

THE CONTINENTAL

# MARINE

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF MARINE FORCES RESERVE

## EARNING THE TITLE

*MARINE MEDICALLY  
DISCHARGED FROM  
BOOT CAMP RETURNS  
FOR ROUND TWO*

*JUMP AND DIVE WITH  
FORCE RECON*

## UNIT PROFILE

*Marine Medium  
Helicopter Squadron 774*



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## FROM THE EDITOR

This edition of The Continental Marine takes a look at how Marines and Sailors overcome obstacles to achieve great things.

We tell the story of one corpsman stationed with the Chemical, Biological Incident Response Force, the Marine Forces North unit in Maryland, who pushes himself to the physical limit to benefit his brothers and sisters who have been wounded in action.

And we take a look at America's Operational Reserve: 4th Reconnaissance Marines sharpening the spear; 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, as they prepare for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan; a unit profile on Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 774 out of Naval Air Station Norfolk, Va.; and a feature written by the commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 25th Marines that provides some eye-opening information from the commander's point of view.

There's also some useful information about the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program and Reserve dental benefits.

Enjoy this spring edition of The Continental Marine, and make use of the information inside.

# MARINES MAY BE ENTITLED TO JP MORGAN SETTLEMENTS

Recently, the five year legal struggle between Capt. Jonathan Rowles and JP Morgan Chase came to a close, with victory in favor of the Marine. However, even though the battle was won, there are still wounds to be healed. Have you been affected?

In 2006, Rowles filed a lawsuit on behalf of thousands of active duty service members under the Service Members Civil Relief Act, otherwise known as the SCRA, to protect his home from an illegal foreclosure. The conclusion of this case resulted in the identification of a potential violation of the SCRA by JP Morgan Chase, in which they either erroneously foreclosed on or overcharged approximately 4,000 service members paying mortgages.

SCRA is formerly known as the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act. Its origins can be traced as far back as the Civil War, when Congress passed a total moratorium on civil actions brought against Union soldiers and sailors. It ensured that any legal action involving a civil matter was put on hold until after the soldier or sailor returned from the war. Examples of civil matters included breach of contract, bankruptcy, foreclosure or divorce proceedings.

JP Morgan Chase is acknowledging responsibility and is looking to refund the affected service members.

If you feel you have been affected, in anyway, by this situation contact JP Morgan Chase: 1-877-469-0110

Additional information regarding this story is available at the following links:

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/torrey-shannon/jp-morganchase-accidental\\_b\\_810785.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/torrey-shannon/jp-morganchase-accidental_b_810785.html)

<http://www.npr.org/2011/01/19/133036957/bank-overcharged-military-families-on-mortgages>

Additional information about SCRA and other legal rights pertaining to service members is available at the following link:

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/MOS/FindInformation/Category/Topic/Issue/Material.aspx?MaterialID=15924&MaterialTypeID=9>

# RESERVE FORCES AROUND THE WORLD



## EMERALD WARRIOR

### EMERALD WARRIOR

Emerald Warrior was an exercise from Feb. 28 to March 11 with an irregular warfare scenario including special operations forces, general purpose forces, interagency, and non-governmental agencies. Approximately 65 Marines from 4th Marine Aircraft Wing provided rotary wing close air support and assault support, KC-130 support, and air control support.

## SOUTHCOM SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM

### SOUTHCOM SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM

A rotational force of approximately 20 Marines conducted security cooperation events throughout the Southern Command area of responsibility. Current deployment began in April 2010 and will be relieved April 2011.

### AFRICOM SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM

A rotational force of approximately 15 Marines conducted security cooperation events throughout the African Command area of responsibility. Current deployment began in June 2010 and will be relieved in June 2011.

## BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE

Black Sea Rotational Force 11 is a Marine Forces Europe sponsored security cooperation task force in Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, and Georgia conducting various security cooperation events from April through August. Approximately 175 Marines from throughout Marine Forces Reserve major subordinate commands, headquartered by elements of 4th Tank Battalion, activated and began predeployment training at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., in January.

### BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE



### OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM



### LF CARAT



### CENTCOM SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM

### AFRICOM SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM

### KEY RESOLVE

### COBRA GOLD

### LONG HAUL COMMUNICATIONS DETACHMENT

### OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

Marine Forces Reserve units continue to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

### CENTCOM SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM

A rotational force of approximately 20 Marines conducted security cooperation events throughout the Central Command area of responsibility. Current deployment began in July 2010 and will be relieved in July 2011.

### LONG HAUL COMMUNICATIONS DETACHMENT

Approximately five Marines from 4th Marine Logistics Group provided a rotational communications detachment in support of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa in Djibouti.

### LF CARAT

Approximately 280 mobilized Marines formed an infantry company and Assault Amphibian Vehicle platoon, from 23rd Marine Regiment and 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, to conduct theater security cooperation and amphibious training with various partner nations in the Pacific Command area of responsibility. Activation and predeployment training occurred during January through February at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Okinawa, Japan. The landing force got underway in March and will conclude in August, when the landing force will visit and train with military forces from Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia. The deployment will conclude with training from the Republic of Korea Marine Corps in the Korean Integrated Training Program.

### KEY RESOLVE

Approximately 65 Marine Forces Reserve personnel including augments from the Air Command and Control Team and 4th Marine Logistics Group provided support to the Operational Logistics Cell for exercise Key Resolve 2011 in and around Korea.

### COBRA GOLD

Approximately 65 Marines from 4th Marine Aircraft Wing provided a KC-130 detachment and air control support for exercise Cobra Gold in Thailand from February 16-26.

## GET SOME

Story and photos by Cpl. Tyler Hlavac



Petty Officer Third Class Travis Haley, a hospital corpsman with Chemical Biological Incident Response Force, Marine Forces North, stretches out after completing the annual Marine Corps Marathon Oct. 31. The marathon is one of several Haley has been running to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project.





# THE MARATHON MAN

## **CORPSMAN RUNS MARATHONS TO RAISE MONEY FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS**

**QUANTICO, Va.** – To say Petty Officer Third Class Travis Haley loves running could be an understatement.

Haley, a corpsman with the Maryland-based Chemical Biological Incident Response Force, Marine Forces North is a distance runner who put his abilities to the test in an effort to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project.

While the idea of service members running marathons for charity is not uncommon, Haley pushed the idea even farther with the goal of running five 26.2-mile marathons and one 50-mile ultra marathon in the span of less than two months, a goal he began Oct. 2 and finished with an ultra marathon Nov. 20.

Growing up in Marshfield,

Wis., Haley wasn't born a runner; his first love was baseball. Haley played baseball throughout high school and college and never considered joining the track team. Later, Haley went to work as a roofer, a job that constantly had him on the road traveling from job to job. Without a regular team to play with and baseball equipment being too much of a hassle to constantly load up and transport, Haley took to running as the easiest way to stay fit.

"The easiest way for me to stay in shape was by running," he said. "To run, all you need is a pair of shoes. Running made me feel less cramped in places and was a good way for me to get outdoors. It was a great way to take in whatever city I was currently in."

Even though baseball was now behind him, Haley still had a competitive spirit with him. This spirit naturally led him to wanting to run faster, with the goal of completing his first marathon.

"I originally only wanted to run one marathon and that was it," he said. "My goal was never to run multiple marathons."

Haley, 30, ran his first half marathon in 2003 at 23, which Haley describes as "testing the waters." The very next year, Haley ran his first full marathon and left the goal of only running one

marathon completely behind him. Haley was now hooked on running marathons and began training for bigger and more prominent challenges, such as the Boston Marathon.

"I've always enjoyed the challenge of running. You never get to a point where you can't get any better," said Haley, who now sees marathons as progressively harder ways of challenging his mental and physical abilities. "I like running, I'm just real bad at stopping."

Petty Officer Second Class Bryan Brockmeier, also a hospital corpsman with CBIRF, elaborated on Haley's love of marathons and running.

"When he talks to me about these marathons, he says they are almost addicting to run," he said. "I personally don't think running 26 miles is fun, but for him it is."

After completing his first couple of marathons, Haley began to entertain the notion of running a marathon for charity. After turning 30, Haley decided the time was right to put his plan into motion.

"I always wanted to do something special, and I couldn't think of anything more valuable than raising money for Wounded Warriors. I had just turned 30 and also felt I was now prepared for an ultra marathon, it felt like the stars had aligned and the perfect time

# MARATHON MAN

was now.”

Haley began a disciplined regimen to prepare for his upcoming challenge of five marathons and one ultra marathon. Prior to marathon training, Haley was simply running 20-25 miles a week on average. Now, Tuesdays and Thursdays were distance runs of eight and six miles respectively, Wednesdays were sprint days and Saturdays and Sundays were timed runs two to three hours long.

Haley ran his first of five marathons Oct. 2 in West Virginia and completed his fifth marathon Oct. 31, which also happened to be the Marine Corps Marathon.

Haley said running in the marathon with Marines motivated him to push himself harder than he normally does and he found himself feeling the effects around mile 19 of the 26.2-mile marathon.

“Around mile 19, I slammed some [sports drink] and everything hurt, more than the other marathons. My pride got the better of me,” Haley said, as he recalls the memory of pain and provides himself a simple explanation and reason to shrug it off.

“It was the Marine Corps Marathon. My pride was involved.”

Shrugging off the pain is something Haley is particularly good at. Haley himself says he is not the fastest runner on the block, clocking in at 19 minutes and 42 seconds on a three mile run, but Haley is a distance runner and enjoys the challenge of pushing and battling his own limitations, mile by mile. The miles have taken a toll on him, but any questions regarding his physical welfare receive casual, off-hand comments from Haley.

“The runs have taken a toll on me,” Haley said in a no-big-deal manner while sipping on water after the Marine Corps Marathon. He goes home after a race and tries not to lie down because he probably wouldn’t get up again, he said. He has been living on a steady flow of pain killers and ice, and he is now down to seven toe nails.

But for Haley, his physical ailments are just merely the price he has to pay to accomplish a goal important to himself.

Driving Haley during these marathons

has been his goal of raising money for the Wounded Warrior Project, something he feels very passionately about.

“I chose to run all these marathons to gain people’s attention. Veterans are very important to me. I have friends and family in all branches of the military. Nothing is more heartbreaking for me than to hear about a returning veteran suffering from some sort of mental or physical injury and then receive neglect from their government or community.”

Brockmeier said that raising money for Wounded Warriors has been Haley’s number one focus instead of any sort of praise or attention.

“He doesn’t do these things to get credit for himself. He doesn’t brag. From day one he was always talking with me about raising money and running for charity, and then he started adding more races once he found one. We all think he’s crazy for running all these marathons, but everyone in our command supports him.”

RESERVE

# DENTAL BENEFITS



## RESERVE SERVICEMEMBERS

- ▲ You will qualify for the Active Duty Dental Program when you are activated for more than 30 consecutive days (under Federal orders), and:
  - ▲ You are referred for dental care from a military dental treatment facility.
  - ▲ Live and work in a remote location while on active duty.
  - ▲ You may qualify up to 180 days before you go on active duty if you receive delayed-effective-date orders. Additionally, you may qualify when you are no longer on active duty only if the dental care needed is related to a line of duty injury (official documentation required).
- ▲ Note: If you are covered by the Transitional Assistance Management Program, you are not eligible for the Active Duty Dental Program
- ▲ Your dental coverage is based on your military status. When not on active duty orders, you may enroll in the TRICARE Dental Program, and when activated, you're eligible for active duty dental benefits.
- ▲ Not Activated: TRICARE Dental Program
- ▲ When you are not on active duty, you and your family members are eligible for the premium-based TRICARE Dental Program. The TRICARE Dental Program requires a 12-month minimum enrollment period, so you must have 12 months remaining on your service commitment to enroll. You can enroll at anytime and you will pay monthly premiums based on your military status.
- ▲ If your family members wish to enroll in the TRICARE Dental Program, they can at anytime. They will also pay monthly premiums, but their enrollment will be separate from yours. This way, if and when you are called to active duty, your family members' enrollment in the TRICARE Dental Program continues without interruption. However, due to new circumstances your enrollment will change.

visit [www.tricare dental program.com](http://www.tricare dental program.com)

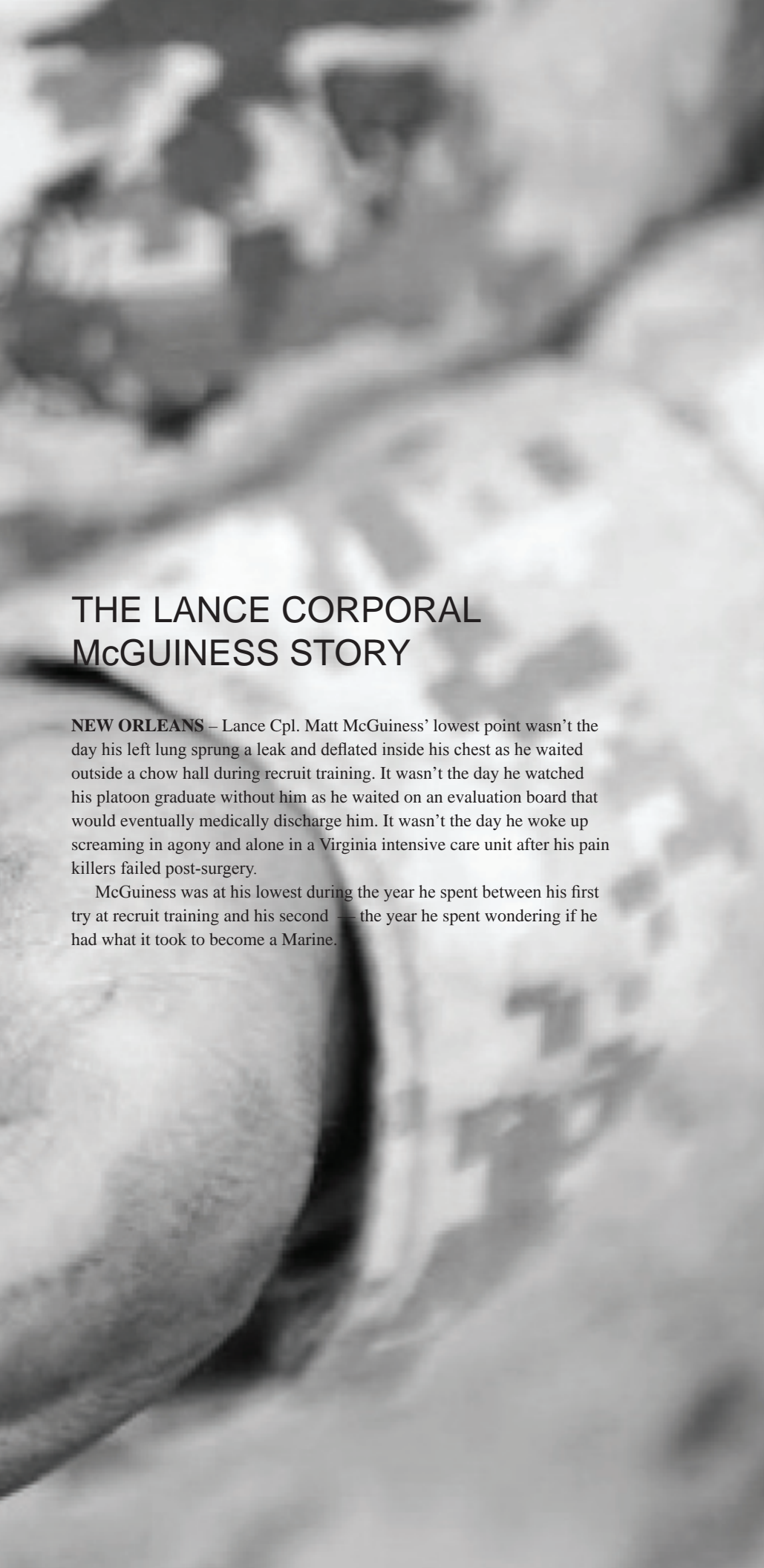
Story by Cpl. Jad Sleiman

"MARINES..."

EARNED

NEVER GIVEN





## THE LANCE CORPORAL McGUINNESS STORY

**NEW ORLEANS** – Lance Cpl. Matt McGuinness’ lowest point wasn’t the day his left lung sprung a leak and deflated inside his chest as he waited outside a chow hall during recruit training. It wasn’t the day he watched his platoon graduate without him as he waited on an evaluation board that would eventually medically discharge him. It wasn’t the day he woke up screaming in agony and alone in a Virginia intensive care unit after his pain killers failed post-surgery.

McGuinness was at his lowest during the year he spent between his first try at recruit training and his second — the year he spent wondering if he had what it took to become a Marine.

“He grew up always hearing, ‘If you want to be the best, join the Corps.’”

*-Tom McGuinness*

Newly minted Pfc. Matt McGuinness holds the battalion guidon during his recruit graduation ceremony at Marine Corps Recruit Training Depot, Parris Island, S.C., Jan. 15, 2010. (Photo courtesy of Tom McGuinness)



“I felt a pop in my chest, and I hunched over in pain and just tried to stand up.”

-Lance Cpl. Matt McGuinness

The Chesapeake, Va., native had been fascinated by the military his whole life. Both of his parents are Navy veterans and his family tree, heavy with sailors and Marines, reads like a ship’s roster.

“He grew up around military,” said his father, Tom, the chief of police aboard Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va. “He grew up always hearing, ‘If you want to be the best, join the Corps.’”

His uncle, a former leatherneck who passed away when McGuinness was a boy, provided most of the inspiration that pushed him towards the Marines.

“I admired his professionalism and his day-to-day efficiency,” explained McGuinness. “When he died of cancer, it just made me want it even more.”

It was no surprise to friends and family when, during his freshman year of high school, McGuinness first began showing interest in the Marines.

“He went through four years of junior ROTC (reserve officer training corps) in high school,” remembered Tom. “He went to every training thing he could go to, went to the recruiter’s office every day he could get away with it.”

When the day finally came for McGuinness to ride into Marine Corps Recruit Training Depot Parris Island, S.C., in the summer of 2008, he was worried about the same types of things most recruits fretted over.

“Am I going to make it? How hard will it be? How will I handle the stress?” he recalled.

As he ran and screamed with the other recruits still wearing their civilian khakis and collared shirts, he had no idea he had blisters on both his lungs that would soon rupture without warning.

“There’s no way to medically understand it or to medically find it until it happens,” said Tom. “You had a six-foot kid who could run circles around anything.”

The fateful moment came well into McGuinness’ first phase of recruit training as he waited in line for chow.

“I felt a pop in my chest, and I hunched over in pain and just tried to stand up,” said McGuinness. “I tried to make it look like I was all right so I wouldn’t go to medical.”

For one hellish week, through punishing physical training and constant screaming,

McGuinness tried to make it look like he was all right. But he wasn't.

A blister on his left lung had popped, leaving a hole in the lung's wall. As he breathed in, air escaped through the hole and built up pressure around his lung, flattening it inside his body.

"Any movement you make is just ridiculous because your lung is no longer attached to your chest and it just bounces around," said McGuinness. "When you walk, when you stretch, when you lie down, you just feel it."

Even so, McGuinness said he was determined not to give up despite the fact that he had no way of knowing what was really wrong.

"I thought I pulled a muscle or cracked a rib or something. It felt more or less like someone stabbing you and twisting that knife constantly," he said.

His father said he somewhat understood his son's stubborn refusal to quit.

"Well, like any good Marine he tried to hide it," he laughed. "It's guess it's kind of hard to hide losing a lung though."

It was the gas mask training that finally ended McGuinness' punishing charade. As he choked in the chamber, his chest exploded with searing pain.

"I was coughing really bad and I kind of freaked out and started hitting the wall," he said.

His drill instructors, who were already suspicious something was wrong, got him out of the chamber and ordered him to head to medical the next day.

It was there, after a series of X-rays, that McGuinness realized a medical discharge was almost certain.

After a couple of short stints at Beaufort, S.C., area hospitals where his lung was stabilized, McGuinness was placed in a special platoon where recruits awaited a medical board's ruling on whether or not they were fit to serve.

While he waited there he watched his platoon march across the parade deck during what was supposed to be his graduation. They had become Marines. He would soon become a civilian.

"The medical discharge was one of the worst things that ever happened to him because all he ever wanted to be was a

Marine. He felt like he failed his family and his Corps," said Tom.

McGuinness discussed treatment options with his father during the months he spent awaiting discharge. As soon as he got out, the pair went to work.

The two met Cmdr. Robert Strange, one of the Navy's leading cardiothoracic surgeons, at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth.

"The problem you have with spontaneous pneumothorax (McGuinness' condition) is a 30 percent chance of it happening again and after a second episode you have a 60 percent chance of it happening again," explained Strange. The Marine Corps required McGuinness to wait three to five years before trying to enlist again in case his lungs developed more problems. With Strange's help, however, that wait could be reduced to just one year.

"I told him I don't want them just re-inflated, I want to be able to join," said McGuinness. "Dr. Strange just hooked me up."

McGuinness would need two operations, one for each lung. First, surgeons would have to remove and staple the blisters on both lungs using video-scopic surgical tools.

Then, in order to make sure the lungs remained strong, Strange had to "mechanically abrade" McGuinness' chest walls so that they would swell and stick directly to the lungs. That way, explained Strange, any future ruptures in the lung tissue wouldn't be able to form a hole and deflate the lungs.

The procedure, said Strange, can be very painful.

"The best medication to stop this pain is an anti-inflammatory drug but if you give that you stop the process you want," he explained. "We weren't able to give him the anti-inflammatory drugs to take the pain away."

Even with the pain killers McGuinness was allowed, the weeks he spent recovering were some of the most painful of his life.

"You gotta breathe, it's a natural process – if you don't breathe you die," said McGuinness. "My problem was my lungs were just on fire."

It was the gas mask training that finally ended McGuinness' punishing charade. As he choked in the chamber, his chest exploded with searing pain.

Tom remembers watching over his son during those long weeks.

"I've never seen my kid in more pain in my life," he said. "It broke my heart."

After the first lung had healed, McGuinness went through the whole process again for the other lung.

The pain killers, whose exact effects on the body couldn't be fully predicted, ended up numbing the wrong side of his body.

"I woke up in the intensive care unit, screamed and then passed back out," he said, adding he could remember the feeling of the four separate tubes that stayed in his chest during his weeks-long hospital stays. "I had to go back [to training]; all I thought about was going back."

Looking back on the operations, Strange said he was impressed by his patient's resilience.

"He was willing to do all that just to go into the Marines and not have to wait," he said.

Back on his feet after the surgeries, McGuinness, once a model example of physical fitness, found his body in shambles.

"By that time my run time was disgusting, my endurance was bad," he said. "It tears muscles when they do the surgery and it kind of destroys the abs."

It was during this year back in the civilian world that McGuinness doubted himself the most. Others would tell him his body had failed him, but he felt in his heart he had no

excuses for what he considered to be his own personal failure.

He went back to the recruiter's office, back to the training functions and back to the gym. For eight months McGuinness worked to regain the body he once had.

In October of 2009, it was time to be Recruit McGuinness all over again.

"I did Navy and my wife did Navy. You'd have to pay me an awful lot of money to go back to boot camp, and this kid went back voluntarily and started on day one," said Tom. "He needs a psych evaluation."

It took "waiver, after waiver, after waiver," to finally get him in because of his complex medical history, said Tom, but his son wouldn't take no for an answer.

During Parris Island round one, McGuinness was up late talking excitedly with the other recruits. On the bus ride onto the depot he was wide eyed with nervous anticipation.

During round two, he knew better.

"I just fell asleep," he said, explaining that he remembered the sleepless, hectic nights he faced during his first week on the island over a year ago. "I already knew what to expect."

McGuinness' drill instructors knew it was his second time trying recruit training and pushed him a little harder than the first-timers around him.

"Physically, I think I was more ready, but mentally, I wasn't," said McGuinness. "I still had that doubt,

'Am I going to make it?'"

The new Recruit McGuinness made squad leader. Later, he was promoted to guide.

His self-confidence increased as training wore on, he said, until the day he finally made it back from the grueling three-day field exercise known as The Crucible, the final test of recruit training, and claimed his metal Eagle, Globe and Anchor.

"It was just pure happiness," he said, adding that he had trouble actually believing he'd finally made it. "I just started bawling."

He finally became a Marine in January, two years after he first set foot on the yellow foot prints at Parris Island.

"I saw my sons being born, but the day I saw Matthew holding the battalion guidon during graduation, nothing prepared me for that," recalled Tom. "I've never cried like that."

McGuinness went on to become Lance Cpl. McGuinness, an amphibious assault vehicle crew member with 4th Amphibian Assault Battalion, 4th Marine Division based in Little Creek, Va.

The pain, the fear, the waiting, the shame, the doubt—it was all worth it, he said.

A common recruiting slogan emblazoned across billboards and buses, "Marines – Earned. Never Given." For McGuinness, who overcame far more than just screaming drill instructors and long marches, it's a slogan that held true.

***McGuinness went on to become Lance Cpl. McGuinness, an amphibious assault vehicle crew member with 4th Amphibian Assault Battalion, 4th Marine Division based in Little Creek, Va.***

**" 'MARINES...' – EARNED. NEVER GIVEN."**



# MARINES BRING BIG GUNS TO BIG GAME

*Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Fenton Reese*

DALLAS— A small, wide-eyed child stares at the massive machine. He climbs, touches, and examines every inch of the armored monster in front of him. Then, just as his mother calls him away as if there is

nothing left to see, a Marine steps forward. “Would you like to get in?” he asks.

The boy’s face lit with excitement. He turned to his mother for approval and he was answered with a smile.

That Marine was Sgt. Ray Goodly of Battery F, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment.

Marines of 2nd and 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine

Regiment showcased a small collection of weaponry and the latest in combat transportation at the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl featuring the Southern Methodist University Mustangs vs. Army, Dec. 30, 2010.

“It’s a good chance to talk to the people, up close and personal, about the weapons and military and explain the real deal instead of what is shown on TV,” said Goodly.

The collection was convoyed from Fort Sill, Okla., and Fort Worth, Texas.

Goodly displayed the High Mobility Artillery Rocket system, also known as the “HIMARS.” Children and adults were allowed to get in the vehicle and ask questions about its functions.

Then the crowd moved to the marquee piece of the displays, the M777A2 155mm Howitzer, or the “Big Gun,” as it was commonly referred to by the audience.

Cpl. Jeshar Ballon of 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment was also in attendance. He stood in front of the MK 25 or better known as the “7-ton.”

“Everybody is friendly,” said Ballon. “These types of events are good for servicemembers.”

It’s great, as well as, important for servicemembers and the community to have opportunities like this to build strong and understanding relationships, he said.

A crowd gathers to learn about the M777A2 155mm Howitzer during the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl, Dec. 30, 2010.

Lance Cpl. Fenton Reese



# TARGETING SEXUAL ASSAULT

**NEW ORLEANS** – Despite suspected underreporting, sexual assault is more common in the military than it is among the civilian population. Family Violence Prevention Fund statistics say that two for every 1,000 service members, versus 1.8 per 1,000 civilian women and one per 1,000 civilian men encounter sexual assault.

Sexual assault is a serious issue that has plagued the military for ages, said Peggy Cuevas, program manager of the Marine Forces Reserve Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program. Due to victims’ reluctance to seek help, many emotional and sometimes physical wounds remain open and many of the offenders remain free and unpunished, she said.

SAPR is a resource for military members who have been victims of sexual assault. Through the SAPR program, Marines can receive advocacy services, referral services, information on reporting and the legal process, and education on prevention and response to sexual assault.

What separates MARFORRES and other bases’ SAPR program is, while other bases have an individual program office dedicated to the affairs of that specific installation, MARFORRES SAPR provides support to many different installations across the country.

“Regardless of the situation, no matter when or where, we will still be there to provide service,” said Cuevas.

Cuevas is the first in her specific position at MARFORRES.

“The program was more of a response team rather than an education and prevention program,” said Cuevas. “That’s where I came in.”

She implemented a 24-hour crisis hotline allowing Marines with any sexual assault incident, whether victim or witness, to have someone at their side at all time.

MARFORRES’ SAPR program provides services to more than 180 sites throughout the nation. Being in charge of such a large area is challenging and requires constant oversight. The SAPR program has approximately 300 Uniformed Victim Advocates throughout the

2

OUT OF EVERY 1,000 SERVICE MEMBERS ENCOUNTER SEXUAL ASSAULT

(estimated)

60

PERCENT OR MORE OF MARINES, MALE AND FEMALE, THAT HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED, DO NOT REPORT THEIR INCIDENT EITHER OUT OF FEAR OR SHAME, OR DO NOT KNOW HOW TO REPORT

300

THE NUMBER OF UNIFORMED VICTIM ADVOCATES MFR SAPR HAS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES

1-877-432-2215

United States who must stay up to date on the local programs offered in the civilian world surrounding their location. Developing a resource list for other Marine installation's SAPR programs may just involve developing contacts and compiling the resources for that single location; however, the MARFORRES SAPR program must know this information for all sites, she said.

In light of this, Cuevas also implemented a new structure of personnel for maximum efficiency in response, availability and effectiveness.

At the top of the chain of command, she sits as the program manager, coordinating and overseeing all program operations at MARFORRES Headquarters, located in New Orleans.

Next down in the ranks are four sexual assault response coordinators located in house as the second line of help just beyond the UVAs.

The SARCs provide advice and supervision to the UVAs, as well as providing integrated and transparent response capability within the commands.

Then there are the Uniformed Victims Advocates. The UVAs are individuals who work directly with the victims. They are the link between the victim and the program. Their pictures are posted throughout the Marine Corps halls with contact information and availability. However, even in this fortified support system there are challenges.

"Our UVAs, who staff our crisis line from New Orleans, are required to utilize their crisis intervention skills over the phone and then refer the victim to the local UVA," said Cuevas.

"The challenge here comes from determining the victim's location. Often our Reservists do not live near an installation or their Reserve site. When a victim contacts our crisis line, we refer the victim to the UVA located nearest them. This is a team effort and we are committed to providing services to all Marines that contact our crisis line," she said.

What was once an underutilized program has become a valuable and growing resource here at MARFORRES, she said.

An estimated 60 percent or more of Marines, male and female, that have been sexually assaulted, do not report their incident either out of fear or shame, or do not know how to report.

The SAPR program is every Marine's safety net.

"Hurts One, Affects All. Preventing Sexual Assault is Everyone's Duty. Marines Always Take a Stand," said Cuevas, as she explained the program's theme for 2011 and beyond.

## UNRESTRICTED REPORTING

- ▲ With unrestricted reporting, the assault must be reported to the command and to law enforcement for investigation.
- ▲ SAPR Uniformed Victim Advocates, Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and health care providers are available to provide information on the victim's legal rights regarding restricted reporting.
- ▲ Only military chaplains and designated SAPR program members can legally maintain confidentiality.
- ▲ Victims may forfeit their rights to use restricted reporting by talking to someone other than those designated.

## RESTRICTED REPORTING

- ▲ Restricted reporting gives a victim time and opportunity to get information and professional advice about their rights and available services, so they can make informed decisions. Often victims initially choose the restricted reporting option and later decide they want the chain of command notified so the offender can be held accountable.
- ▲ The victim can elect to change a restricted report to an unrestricted report, but an unrestricted report cannot be later changed to a restricted report.
- ▲ Call the local UVA or crisis line anonymously to learn more about restricted reporting.
- ▲ The option to make a restricted report is available to active duty Marines and Reserve Marines while performing a federal duty.
- ▲ Under the restricted reporting option, adult victims may speak to a health care professional at a military medical facility. But it is important that you be direct and asks up front about restricted reporting. The health care provider will provide needed medical care and get them in touch with a UVA.

## If you think you may have been sexually assaulted:

- ▲ Go to a safe location away from the attacker.
- ▲ Call the 24/7 crisis line 1-877-432-2215. This will provide information, immediate help and contact with your local UVA.
- ▲ You may also contact your chain of command or military or civilian law enforcement. However, if you do, an investigation will occur and you will not have the option of making a restricted report. The exception to this is the state of California, where all military and civilian officials are obligated to report sexual assaults to civilian authorities.
- ▲ Seek medical care as soon as possible. Even if you do not have any visible physical injuries, you may be at risk of becoming pregnant or acquiring a sexually transmitted disease.
- ▲ Ask the health care provider to conduct a sexual assault forensic examination to preserve forensic evidence. If you suspect you had been drugged, request a urine sample be collected. Preserve all evidence of the assault.
- ▲ Do not bathe, wash your hands or brush your teeth. Do not clean or straighten up the crime scene.

# RIFLE COMBAT OPTIC

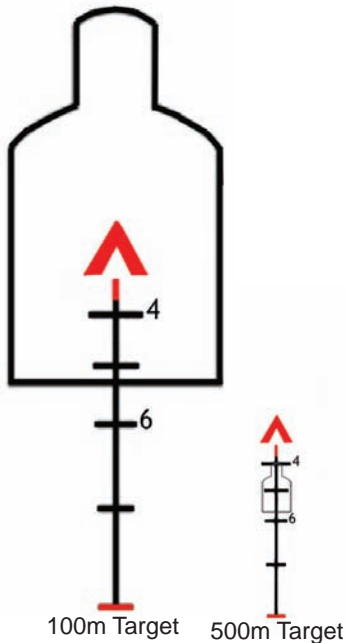
## SINGLE PURPOSE:

To provide increased hit potential in all lighting conditions – without failure-prone batteries.

The TA31RCO is an Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight designed for the M16/M4 weapon system (14.5 barrel). It provides the shooter with quick target acquisition at close combat ranges while providing enhanced target identification and hit probability out to 800 meters utilizing the Bullet Drop Compensator. The TA31RCO incorporates dual-illumination technology using a combination of fiber optics and

self-luminous tritium. This allows the aiming point to be always illuminated without the use of batteries. The Tritium illuminates the aiming point in total darkness, and the fiber-optic self-adjusts reticle brightness during daylight according to ambient light conditions. This allows the operator to keep both eyes open while engaging targets and maintaining maximum situational awareness.

Points of Impact



100m Target 500m Target

<b>Magnification</b>	4x
<b>Objective Size</b>	32
<b>Length (In)</b>	5.8
<b>Weight (oz)</b>	9.9
<b>Illumination Source</b>	Fiber Optics & Tritium
<b>Day Reticle Color</b>	Red
<b>Night Reticle Color</b>	Red
<b>Field of View</b>	7 degrees
<b>Field of View at 100 yards</b>	36.8 feet
<b>Adjustment at 100 yards</b>	2 clicks per inch



for more info visit:  
[www.trijicon.com](http://www.trijicon.com)



## TIPS

- ▲ Your boot camp shooting fundamentals still apply.
- ▲ Use a coin or round to adjust sights.
- ▲ Slap the sights after every adjustment – literally.



Force reconnaissance Marines with 4th Force Reconnaissance Company sprint into the water with their F470 Combat Rubber Raiding Crafts in preparation for hydrographic reconnaissance training at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows in Waimanalo, Hawaii, Jan. 13.



Cpl. Jonathon Schanep and Sgt. Daniel Kahn, force reconnaissance Marines with 4th Force Reconnaissance Company, scout a beachfront during hydrographic reconnaissance training at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows in Waimanalo, Hawaii, Jan. 13.

# POLISHING PERISHABLE SKILLS

*Story and photos By Lance Cpl. Reece E. Lodder  
Marine Corps Base Hawaii*

## 4TH FORCE RECON MARINES TRAIN TO INCREASE PROFICIENCY

**MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS**, Hawaii — The gentle whirr of F470 Combat Rubber Raiding Craft motors cuts through the wind as they move across the unsettled waters off Oahu’s coast. Relentless rains have turned the water a murky gray, yet its emerald glow slowly reappears as the sun breaks through the clouds.

Lying huddled on the sides of the black crafts, stern-faced teams of hardened force reconnaissance Marines with 4th Force Reconnaissance Company prepare to slink into the water for hydrographic reconnaissance training at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows in Waimanalo, Hawaii, Jan. 13.

The craft — better known as “Zodiacs” — will speed force recon Marines from the sea to survey the beach, map its gradient, and develop an underwater grid of depth and bottom composition.

“We are the tool our generals use to determine the geographical makeup of the land,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Mike Weissman, a hospital corpsman with 2nd Platoon, 4th Force. “Before he makes the decision to execute a mission, the beach’s gradient has to be surveyed. We come in clandestinely at night and make an underwater map of the beach for him.”

Following a real-life mission, the data they collect — such as

the size and frequency of wave crests, sediment type and slope of the beach — allows commanders to determine what type of landing and vehicles the beach’s composite supports, said Weissman, from Las Vegas.

The hydrographic reconnaissance was part of a week-long jump and dive training package that brought the unit, headquartered in Alameda, Calif., together with their Hawaii-based counterparts — 4th Force’s 4th Platoon.

“Both jumping and diving are two of our primary insertion methods for deep reconnaissance and exfiltration,” said Sgt. Barry Lemons, combatant dive chief, 4th Force.

The Tampa, Fla., native called them “perishable skills” that the Marines must execute often to remain proficient. Additionally, he said, the training fulfills qualification requirements based on the recon military occupational specialty and the unit’s mission capabilities.

During the training block, 11 divers from 4th Force conducted more than 70 dives, Lemons said.

In addition to the combatant diver missions, the force recon Marines performed static line and free fall jumps, scout swimmer techniques, “over the horizon” navigational techniques and training,

### Lance Cpl. Reece E. Lodder

and coxswain skill training.

“Teamwork can’t be built if the situation is always comfortable,” said Cpl. Jonathon Schanep, a force recon Marine with 2nd Platoon, 4th Force. “Everyone has a plan until pain or problems are introduced. Recon Marines have to be able to drive on through without throwing everything into the wind.”

Before getting onto the Zodiacs, the force recon Marines divide responsibilities and billets, all of which they are trained to perform.

“In any mission, we need to know the job above and below us so we can take over in case a man or craft goes down,” said Schanep, from Livermore, Calif. “It’s much easier to do a job with two people, but sometimes we have to do it with less. We have to be able to adapt and overcome.”

In preparation for their mission, they practice dry runs until they are ready, simulating exiting the Zodiacs and maintaining the proper formation. Swiftly and silently, the force recon Marines pick up the Zodiacs, bring them into the water and board, donning fins and scuba masks. Once they are half a mile out, the coxswains idle the craft. Amidst the gentle rocking, the men slide into the water. Their visibility is clear for now, but they will soon conduct the mission under the cover of darkness.

“The more we practice the mission, the better we’re going to get,” Schanep said.

“We’re practicing during the day so it will run smoothly at night.

It’s a lot harder to fix things when you can’t see them.”

With piercing eyes and intensity to match, scout swimmers creep onto the shore, low-crawling through the golden sand with their weapons at the ready.

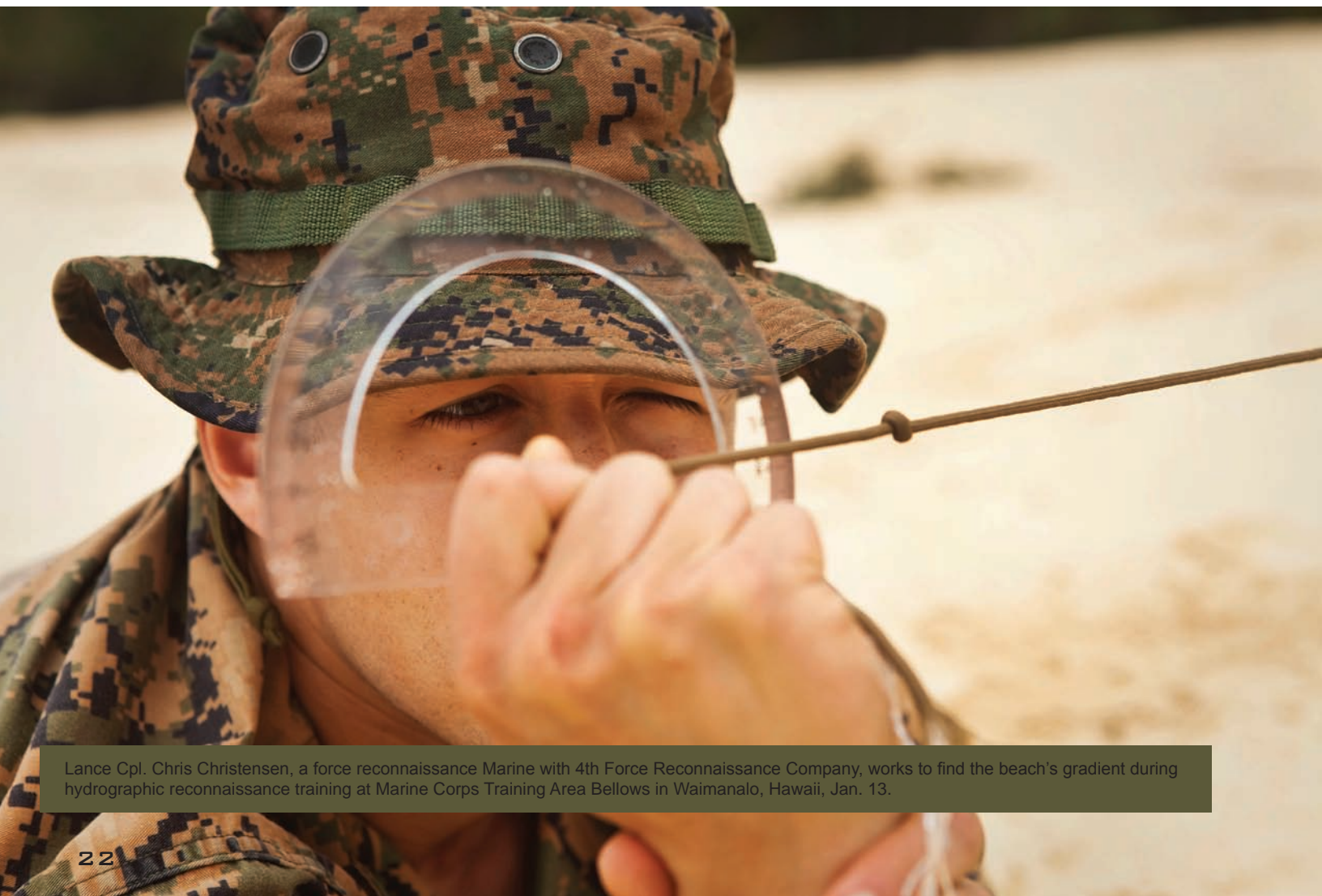
They quietly remove their fins, wasting no time in beginning to scout out the beachfront.

At intervals in the water, the teams of Marines work together quickly to find and record the ocean’s depth and other needed data. Sketch teams begin drawing and making detailed notes about the gradient of the beach and the vegetation on its line of sight. At the rear, swimmers designated as “dead men” swim with a gradient reel while measurements are obtained at intervals along the reel’s line.

Two men, the coxswain and assistant coxswain, stay on each of the Zodiacs and await the Marines’ return. Before long, their job is done, and they move back to the craft.

Operating in Hawaii’s warm waters was a new experience for many of the force recon Marines from the company’s headquarters — they were used to training in the chilly waters off the coast of Northern California — but it only served to polish these perishable skills.

“Exercising our capabilities here means we’ll be able to do a larger variety of missions all over the world,” Schanep said. “Training in every clime and place helps us to be ready for missions in every clime and place.”



Lance Cpl. Chris Christensen, a force reconnaissance Marine with 4th Force Reconnaissance Company, works to find the beach’s gradient during hydrographic reconnaissance training at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows in Waimanalo, Hawaii, Jan. 13.

Teams of force reconnaissance Marines with 4th Force Reconnaissance Company sprint toward their F470 Combat Rubber Raiding Crafts in preparation for hydrographic reconnaissance training at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows in Waimanalo, Hawaii, Jan. 13.



## F470 COMBAT RUBBER RAIDING CRAFT

- Inflatable boats which can be both paddled and powered by outboard motors.
- Stealthy, especially when paddled, lightweight and easily stowed when deflated.
- Air transportable (can be slid out the rear ramp of CH-46/ MH-53/ CH-47 helicopters or parachuted from cargo planes such as the C-130).
- Can be launched from the surface vessels such as MK V SOCs, frigates or surfaced submarines.
- Can be carried up from submerged submarines by divers for inflation on the surface.
- Inflatable by foot pump or CO2 tank in short time.
- Multiple chambers ensure continued operation if punctured.

15.5 ft x 6.3 ft dimensions

10  
passenger capacity

2,756 lbs  
Max payload (including fuel)

55  
horsepower two-stroke engine

Story and photos by Cpl. Lucas Vega







# COUNTRY IMMERSION

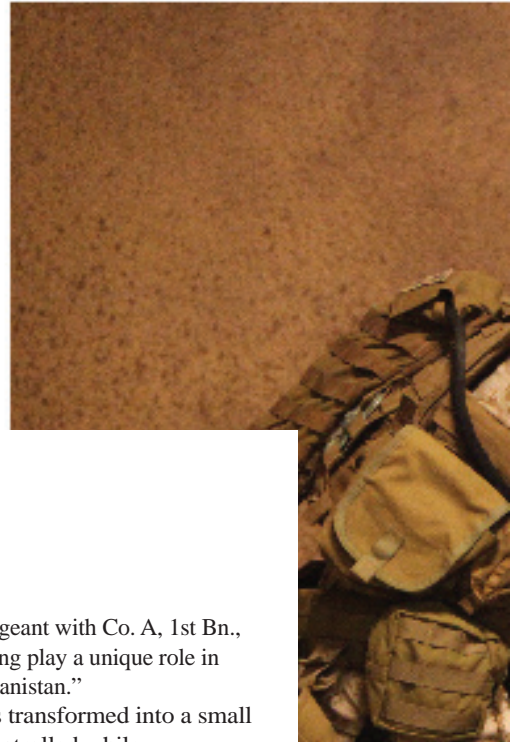
COMPANY A,  
1ST BATTALION,  
23RD MARINE REGIMENT

Sgt. Nico Purkiss, a squad leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, and an Afghan national role player playing an Afghan soldier provide cover for a fire team gathering intelligence information from local villagers inside a building during infantry immersion training at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 11-12, as the infantry battalion prepares for a scheduled deployment to Afghanistan.

Cpl. Lucas Vega

“This training makes it feel so real. It reminds me of Iraq...”

- Lance Cpl. Ceasar Sanchez, rifleman  
1st Bn., 23rd Marines



## 1/23 PREPARES FOR AFGHANISTAN DEPLOYMENT

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** – Marines and sailors with Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment took part in infantry immersion training Jan. 11-12, 2011, as the battalion continues preparations for an upcoming six-month deployment to Afghanistan.

What used to be a tomato-packing warehouse and field is now two full-fledged training facilities used by Co. A, 1st Bn., 23rd Marines, a Houston-based Reserve infantry company, currently conducting intermediate location training.

The two separate training compounds, one copied from an actual village in Afghanistan, was created a few years ago to give Marines the most realistic feel possible for the combat zone they will be deploying to in just a few weeks.

Every aspect of the training facility engages all five senses. From the textured concrete on the walls of the buildings in the village, to the Afghan national role players, to the stench released by aroma machines.

Mock improvised explosive devices detonating and role players speaking in the local dialect replicate many of the events that may occur during the unit's deployment.

During the training, the Marines remove the factory muzzles of their M-4s and replace them with another muzzle, designed to fire special effect, small-arms marking system rounds. “These facilities make the training as realistic as possible,” said Gunnery

Sgt. Hector Vegacigarroa, a platoon sergeant with Co. A, 1st Bn., 23rd Marines. “All aspects of the training play a unique role in recreating the reality of the actual Afghanistan.”

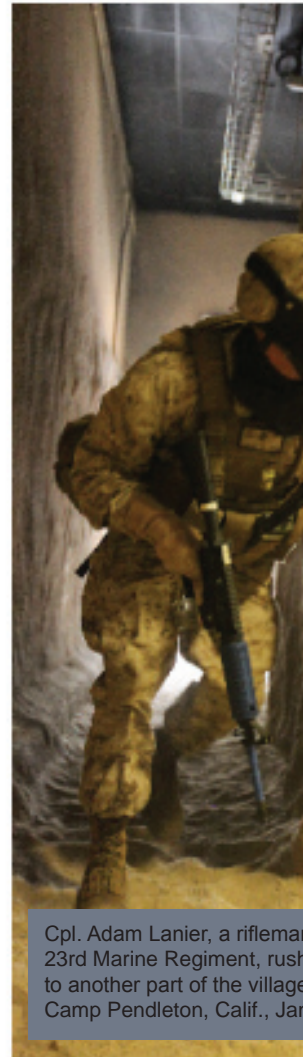
In an old warehouse, which was transformed into a small indoor Afghan village, the Marines patrolled while attempting to successfully complete each scenario that was briefed before they began.

The training was repeated numerous times with each scenario being different. Examples included locating a heroin lab, and finding a captured Marine.

“Training is called training because you get the opportunity to learn what you don't know, and expand on what you already know,” said Vegacigarroa, from Houston. “Each scenario, the Marines gain more confidence which is important in getting the mission done over there in Afghanistan.”

Lance Cpl. Ceasar Sanchez, a rifleman with Co. A, 1st Bn., 23rd Marines, has five years with the company and has previously deployed to Iraq.

“This training makes it feel so real,” said Sanchez. “It reminds me of Iraq because they replicated everything so well. The type of training we are receiving is hard to believe at times because it just feels so real.”



Cpl. Adam Lanier, a rifleman  
23rd Marine Regiment, rushes  
to another part of the village  
Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan.



### PORTABLE INFANTRY TARGET SYSTEMS (PITS)

These are portable, remote-controlled, battery operated, pop-up target mechanisms that use durable plastic targets (36" H x 18" W). A single remote controller is programmable to control hundreds of mechanisms and many different scenarios. Sensitivity is programmed for different calibers, number of hits required for targets to go down, to come back up, or stay down. Heavy metal shields are required for the protection of each mechanism. The mechanisms weigh up to 50 pounds and the shields weigh up to 125 pounds. Batteries weigh up to 26 pounds. Hand held controllers weigh 15 pounds. These are available for short term issue or for the support of deployments. Max signal range is 1,500 meters.



Lance Cpl. Jordan Arnett, a rifleman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, uses a small, concrete wall for cover from simulated enemy fire during infantry immersion training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 11-12.

***“Training is called training because you get the opportunity to learn what you don’t know, and expand on what you already know.”***

***- Gunnery Sgt. Hector Vegacigarroa***



Lance Cpl. Jordan Arnett, a rifleman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, moves around a corner while moving to avoid simulated enemy fire at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 11-12.



Lance Cpl. Nicholas E. Hauser, a rifleman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, provides security for the other members of his fire team while patrolling through a mock Afghan village.

***“Each scenario, the Marines gain more confidence which is important in getting the mission done over there in Afghanistan.”***

***- Gunnery Sgt. Hector Vegacigarroa***

Lt. Col. Morgan Mann



AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq -- Lance Cpl. David Fuertes, 20, an infantryman from College Point, N.Y., fires the Javelin missile near Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Dec. 8, 2008. This was while deployed with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5. Marines from Weapons Co. got to participate in an exercise that included air and ground weapons. Photo By Capt. Paul Greenberg

## A BATTALION COMMANDER'S TAKE: THE OPERATIONAL RESERVE

by Lt. Col. Morgan Mann

In 2008 the secretary of defense called for the Reserve components of each services to be managed as an operational force, and integrated into the services' operational planning in "an era of persistent conflict and global engagement." In support of this new policy, the Commandant's recently published campaign plan tasks Marine Forces Reserve with developing a training progression to prepare the RC as an operational Reserve.

Where do the 4th Marine Division's nine Reserve infantry battalions fit into the concept of an operational Reserve? Are Reserve infantry battalions, organized as such, relevant to the Marine Corps' operational priorities? This article posits that the Reserve infantry battalions have an excellent place in an operational Reserve supporting our

Corps' core competencies; however, their relevance and value require focus, resources, and a long-term commitment by the total force to integrate Reserve battalions into plans, exercises and operations.

Firstly, the Reserve infantry battalions must always be able to support the mission as a strategic Reserve in the event of a major regional war that requires large-scale mobilization. Ground operations against North Korea, Iran, or any other possible foe would require Reserve battalions to support existing operations plans, reinforce the MAGTF, or provide relief for forces going forward. This least likely and most dangerous mission was the focus of Reserve battalions training until Sept. 11, 2001. In this scenario the RC would face many challenges in actually mobilizing

multiple battalions. Issues such as manning, equipment, training locations, and so on, would all need to be addressed; however, this is not the focus of the article.

The Marine Corps' 27 Active Component battalions are striving to achieve a 1:2 dwell cycle. The current operational tempo of the AC conducting contingency, force projection, humanitarian, and training missions spreads the operating forces very thin very quickly. In order for the AC to achieve its dwell goals, we must still mobilize Reserve infantry battalions.

Reserve battalions have deployed 13 times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since the initial invasion. Starting with the second 2010 rotation, Reserve battalions are slated to mobilize and deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as well.

Battalions activate for 12 months, with a three to four month active duty predeployment training cycle at a Marine Corps installation, followed by the standard seven month in-theatre rotation. When not mobilized, Reserve battalions regularly conduct security cooperation missions and overseas multilateral training exercises. These missions can be as short as two weeks and as long as a full seven-month deployment. Reserve battalions are actively engaged, forward deployed, and excited to be in the fight.

### Reserve Battalions and OEF

Ask any Marine serving in a Reserve infantry battalion where they want to go and I can guarantee you will get one answer: "Afghanistan." Marines want to be in the fight, and the Reserve battalion is ideally suited for counterinsurgency. As the Commandant stated, "...in some ways a Reserve battalion is even more effective at COIN than a regular battalion." Marines bring a breadth and depth of skill sets beyond warfighting that can be leveraged for the COIN fight. Law enforcement, trades, medical skills, agriculture and business skills can all be brought to bear as nonkinetic enablers.

Despite that motivation and the ongoing can do approach of each battalion heading into a mobilization cycle, there are stresses

in the system that are additive over time causing greater strain for each subsequent mobilization. These issues must be resolved as part of any longer commitment for Reserve battalions slated to fight as battalions with assigned battlespace.

Officer and senior SNCO manning continues to be a challenge. Currently the Selected Marine Corps Reserve is short 72 percent of its approved company grade officer manning strength. Most infantry battalions have only one or two officers per company 12 months prior to mobilization. There are various recruiting efforts to improve the shortfall, but they only have effects on the margin. In the short term we must continue to reach into the AC for creative sourcing solutions to include drawing upon newly graduated Infantry Officers' Course lieutenants and cross decking of experienced lieutenants from active duty battalions. We must continue to aggressively work on intermediate term solutions to improve manning levels.

Base support and training locations are strained due to the addition of six new infantry battalions into the active force infrastructure.

Numerous after-action reports have called for a permanent intermediate location from which battalions can be based with billeting, office infrastructure, armories, maintenance bays and so forth while conducting their

mobilized predeployment training. Battalion staffs must focus on training, not photocopiers, vaults, armories and rental cars.

A programmatic and better funded premobilization predeployment training program is required. The year prior to mobilization is probably the most important and challenging time for an infantry battalion in its predeployment training cycle. The unit is severely resource, time and personnel constrained, yet needs to build the foundation of leadership and individual skills needed in preparation for collective training at the unit intermediate location. The new force generation order tasks Reserve units to be Block 1 and 2 complete prior to mobilization. To achieve this extravagant goal, or even a subset of Block 1 A/B, will require a significant increase in funding and training support up to two years out from mobilization. Quotas and associated funding for pay and travel will need to be guaranteed for the appropriate MOS schools. High-demand schools such as joint terminal attack controller school must also be made available. Early mobilization must be authorized for those who must attend schools but have limited flexibility with their employer prior to actual mobilization. Postactivation is not the time to lose small unit leaders for schools. It's the time to develop the small unit collective skills so



RUTBAH, Iraq -- Shortly after their arrival in country, Reserve Marines from 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team-5 patrol the streets in the town of Rutbah, Iraq, Sept. 24, 2008. The town is located in western al-Anbar province. Photo by Capt. Paul Greenberg

critical in a counterinsurgency.

- Funding for mobile training teams and contractor provided training must be provided in order to access training for communications gear, command and control systems, fire support and newly fielded equipment. A budget for mobile training teams, locally contracted training and additional reserve pay should be defined so units can best manage their ability to accomplish the training required prior to mobilization.

These efforts should go beyond “best effort” and must be programmed into a standard premobilization pre-deployment training process (PTP) schedule so that the schoolhouses, the Marines, and financial controllers all have a predictable expectation of requirements, time commitments and funding.

Solving these challenges to keep Reserve battalions in the rotation for OEF is worth the effort to:

- The combatant commander who gets a PTP-certified infantry battalion, along with value added skills that come with citizen soldiers.
- The RC which continues to maintain combat experienced Marines willing and able to serve in the most challenging of environments alongside their active duty brothers.
- The Marine Corps’ operating forces that can dip back into the RC knowing there is a skilled and trained infantry capability ready to mobilize again.

### The Future of the Operational Reserve

The worst thing that could happen to the Reserve infantry

battalion is that it is no longer used once force requirements are reduced in Afghanistan. More than 40,000 Marines of the RC have deployed in support of our war efforts and leveraging their experience is crucial – for the health of the Reserves and in support of our operations. Their collective experiences have enhanced the professionalism of the RC. The operational tempo of Reserve units has placed a professional expectation on staff and leaders that was largely absent prior to 9/11. How do we avoid squandering the experiences of our Reservists and the enhanced potential of Reserve infantry battalions? Given the president’s stated limited time horizon for additional forces in Afghanistan, what is the intermediate term role for Reserve infantry battalions integrated into the Corps’ global operations?

First, we must commit the resources to continue to mobilize at least one Reserve infantry battalion per year in support of our global operational commitments. Committing to ongoing mobilizations will maintain the relevancy of the RC to the operating forces, inject fresh operational experiences into the units, and ensure that our Reserve regiments and division stay proficient in the task of preparing and mobilizing battalions.

Beside the ongoing effort in Afghanistan, two other missions aligned to the Marine Corps Service Campaign Plan can play to the strengths of the Reserve infantry battalion and help relieve the operational tempo of the active component.

- Focus battalions on security cooperation missions. In many ways, Reserve battalions are ideally suited for security cooperation



HADITHA, Iraq -- Cpl. Alexander Lucea, a Marine gunner of Hawaii-based 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, served in Haditha, Iraq, as part of a security unit which patrols the Euphrates River near Haditha Dam. Here, the Hollywood, Fla., native patrols July 3, 2006, with fellow Marines. The dam is one of Iraq’s largest sources of electrical power, providing power to many parts of Al Anbar Province as well as Baghdad. The Marines use Small Unit Riverine Crafts to patrol the Euphrates’ River and the nearby man-made Lake Qadisiyah to search for insurgent activity and keep Iraq’s waterways secure. They also protect the hundreds of fisherman and farmers who work all day long along the banks of the river and the lake. Photo by Sgt. Roe F. Seigle

missions. Like in COIN, Reserve battalions can bring the citizen and the soldier to bear on tasks at hand. The mission essential tasks of security cooperation are of scope and skill level that allow much of the predeployment training to be conducted prior to mobilization, thus shortening the total activation time or lengthening the time a unit can spend deployed in a combatant commander's area of operations. Battalions and regiments already have experience with these missions in Africa, South America and the Pacific. The task organization of most missions aligns well with the personnel shortfalls of Reserve battalions. Most missions have required reinforced companies with a robust headquarters element. Officer shortfalls can be substituted with strong SNCOs, and battalions need not mobilize all of its Marines and sailors.

- Incorporate Reserve battalions into the Unit Deployment Program cycle. As long as the Marine Corps is involved in overseas contingencies, we can expect the UDP mission to be gapped or undermanned by infantry battalions. Deploying RC battalions as part of a standard UDP cycle will fill the gap in the Pacific Command area of responsibility and achieve the Commandant's UDP goals as stated in our Service campaign plan, while providing an excellent opportunity for Reserve units to refresh unit-level training and staff skills. Assuming sufficient on-island combat service support, the Reserve battalion would need little or no augmentation of equipment. Though battalions would be faced with officer shortfalls in platoons unless appropriately augmented, it is probably an acceptable risk while on UDP.

#### **Total Force Commitment**

Reserve battalions will not be of full value to an operational Reserve without the commitment of the total force. The problems of officer manning, training resources, and funding gaps require Marine Corps-wide solutions.

#### **Command Relationships and Regionalization**

Predictability and early integration into planning are two ways the operating forces can get better utility from the Reserve infantry battalion. Currently activated battalions are under the operational control of Marine Forces Command until the battalion arrives in the combatant commander's area of responsibility, at which time the appropriate MEF assumes operational control of the battalion. The challenges of base support, training support, funding and numerous other issues under this command relationship could be numerous. However, the Marine Corps has done a decent job overcoming these issues based on supporting relationships outlined in mobilization orders, and through agreements made between Marine Forces Reserve/4th MarDiv and the Marine Corps installations and MEFs.

What can get lost in the command relationship shuffle is an opportunity to incorporate Reserve battalions into the planning and training of the gaining force command early and often.

Incorporating battalions into command post, mission rehearsal, and field exercises provide valuable opportunities to absorb standing operating procedures, and develop confidence and relationships with higher, adjacent and supporting active duty units that Reservists will be working with while deployed. Units participating in these training activities, even in a limited capacity, such as on drill weekends or from their local training



GULF OF MEXICO -- An Assault Amphibious Vehicle from 3rd Platoon, Company A, 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, 4th Marine Division in route to Cat Island rides in the Gulf of Mexico April 10, 2010. 3rd Platoon Marines did a beach landing on Cat Island to refresh their skills in basic amphibious operations. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nana Danssaappiah

bases, enhance a battalion's ability to rapidly add value. Command relationships need not be redefined prior to mobilization; however, the gaining force command and the Reserve battalion would benefit if the unit was involved in planning and training prior to mobilization.

Regionalization is another opportunity the total force should leverage to take full advantage of Reserve infantry battalions. The Commandant has already tasked the AC with regionalizing regiments. Reserve regiments aligned with MEFs, should be aligned with regions as well. The regiment's battalions should then regularly participate in the same overseas exercises year after year. Security cooperation missions should also be aligned by region and regiment, if possible. This regional focus will play to one of the strengths of Reserve units: long tenure within the same battalion. Marines may serve their entire Reserve careers in the same battalion. Regionalization allows Reserve units to institutionalize the knowledge of an area, the multinational partners with whom they work, and the training opportunities that are available. This focus will also benefit host nation relationships when the security forces of a nation begin to see familiar faces and units year after year.

The Marine Corps' Reserve infantry battalions have never been so capable and ready. Seven years of mobilizations and combat operations have created a cadre of dedicated Marines who are willing to continue to serve, mobilize, and deploy in the "era of persistent conflict." The Reserves bring unique experiences and skill sets that can add significant capabilities to the MAGTF when confronted with irregular missions from COIN to security cooperation. Though we are not at the end of our efforts in Afghanistan, one can certainly see a time when force requirements will no longer require Reserve battalions serve in support of OEF. When that time occurs, it would be a shame if we sidelined the Reserve infantryman. Let's take the opportunity of an operational reserve to maintain the RC's readiness and contribution to the operating forces.

*This story was originally published in the February 2011 Marine Corps Gazette. Lt. Col. Mann is the commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment.*



# MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 774

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 774 is a United States Marine Corps helicopter squadron consisting of CH-46E Sea Knight transport helicopters. The squadron, known as the "Wild Goose," is based at Naval Air Station Norfolk, Va., and falls under the command of Marine Aircraft Group 49, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing.

## MISSION

Maintain combat readiness and provide support to the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing.

- ▲ assault support
- ▲ casualty evacuation
- ▲ helicopter support team training
- ▲ SEAL team support

## HISTORY

HMM-774 was activated Sept. 5, 1958, at Naval Air Station New York as Marine Transport Helicopter Squadron 774. The squadron operated the SH-34G/J Sea Bat helicopter. In April 1962 the squadron was redesignated Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 774, but deactivated in September that same year. HMM-774 was reactivated at Naval Air Station Norfolk on July 1, 1969. HMM-774 initially operated UH-34D Sea Horse helicopters. In 1970, the CH-46 replaced the UH-34 and in 1971 the squadron was assigned under the command of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. In December 1990, HMM-774 was activated as an element of Marine Aircraft Group 26, I Marine Expeditionary Force. The squadron was subsequently assigned for duty with I MEF in Southwest Asia and saw action in Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom.

## ENGAGEMENTS

Operation Desert Storm  
Operation Iraqi Freedom



Marines and Sailors aboard a medium-lift, dual rotor CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 774, attached to Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Continuing Promise 2010 (CP10), conduct a site survey via a medium-lift, dual rotor CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 774, attached to Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force CP10, in the area of Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, Nov. 6, 2010, to gather an understanding of the destruction caused by Hurricane Tomas. If tasked, the amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima will ensure safety and effectively conduct humanitarian relief operations so that lives are saved and near-term suffering is minimized in support of the government of Haiti, MINUSTAH and USAID. Service members and civilians are deployed in support of CP10 providing medical, dental, veterinary, engineering assistance and subject-matter exchanges to the Caribbean, Central and South America. *Photo by Sgt. Samuel R. Beyers*





MEDIUM-LIFT, DUAL  
ROTOR CH-46E SEA  
KNIGHT HELICOPTER



A Marine with HMM-774, attached to Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Continuing Promise 2010, provides aircrew support aboard a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter, while transporting leaders to the closing ceremony of humanitarian assistance and subject-matter expert exchanges, in Bluefields, Nicaragua, Sept. 24. Service members and civilians were deployed in support of CP10 to provide medical, dental, veterinary, engineering assistance and subject-matter exchanges to the Caribbean, Central and South America. *Photo by Sgt. Samuel R. Beyers*



Sgt. Geoff Boreman, a flight mechanic with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport 452, locks a propeller to a KC-130 aircraft at Mihail Kogainiceanu Airfield, Romania, May 28. VMGR-452 is a Reserve unit based out of Newburgh, N.Y., and will support Black Sea Rotational Force 2011 as the air combat element of the Security Cooperation Marine Air Ground Task Force. *Photo by Cpl. R. Logan Kyle*

# Marine Forces Reserve Phone Directory

## MARINE FORCES RESERVE

HQ, Marine Forces Reserve  
Phone: 504-678-8167

HQ, Intelligence Support Battalion  
Phone: 504-678-6958

3d Civil Affairs Group  
Phone: 760-725-9680

4th Civil Affairs Group  
Phone: 202-433-7536

4th Air-Naval Gunfire Liaison Co.  
Phone: 561-683-4443

HQ, 4th Force Recon. Co.  
Phone: 510-814-1600

MarForRes Band New Orleans  
Phone: 504-678-2373

Environmental Svcs. Div.  
Phone: 504-678-6912

## 4TH MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

HQ, 4th Marine Logistics Group  
Phone: 504-678-4976

Logistics Support Center  
Phone: 760-830-6861

4th MLG Forward East  
Phone: 910-451-8778

4th MLG Forward West  
Phone: 760-725-6017/9683

NBC Defense Plt., 4th MLG  
Phone: 816-843-3545

H&S Co., H&S Bn., 4th MLG  
Phone: 404-403-9110

H&S Co., 4th Maint. Bn.  
Phone: 704-598-0015

H&S Co., 6th ESB  
Phone: 971-563-6666

H&S Co., 4th Supply Bn.  
Phone: 804-275-7805

H&S Co., 4th LSB  
Phone: 253-967-2477

H&S Co., 4th Medical Bn., 4th MLG  
Phone: 858-537-8130

H&S Co., 6th Motor T Bn.  
Phone: 732-530-4500

HQ, 4th Dental Bn.  
Phone: 678-655-4397/4368

HQ, 6th Communications Bn.  
Phone: 718-252-3100

## 4TH MARINE DIVISION

HQ Bn., 4th Marine Division  
Phone: 504-678-0731

HQ Co., 4th Recon. Bn.  
Phone: 210-223-1551

HQSVC Co., 4th LAR Bn.  
Phone: 760-725-4989

HQ, 4th Tank Bn.  
Phone: 858-537-8109

H&S Co., 4th Assault Amphibian Bn.  
Phone: 813-805-7020

4th Combat Engineer Bn.  
Phone: 410-444-6200/01

HQ Co., 23d Marines  
Phone: 650-244-9806

H&S Co., 1st Bn., 23d Marines  
Phone: 832-380-7000

H&S Co., 2d Bn., 23d Marines  
Phone: 626-398-0295

HQ Co., 24th Marines  
Phone: 816-843-3528

H&S Co., 1st Bn., 24th Marines  
Phone: 586-239-2535

H&S Co., 2d Bn., 24th Marines  
Phone: 773-539-6464

H&S Co., 3d Bn., 24th Marines  
Phone: 314-263-6204/5

HQ Co., 25th Marines  
Phone: 978-796-3766

H&S Co., 1st Bn., 25th Marines  
Phone: 978-796-3766

H&S Co., 2d Bn., 25th Marines  
Phone: 516-228-5671

H&S Co., 3d Bn., 25th Marines  
Phone: 216-267-9878

HQ Btry., 14th Marines  
Phone: 817-782-5800

HQ Btry., 2d Bn., 14th Marines  
Phone: 972-606-6680

HQ Btry., 3d Bn., 14th Marines  
Phone: 215-934-6555

HQ Btry., 5th Bn., 14th Marines  
Phone: 562-626-6190

## 4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

HQ, 4th MAW  
Phone: 504-678-1210

Site Support, 4th MAW  
Phone: 858-577-6803

MAWTSG-42  
Phone: 850-452-8762

HQ, MAG-41  
Phone: 817-782-2710/2709

HMM-764, MAG-41  
Phone: 661-275-1995

VMGR-234, MAG-41  
Phone: 817-782-2901

VMFA-112, MAG-41  
Phone: 817-782-2980

VMFT-401, MAG-46  
Phone: 928-269-2193

MALS-41, MAG-41  
Phone: 817-782-7421

HQ, MWSG-47  
Phone: 586-239-5565

MWSS-471, MWSG-47  
Phone: 612-713-4804

MWSS-472, MWSG-47  
Phone: 215-773-2359

MWSS-473, MWSG-47  
Phone: 858-577-4197

HQ, MACG-48  
Phone: 847-688-7129 ext 2222

HQ, MWCS-48, MACG-48  
Phone: 847-688-7129

MTACS-48  
Phone: 847-688-7129

MACS-23, MACG-48  
Phone: 720-587-6340

MACS-24, MACG-48  
Phone: 757-492-6465/7990

MASS-6, MACG-48  
Phone: 413-557-3743

HQ, MAG-49  
Phone: 215-443-6704

HMLA-773, MAG-49  
Phone: 478-222-5461

HMH-772, MAG-49  
Phone: 215-443-6718

HMM-774, MAG-49  
Phone: 757-444-8691

MALS-49, MAG-49  
Phone: 845-563-2921



# WE ALL SERVE



#### **What does ESGR do?**

Seeks to promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees.

#### **How do they do it?**

They recognize outstanding support, increase awareness of the laws protecting military employees and resolve conflicts through mediation.

#### **Who do they help?**

With volunteer obudsmen in all 50 states, ESGR strives to make sure all Guard and Reserve service members across the country and overseas can fulfill their military duties without fear of losing their jobs back home.

#### **How can I get help?**

Marines seeking help can visit [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) or call 1-800-336-4590 for more information or to find an ESGR representative nearby.

#### **What are my rights as an employee?**

Military leave of absence, prompt reinstatement, accumulation of seniority, benefits, training or retraining, and protection

