THE FIGHTING 13TH
Newsletter

Delivered Biweekly

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13TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT



U.S. Marines Get Promoted Aboard USS Makin Island

U.S. Marines assigned to the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, stand at attention after promoting to the rank of Corporal during a promotion ceremony aboard Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), Oct. 1, 2026. The 13th MEU is currently underway aboard the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group in the U.S. 3rd Fleet area of operations demonstrating the United States' long-term commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Martha Linares) View More



The Wake Avengers of VMFA-211 Assemble

A U.S. Marine Corps F-35B Lightning II assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 211, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, prepares to land during carrier qualifications aboard Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), Oct. 1, 2026. The 13th MEU is currently underway aboard the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group in the U.S. 3rd Fleet area of operations demonstrating the United States' long-term commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Fernando Cruz Martinez) View More



BLT 2/4 Marines Maintain Shooting Proficiency Afloat

U.S. Marines assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2/4, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, confirm their battlesight zero during a live-fire range aboard Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), Oct. 3, 2026. The 13th MEU is currently underway aboard the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group in the U.S. 3rd Fleet area of operations demonstrating the United States' long-term commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Grace Stover) View More

COMMANDER'S CORNER

13th MEU Family and Friends,

Reflecting on this year, our formation has dedicated nearly seven months to continuous readiness. Your Fighting 13th conquered increasingly demanding training, successfully executing every MEU mission type with professionalism and ruthless intensity. We mastered shipboard integration during weeks afloat. This extensive preparation leads us directly to where we are today: back at sea executing operations embarked while we sail west. Your Marines and Sailors continue to perform at the highest level, training daily to stay fit, healthy, and ready. Your unshakeable support on the home front has helped drive our success this year, and continues to sustain us now that we are at sea.

Semper Fi,

Col. Richard Alvarez

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13TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT



VMM-364 (Rein.) Purple Foxes Takeoff

A U.S. Marine Corps MV-22B Osprey assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 364 (Reinforced), 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, takes off during deck landing qualifications aboard Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), Oct. 1, 2026. The 13th MEU is currently underway aboard the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group in the U.S. 3rd Fleet area of operations demonstrating the United States' long-term commitment to a free… View More



MRF Executes Hoist Drills

A U.S. Marine assigned to Maritime Raid Force, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, conducts hoist training aboard Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), Oct. 2, 2026. The 13th MEU is currently underway aboard the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group in the U.S. 3rd Fleet area of operations demonstrating the United States' long-term commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Mary R. Jenni) View More



13th MEU Departs San Diego Bay

A U.S. Marine assigned to the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, waves to family and friends while aboard Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), Sept. 28, 2026. The 13th MEU is currently underway aboard the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group in the U.S. 3rd Fleet area of operations demonstrating the United States' long-term commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Mary R. Jenni) View More

WARRIOR HIGHLIGHTS



Congratulations to Sgt. Johnathon Hart, The Fighting 13th Warrior of the Week.

As an 81mm mortar platoon section leader for Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/4, Sgt. Hart operated well above his rank in a staff non-commissioned officer billet, leading over 35 Marines and Sailors, four mortars, and a fire direction center. A native of Strasburg, Colorado, he served as the senior Marine for his platoon aboard the USS John P. Murtha during routine training afloat, while also mentoring his personnel and qualifying 21 Marines in advanced belts under the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

Thank you for all you do, Sgt Hart. Read More



Congratulations to Sgt. Aidan R. Hamlin, The Fighting 13th Warrior of the Week.

As the Data Systems Chief with the Marine Wing Communications Detachment, VMM-364 (Rein.), Sgt. Hamlin distinguished himself through his sheer dedication and technical execution as a System Administrator. He expertly integrated the entirety of the Aviation Combat Element (ACE) onto the afloat network infrastructure, consistently acting as the ultimate subject matter expert. His tireless efforts resolved complex Navy and Marine Corps infrastructure challenges and successfully overcame critical obstacles inherent to afloat environments. Sgt. Hamlin, a native of Guthrie, Oklahoma, proved to be an indispensable asset by re-integrating over 70 workstations onto the afloat image and domain, personally manning over 100 work-hours of helpdesk support, and securing vital wireless capabilities for over 50 end-users. His technical proficiency, proactive troubleshooting, and unwavering dedication ensure the ACE remains connected, lethal, and mission-ready.

Thank you for all you do, Sgt. Hamlin. Read More