



THE FIGHTING 13TH

Newsletter



Vol. 1, Issue 5, July 27, 2026

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13TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT



The Fighting 13th Embarks U.S. Navy Ships

U.S. Marines assigned to the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, embark Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), at Naval Base San Diego, California, July 14, 2026, to conduct routine operations and integrated training. The 13th MEU and the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group are underway and conducting routine operations in the U.S. 3rd Fleet area of operations to enhance their combined Navy-Marine Corps readiness and lethality. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Martha Linares) [More Info](#)



VMM-364 (Rein.) Purple Foxes Stay Ready to Execute

U.S. Marines assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 364 (Reinforced), 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, and U.S. Navy Sailors assigned to Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), conduct a post-flight inspection after landing aboard Makin Island during routine operations and integrated training off the coast of California, July 15, 2026. The 13th MEU and the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group are underway and conducting routine operations in the U.S. 3rd Fleet area of operations to enhance their combined Navy-Marine Corps readiness and lethality. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Angel Diaz Montes De Oca) [More Info](#)



Light Armored Reconnaissance, "War Pigs", Enhance Core Competencies

U.S. Marines assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2/4, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, operate a light armored vehicle during a section gunnery range at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California, May 25, 2026. Unit-level training allows the light armored reconnaissance company to enhance core competencies, forging a lethal and cohesive team prepared to provide critical support for the 13th MEU during complex amphibious operations. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Mary R. Jenni) [More Info](#)

COMMANDER'S CORNER



13th MEU Family and Friends,

This current at-sea period is about validating tactical capabilities and muscle memory that will sustain us in crisis. Over the course of this second underway, I have watched our Marines and Sailors step into critical leadership roles, solving complex problems under the demanding, high-tempo conditions of life aboard ship. These rigorous training periods are rapidly transforming our Marines and Sailors into a better trained, cohesive warfighting team. The growth in our collective readiness is unmistakable, and it is driven entirely by the quiet professionalism and shared commitment of every member of the Fighting 13th.

Semper Fi,

Col Richard Alvarez

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13TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

The Light Marine Air-Defense Integrated System

Staff Sgt. Michael Virtue

ABOARD USS MAKIN ISLAND – The 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit recently fielded the Light Marine Air-Defense Integrated System (LMADIS) and immediately began integrating the system into underway training aboard Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) off the coast of California. U.S. Marines assigned to the 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense (LAAD) Detachment, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 364 (Reinforced), 13th MEU, began training with and employing the system to counter unmanned aircraft system (UAS) threats during simulated exercise scenarios.



The LMADIS is a small package that brings a huge capability. Battlefield technology continues to evolve and recent conflicts have shown the high usage of UAS to inflict maximum damage. The Marine Corps adapted and equipped the LMADIS to combat this evolving threat.

The mission of LMADIS operators is to detect, track, identify and defeat.

“Drones are the biggest thing right now and a lot of people don’t know the answer,” said U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Matthew Bass, a LAAD gunner attached to VMM-364 (Rein.). “The LMADIS is that answer.”

The LMADIS is composed of two Ultra-Light Tactical Vehicles (ULTV) and requires four LAAD gunners to operate. One ULTV acts as the command and control function and directs the other to execute electronic warfare (EW) attacks on UAS. They use the Skyview MPV-3 sensor to detect UAS up to 3000 meters. Depending on the frequency, it can tell the operators what Group type UAS it is, and provide the correct disabling code.



Once a UAS is detected, the RPS-62 radar tracks its movement and distance using 4 hemispheric panels covering a total of 360 degrees, using radio frequency to bounce off the UAS and back to the LMADIS. The integrated Link-16 communications system allows the LMADIS to feed to the ship or command post real-time data.

Once a target is identified, Marines utilize the MFEW-D, a lightweight, portable electronic jammer to defeat the threat. [Continue Reading](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS & RESOURCES

L.I.N.K.S. Coffee Chat

Connect with others and enjoy military life conversations



L.I.N.K.S. Coffee Chat

Looking to connect with new friends and dive into meaningful conversations about military life? Join us for the L.I.N.K.S. Coffee Chat on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the L.I.N.K.S. House, Building 202860 aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. This laid-back, open-house style gathering is the perfect opportunity to meet others in the community, share experiences, and enjoy a warm cup of coffee. Drop by anytime and stay as long as you like—there are no strict agendas, just good conversation and new friendships waiting to be made. [More Info](#)

2026 Teen Summit

Are you looking to boost your confidence and prepare for a successful future? Join Marine & Family Programs for the 2026 Teen Summit on Wednesday, August 5, through Thursday, August 6, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at La Casa Del Mar, Building 2100, 12th Street aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. This interactive, two-day workshop is designed for teens ages 13-17 to enhance vital life skills, including public speaking, job interview preparation, and personal finance. Participants will practice creating powerful messages, participate in impromptu presentations, and engage in hands-on confidence-building exercises. Lunch will be provided, and reservations are required. [More Info](#)



Outdoor Adventures Surf Lessons

Ready to catch some waves and master the ocean? Join MCCS Outdoor Adventures for Active Duty Surf Lessons on Friday, July 31, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Del Mar Beach & Marina, Building 210841 aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. This free class is designed exclusively for active-duty service members to learn the fundamentals of surfing, build ocean confidence, and enjoy the water in a safe and supportive environment. All necessary gear is provided, making this the perfect opportunity to learn a new skill and connect with fellow service members. Please note that individual registration is required, and no group sign-ups will be accepted. To secure your spot or get more details, email pen.aa@usmc-mccs.org today. [More Info](#)