

## ➤ 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) Anti-Terrorism (AT)

### DISCUSSION

The September 2001 terrorist attacks highlighted the kind of asymmetric warfare – warfare in which civilians and military personnel are targeted in areas that had previously been considered “secure” – that the United States faces for the indefinite future. Countering the terrorist threat will require a mix of capabilities that allow the Marine Corps, as part of America’s joint military response, to prevail on both traditional and non-traditional battlefields.

In the immediate aftermath of 11 September, the Marine Corps reactivated the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) as an anti-terrorism organization within Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic. The mission of the 4th MEB (AT) is to provide unified combatant commanders with rapidly deployable and sustainable specialized forces to deter, detect, and defend designated facilities against terrorism; and conduct initial incident response in the event of chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear terrorist attacks worldwide.

The 4th MEB (AT) is organized around the Marine Corps Security Force Battalion; the Marine Security Guard Battalion; the Chemical, Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF); and an Anti-Terrorism Battalion. The Marine Corps Security Force Battalion provides armed, anti-terrorism and physical security trained personnel to guard key naval installations or units that are vital to national security and require the kind of armed protection that the Marine Corps can provide. In addition to providing security for fixed installations, the Security Force Battalion maintains two Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team (FAST) companies. These

companies deploy FAST Platoons to support regional naval component commanders as part of the FAST Deployment Program (FDP). Two FAST Alert Platoons are also maintained in CONUS for worldwide deployment in a contingency, as directed by the Commander, Joint Forces Command.



For its part, the Anti-Terrorism Battalion has deployed forces in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. A task force from this battalion played a key role in providing security for the reopened U.S. embassy in Kabul in late 2001. This unit also performs other functions as directed by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

### MARINE CORPS POSITION

The 2001 terrorist attacks demonstrated the reality of 21st century conflict – terrorists or other enemies will attempt to strike against U.S. citizens, interests, and forces anywhere in the world they can. The 4th MEB (AT) provides combatant commanders with unique, proactive capabilities that help them defend against unconventional threats and reduce their vulnerability