

CONTINENTAL

BRING IN THE BIG GUNS P.22 | MARINES IN THE CARRIBBEAN P.24

# MARINES<sup>TM</sup>

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE

## INSIDE THE MAGTF

MARINE FORCES RESERVE EXECUTES ITX 4-14



SEMPER FIDELIS





# COMMANDER'S CORNER ★★ ★

## RESERVE ADAPTABILITY

One of the great things about Marine Forces Reserve is the fact that we can go anywhere and do anything; versatility is the key to our survival. From providing dental care to underserved communities in Hawaii, to strengthening our interoperability through training in Africa at Western Accord, our Marines and Sailors are spanning the globe, across the spectrum of operations and performing with the utmost professionalism.

It is through opportunities like Integrated Training Exercise 4-14, where MARFORRES units train at the MAGTF level that allows seamless integration with the active component vital to support combatant commanders worldwide. More examples of our versatility include Marines working diligently in the Dominican Republic at Tradewinds, where Force Headquarters Group Marines promoted interoperability and built partner nation operation capacity. We also saw 4th Marine Division and 4th Marine Logistics Group Marines and Sailors at the 14th Marines FIREX, building proficiency in fire support, while integrating combat service support. The 4th Marine Aircraft Wing showed their versatility in Old Harbor, Alaska, where they contributed to the Innovative Readiness Training project in supporting the local community there. Versatility is a critical part of our skill set, as it ensures we remain relevant in line with today's unique global requirements.

But just as we assess the risks and apply safety protocols in all of our operational requirements, we need to apply it in garrison as well. With the "101 Critical Days of Summer" upon us, it is imperative we practice safety in all we do. We cannot afford to lose one single Marine or Sailor due to mishaps and bad decisions. Think before you act, and look after one another. I care about each and every one of you.

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

## SNAP SHOT



Lance Cpl. Danielle E. Howell, an aviation maintenance data specialist with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 773, stands next to an AH-1 Cobra helicopter during Integrated Training Exercise 4-14, June 14. Howell recently earned her master's degree in social work in her pursuit to help heal mentally wounded veterans returning from war.

GUNNERY SGT. KATESHA WASHINGTON

CONTINENTAL  
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# QUARTER 2 2014

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CPL. BRYTANI MUSICK

## FEATURES

### 14 | INTEGRATED TRAINING EXERCISE [COVER FEATURE]

The most prominent integrated exercise for active and Reserve forces, held annually in Twentynine Palms, California.

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Artillery Marines train in Oklahoma.

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Marines with 4th Law Enforcement Battalion train foreign militaries in the Dominican Republic.

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Sailors with 4th Medical Battalion and 4th Dental Bn. provide free medical care to underprivileged communities in Hawaii.

Marines with the radar section, Target Acquisition Platoon, Headquarters Battery, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, look across the valley at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, June 22, waiting for rounds to hit from the artillery batteries of 14th Marines. Radar Marines have the capability to track where rounds come from to better trace their enemy while in theater. Artillery Marines participated in Fire Exercise June 16-25 for their annual training.

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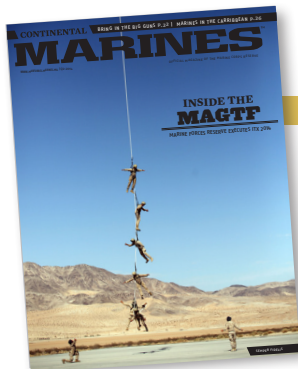
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### ON THE COVER

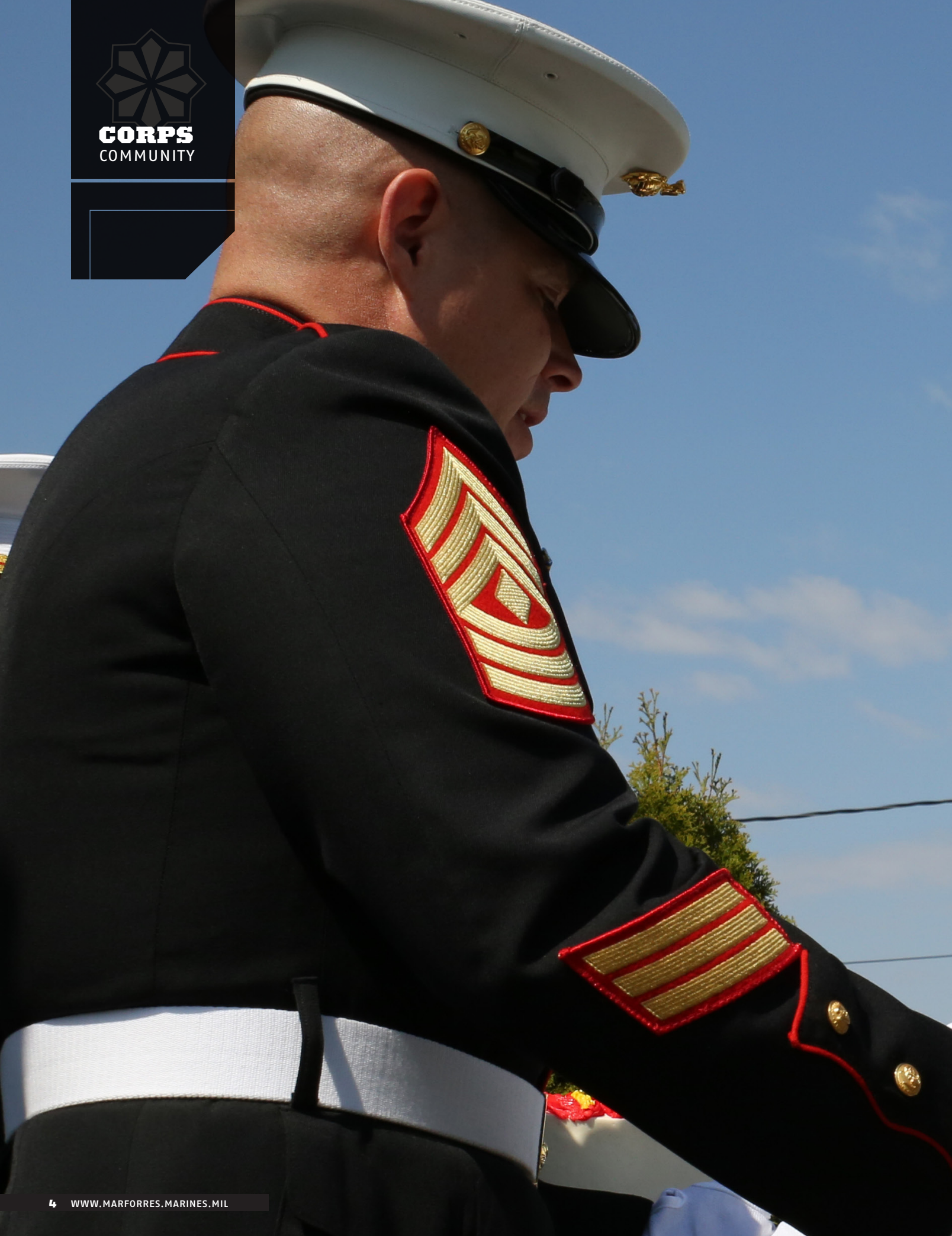
Marines with Company C, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion are lifted into the air by a CH-46E helicopter as they participate in a Special Patrol Insertion/Extraction system exercise during Integrated Training Exercise 4-14, June 10. The system was developed as a means to quickly insert or extract a recon patrol from an area that would be difficult for a helicopter to land.

SGT. ADWIN ESTERS





**CORPS**  
COMMUNITY







## **Building Community Connections**

First Sgt. Gregory Zieba, the first sergeant of Detachment 1, Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 45, 4th Marine Logistics Group, of Peru, Indiana, reads a letter from the Commandant of the Marine Corps to Mary Cochrane. Marines delivered a birthday cake to Cochrane for her 100th birthday, April 18. Cochrane served as a motor transportation operator during World War II.

**CPL. BRYTANI MUSICK**



## TASK FORCE:

GCEITF NEEDS VOLUNTEERS,  
AIMS TO TRAIN FEMALES  
IN GROUND COMBAT ARMS  
SKILLS

**T**he Marine Corps needs volunteers to support the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force. The task force will train female Marines in ground combat arms military occupational specialty skills, and integrate them into a combat arms unit, while a dedicated research team observes the unit's performance in an operational environment.

The GCEITF will be comprised of male and female volunteers. The task force will be activated at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, in June 2014.

Marines who wish to volunteer may do so via telephone, the Manpower and Reserve Affairs website or in person during one of the recruiting briefs. Recruiting briefs were conducted May 28 through June 9, at various bases and stations. ■



COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

## EARLY RETIREMENT:

ENLISTED MARINES IN ACTIVE RESERVE NOW ELIGIBLE

**E**nlisted Marines in the Active Reserve program may now be eligible for an early voluntary retirement as a part of the Temporary Early Retirement Authority program. The Marine must have more than 15 and less than 20 years of active duty time as of Sept. 30, 2014.

Marines must submit their request via the chain of command to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. The submission window for a TERA request ends Sept. 1, 2014. For a full list of eligibility requirements and more information, see **MARADMIN 138/14**. ■

## SAFETY:

MARINES WITH PERSONAL WEAPONS  
MUST FOLLOW STRICT GUIDELINES



COURTESY PHOTO

**F**ollowing the Washington Navy Yard shooting on Sept. 16, 2013, the Marine Corps conducted a comprehensive review and identified gaps in the policies related to the handling, storage and accountability of privately-owned firearms and ammunition aboard its installations.

Marines are expected to handle privately-owned firearms with the same level of safety and professionalism that is required when handling their individually-issued weapons. For more information about the new policy, visit **MARADMIN 176/14**. ■





## THE BATTLE OF SAIPAN

The first wave of Marines to hit the Saipan beach take cover behind a sand dune while waiting for supporting waves to land and start the drive inland.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

**M**arines of the 4th Marine Division stormed the beaches of the strategically significant Japanese island of Saipan on June 15, 1944. Combat with the Japanese was relentless and unwavering. As an indicator to the viciousness of the battle, within the first two days more than 2,000 casualties were suffered.

Saipan and the surrounding islands, called the Mariana Islands, were coveted by the Allies as airfields that would place Japan within range of their B-29 long-range bombers. Taking Saipan would also sever enemy lines of communication and

**OF THE 165,672 MARINES AND SOLDIERS FOUGHT IN SAIPAN, 21,618 BELONGED TO THE 4TH MARINE DIVISION.**

supply between Japan and its troops in the Southwest Pacific.

After 25 days of fighting, the island was finally secured on July 9, 1944. For the Americans, the victory was the most costly to date in the Pacific War. It was the largest operation in the Pacific under Marine Corps command.

### THE HARD FACTS

#### • THE GOAL

THE ASSAULT ON SAIPAN BEGAN ALMOST A WEEK AFTER THE INVASION OF EUROPE. OPERATION OVERLORD RETURNED THE ALLIES TO FRANCE WHILE OPERATION FORAGER IN THE PACIFIC WOULD DELIVER THE MARINES AND ARMY TO THE MARIANA ISLANDS.

#### • THE INVASION

WHEN U.S. FORCES ASSAULTED THE BEACHES OF SAIPAN, 800 AFRICAN-AMERICAN MARINES UNLOADED FOOD AND AMMUNITION FROM LANDING VEHICLES AND DELIVERED THE SUPPLIES UNDER FIRE TO TROOPS ON THE BEACH. THEY WERE THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN MARINES TO SEE COMBAT IN WORLD WAR II.

#### • THE FIREPOWER

THE 4TH MARINE DIVISION WAS FORMED DURING WORLD WAR II FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF DEPLOYING INTO COMBAT IN THE PACIFIC THEATER. MARINES FROM THE 4TH MARINE DIVISION, OR "THE FIGHTIN' FOURTH," PLAYED A HUGE ROLE IN THE PACIFIC THEATER. ARGUABLY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ROLES WAS IN THE BATTLE OF SAIPAN; IT WAS A CRUCIAL DECIDING FACTOR IN WINNING THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC.

#### • THE ENEMY

AMERICANS HAD TO ADOPT NEW TACTICS TO CLEAR OUT THE EXTENSIVE CAVE COMPLEXES THAT THE JAPANESE WERE USING TO CARRY OUT HIT-AND-RUN RAIDS IN THE MOUNTAINOUS CENTER OF SAIPAN. FLAMETHROWERS WERE USED TO DRIVE THE JAPANESE FROM HIDING HOLES OR KILL THEM WHERE THEY WERE.



CITATION COURTESY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY ARCHIVE.

**GYSGT. ROBERT H. MCCARD (1918-1944), USMCR**

PLATOON SGT., COMPANY A, 4TH TANK BN. 4TH MARINE DIVISION



#### MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

During the battle of Saipan on June 16, 1944, McCard, cut off from the other units of his platoon when his tank was put out of action by a battery of enemy 77-mm guns, carried on resolutely. He brought all the tank's weapons to bear on the enemy until the severity of hostile fire caused him to order his crew out the escape hatch while he courageously exposed himself to enemy guns by hurling hand grenades in order to cover the evacuation of his men. Seriously wounded and out of grenades, he dismantled one of the tank's machine guns and faced the Japanese for the second time to deliver vigorous fire into positions, sacrificing himself to ensure the safety of his crew.



# RESERVE FORCES AROUND THE WORLD:

MARINES PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISES TO PREPARE THEM FOR REAL-WORLD CONFLICTS AND OPERATIONS. (QUARTER 2: APRIL - JUNE 2014)



## AFRICA COMMAND

LONG HAUL COMM. DET.

WESTERN ACCORD

### LONG HAUL COMMUNICATIONS DETACHMENT

4th Marine Logistics Group provides a rotational communications detachment in support of Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa in Djibouti.

SEPT. 1, 2013 TO JUNE 5, 2014

### WESTERN ACCORD

4th Marine Division and 4th Law Enforcement Battalion lead exercises in Senegal designed to increase U.S. and partner nation defense capabilities and capacity to conduct peacekeeping operations and streamline interoperability between partner-nation militaries and law officials.

JUNE 15 TO JUNE 27, 2014

## EUROPEAN COMMAND

MCP-P-N

GDP-ISAF

### MARINE CORPS PREPOSITIONING PROGRAM 14

A Norwegian armed forces sponsored multinational invitational exercise that trains participants in cold weather maritime and amphibious operation.

JUNE 11 TO JUNE 28, 2014

### GEORGIA DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM

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

AUG. 1, 2013 TO MAY 1, 2014

## NORTHERN COMMAND

NORTHCOM SECURITY COOP. TEAM

INTEGRATED TRAINING EXERCISE

### NORTHCOM SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM

Marines provide training in urban terrain tactics, intelligence-driven operations and professional development to the area of operations to include the Bahamas, Canada and Mexico.

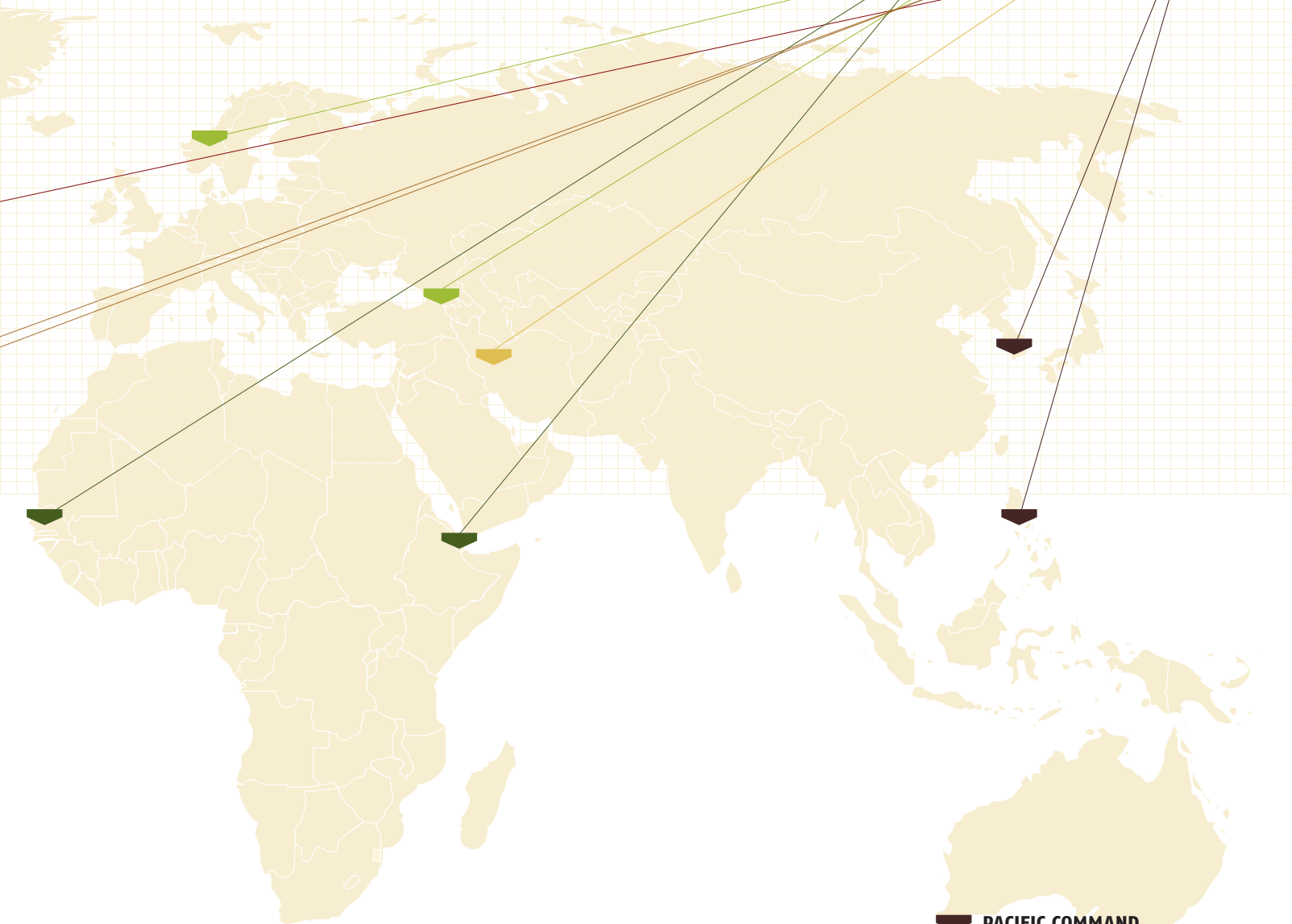
OCT. 1, 2013 TO SEPT. 1, 2014

### INTEGRATED TRAINING EXERCISE 4-14

A cornerstone of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force Training Program, ITX is the largest annual U.S. Marine Corps Reserve training exercise, refining skills to seamlessly integrate with active-duty counterparts to operate as a complete MAGTF.

JUNE 5 TO JUNE 18, 2014





### SOUTHERN COMMAND

#### TRADEWINDS 14

#### SOUTHERN PARTNERSHIP STATION

##### TRADEWINDS 14

The 4th Law Enforcement Battalion will join partner nations from across the Caribbean to train militaries and police forces in combating drug trafficking and organized crime, as well as more effective humanitarian aid strategies during disaster relief operations.

**JUNE 16 TO JUNE 25, 2014**

##### SOUTHERN PARTNERSHIP STATION

A U.S. 4th fleet deployment designed to strengthen civil and maritime capabilities with partner nations the Caribbean, Central and South American regions.

**MAY 11 TO OCTOBER 10, 2014**

### CENTRAL COMMAND

#### CENTCOM SECURITY COOP. TEAM

##### CENTCOM SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM

The Central Command Security Cooperation Team conducts security cooperation activities designed to increase partner-nation capacity and build relationships to ensure access to facilities throughout the U.S. CENTCOM area of responsibility.

**MAY 1, 2013 TO APRIL 10, 2014**

### PACIFIC COMMAND

#### BALIKATAN 14

#### MEFEX/SSANG YONG

##### BALIKATAN 14

A bilateral exercise between U.S. and Philippine forces. The exercise includes field training and joint humanitarian assistance projects in communities in the Zambales province. It highlights the Corps' strategic shift to the Pacific region.

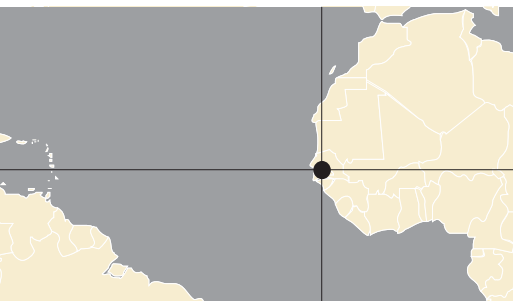
**APRIL 14 TO MAY 16, 2014**

##### MEFEX/SSANG YONG

An annual combined exercise conducted by Marine and Navy forces with the Republic of Korea in order to strengthen interoperability and working relationships across the range of military operations from disaster relief, to complex expeditionary operations.

**MARCH 7 TO APRIL 20, 2014**

# EXERCISE X3



## WESTERN ACCORD 14 SENEGAL

**DATES:** June 15-27

**USMC UNITS:** 4th Law Enforcement Battalion, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment

**PARTICIPATING NATIONS:** Theis, Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, France, Netherlands, Senegal and Burkina Faso

**"IT'S A VERY GOOD EXPERIENCE TO SEE THE OTHER ARMIES AND THE OCCASION TO BE HERE ALLOWS US TO SHARE DIFFERENT POSITIONS AND TECHNIQUES."**

-Lt. Rodrigue Compaore, Burkina Faso Paratrooper Regiment Commander



U.S. Marine Col. Anthony Fernandez III, Western Accord taskforce commander, and Brig. Gen. Pape Samba Kamara, commander of the Senegalese forces, salute during the opening ceremonies for Western Accord 2012, Thiès, Senegal, July 9, 2012. A multi-lateral exercise with Senegalese and several Western African nations, Western Accord runs from June 26 – July 24 and involves Armed Forces of Senegal, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Gambia and France.

SENIOR AIRMAN SARAH MATTISON

Held in Senegal this year, Western Accord 14 is a U.S. Africa Command-sponsored and U.S. Army Africa-hosted joint training exercise between the United States, the Economic Community of West African States and partner nations. The exercise is designed to increase interoperability between military forces and ensure the

common ability to conduct peacekeeping operations throughout western Africa. The Marine infantry company worked with armies from Ghana, Senegal and Burkina Faso training in operations for improvised explosive device detection, internally displaced personnel and rifle qualification.

U.S. Marines from Military Police Company A, 4th Law Enforcement Battalion instruct Soldiers from Senegal on the proper way to conduct crowd control during Exercise Western Accord 14, June 17, 2014. Exercise Western Accord is a partnership exercise between the United States, Senegal, France, Netherlands and other partner nations, which is designed to increase interoperability between military forces and ensure the common ability to conduct peace operations throughout Western Africa.

SGT. WILLIAM GORE





## BALIKATAN 14

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**DATES:** April 14 – May 16

**USMC UNITS:** Force Headquarters Group

**PARTICIPATING NATIONS:** United States, Republic of the Philippines, Australia

**“MOST RECENTLY, I HAVE SEEN BALIKATAN EVOLVE FROM A BILATERAL EXERCISE TO ONE THAT IS MULTILATERAL. THIS YEAR, OVER 60 AUSTRALIAN SERVICE MEMBERS FULLY PARTICIPATED. THAT WAS MONUMENTAL.”**

–Maj. Gen. Richard L. Simcock II, Deputy Commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

Balikatan, which translates to “shoulder-to-shoulder” in Tagalog, is an annual bilateral exercise between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the U.S. military focusing on the Philippine-U.S. partnership, cooperation and commitment to their Mutual Defense Treaty. In the arena of field

training, the forces exchanged and practiced a variety of skills ranging from amphibious landings to jungle survival training to air operations. The closing ceremony at Tejeros Hall marked the completion of the 30th iteration of the exercise.

U.S. Marine 1st Lt. Daniel Comito (right) assists in cutting a piece of metal that will be used for the construction of a new school room roof April 29, during Exercise Balikatan 2014 in Guinobatan, Albay Province, Philippines. This year marks the 30th iteration of the exercise, which is an annual Republic of the Philippines-U.S. military multilateral training exercise and humanitarian civic assistance engagement. Comito is a combat engineer with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

STAFF SGT. JASON W. FUDGE

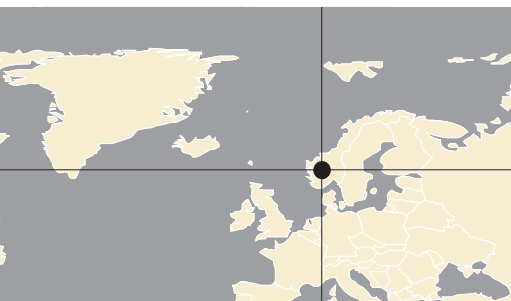


Armed Forces of the Philippines and U.S. service members build a classroom during exercise Balikatan 2014 in Guinobatan, Philippines, April 22. The project is one of five engineering civic action program missions by Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force units in support of BK14. This year marks the 30th iteration of the exercise, which is an annual Republic of the Philippines-U.S. military multilateral training exercise and humanitarian civic assistance engagement.

LANCE CPL. TREVER STATZ



# EXERCISE X3



## MARINE CORPS PREPOSITIONING PROGRAM 14 NORWAY

**DATES:** June 11 – 28

**USMC UNITS:** 4th Maintenance Battalion, 6th Communications Battalion

**PARTICIPATING NATIONS:** Norway, Great Britain, Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Austria and other NATO partners

**“AS WE ATTAIN AND REFILL THE CAVES TO CAPACITY, WE ARE PLANNING FOR A MORE BALANCED EQUIPMENT SET THAT BEST SUPPORTS THE EUROPEAN THEATER AND OTHER REGIONS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.”**

–Neil L. Hagen, Prepositioning Analyst



Marines from 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment conduct a foot patrol through the snow-covered fields of northern Norway during Cold Response 2010, a part of the larger multilateral exercise, the Marine Corps Prepositioning Program.

MASTER SGT. MICHAEL Q. RETANA

The Marine Corps Prepositioning Program is a Norwegian armed forces-sponsored multinational invitational exercise focused on cold weather maritime/amphibious operations. Of the U.S. Cold War assets, six caves and two storage facilities in central Norway exist. Although there is

an improved security posture and military interoperability across Europe, MCPP-N still plays a vital role in the Marine Corps. The caves, formally part of the Norway Air-Landed Marine Expeditionary Brigade, have been in operational capability since January 1990.

A Marine with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, provides security, March 19, during the final exercise portion of Exercise Cold Response 2012. The multinational invitational event, a part of the larger multilateral exercise, the Marine Corps Prepositioning Program, focused on rehearsing conventional-warfare operations in winter conditions and exercising interoperability with the NATO allies.

SGT. MARCIN PLATEK





## SOUTHERN PARTNERSHIP STATION BELIZE

DATES: May 11 – October 10

USMC UNITS: 2nd Civil Affairs Group

PARTICIPATING NATIONS: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras

**“WE ARE GOING TO WORK WITH EACH OF THE COUNTRIES’ EXPERTISE AND SPECIALTIES AND WE WILL TRY TO MATCH IT SO WE CAN BOTH GET MUTUAL BENEFICIAL TRAINING.”**

–Capt. Sam Hancock, 2nd CAG, Mission Commander for Southern Partnership Station 2014.

Southern Partnership Station 14 is a U.S. 4th Fleet deployment designed to strengthen civil and maritime capabilities with regional partner nations in the Central, South American, and Caribbean areas of responsibility. Southern Partnership Station is a U.S. Navy deployment focused on subject matter expert exchanges with partner

nation militaries and security forces. U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet employ maritime forces in cooperative maritime security operations in order to maintain access, enhance interoperability, and build enduring partnerships that foster regional security in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility.

Service members conduct a working party June 3, during Southern Partnership Station 2014 in Punta Gorda, Belize. Southern Partnership Station 2014 is a U.S. Navy deployment focused on subject matter expert exchanges with partner nation militaries and security forces. U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet employ maritime forces in cooperative maritime security operations in order to maintain access, enhance interoperability, and build enduring partnerships that foster regional security in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility.

PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS ANDREW SCHNEIDER



U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Dustin Berg, attached to Landing Attack and Subsequent Operations detail, conducts subject matter expert exchanges regarding weapons handling techniques with Belize Defense Force personnel June 16, during Southern Partnership Station 2014 in Punta Gorda, Belize. Southern Partnership Station 2014 is a U.S. Navy deployment focused on subject matter expert exchanges with partner nation militaries and security forces. U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet employ maritime forces in cooperative maritime security operations in order to maintain access, enhance interoperability, and build enduring partnerships that foster regional security in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility.

PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS RAFAEL MARTIE



# READY, RELEVANT, RESPONSIVE

Reserve Marines demonstrate efficiency of the MAGTF during ITX 4-14

STORY BY CPL. CODEY UNDERWOOD





U.S. Marines from Motor Transport Company, Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 471 occupy a range overnight as part of Integrated Training Exercise 4-14 aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California, June 16. Marines from MWSS-471 are training to be part of a Marine Air Ground Task Force.

COURTESY OF MWSS-471







## THE RESERVE MARINE,

a part-time civilian, full-time Marine, knows that he or she could be pulled from their normal lives and sent where the commander in chief needs them. Whether the Marine is sent into combat, disaster relief or theater security, he or she has to be prepared just as well as the Marines that train for it day in and day out.

For two weeks out of the year, Reserve Marines come together from different units spread throughout the United States to southern California to conduct Integrated Training Exercise 4-14. This presents an opportunity for the Marines to train on par with their active-duty counterparts.

The Marine Corps Reserve recently conducted ITX 4-14 June 5 through 19 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California, with more than 4,000 Marines and Sailors from around the United States.

The exercise is conducted to ensure Marines are better prepared to be deployed around the globe at a moment's notice.

ITX strengthens the ties between active-duty and Reserve Marines while helping all Marines involved become ready for any contingency.

"ITX is a perfect exercise for Reserve Marines to take everything they have learned throughout the year and implement

it in realistic scenarios," said Gunnery Sgt. Benjamin Ortiz, the manpower sourcing staff noncommissioned officer for 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve. "They get the same training at the same location as the active-duty Marines, giving them the same edge."

ITX 4-14 included many live-fire ranges, giving infantry Marines with 4th Marine Division a chance to fire their weapon systems in tactical scenarios. The scenarios were comprised of complex fire-and-maneuver schemes designed to strengthen command-and-control techniques, small-unit leadership, and mental and physical fitness. The live-fire ranges are some of the toughest training the Marine Corps can provide while meeting the deadline of the intense training schedule.

"The ITX training area gives the Marines live-fire opportunities that's almost impossible to find elsewhere," said Sgt. Maj. Bradley Kasal, the 4th Marine Division sergeant major. "We took units from places such as Buffalo and threw them into the desert with no acclimatization. I think the Marines stepped up and overcame (the difficulties) very well."

Difficulties, stress and no acclimatization lead to situations where a medical staff could be needed. Whether conducting training exercises or deployed to a combat

zone, the Marine Corps relies on cohesive, well-oiled and responsive medical care.

The Shock Trauma Platoon is just that. They are the first line to receive casualties who are evacuated to an aid station, which can be a chaotic and stressful environment.

The corpsmen practiced casualty evacuation and communication techniques with their STP. The purpose of the training was to practice the corpsmen's ability to track patients as they move through the medical levels and stations.

The STP is a collection of Marines and corpsmen working together to create and maintain a first-line medical staff. The STP houses everything a medical staff would need in situations such as combat operations, a training environment, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief operations.

"The Shock Trauma Platoon is self-sustainable for more than two weeks without any outside help," said Navy Cmdr. Michael Thornton, the MAGTF surgeon for ITX 4-14. "We utilize all of the needed assets for a MAGTF and that is what makes us unique."

Throughout the exercise, the Logistics Combat Element, comprised of Marines from Combat Logistics Battalion 451, conducted ammunition, food and water resupply convoys out to the Marines in the distant training areas. The combat center





(LEFT)  
Marines with Company B, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, provide cover fire from a hill during Integrated Training Exercise 4-14 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California, June 12.  
CPL. CODEY UNDERWOOD

(CENTER)  
Lance Cpl. Brennan Mickelson, assigned to 5th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, cleans the powder chamber of an M777 Lightweight Howitzer during Integrated Training Exercise 4-14 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California, June 10.  
CPL. LAUREN WHITNEY

(RIGHT)  
Corpsmen with Shock Trauma Platoon, 4th Medical Battalion, exit an Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a casualty scenario as part of Integrated Training Exercise 4-14 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California, June 9.  
CPL. CODEY UNDERWOOD

has more than 100 square miles of barren training area deep in the Mojave Desert where Marines on a daily basis needs supplies.

While the main purpose of the LCE is to provide logistics, the Marines must be ready to provide security in a combat operation. Motorized operation training gives the logistics Marines an edge with their weapon systems and vehicles.

The motorized operation training consists of several events designed to simulate different situations the battalion might encounter while traveling in a convoy of vehicles such as 7-tons truck and Humvees mounted with M240B machine guns, .50-caliber machine guns and MK-19-3 40mm grenade machineguns. The platoon was later evaluated by the “coyotes,” who are range control Marines that monitor the exercise from start to finish, on how well they performed.

“The training is situated to provide a building block approach to providing effective fire,” said 1st Lt. Jian Cardenas, 2nd platoon commander with Combat Logistics Battalion 451, Combat Logistics Regiment 45, 4th Marine Logistics Group, based in Orlando, Florida. “We are learning a lot from this exercise and the coyote’s direction.”

Throughout the exercise, the leadership ensured the Marines understood that

improving their readiness is of high importance because the nation depends on them to be able to quickly deploy with the ability to move ashore and self-sustain for long operations.

The exercise scenario allows Reserve Marines to train on par with their active-duty counterparts as part of a MAGTF, which combine the subordinate elements of air, ground and logistics Marines under a single commander.

ITX’s training scenario covers each of the four MAGTF elements. The Ground Combat Element houses two reinforced infantry battalions. The GCE also includes tanks, assault amphibious vehicles, light armored vehicles, combat engineers and artillery batteries. The Logistics Combat Element houses a Combat Logistics Battalion. The Aviation Combat Element is made up of a Marine Aircraft Group headquarters, fixed-wing tactical aircraft, tilt-rotor aircraft and rotary-wing assault support aircraft. With all these units combined, the MAGTF is designed to be a force in readiness, using its self-sustainability and flexible capabilities to go anywhere at any time.

“We need a force in readiness because it is a consistently changing world,” explained Kasal. “While we can plan our next contingency, there will always be surprises that we need to be ready for at a short notice.”

By conducting exercises like ITX, the Marine Corps remains prepared to rapidly deploy forces to any place in the world.

Today’s Marine Reserve is a critical component of the Marine Corps Total Force, according to Lt. Gen. Richard P Mills, the commander of Marine Forces Reserve. The total force concept for the Marine Corps helps ensure that Reserve Marines can support their active-duty counterparts at any time in any place.

Throughout the year the units will receive new Marines when they are not participating in ITX who have not been through the training. It is the experienced Marine’s job to teach the new troops how to react in situations that were taught during ITX.

“As you welcome new Marines to your unit, don’t lose your edge, the knowledge and experience is critical to ensure we are all ready,” said Mills, as he spoke to the Marines during ITX 4-14. “Be ready. Maintain your edge of momentum.”

This year ITX 4-14 proved that Reserve Marines are as ready to deploy overseas as their active-duty counterparts in support of any crisis, operation or theater security cooperation evolution with our nation’s allies.





BEEN THERE  
**DONE THAT**

## Force Headquarters Group

### **POPPING CORNERS**

U.S. Marine Cpl. Joseph Zimmerman, a military police officer with Company C, 4th Law Enforcement Battalion, Force Headquarters Group, coaches members from 13 partner nations about interior urban tactics training, interior close quarter battles and room clearings during Tradewinds 2014. Tradewinds integrates forces from 13 partner nations to promote interoperability and multinational relationships throughout the theater.

LANCE CPL. MACKENZIE SCHLUETER









BEEN THERE  
**DONE THAT**

ITX 4-14 is the largest annual U.S. Marine Corps Reserve training exercise, which helps refine skills necessary to seamlessly integrate with active-duty counterparts as well as operate as a complete Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

## 4TH MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

**MARINES FROM COMBAT LOGISTICS BATTALION 451**, Combat Logistics Regiment 45 simulate a supply drop off/pick up during Integrated Training Exercise 4-14, June 14 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California.

SGT. ADWIN ESTERS



## 4TH MARINE DIVISION

**(TOP)**

**U.S. MARINES WITH COMPANY C**, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, descend toward the drop zone after conducting a low-level static line jump out of a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter during Integrated Training Exercise 4-14 aboard Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California, June 8.

CPL. LAUREN WHITNEY

**(RIGHT)**

**U.S. MARINES WITH COMPANY C**, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, perform a low-level static line jump out of a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter during Integrated Training Exercise 4-14 aboard Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California, June 8.

CPL. LAUREN WHITNEY







## 4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

### (TOP)

**U.S. MARINE** Cpl. Robert Cleckley, motor transport mechanic, Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 471, demonstrates how to attach a towbar to a Humvee during Integrated Training Exercise 4-14 aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California, June 16.

COURTESY OF MWSS-471

### (LEFT)

**U.S. MARINES** from 471 Airfield Rescue and Fire Fighting platoon, Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 471 put out a simulated aircraft fire during Integrated Training Exercise 4-14 aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California, June 14.

COURTESY OF TWENTYNINE PALMS

### (BOTTOM)

**MARINES** with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron (MALS) 41 conduct swim qualifications in-between supporting Integrated Training Exercise 4-14 flight operations based out of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California.

SGT. MELISSA THURSTON







Marines with Battery H, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division perform firing operations on an M777A2 Howitzer during Fire Exercise June 23, 2014, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. 14th Marines participated in FIREX June 16-25 for their annual training.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. BRYTANI MUSICK

# SERIOUS FIREPOWER

## 14th Marines and CLB-453 combine for high-powered training

Enduring a two-week long physically demanding event in the heat, rain or cold might not seem important or like much fun. The Marines of 14th Marine Regiment proved both those statements wrong during Fire Exercise, their annual training Fort Sill, Oklahoma, June 16-25.

“With us being out here all together in the rain and heat and everything, we’re all going through trials and tribulations,” said Lance Cpl. Austin Handle, a team member of gun three, an M777A2 Howitzer, Battery M, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines, 4th Marine

Division. “And through that we’re growing together.”

FIREX, an exercise performed to sustain various training and readiness standards with respects to implementation of artillery fire support, provided valuable training to more than 2,200 Marines from 14th Marine Regiment and Combat Logistics Battalion 453.

This is the first time since 2009 the 14th Marine Regiment has trained together as a whole.

Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 453, Combat Logistics Regiment 4, 4th

Marine Logistics Group conducted their annual training alongside 14th Marines.

The Marines understood the value of this level of training and took it seriously so when they are called upon, they are ready without hesitation.

“It is not quantifiable for just these two weeks,” said Sgt. Daniel Goodman, the local security chief, Btry. H, 3/14. “These Marines get the chance to build and grow and function better as a unit.”

The Marines of 14th Marine Regiment and CLB-453 maintained their readiness in multiple ways. Job specific training





Marines with Battery F, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division shoot a rocket from a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System June 21, during Fire Exercise at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.



Lance Cpl. Norman Eads, a field radio operator with Headquarters Battery, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division fires an M240 machine gun June 18 with the help of Lance Cpl. Jose Romero, a field radio operator during Fire Exercise at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

included, qualification ranges on multiple weapons systems, communications, artillery, radar, administration, motor transportation, supply, maintenance and more.

This kind of training gives the Marines an opportunity to stay up to date on current regulations and really grow as a section, said Cpl. Lee Douglas, the assistant section chief of gun three, Btry. M, 3/14.

The purpose of annual training is to train and get more proficient, said Cpl. Austin Adams, a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System crewman, Btry. F, 2/14. FIREX is helping these Reserve Marines by giving them opportunities they don't get throughout the year to knock off the rust and get into the groove of things.

Learning valuable skills through the various training events will prepare the Marines for whatever comes their way during not only their drill weekends but also when they are deployed to a combat zone.

"There shouldn't be someone who doesn't know how to do their job when they're down range," Adams said. "But this training is allowing us to get better at our job."

Conducting annual training is beneficial to the junior Marines to get consistent MOS training and staying up to date on changes that happen every year in each MOS, said Sgt. Jonathan Segovia, the regimental ammo chief with Headquarters Battery, 14th Marines. "They'll be as much up to speed as active-duty so changeover will be fluent and less stressful."

Entire Reserve units commonly do not get deployed together. Since these Marines more than likely will be working with Marines from different units when they're deployed, possibly their active-duty counterparts, events like this are imperative to ensure each Marine is fully ready to face what lies ahead.

Shortly after starting annual training, they are performing like Marines in the field and the lifestyles they'll have to lead in combat, said Staff Sgt. Donald Baltazar, the battery operations chief, Btry. H, 3/14. The ability to embark, to take battery's from across the country, coming onto one position and shooting in an unknown area is very similar to deploying to another country and performing.

"The more we can do to sustain the basic standard as a Marine artillery unit, the more we can help out when given the 911 call to war to support active duty units," said Capt. Bo Fisher, the inspector-instructor, Btry. H, 3/14.

"It's a high level exercise that can't be understated," said Baltazar.



Cpl. John King-Kaplan, a military police officer with Company C, 4th Law Enforcement Battalion, assists a member of the Dominican Republic's Army with an M4 Benelli Tactical Shotgun during range operations aboard Las Calderas Naval Base, Dominican Republic, June 21.

SGT. JESSICA ITO

# TRADEWINDS: A LESSON IN PARTNERSHIP

STORY BY CPL. TIFFANY EDWARDS

Surrounded by palm trees waving in the breeze beside turquoise blue waters, the Marines of Company C, 4th Law Enforcement Battalion, along with the Army National Guard, the Royal Canadian Air Force, the Dominican Armed Forces and 13 Caribbean partner nations, executed phase II of Exercise Tradewinds 2014 at Las Calderas Naval Base, Dominican Republic.

Tradewinds 2014 is a joint, combined exercise conducted in order to build partner nation counter-transnational organized crime missions, humanitarian aid and disaster response operations capacity. The ultimate goal of Tradewinds 2014 is to promote interoperability and multinational relationships throughout the Caribbean theater.

The battalion's primary mission at the exercise was to plan and execute an integration package with the host nation the partner nations, to share ideas on how to better security in the Caribbean region and to improve U.S. tactics and procedures.

"Anytime we get to deploy as a unit and get to interact with partner nations,

we get share ideas and see different ways of accomplishing tactics," 4th LE Bn. Commanding Officer Lt. Col Sydney Park said.

Phase I of Tradewinds 2014 took place in Belize, and its focus was maritime operations, crisis preparedness and response. Phase II focused on law enforcement and military ground operations, such as tactical site exploitation, range operations, urban tactics, close quarters battle skills, crime scene processing, and vehicle and personnel searches. Participating militaries also received instructional classes on civil affairs and human rights issues.

"We all work together in this region; we all have a vested interest in the region, so it makes this exercise allow for streamlined integration, such as in the case of a natural disaster," Park said. "Also, our operations to counter transnational organized crime are going to be much more streamlined due to interoperability."

According to Park, building rapport with foreign partner nations within the

Caribbean theater allows for streamlined operations, for both military purposes as well as disaster relief.

"Our first mission at this exercise is all about relationship building," Park said. "Our second is the sharing of our views as well as our tactics. What we are doing is ensuring that the fundamentals of military operations are in place while we forge close ties with the region. This results in better regional security in the Caribbean and the countering of transnational crime in the region."

For Constable 672 Joenel Perrotte of the Special Services Unit Grenada, the training he and his unit received at Tradewinds 2014 allowed him to gain new friends and perspectives by working with other nations' militaries.

"I really enjoy the camaraderie, all the different countries coming together and learning together," Perrotte said. "If anything happens we can operate together to complete an operation."

Constable Michael Lynch of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines SSU said his



# SQUAD UP!

Relationships developed during exercise Tradewinds 2014 were not purely military. Friendships, networks and partnerships were created, developed and cemented during the event that brought together 13 different nations in the Dominican Republic in June 2014. As a tribute to the partnerships, a squad competition was held to test the service members' abilities in a number of events including tug-of-war, room clearing, tractor pulling, close-quarters combat and more.

Lance Cpls. Andrew Soliz and Josh Watson, Company C, 4th Law Enforcement Battalion, demonstrate proper personnel search techniques for members of the Suriname National Army, aboard Las Calderas Naval Base, Dominican Republic, June 21.

CPL. TIFFANY EDWARDS

Members of the 13 partner nations that participated in Tradewinds 2014 hold their respective countries flag before the closing ceremonies for the exercise aboard Las Calderas Naval Base, Dominican Republic, June 25.

SGT. JESSICA ITO

years of experience as a police officer, combined with the tactics he learned at Tradewinds 2014, gives him an expanded tactical knowledge for combating human, drug and weapons trafficking, which he can further train his officers.

"It benefits us law enforcement officers in the long run because when we get home after all this training, we won't keep it to ourselves, we will pass it on to our units, Lynch said. "That way everyone can use the new knowledge and procedures."

Cpl. Christopher Kelty, a military police officer with 4th LE Bn., agreed the training he helped to conduct gave him and his fellow Marines a better grasp of their law enforcement tactics, as well as an opportunity to learn new tactics and procedures from other nations.

"This training gives them systematic methods that they can take back to their countries and teach their soldiers," Kelty said. "It gives us a chance to get better at what we do as law enforcement personnel. I feel I've gained some experience by conducting training, actually standing up in front of a group and teaching them."

Kelty said he also had a chance to learn the similarities between militaries and law enforcement across the world.

"I think the relationships built here are awesome," Kelty said. "We've had the chance to talk to a lot of the soldiers here and trade Facebook information with them. They are just like us."

Sgt. Maj. Trevor Kent, 4th LE Bn. sergeant major, said that Tradewinds 2014 clearly demonstrated the integrative capabilities of the U.S. Armed Forces when working with each other as well as foreign militaries.

"Being able to work with other nations helps to clear any misconceptions either side may have," Kent said. "We have been able to work together with the U.S. Army National Guard as one big unit. There is no 'us' or 'them.' Judging by our much-enhanced interoperability with the Canadian forces and the partner nations, I think it's a tribute to the fact that the U.S. forces are well-practiced at integrating."



SGT. JESSICA ITO



LANCE CPL. MACKENZIE SCHLUETER



LANCE CPL. MACKENZIE SCHLUETER





# IRT TROPIC CARE

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

In the 1992 presidential campaign, then candidate Bill Clinton began his “Rebuild America” initiative. As president, he had the Department of Defense search for innovative programs, which would serve American communities in need and provide realistic military training. Three primary areas of emphasis were suggested which now take advantage of the unique resources and capabilities of DoD health care, infrastructure support and youth training programs.

Tropic Care 2014 is one of the results of this initiative.

Innovative Readiness Training exercise Tropic Care 2014 is in full swing as service members from the Marine Corps, Army, Navy and Air Force cooperate to provide health care services at no cost to the people of Kauai, Hawaii June 16 to June 26, 2014.

The majority of military assets that support IRT initiatives are combat support and combat service support. The combat roles and missions of participating units are compatible with the type of support being provided to the civilian community. IRT initiatives are incidental to the military services’ normal training. The goal is to provide realistic hands on training to enhance existing training programs, while assisting in domestic needs.

“This training, starting at the lowest levels, gives Sailors and Marines the opportunity to engage with people who have a variety of medical challenges,” said Brig. Gen. Roger Machut, commanding general, 4th Marine Logistics Group. “They are able

to practice reception and triage, provide those services and medical assistance to the doctors and nurses in a volume that we simply could not provide when they are on a normal exercise.”

Tropic Care 2014 also allows the service members to not only to train their medical skills, but also their responsive skills, to be able to respond in a moment’s notice in any situation.

“This training is relevant because this is what we would experience should the Marine Corps get called in to act in a real world operation,” Machut said.

The training prepares 4th MLG to support logistics operations worldwide.

“I really do believe that if called upon we could not only get the providers and corpsman and relevant personnel to the location along with their equipment, but also set up quickly and engage with the other services seamlessly to perform their mission,” Machut said.

The service members know they need to be ready and understand the difference between performing their services to assist the underserved, and assisting in combat.

“I have never had to do this in a combat environment,” said Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Maria Batista, a dental technician with 4th Dental Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group. “Based on what we have done so far, I feel we are all up to the challenge. We know what the doctors need and are quick on our feet. We have had times when we have been low on supplies and had to figure

out how to get more without slowing the patient care process.”

The site technicians leaped into action, setting up the care facilities at each stationary location.

“When we got here it took us about two or three hours to actually set up the site for the initial use,” said Batista. “Then we prepare and sterilize all the equipment before we leave so that we can begin to provide to patients within 10 minutes of arriving back on site.”

Three different treatment sites have been set up around the island, as well as a mobile site that travels to underserved locations to provide the same treatment opportunities to those who are unable to make the trip to a stationary site.

The mobile site changes every two days to reach as many people as possible in the allotted exercise time.

“The mobile site is set up to go to different localities around the island, that are underserved, that would not or do not have access to immediate medical treatment,” said Lt. Cmdr. Stewart Powers, 4th Dental Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, officer in charge of TC14 mobile team.

Patients are not limited to one service per day. As they walk through the door and begin their in-patient processing, many are referred to multiple practitioners and providers to better serve the patients’ needs.

“Today I had medical and dental checks done,” said Brayden Santiago, a patient at





Marine Corps, Army and Navy dental technicians work together to care for a patient at the Kapaa Middle School on Kauai, Hawaii, June 19, during Innovative Readiness Training exercise Tropic Care 2014. Kapaa Middle School is one of three main sites that patients can be seen for medical, dental and optometry care provided by the Department of Defense at no cost to the public, providing simultaneous military training for medical personnel.

**"...if called upon we could not only get the providers and corpsmen and relevant personnel to the location along with their equipment, but also set up quickly and engage with the other services seamlessly to perform their mission."**

**BRIG. GEN. ROGER MACHUT**  
**COMMANDING GENERAL, 4TH MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP**

Kauai Community College during IRT TC14. "On the dental side, they did a cleaning, and the medical guys gave me an inhaler and lotion for my skin. I loved talking with them, they were very nice, made me feel comfortable and that I was well taken care of."

When the first day of the exercise had finished, the sites had treated approximately 700 patients, many of them seeing multiple providers, with more than 1,000 services provided.

Tropic Care 2014 allows medical personnel to better understand that their

services are needed not only on the battlefield, but in the civilian world as well.

"In the context of a full expeditionary movement of troops and supplies to get here and provide our services to the patients require extensive planning," said Cmdr. Charles G. Briseno, Kauai Community College site officer in charge and 4th Marine Logistics Group liaison for IRT exercise TC14.

"The providers have been seeing enthusiastic patients beyond belief. Our Sailors, soldiers, airmen and even the Marines get the chance to experience an IRT exercise in

these stable conditions, if we had to do this, say in a more hostile field environment, I am confident that they could perform these same procedures with efficiency."

When Tropic Care 2014 was at its midpoint, the service members had treated approximately 4,000 patients, with each site tending to more than 200 patients per day. By the end of the exercise, the technicians were proud of the significant impact they had on the dental health of residents.



## UNIT PROFILE



F/A-18 Hornets with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 112, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing Marine Forces Reserve, lands on a runway during Integrated Training Exercise 4-14 in Twentynine Palms, California, June 7. ITX is the largest Marine Corps Reserve training exercise with more than 4,000 Marines and sailors participating from units across the United States. The exercise focused on the tactical application of combined-arms during global contingencies.

CPL. LAUREN WHITNEY

## MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 112

**LOCATION:** Fort Worth, Texas

**HISTORY:** Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 112 was originally activated as VMFA-112 on March 1, 1942, when they began flying with their F4F Wildcats.

During World War II, the squadron participated in combat in Guadalcanal and Kyushu where in mid-war they switched to the Vought F4U-1 Corsair. Following the surrender of Japan, VMFA-112 returned to the United States where it was deactivated on September 10, 1945.

After being reactivated July 1, 1946, the squadron re-established at Naval Air Station Dallas, Texas, eventually becoming the Marines' largest Reserve squadron.

The squadron took on many new aircraft between 1942 through 1975, eventually settling on the McDonnell F-4 Phantom II. In September 1996, the Cowboys moved to Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base in September 1996, where it continues to operate now with the F/A-18 Hornet.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the squadron participated in many multinational exercises in Japan, Guam, Australia and Norway during 2002 through 2005.

In late 2009, the squadron deployed to Al Asad Air Base, Al Anbar Province, Iraq, supporting the ground withdrawal from major cities, supporting special forces and providing key aerial surveillance. The squadron was the last fighter/attack squadron to leave Iraq.





# VMFA-112 QUICK FACTS

**COMMANDING OFFICER:** Lt. Col. Michael P. Jeffries

**SERGEANT MAJOR:** Sgt. Maj. Scott A. Miller

**MISSION:** To provide Air-to-Air combat, aerial reconnaissance in support of the squadron commander and conduct Air-to-Ground operations in support of the Marine rifleman.

- The squadron's nickname was originally the Wolfpack but later changed to Cowboys while stationed in Dallas, Texas.

- By the completion of World War II, the squadron was credited with the destruction of 140 Japanese aircraft in aerial combat, ranking it third among Marine Corps squadrons in terms of enemy aircraft destroyed.

- Throughout the years, the squadron has used more than six different aircrafts.

- Currently, VMFA-112 has been working on what has been called the "Herc/Hornet Expeditionary Package." The conceptual program would allow an F/A-18 to land on a hasty runway refuel and rearm quickly without having to return to base.

- VMFA-112 recently participated in Integrated Training Exercise 4-14 in Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California.





Summer is the season when most people make time for personal activities, whether it's working out in the sun, trips to the beach, or get-togethers with family and friends. Marines must remember to take precautions during their fun in the summer sun.

COURTESY PHOTO

## BEATING THE HEAT: 101 CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER

STORY BY CPL. BRYTANI MUSICK

**T**he 101 critical days of summer begins on Memorial Day weekend and ends after Labor Day. During this time people are swimming, boating, visiting family and friends, playing sports and having a good time. It's also a time of celebration, recreation, staying awake long hours and driving more miles than your body has the energy for. With all the fun summer activities crammed together in a short time, the following safety tips are offered to make your vacation journey a safe and happy one.

### THE STATISTICS

#### DRINKING AND DRIVING

The Marine Corps has a higher number of automobile fatalities relative to its size compared to other military branches. In 2012, there were 31 such fatalities in the Marine Corps, with roughly 50 percent of those fatalities involving alcohol. Marine Forces Reserve established the Culture of Responsible Choices initiative in 2011 to emphasize personal responsibility and accountability in Marines, to combat rising instances of misconduct in and out of uniform.

**0-0-1-3:** Zero alcohol under the age of 21. Zero DUIs. One drink per hour. Three drinks per event.

STATISTICS COURTESY OF THE NAVAL SAFETY CENTER WEBSITE.

\*The Naval Safety Center website at [www.public.navy.mil/comnavsafecen](http://www.public.navy.mil/comnavsafecen) lists information regarding summer activities. Marines can access summer-related presentations, posters, hand-outs and many other valuable resources.



From October 1, 2013 to May 2, 2014, 30 Marines died due to motor vehicle, motorcycle or recreational accidents. Summer is already here, and it is the time when there is an increase in off-duty mishaps.\*

#### **HEAT INJURIES:**

Acclimatize to your environment, this can take 10 to 20 days if you will be outside often. Hydrate with water before and after exercise, and keep a water source with you. Avoid strenuous activity during the hottest time of day, stay in shaded areas and be sure to keep sunscreen on skin exposed to sunrays.

#### **BOATING SAFETY:**

Don't overload passengers, be aware of other boats, be sure everyone is wearing a properly fitted life jacket, respect legal speeds, secure loose objects in boat. Never drink while operating a boat.

#### **SWIMMING:**

Always have a partner, never swim when tired or under the influence of alcohol or medicine, know your capabilities as a swimmer and avoid currents. Respect diving rules, never run on slippery areas around a pool. Never let children swim without adult supervision.

#### **FIREWORKS:**

Follow warnings and instructions, ensure surface around lighting area is free of flammable materials including dry leaves, stay away from buildings and vehicles, keep water source close by in case of fire

#### **ROAD TRIPS:**

Safety-check your vehicle prior to leaving including your oil, brakes, and tires. Keep a first aid kit, flashlight, tools, a spare tire, blankets, food and extra clothes in the vehicle in case of any breakdowns or unexpected delays.

#### **OFF-ROAD VEHICLES:**

Always wear protective gear, never operate while under the influence, be aware of your traveled area and trails, and be aware of other people in the area.

#### **BARBEQUE SAFETY:**

Only use in well-ventilated areas and don't leave grill unattended. Wear fitted clothing to avoid contact with flames and fuel, stand upwind when lighting any fires. Avoid using lighter fluid to start fires or re-ignite coals.

## **WHAT ARE YOUR MARINES DOING THIS SUMMER?**

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

To assist Marine units at better understanding the safety attitudes and behaviors of their people, the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Safety Division has implemented the online Ground Climate Assessment Survey System at [www.SemperFiSurveys.org](http://www.SemperFiSurveys.org). A few that apply to activities most Marines may participate in this summer include:

- **OFF DUTY & RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY (OD&R) SURVEY:** a 46-item survey that queries respondents regarding their off-duty activities, as well as assessing their organization's OD&R safety climate.
- **PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLE (PMV) SURVEY:** a 39-item survey examining an array of motor vehicle related topics.
- **MOTORCYCLE (MTRCYCL) SURVEY:** a 20-item survey designed for motorcycle owners, operators, or passengers.
- **DRINKING & DRIVING (D&D) SURVEY:** a 36-item survey that looks at different aspects of alcohol use and driving.

## **THE PREVENTION**

### **THE BUDDY SYSTEM**

The buddy system is an often-undervalued strategy that can keep Marines and Sailors out of risky situations. Whether its a group of people leaving town on a road trip, or letting a roommate know you're heading to the movies, having a reliable accountability system keeps us mindful of each other and allows for a faster, more comprehensive response to emergencies. Just having someone else present or knowledgeable of one's whereabouts can reduce chances of accidents or misconduct, or allow a faster, more knowledgeable reaction to an emergency.





SAVED  
**ROUNDS**

## AT THE READY

### "LONE STAR" BATTALION MAINTAINS READINESS DURING ANNUAL TRAINING

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. JOHN MCCALL

**T**he trait of being always ready has been a part of the Marine Corps' ethos for more than 238 years. 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment held true to this standard during their annual training at Fort Polk, Louisiana, June 1 – 11.

In order to maintain their readiness, 1/23 took part in numerous field exercises specific to each job skill. These exercises included weapons training, grenade qualification, gas chamber, demolition and live-fire ranges.

After completing multiple live-fire ranges, each company participated in coordinated platoon-sized attacks. Each squad played a key role in assaulting mock enemy objectives.

As a Reserve unit, 1/23 typically meets one weekend a month and two weeks a year. Even though these Marines take advantage of the time they are given on drill week-

ends, there is only so much that can be done in a two-day period. The importance and value of annual training cannot be overstated, especially since this opportunity only presents itself once a year.

More often than not a Marine Corps Reserve unit does not deploy as a whole. Instead, it is divided into smaller detachments to fill gaps within the active duty component and facilitate the employment of the Total Force.

"We don't always get to put as many rounds down range as we do [at AT], which is why we have to make the best of it," said Cpl. Alexander Gil, a section leader with Company A. "You have to train like you fight and for us it's even more important because we don't do this every day." ■

Pvt. James Jamison, a machine gunner with 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, fires an M240-B machine gun during a live-fire range at Fort Polk, Louisiana, June 2. Marines took part in numerous live-fire ranges, which culminated in a platoon-sized attack as a part of the unit's annual training.

### Annual training breakdown

- Reserve Marines will typically spend 38 days a year with their unit: 24 drilling days and two weeks of annual training.
- Annual training can be held anywhere around the world for any unit, and are often tied into large-scale exercises.
- 1/23 is an infantry unit that is headquartered in Houston, Texas.
- Annual training exercises are used to keep Marines operationally ready with comprehensive, realistic combat scenarios as well as practical application of technical knowledge.
- Reserve Marines are held to the same stringent standards as active-duty Marines, while also attending school or holding full-time careers in the civilian sector.





## ACROSS THE POND

4TH ANGLICO WORKS ALONGSIDE BRITISH  
16TH AIR ASSAULT BRIGADE

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK



Marines with 4th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, Force Headquarters Group, practice close-quarters-combat tactics alongside their British counterparts with 7th Paratroopers Royal Horse Artillery, 16th Air Assault Brigade, April 9, during exercise Joint Warrior 2014. ANGLICO units normally deploy in small supporting arms liaison teams, using their specialized call-for-fire techniques to combine different air, naval and artillery platforms from any NATO unit.

**M**arines with 4th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company took part in exercise Joint Warrior 14, alongside the British 16th Air Assault Brigade, April 1-10, 2014.

During the exercise, the Marines and their British counterparts traded military concepts and training techniques to better increase interoperability between the two nations.

Each nation's force is an expert in their respective fields. However, with Marines being an amphibious force, 4th ANGLICO proudly shared their call-for-fire specialty, naval gunfire.

With this exercise being many of the Marines' first time working with the British, they were impressed with what they saw. ■



## 24/7 MARINE

LANCE CORPORAL STOPPED  
TO HELP STRANDED  
MOTORIST

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. BRYTANI MUSICK  
Brig. Gen. James S. Hartsell, commanding general of 4th Marine Division, personally thanks Lance Cpl. Kenneth Howard, an M777A2 Howitzer gunman with Battery H, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment at Fire Exercise June 23, for stopping to help a motorist he later found out was a retired Army colonel.

**L**ance Cpl. Kenneth Howard, an M777A2 howitzer gunman with Hotel Battery, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment was driving home on Interstate 95 near Richmond from Virginia Beach, May 22, 2014, when he saw a motorist on the side of the road. Something blew off the trailer in front of the motorist causing a blow-out tire.

Howard didn't know at the time but he had stopped to help Henry C. Lucksinger, a retired colonel from the U.S. Army Dental Corps. Lucksinger asked what Howard does for a living and what unit he was attached to. Lucksinger sent a letter to Howard's commanding general, Maj. Gen. James S. Hartsell.

During Firex, 14th Marine Regiment's annual training exercise, Gen. Hartsell personally found Howard to recognize him for showcasing Marine-like characteristics in his daily life. ■

## OUTSTANDING SERVICE

KENYAN MARINE ONE STEP  
CLOSER TO ACHIEVING DREAMS

SGT. JESSICA ITO

**C**pl. Cecil Otieno always wanted to be a military officer, but growing up in Kenya, he faced many challenges.

Otieno grew up in Nakuru, Kenya, the fourth largest urban area in the country. After getting his green card, then-23-year-old Otieno decided to move to America where he hoped to create a better life for himself and his family in Kenya.

During his search for a job, a friend told him about the Marine Corps and Otieno liked the idea. Otieno began the process of becoming a U.S. citizen shortly after graduating boot camp April 1, 2011.

Last summer, Otieno completed the first phase of Platoon Leaders Class. The PLC is just one of the paths that can lead to commissioning as an officer in the Marine Corps. Cpl. Otieno is currently serving on active-duty operational support orders as a supply clerk for 4th Dental Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, in Georgia; he also maintains a full-time student schedule. ■



Cpl. Cecil Otieno, a supply clerk with 4th Dental Battalion, attends his Platoon Leaders Class phase one graduation practice in July 2013. He will attend the second phase of PLC and plans on being commissioned in May 2015, after he earns his degree.

COURTESY PHOTO





WITH THE  
**GEAR**

#### SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber : .45 ACP

Weight: 2.8lbs (1.27 kg)

Capacity: 7+1 Wilson Magazine

Overall length: 8.5in (21.59cm)

Barrel length: 5in (12.7cm)

Firing action: Single Action

Firing system: Series 80



# M45 CQCP

## CLOSE QUARTERS COMBAT PISTOL



**T**he newly designated M45 Close Quarters Combat Pistol has been specifically designed for the Marine Corps, featuring an inlaid USMC etched into the frame of the pistol.

Manufactured by Colt, the battle-proven platform has been used since the United States sent troops into Mexico to capture Pancho Villa in 1916. It is now outfitted with a rail system under the front receiver that can be used to mount several attachments such as flashlights and laser sights, along with various modern modifications to cope with the requirements of today's battlefields.

The new M45 CQCP is currently utilized by Marine Corps special operations personnel such as Force Recon and Marine Corps Special Operations Command units.

## QUICK FACTS

### The Pistol in the USMC

#### The History

The original design of the 1911 .45 pistol, by John M. Browning has essentially remained the same for more than 100 years since its initial unveiling. The Marine Corps has added a new twist to the latest edition of an old favorite.

#### The New Features

- Novak low-mount carry sights with dots
- Enhanced hammer
- Extended ambidextrous safety lock
- Colt upswept beavertail grip safety
- 3-hole aluminum trigger
- Lowered and flared ejection port
- M1913 Picatinny rail
- National match barrel
- Front and rear slide serrations

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLT CQCP, VISIT [WWW.COLT.COM/CATALOG](http://WWW.COLT.COM/CATALOG).







## DOUBLE DUTY

COURTESY PHOTO



## GI -VS- JANE



COURTESY PHOTO

### CPL. ASHLEY MOKOKO

**BILLET:** Supply Warehouse Clerk

**LOCATION:** Fort Worth, Texas

**TIME IN SERVICE:** 5 years

**REASON FOR JOINING:** I joined because I wanted a challenge.

**FAVORITE WORK FOOD:** My favorite food definitely is not MREs. No part of them.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** I am in charge of the warehouse Marines to keep accountability of the gear.

**MEMORABLE MOMENT:** I was a translator in Morocco because I speak French.

### ASHLEY MOKOKO

**BILLET:** Trade Compliance Manager

**LOCATION:** Fort Worth, Texas

**TIME IN SERVICE:** 2 years

**REASON FOR JOINING:** When my old boss left, I took over because I was handling the same things.

**FAVORITE WORK FOOD:** Gummy fruit snacks.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** I release export orders and handle important papers. I supervise my team.

**MEMORABLE MOMENT:** When we got new systems up and running which made work much easier.



### MILITARY EXPRESSIONS FROM AROUND THE CORPS

**PROPER GREETING (OF THE DAY):** Saying good morning/afternoon/evening, as a way to respectfully acknowledge peers, senior Marines and officers.

**CAX:** Combined Arms Exercise.

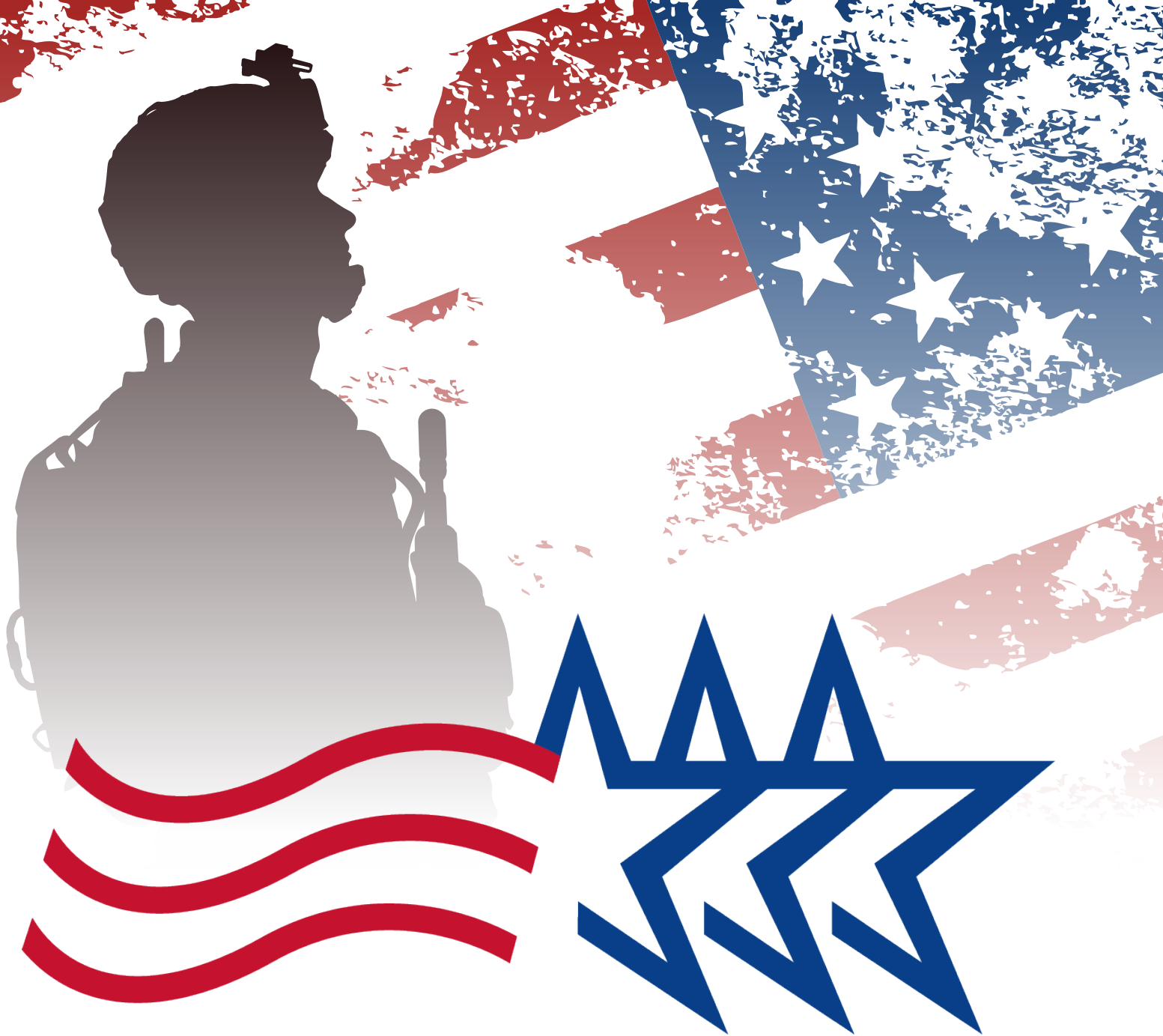
**HIGH-AND-TIGHT:** The standard Marine haircut.

**K-BAR:** Marine-issue fighting knife

**THE WIRE:** Defensive perimeter of a firm base.

**SQUARED AWAY:** Neat, orderly, organized.





# TRICARE<sup>®</sup>

## RESERVE SELECT

Tricare Reserve Select is a premium-based plan available worldwide for **qualified Selected Reserve members** of the Ready Reserve and their families. Tricare Reserve Select also qualifies as minimum essential coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

For more information, Reserve Marines can contact their unit administrative section, or the Marine Corps Reserve Project Officer at (504) 697-7180.

### Services include:

- Preventative Services
- Maternity care
- Dental
- Emergency Care
- Eye Exams