED DURING NOVEMBER 1945 TO CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA
DEACTIVATED 28 NOVEMBER 1945

1966 - 2004

REACTIVATED 14 FEBRUARY 1966 AT CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA, AS THE 4TH MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE, U. S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

RELOCATED DURING AUGUST 1977 TO NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

4TH MARINE DIVISION UNITS MOBILIZED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM, SOUTHWEST ASIA, AUGUST 1990 - APRIL 1991

ELEMENT MOBILIZED DURING 2002 IN SUPPORT OF THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM MOBILIZED DURING JANUARY 2003 AND ELEMENTS DEPLOYED TO KUWAIT IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, IRAQ, MARCH - NOVEMBER 2003, AND DURING 2004



HONORS AWARDED

4TH MARINE DIVISION

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

WORLD WAR II
SAIPAN AND TINIAN - 1944
IWO JIMA - 1945

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER

WORLD WAR II
IWO JIMA - 1945

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER

SOUTHWEST ASIA
1990 - 1991

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH FOUR BRONZE STARS

WORLD WAR II VICTORY STREAMER

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE STREAMER WITH THREE BRONZE STARS

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE STREAMER



BGEN DOUGLAS K. CLARK
SGTMAJ CHRISTOPHER J. ADAMS



4TH MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP LINEAGE

1966 - 2008

ACTIVATED 1 FEBRUARY 1966 AT MIDLAND, TEXAS, AS
HEADQUARTERS, 4TH FORCE SERVICE REGIMENT, FORCE TROOPS,
FLEET MARINE FORCE, U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

RELOCATED DURING JANUARY 1968 TO THE MARINE CORPS
RESERVE TRAINING CENTER,
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

RELOCATED DURING OCTOBER 1971 TO THE NAVY AND MARINE
CORPS RESERVE TRAINING CENTER, ATLANTA, GEORGIA

REDESIGNATED 17 MAY 1976 AS HEADQUARTERS, 4TH FORCE
SERVICE SUPPORT GROUP, FLEET MARINE FORCE, U.S. MARINE
CORPS RESERVE

RELOCATED DURING JANUARY 1987 TO THE MARINE CORPS
RESERVE CENTER, MARIETTA, GEORGIA

PARTICIPATED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD AND
DESERT STORM, SOUTHWEST ASIA, AUGUST 1990 - JUNE 1991

RELOCATED DURING 1993 TO NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

ELEMENTS MOBILIZED IN SUPPORT OF THE GLOBAL WAR ON
TERRORISM, 2003 - 2008

ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, IRAQ,
MARCH - JULY 2003, AUGUST 2004 - FEBRUARY 2005 AND MARCH
2005 - FEBRUARY 2007

REDESIGNATED DURING NOVEMBER 2005 AS 4TH MARINE
LOGISTICS GROUP



HONORS AWARDED

4TH MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER

SOUTHWEST ASIA
1990 - 1991

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE STREAMER WITH THREE BRONZE STARS

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE STREAMER



BGEN VALERIE A. JACKSON
SGTMAJ CHRISTOPHER D. THOMAS



HEADQUARTERS BATTALION, MARINE FORCES RESERVE AND MARINE FORCES SOUTH LINEAGE

1992 - 2012

ACTIVATED 6 JUNE 1992 AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, AS
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION, MARINE RESERVE FORCE

REDESIGNATED 10 NOVEMBER 1994 AS HEADQUARTERS
BATTALION, MARINE FORCES RESERVE

ELEMENTS MOBILIZED AND PARTICIPATED IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON
TERRORISM, 2001 - 2012

HONORS AWARDED

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE STREAMER



COL JASON E. BURKETT
SGTMAJ MICHELLE J. HILL



FORCE HEADQUARTERS GROUP LINEAGE

2012 - 2014

ACTIVATED 18 JULY 2012 AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, AS FORCE
HEADQUARTERS GROUP, MARINE CORPS FORCES RESERVE

ELEMENTS MOBILIZED AND PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION
ENDURING FREEDOM, AFGHANISTAN, 2012 - 2014

HONORS **AWARDED**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE STREAMER

AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR



BGEN RAYMOND C. ADAMS
SGTMAJ JASON F. WOLKIN



MARINE FORCES RESERVE

HISTORY

MARFORRES

Marine Forces Reserve (MARFORRES) is the headquarters command for approximately 100,000 Reserve Marines and 158 Reserve Training Centers located throughout the United States, and Puerto Rico.

The United States Marine Corps Reserve was established when Congress passed the Naval Appropriations Act of Aug. 29, 1916, and is responsible for providing trained units and qualified individuals for mobilization to active duty in time of war, national emergency, or contingency operations.

THE DAY-TO-DAY

Marine Forces Reserve has a talent pool of roughly 100,000 Marines to augment the Active Component in a myriad of ways; from support to training, to participation in bilateral exercises with our partner nations and allies, to service-level experimentation and refinement of new tactics, techniques, and procedures. The Marine Reserve team possesses capabilities across the full spectrum of military operations from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief support to cyber operations to the most potent combat forces in the world.

Marine Forces Reserve, the largest command in the Corps, has four major subordinate commands: 4th Marine Division, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, 4th Marine Logistics Group, and Force Headquarters Group.

EVERY CLIME AND PLACE

Serving with great distinction in every clime and place, Reserve Marines have regularly operated alongside the active component in both World Wars, Korean Conflict, Vietnam War, Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In order to keep its fighting edge, Marine Forces Reserve's units participate annually in numerous large exercises in places such as Norway, South Korea, the Balkans, Central and South America, Thailand, and Africa.

RELEVANT, READY, RESPONSIVE

The vision for Marine Forces Reserve is to be the Nation's premier Reserve component, seamlessly integrating with the active forces, enhancing the operational reach and endurance of the Marine Corps...always capable of fighting and winning.

Marine Forces Reserve's motto, "Relevant, Ready, Responsive," articulates the necessary actions required to provide a sustainable Force for the long-term defense of our Nation.





MARINE FORCES RESERVE

MISSION

MISSION STATEMENT

Commander, Marine Forces Reserve (COMMARFORRES) commands and controls assigned forces for the purpose of augmenting and reinforcing the Active Component with trained units and individual Marines as a sustainable and ready operational Reserve in order to augment and reinforce active forces for employment across the full spectrum of crisis and global engagement. COMMARFORRES is the principal advisor to the Commandant of the Marine Corps on matters pertaining to Marine Forces Reserve.



WHO WE ARE

The United States Marine Corps Reserve is responsible for providing trained units and qualified individuals for mobilization to active duty in time of war, national emergency, and crisis or contingency operations.

On a day-to-day basis, Marine Forces Reserve consists of a talented and dedicated pool of nearly 100,000 Marines able to augment the Active Component in a myriad of ways, to include operational deployments, support to training, participation in bi/multi-lateral exercises with partner nations and allies, and service-level experimentation in support of Force Design 2030 and refinement of new tactics, techniques, and procedures.



MARINE FORCES SOUTH

HISTORY

MARFORSOUTH

The Marines have a lengthy and distinguished history of operations in Latin America and the Caribbean in the service of U.S. national policy. U.S. Marines had been active in the area long before establishment of a naval security presence during construction of the internationally strategic and commercially vital Panama Canal.

AMPHIBIOUS RAID

The first amphibious raid conducted by the U.S. Marine Corps took place on 3 March 1776, when the British garrison at New Providence, Bahamas, was surprised by and surrendered to the U.S. Marines. During this engagement, the Marines captured much-needed cannon, shot, and powder, which was promptly loaded aboard ship and taken north to aid in the fight for American independence.

GROUND ROOTS

Though MARFORSOUTH traces its ground roots to the U.S. Marine Corps Barracks, Panama, which was established in 1903 to support the Isthmian Canal Zone, Panama, Marines have contributed to stability and the rule of law for decades throughout the area through garrison duties, nation building, and peacekeeping.

RELOCATION

With the relocation of U.S. Southern Command Headquarters to Miami, Florida, as stipulated by the Panama Treaty Implementation Plan of 1977, the Liaison Element followed suit and on 1 October 1999, Marine Corps Forces, South moved to Miami and grew to be a self-sufficient headquarters charged with coordinating all U.S. Marine Corps activities in Latin America for Commander, U.S. Southern Command.

In 2004, Marine Corps Forces, South coordinated and directed the 8th Marine Regiment, in cooperation with the French, Canadian, and Chilean militaries to provide the initial peacekeeping forces for the United Nations in Haiti. Marine Corps Forces, South was also one of the first responding units to conduct foreign humanitarian assistance, officially known as Operation Unified Response, to the Haitian people following the devastating earthquake in 2010.

MODERN DAY

Today, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South continues to build on the Marine Corps' legacy and contributions to the region. Marines are continuously engaged in planning, coordinating, and executing the involvement of Marine Forces in foreign humanitarian assistance/disaster relief, counter-transnational organized crime, and other operations and activities in support of U.S. Southern Command theater strategic objectives.





MARINE FORCES SOUTH

MISSION

MISSION STATEMENT

Marine Forces South is the U. S. Marine Corps Service Component Command for U. S. Southern Command.

Commander of Marine Forces South commands all Marine Forces assigned to Commander, USSOUTHCOM; advises the Commander, USSOUTHCOM on the proper employment and support of Marine Forces; conducts deployment and redeployment planning and execution of assigned, attached Marine forces; and accomplishes other operational missions as assigned.

OUR FOCUS

Marine Forces South's focus is on the Latin American marines, naval infantries, and maritime security forces; anti-terrorism and peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief. We build security forces to detect, deter, and defend critical infrastructure and assets. Marine Forces South helps establish USSOUTHCOM's maritime domain awareness. As well as build partner nation capabilities for U.N. peacekeeping missions in Haiti, Congo, and the Middle East.



OUR VALUES

Our values signify the highest attainable degree of mission accomplishment throughout the Marine Forces South region. Carrying out our mission with our values in mind will ensure we progress toward becoming the organization we envision.



MARINE CORPS

HISTORY

THE MARINE CORPS

The history of the United States Marine Corps begins with the founding of the Continental Marines on 10 November 1775 to conduct ship-to-ship fighting. Its mission evolved with changing military doctrine and foreign policy of the United States. The United States Marine Corps attained prominence when its practice of amphibious warfare proved prescient, and ultimately formed a cornerstone of U.S. strategy in the Pacific Theater of World War II.

THE CONTINENTAL MARINES

In February 1776, the Continental Marines were disbanded at the end of the Revolutionary War. In preparation for the Quasi-War with France in 1798, Congress created the U.S. Navy and the Marine Corps. The Marines' most famous action of this period occurred in the First Barbary War (1801–1805) against the Barbary pirates. In the Mexican–American War (1846–1848), the Marines made their famed assault on Chapultepec Palace, their first major expeditionary venture. In the 1850s, the Marines would see service in Panama and in Asia.

THE CIVIL WAR

During the U.S. Civil War (1861–1865), the Marine Corps played only a minor role after their participation in the Union defeat at the first battle of First Bull Run/Manassas. Their most important task was blockade duty and other shipboard battles, but they were mobilized for operations

as the war progressed. The remainder of the 19th century would be a period of declining strength and introspection about the mission of the Marine Corps. Under Commandant Jacob Zeilin's term (1864–1876), many Marine customs and traditions took shape.

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

During the Spanish–American War (1898), Marines would lead U.S. forces ashore in the Philippines, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, demonstrating their readiness for deployment. Between 1900 and 1916, the Marine Corps continued its record of participation in foreign expeditions, especially in the Caribbean and Central and South America, which included Panama, Cuba, Veracruz, Haiti, Santo Domingo, and Nicaragua.

WORLD WAR I

In World War I the Marine Corps distinguished itself on the battlefields of France as the 4th Marine Brigade earned the title of “Devil Dogs” for heroic action during 1918 at Belleau Wood, Soissons, St. Michiel, Blanc Mont, and in the final Meuse-Argonne offensive.

WORLD WAR II

During the two decades before World War II, the Marine Corps began to develop the doctrine, equipment, and organization needed for amphibious warfare. The success of this effort was proven first on Guadalcanal, then on Bougainville, Tarawa, New Britain, Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Saipan, Guam, Tinian, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. By the end of the



MARINE CORPS

HISTORY

war in 1945, the Marine Corps had grown to include six divisions, five air wings, and supporting troops. Its strength in World War II peaked at 485,113.

THE KOREAN WAR

Landing at Inchon, Korea, in September 1950, Marines proved that the doctrine of amphibious assault was still viable and necessary. After the recapture of Seoul, the Marines advanced to the Chosin Reservoir only to see the Chinese Communists enter the war. After years of offensives, counter-offensives, trench warfare, and occupation duty, the last Marine ground troops were withdrawn in March 1955.

THE VIETNAM WAR

The Vietnam War exacted a high cost as well with over 13,000 Marines killed and more than 88,000 wounded. In 1975, Marines evacuated embassy staffs, American citizens, and refugees in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and Saigon, Republic of Vietnam. In May, Marines played an integral role in the rescue of the crew of the SS Mayaguez captured off the coast of Cambodia.

THE GULF WAR

Between August 1990 and January 1991, some 24 infantry battalions, 40 squadrons, and more than 92,000 Marines deployed to the Arabian Gulf as part of Operation Desert Shield. Operation Desert Storm was launched 16 January 1991, the day the air campaign began.

2000 - PRESENT

Across the U.S., Marine units from both coasts fought and contained wildfires, and also supported hurricane relief efforts in various parts of the country. In December 2004, a tsunami struck numerous nations in the Indian Ocean region killing more than 150,000 and causing enormous devastation. Marine units from III MEF were immediately deployed to Thailand, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka to assist in disaster relief operations. In early 2005, IIMEF replaced IMEF in Iraq as the primary focus began to shift to partnership operations with the Iraqi Security Forces. Marine units continued to provide air and ground support to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Closer to home, the flexibility and responsiveness of the Navy/Marine team was exhibited during September and October when nearly 3,000 Marines and Sailors conducted search and rescue, humanitarian relief, and disaster recovery operations in Louisiana and Mississippi in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina (August 2005) and Rita (September 2005).

Today's Marine Corps stands ready to continue in the proud tradition of those who so valiantly fought and died at Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima, the Chosin Reservoir, and Khe Sanh. Combining a long and proud heritage of faithful service to the nation, with the resolve to face tomorrow's challenges will continue to keep the Marine Corps the "best of the best."



MARINES' HYMN

From the halls of Montezuma,
To the shores of Tripoli,
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land and sea.
First to fight for right and freedom,
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title of
United States Marine.

Our flag's unfurled to every breeze
From dawn to setting sun.
We've fought in every clime and place
Where we could take a gun.
In the snow of far off northern lands
And in sunny tropic scenes,
You will find us always on the job,
The United States Marines.

Here's health to you and to our corps
Which we are proud to serve.
In many a strife we've fought for life
And never lost our nerve.
If the army and the navy
Ever look on heaven's scenes,
They will find the streets are guarded by
United States Marines.



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