THE FIGHTING 13TH
Newsletter

Delivered Biweekly

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13TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

13th MEU Demonstrates Simultaneous EAB Capability During Training Underway

Sgt. Martha Linares

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - At one coastal outpost, Marines scan the horizon using radar systems and small unmanned aircraft to track adversarial activity. Miles away at a second location, a forward command element directs tactical operations on the ground while an adjacent fueling site rapidly rearms and refuels aircraft to keep them airborne in support of operations.

Executing a single expeditionary advanced base requires significant planning and coordination but operating two distinct EABs simultaneously represents an advanced capability that showcases the planning capacity, command flexibility, and distributed lethality of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

By establishing a forward sensing site alongside a separate forward command and control element with an adjacent forward arming and refueling point (FARP), the MEU exercised its ability to disperse combat power, decentralize decision-making, and sustain operations without losing the ability to communicate with the operations center located miles away aboard naval ships.



"Connecting the land and sea is where the Marine Corps makes our money," said 1st Lt. Joseph Nameth, a platoon commander assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2/4, 13th MEU.

The first location, a sensing expeditionary advanced base (SEAB), brings together coastal surveillance radars, electronic sensors, and Marines ashore to extend maritime domain awareness, complementing the radars and sensors already at work aboard naval ships off the coast.

When SEAB systems identify surface vessels in nearby sea lanes, small unmanned aircraft system (sUAS) operators launch their platforms to visually identify and track the contacts. Sensor data and imagery are transmitted in real time across the blue-green command network to decision-makers.

"We pull those grids, capture the imagery, and send that critical data directly back to the MEU commander," said Sgt. Javier Guzman Granados, an sUAS operator… Read More



Marines Support F-35B Ops at FARP

U.S. Marines assigned to the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, refuel an F-35B Lightning II aircraft assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 211, 13th MEU, at a forward arming and refueling point during routine training at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, Aug. 23, 2026. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Grace Stover) More Imagery



VIDEO: BLT 2/4 Simulated TRAP Mission

U.S. Marines assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2/4 conduct tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel training as part of routine training off the coast of California, Aug 20, 2026. The 13th MEU and the MKIARG are underway and conducting routine operations in the U.S. 3rd Fleet area of operations to enhance their combined readiness and lethality. Watch Video



LCpl Seminar Aboard Makin Island

A U.S. Marine assigned to 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, stands to receive recognition during a lance corporal leadership and ethics seminar graduation aboard Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) off the coast of California, Aug. 28, 2026. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Christian Cutter) More Imagery

COMMANDER'S CORNER

13th MEU Family and Friends,

The 13th MEU completed several demanding training periods and has forged into a well-trained formation. Our growth into a cohesive, lethal team alongside our U.S. Navy partners is evident across the entire force. True readiness is not just about tactical proficiency, it is also deeply rooted in mental well-being, personal resilience, and strong connections. Take time during this pause to check on your peers, reconnect with your loved ones, and better prepare for any challenges ahead. Thank you to our families and service members for your steadfast dedication to making the Fighting 13th the standard of excellence.

Semper Fi,

Col. Richard Alvarez

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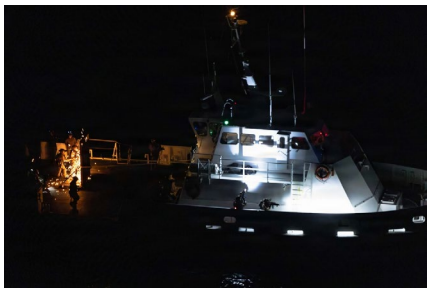
BLT 2/4 Executes Amphibious Assault

U.S. Marines assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2/4, 13th MEU, provide suppressive fire during an amphibious assault at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, Aug. 28, 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. Mary R. Jenni) More Imagery



MRF Conducts Nighttime VBSS Training

U.S. Marines assigned to Maritime Raid Force, 13th MEU, secure a simulated vessel of interest during nighttime non-compliant visit, board, search and seizure training off the coast of California, Aug. 22, 2026. The 13th MEU and the Makin Island ARG 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 Imagery



U.S. Navy Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), center, San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS John P. Murtha (LPD 26), left, and San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS Anchorage (LPD 23), sail in formation during routine training off the coast of California, Aug. 23, 2026. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Mary R. Jenni) More Imagery

UPCOMING EVENTS & RESOURCES

For additional Events & Resources, visit the MCCS Calendar of Events: Camp Pendleton & MCAS Yuma



Camp Pendleton Libraries: Autumn Take Home Kits

Get ready to kick off the fall season with a burst of creativity! The Camp Pendleton Libraries are bringing back their incredibly popular MCCS Autumn Take-Home Craft Kits from Tuesday, September 8, through Friday, September 11, 2026. These free, hands-on craft kits are designed to keep children ages 5 to 12 engaged and celebrating the arrival of autumn. Best of all, they are completely free and available at any Camp Pendleton Library branch during regular operating hours. Supplies are limited and distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, so make sure to drop by early to grab yours! For more details, feel free to reach out to the library team at (760) 725-5104 or email mccspendletonlibrary@usmc-mccs.org. More info

Exceptional Family Member Program: Teen Takeover

Get ready for the ultimate back-to-school reset at the MCCS Teen Takeover on Thursday, September 10, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM! Open to all middle and high school students, this action-packed night at LINKS (Bldg 202860) is dedicated to hanging out, de-stressing, playing games, making cool crafts, and eating great food. It is the perfect opportunity for military teens to bring a friend, meet new peers, and hit the reset button for a fresh start to the new school year. While this incredible event is completely free, space is limited to ensure there is plenty of food and craft supplies for everyone Secure your spot today and reserve your tickets in advance by visiting the Teen Takeover Registration Portal. For any questions, please contact the organizers directly at (760) 763-9634. More Info





Exceptional Family Member Program: Family To Family Connect

Connect, share, and grow with a community that truly understands your journey at the next MCCS EFMP Family to Family Connection event! Hosted on Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the LINKS House (Bldg 202860), this special gathering is designed for EFMP families to network, share practical coping strategies, and build empowering bonds in a supportive, relaxed environment . Navigating the unique rewards and challenges of life with an exceptional family member is easier when you are connected to a community with similar experiences. While the event is completely free to attend, registration is required to save your spot. Come out to meet new friends, swap stories, and strengthen your family's support network. For more information or to register, contact the EFMP team at mccspendletonefmp@usmc.mil or call (760) 725-5363. More info