

# MARINES™

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE

## PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

MARINES TRAIN WITH PARTNER NATIONS TO  
MASTER NON-LETHAL WEAPONS



SEMPER FI AMERICA

MARINE CORPS RESERVE CENTENNIAL

ALWAYS FAITHFUL. ALWAYS READY

SEMPER FIDELIS





# COMMANDER'S CORNER



We're back in our annual training season, executing the events we prepare for year round with the chance to hone our skills as our nation's warfighters. My priority will continue to be readying ourselves to fight tonight in support of the active component Marine Corps. During our busiest season, we focus on training in a variety of environments in every corner of the world.

It is not only important to train with the active component to ensure seamless operations but we must maintain enduring relationships in order to foster trust and confidence. The active component must know whom we are and what we bring to the fight. The responsibility is on us to make it happen. I am directing our commanders to maintain relationships with senior active component commanders and they are mapped to support in a call-up or crisis.

An example of what we are about is the Integrated Training Exercise aboard Twentynine Palms where our Marines trained as a complete Marine Air Ground Task Force. We fight as a MAGTF, so it is crucial our Reserve Marines see what that looks like on the battlespace. In addition to training as a MAGTF, however, we also had the opportunity to conduct smaller operations with partner nations and other branches of the U.S. military. During African Lion 2016, the Reserve Component integrated with the Active Component and executed command and control of a Marine Expeditionary Brigade as the command element, while also training with partner nations in Morocco. Marines from our Law Enforcement Battalion practiced peacekeeping operations with the Serbians and other Eastern European nations during Platinum Wolf 2016 in Serbia. We also leveraged opportunities for outstanding training here at home at exercises like Arctic Eagle, where we trained with the Danish Home Guard and the Indiana National Guard aboard Camp Grayling, Michigan.

We must continue to build relationships and take advantage of opportunities to combine tactics, techniques and procedures we acquire from training blocks into our own operations. As Reserve Marines, those annual training blocks allow our units to increase proficiency and seamlessly integrate with other units. It makes us all better warfighters.

I am proud not only of the performance of our Marines and Sailors during the last three months, but also the variety of opportunities we have had to train across the range of military operations. While we continue seizing opportunities to train our forces during this busy season, we also look forward to celebrating our history. This August, we will showcase 100 years of the Marine Corps Reserve with kick-off events in New Orleans and New York, followed by other events nationwide. In addition to our extraordinary contributions to every war effort since World War I, our Marines engage in our communities by visiting aging veterans, or sacrificing Veterans Day, July 4th and other holidays to give a speech or provide a color guard, and volunteering in an impressive range of ways. You continue to be outstanding ambassadors for our Corps to the American public. Let us continue to show our fellow Americans how we prepare to fight and what we are all about!

Thank you for your efforts during this busy season. It is my pleasure to serve as your commander.

Semper Fidelis,  
Lt. Gen. Rex C. McMillian  
Commander, Marine Forces Reserve

## SNAP SHOT



Cpl. Peter Merkel, a machine gunner with 2/24 Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, prepares for a fire and maneuver range during a fire support coordination exercise in Camp Atterbury, Ind., April 13. The exercise focused on combined arms and coordination with U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army units to complete various missions.

PHOTO BY SGT. SARA GRAHAM

## CONTINENTAL MARINES

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# QUARTER 2 2016

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PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. MELLISSA MARTENS



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Marines with 3rd, 4th and 6th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, Force Headquarters Group, run through a litter course during ANGLICO Basic Course Training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., June 13. The Marines took contact from enemy forces while clearing a building, which left them with a casualty. They had to complete a course full of obstacles while bringing the casualty to the safety helicopter.

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### ON THE COVER

Reserve Marines with 4th Law Enforcement Battalion, Force Headquarters Group, practice clearing a house during exercise Platinum Wolf 2016 at Peacekeeping Operations Training Center South Base, Bujanovac, Serbia, May 18. The Marines are working with the partner nations of Bosnia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Serbia to share new ideas, build interoperability, and master peacekeeping operations.

PHOTO BY SGT. SARA GRAHAM





**CORPS**  
COMMUNITY







## **Tropic Care 2016 One Heart, Many Hands**

Lance Cpl. Patrick W. Boyce, an aviation precision measurement equipment technician with 4th Dental Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, guides a participant through an obstacle course at the Lihu'e Neighborhood Center, Kauai, Hawaii, during Innovative Readiness Training Tropic Care 2016, June 28. In addition to providing support to the medical clinics being held on the island, the Marines volunteered with the local children of Kauai. IRT Tropic Care 2016 was part of a civil and joint military program to improve military readiness while simultaneously providing quality services to underserved communities throughout the United States.

PHOTO BY SGT. IAN LEONES



# PHYSICAL FITNESS AND BODY COMPOSITION STANDARDS

**M**

arine administrative message announced changes to the Marine Corps Physical Fitness Tests as well as how Marines are graded on their body composition. A major change to the PFT is the elimination of the Flexed Arm Hang for females and incorporation of a push-up / pull-up hybrid event for all Marines, recruits, and officer candidates. Push-ups become an option on the PFT, but Marines are incentivized toward pull-ups, as these are a better test of functional, dynamic upper body strength and correlate stronger to physically demanding tasks. Push-ups are also a valid exercise and good test; however maximum points can only be earned by executing pull-ups. These changes go into effect January 1, 2017.

**Increased PFT and CFT maximum and minimum standards.**

**Marines scoring between 250-284 on their PFT and CFT will have their max body fat percentage increased by one percent.**

**Marines will do five push-ups during the maneuver under fire sections of the CFT.**

**All Marines may choose between pull-ups or push ups. Max score can only be reached through pull-ups.**

**Marines scoring a 285 and higher on their PFT and CFT will be exempt from height and weight standards.**

**For more information visit <https://fitness.usmc.mil/SitePages/Home-new.aspx>**

## TATTOO POLICY

### KNOW THE NEW REGULATIONS

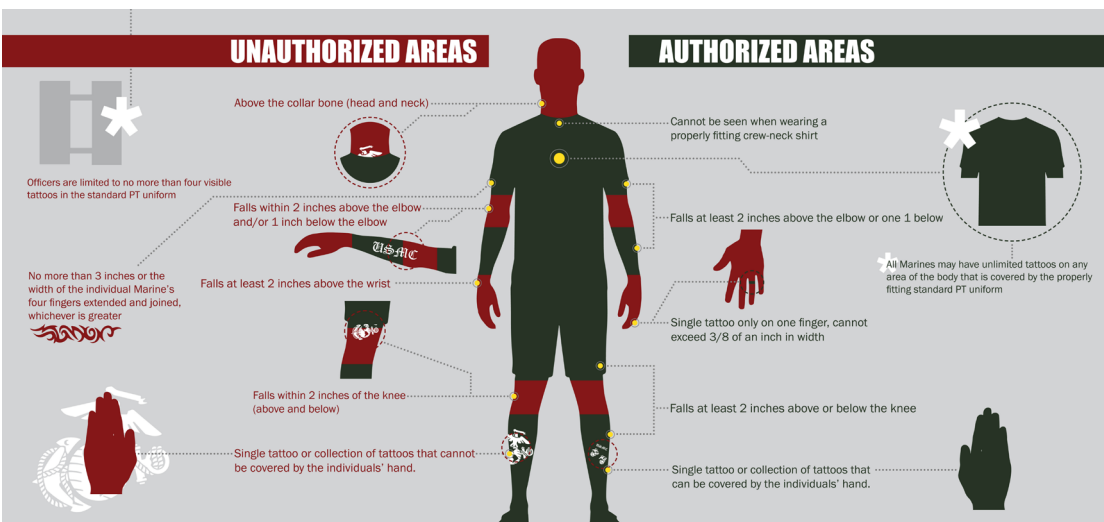


PHOTO BY CPL. DAVID STATEN

**T**

attoos have been a long-standing topic in the Marine Corps. On June 2, 2016, the Marine Corps released Marine Corps Bulletin 1020, clarifying the new tattoo policy.

All Marines may have an unlimited number of tattoos on areas of the body covered properly by the fitting standard physical training uniform. Officers may have no more than four visible tattoos in properly fitted PT uniforms. All tattoos that are prejudicial to good order and discipline or may bring discredit upon the naval service are prohibited.

The bulletin also offers guidance on tattoos near the head, neck, chest, and back. It also clarifies size and distance from specified areas of the body. For more information on tattoo regulations, refer to **MCBul 1020**. ■





# 1st Samoan Battalion

Marines with the 1st Samoan battalion practice hand-to-hand combat, 1942-43.  
COURTESY PHOTO

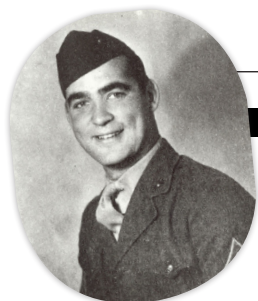
TIMELINE

**I**n December of 1940, with the looming threat of war with Japan on the horizon, the U.S. Navy saw it as a priority to bolster United States territories in the southeast Pacific. American Samoa, whose islands were also a Navy responsibility, was strategically vital as guardian of the sea routes to New Zealand and Australia. On American Samoa's largest island of Tutuila, there was a deep harbor and a lightly manned naval base in the city Pago Pago. Recognizing the possibility of a Japanese attack at this location, the Navy began deploying Marines to augment this base.

A small advance party of 400 active-duty Marines with 7th Defense Battalion was sent to Pago Pago with the task to raise and train a battalion of Samoan natives as Marine infantrymen. The Samoans would help the 7th Defense Bn. defend the island of Tutuila. By August 1942, the 1st Samoan Battalion, Marine Corps Reserve, was activated. The Marines in Samoa manned naval coast defense and anti-aircraft guns at Pago Pago and patrolled the island of Tutuila.

## GUNNERY SERGEANT ROBERT H. MCCARD, (1918-1944)

PLATOON SERGEANT WITH COMPANY A, 4TH TANK BATTALION, 4TH MARINE DIVISION



For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as Platoon Sergeant of Company A, 4th Tank Battalion, Fourth Marine Division, during the battle for Japanese-held Saipan, Mariana Islands, on June 16, 1944. Cut off from the other units of his platoon when his tank was put out of action by a battery of enemy 77-mm. guns, Gunnery Sergeant McCard carried on resolutely, bringing all the tank's weapons to bear on the enemy, until the severity of hostile fire caused him to order his crew out of the escape hatch while he courageously exposed himself to enemy guns by hurling hand grenades, in order to cover the evacuation of his men. Seriously wounded during this action and with his supply of grenades exhausted, Gunnery Sergeant McCard dismantled one of the tank's machine guns and faced the Japanese for the second time to deliver vigorous fire into positions, destroying sixteen of the enemy but sacrificing himself to ensure the safety of his crew. His valiant fighting spirit and supreme loyalty in the face of almost certain death reflect the highest credit upon Gunnery Sergeant McCard and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

For more information visit:

<http://www.mcu.usmc.mil/historydivision> and <http://www.historynet.com>



At least 800 Samoans served in the Marine Corps during World War II. They were each issued a service number, service record book, and were enlisted for the duration of hostilities plus six months. The 1st Samoan Battalion reported its monthly strength to Headquarters Marine Corps.

Early in World War II, Samoan Marines practice patrolling.

COURTESY PHOTO



# RESERVE FORCES AROUND THE WORLD:

MARINES PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISES AND OPERATIONS TO PREPARE THEM FOR REAL-WORLD CONFLICTS. (QUARTER 2: APRIL -JUNE 2016)



## Southern Command

SPMAGTF SC TM 16.1

### SPMAGTF CR CC 16.1

The Reserve Marines of this Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force serve as an expeditionary, crisis-response force tasked with supporting operations, contingencies and security cooperation.

**AUG. 1-JUNE 23**

## Pacific Command

BALAKITAN 16

### BALAKITAN 16

Balikatan, a Filipino term that means “shoulder-to-shoulder” is an annual bilateral exercise between Philippine and U.S. military forces that focuses on partnership, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief capabilities, Philippine capability development and military modernization.

**APRIL 11-21**

## Northern Command

IRT TROPIC CARE

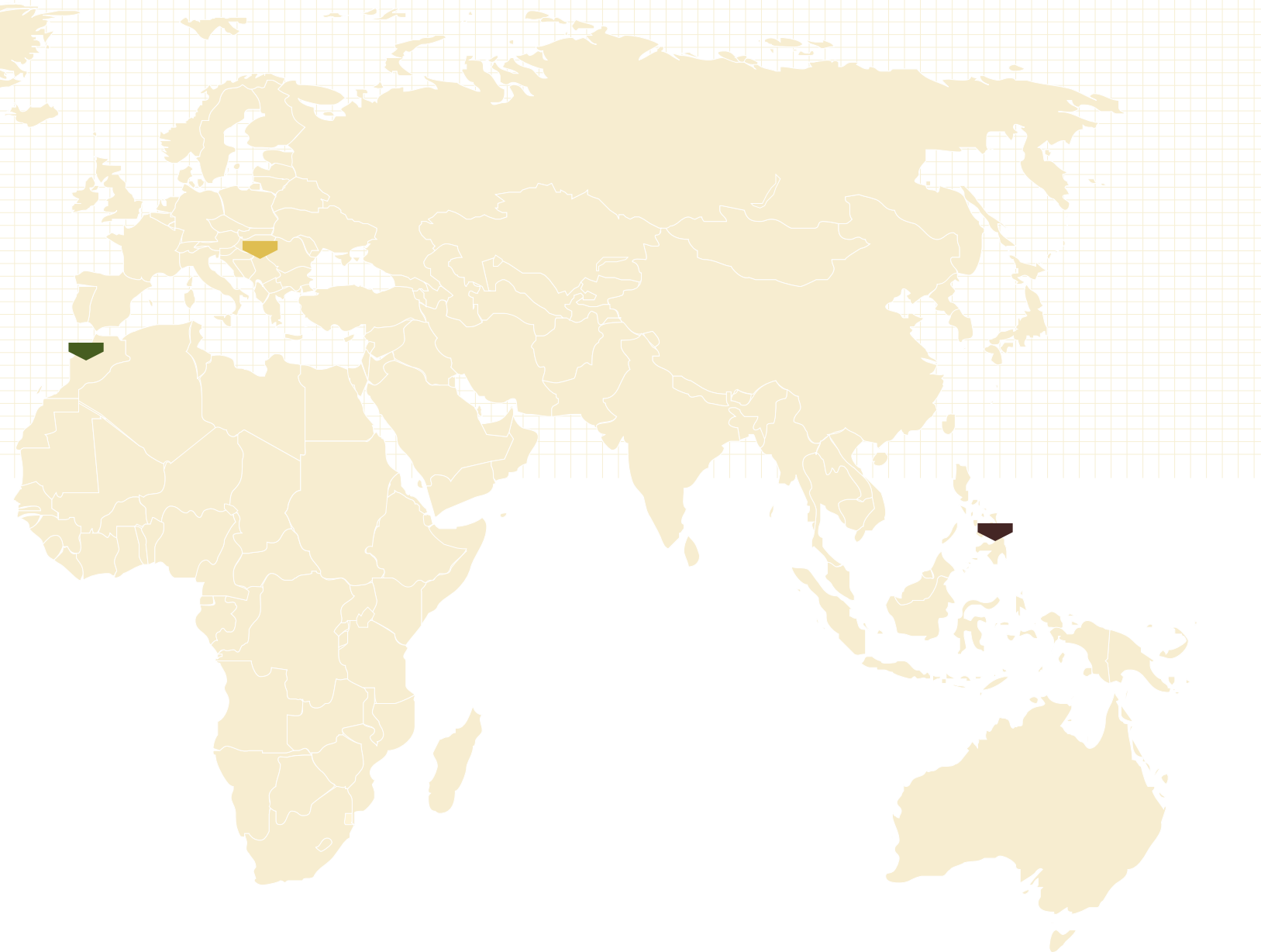
### IRT TROPIC CARE

IRT TROPIC CARE

Innovative Readiness Training Tropic Care 2016 is a Department of Defense operation which provides military reservists with real world rapid deployment training. The initiative is a multi-service operation that provides medical support to a variety of underserved American populations located in remote or rural areas throughout the United States and its territories.

**JUNE 20-30**





### Africa Command

#### AFRICAN LION 16

##### AFRICAN LION 16

African Lion is an annual joint combined training exercise that allows participating nations to improve interoperability between forces and to demonstrate the strong military bond that exists between them. The exercise consists of command post exercise activities and peace support operations training which promotes mutual understanding of each nation's tactics, techniques and procedures.

**APRIL 18–MAY 27**

### European Command

#### PLATINUM WOLF

##### PLATINUM WOLF

Exercise Platinum Wolf included two weeks of extensive training in peacekeeping operations and non-lethal weapons with seven countries including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and the United States. Their final field exercise on Peacekeeping Operations Training Center South Base, Bujanovac, Serbia, May 19–20, 2016. Their culminating training showed their mastery of all the skills taught by the participating partner nations.

**MAY 9–21**





Lance Cpl. Joshua P. Dipippo, a military policeman with 4th Law Enforcement Battalion, Force Headquarters Group, takes cover during a patrolling exercise at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Butlerville, Ind., June 9. Patrolling exercises help prepare Marines for real-life scenarios so they are prepared to accomplish the mission.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. MELISSA MARTENS

STORY BY LCPL. MELISSA MARTENS



## MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING CENTER

REALISTIC TRAINING IN INDIANA BENEFITS RESERVE MARINES

**M**arines with Force Headquarters Group conducted their annual training at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center and Camp Atterbury located in Indiana, June 8-19.

The two training grounds allowed Marines to participate in realistic training exercises that will prepare them for the future.

The grounds at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center allowed Marines to run simulated scenarios such as detainee and prison operations in an abandoned jail, patrolling techniques in an impoverished village, disaster relief in a flooded town and room clearing in a Military Operations in Urban Terrain town.

In addition to the simulated scenarios Marines with 3rd, 4th and 6th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, and Intelligence Support Battalion, ran through litter drills, close air support drills, fired mortars on the range and patrolled a Military Operations in Urban Terrain town while taking enemy fire and providing aid to casualties.

Not only were the Marines developing skills essential to their specific jobs, but they also had the opportunity to cross train, which aims to make them more well-rounded and familiar with the different capabilities of other units.

“Force Headquarters Group has such a wide variety of skill sets and units and we wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to bring those units here and give them an

opportunity to interact with and learn from each other,” said Lt. Col. Alan B. Miller, the officer overseeing the training from Force Headquarters Group, Marine Forces Reserves.

Marines gained knowledge not only from their peers, but also from general officers of the Afghan National Army and the Ministry of Defense Advisors Program who gave them classes on their own standard operating procedures. The Evansville, Indiana, Special Weapons and Tactics Team also worked with Marines to demonstrate proper techniques for safely clearing a room.

The ability to interact and learn from their senior leadership provides the Marines the capability to deal with all situations. Through this the Marines acquire the skills to deal with any stressful situation which is an important aspect to being able to react and make the correct decisions in a stressful situation including a combat situation.

“You never know when you are going to get deployed and when you will get these experiences,” Hicks said. “You take it seriously, and when you go out there to Afghanistan or Iraq, you are going to have confidence in what you do and have trust in your higher ranks.”

The newly-acquired knowledge and skills the Marines gained from this training will greatly benefit them in the future and will ensure their ability to respond to any contingency.



STORY BY SGT. IAN LEONES



## RECONNAISSANCE CORPSMAN SCREENING

SAILORS SHOW WHAT THEY'RE MADE OF IN THE FIRST STEP TO BECOME FLEET MARINE FORCE RECON CORPSMEN

**S**ailors from across Marine Forces Reserve and the U.S. Navy Reserve participated in a Fleet Marine Force reconnaissance corpsman screening hosted by 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division in San Antonio, April 19-22.

The screening identified potential reserve corpsmen for selection in the FMF reconnaissance corpsman training pipeline through a series of challenges designed to replicate the stress of reconnaissance training.

“The purpose of the training is to challenge the Sailors both physically and mentally,” said Chief Petty Officer Eric S. Gilmet, the chief instructor for the screening and an FMF reconnaissance corpsman with Inspector-Instructor medical staff, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion. “They are exposed to a little bit of what the pipeline has to offer, to determine if this is really something they want to do.”

To complete the screening, the Sailors spent multiple days training, which included a physical screening test, a physical fitness test, water confidence training, an open-water fin swim, land navigation, patrolling, and a tactical combat casualty care

practical application at various training sites in the San Antonio area.

“This screening is unique because a lot of these guys are being exposed to training they have never experienced,” said Gilmet. “They are being pushed harder than they have been pushed in their naval careers. The reason why we push them is because if they attend the basic reconnaissance primer course, the instructors look at everyone the same as active duty. We need to make sure that the Reserve Sailors who attend this understand the expectation and are prepared to meet it.”

However, the four-day training only scratched the surface of what the actual pipeline consists of.

“For corpsmen who have already been through the field medical training battalion, the pipeline can take up to two years,” said Gilmet.

To complete the pipeline, corpsmen must attend the Marine Corps basic reconnaissance primer course, the basic reconnaissance course, Marine combatant dive school, the amphibious reconnaissance corpsman course, U.S Army airborne school and the special operations combat medic course.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Thomas O. Dugan (right), a hospital corpsman with Headquarters and Service Company, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, completes the initial physical screening test for a Fleet Marine Force reconnaissance corpsman evaluation in San Antonio, April 19.  
PHOTO BY SGT. IAN LEONES



# GROWING PAINS

LANCE CPL. SAMUEL L. POSEY FINDS THE CORPS AND  
GIVES BACK TO HIS COMMUNITY

STORY AND PHOTO BY SGT. IAN LEONES





Lance Cpl. Samuel L. Posey, a rifleman with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, sights in through his rifle while conducting room-clearing drills during exercise Arctic Eagle at Camp Grayling, Mich., April 7. Posey overcame a rough childhood to become a Marine and serve his country.





Lance Cpl. Samuel L. Posey (right), a rifleman with 3rd Platoon, Company I, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, and Cpl. Robert D. Ray (left), a team leader with 3rd Platoon, practice room clearing during exercise Arctic Eagle at Camp Grayling, Mich., April 7.

PHOTO BY CPL. DEVAN BARNETT



**S**

amuel L. Posey is no stranger to trouble, much to the dismay of his mother Pamela. He recalls a time in the seventh grade when he was hanging out at Quail Pointe apartments in Spartanburg, South Carolina, a place his mother had warned him not to be.

“I ended up in the middle of a shootout,” said Posey, a 22-year-old with dark black hair and an easy-going smile. “When I got home, I didn’t tell my mom. She asked, ‘Where have you been?’ I said, ‘nowhere,’ with my heart beating out of my chest. The next day, it was on the news and my mom came to me saying, ‘I know you were over there.’ It was like she sensed something I didn’t.”

Eventually, Posey told his mother the truth and took her punishment.

“My mom didn’t play games,” Posey said. “She was a strong woman and she wanted to teach me to be a good person, but not to be a pushover.”

By the time he reached middle school, Posey had witnessed drugs, violence and the gamut of troubles that come with living in a rough neighborhood.

Posey, now a lance corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and a rifleman with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, believes these experiences have shaped the man he has become and given him a reason to give back to the community.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, the middle child of three boys, Posey bounced around between New York and Spartanburg growing up.

The son of an abusive father, Posey witnessed his mother getting beat and took a few beatings himself.

“Every time my dad would fight us, we would be out on the street,” Posey said. “But my mother was no bum. She would get a job to support us and soon enough we’d be back.”

“To escape this environment, Posey’s aunt and uncle, Joanne and L.C. Rogers, would take Posey and raise him for months at a time in Spartanburg. Eventually, Posey’s mom left his father and moved to Spartanburg where she remarried.

“I did have a lot of hatred for my dad for a long time, but after a while I learned to let it go,” Posey said. “He wasn’t the best dad in the world, but if it weren’t for him I wouldn’t have met the people I met or became the person that I am.”

Even though Posey didn’t always have his parents around, he had parental figures in his life like his aunt and uncle.

“They taught me to be a ‘stand-up guy,’” Posey said. “They taught me to carry myself in a manner that, even though I didn’t have much, showed people that I knew how to act right.”

After graduating high school, Posey attended Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina.

“When I went to college, I was rowdy,” Posey said. “I was this kid from the hood who still hadn’t grown up.”

Towards the end of his first year of college, Posey got into a physical altercation with another student. After that fight, Posey came to the realization that he needed to mature and college was not the place he was going to do it.

“I asked myself, ‘Why am I doing this?’” Posey said. “It was the end of the school year and I knew I couldn’t come back next semester because of my grades and my attitude. I didn’t want my mama to ask, ‘Well, what are you going to do next?’”

Posey headed to a Marine Corps recruiting office.

“I remember I left my house in the middle of the day,” Posey said. “I went down to the mall and went to the recruiter’s office. I didn’t talk about it at all, I just went there. I asked myself, ‘Why am I doing this?’” Posey said. “It was the end of the school year and I knew I couldn’t come back next semester because of my grades and my attitude. I didn’t want my mama to ask, ‘Well, what are you going to do next?’”

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“I remember I left my house in the middle of the day,” Posey said. “I went down to the mall and went to the recruiter’s office. I didn’t talk about it at all, I just went there.”

Posey couldn’t sign the papers that day, so he came back the next day, and this time he brought his mother as a witness.

“I wanted her to see me do it,” Posey said. “She just sat beside me with big eyes while I signed the papers.”

Attracted to the ideals of the Marine Corps, Posey signed a contract for the Marine Corps Reserve as an infantryman.

“I liked the fact that I had to earn the title, it wasn’t given to me.” Posey said.

While boot camp proved to be tough, Posey channeled the lessons he had learned growing up to get through it.

“I knew I would make it because of my childhood,” Posey said. “I knew no matter how bad it got, I had always been through worse.”

Having been in the Marine Corps Reserve for three years, Posey says he has grown from the experience.

“I’ve grown a lot compared to where I was,” Posey said. “My decision making is really different than what it was before. The fact is that someone can actually die in this job because of my failure to do something correctly or my inattention to detail. This has really changed how I look at other things in life.”

Other Marines in Posey’s platoon have also noticed how he has grown as a Marine.

“I’ve known Posey for three years, since he got here,” said Cpl. Robert D. Ray, a team leader with Co. I, 3/25. “He’s a great Marine who is willing to learn and he excels at what he does.”

Being in the Reserve Component, Posey has an opportunity to serve his community when he is not serving his country. Posey has been dancing with a group called Dance Over Everything, which helps less fortunate kids channel their frustrations through dance.

“We go out to schools so we can show these kids there is another way,” Posey said. “Why not take that anger and frustration you have inside and put it into something constructive. They are young and might go out and do something stupid, but there is always time to fix it and grow up to be somebody.”

Posey is now working toward an associate’s degree in business marketing at Limestone College in Gaffney, South Carolina. As he looks to the future, he only hopes that his contributions make an impact on others.

“By the end of everything I do, I want to be able to say I made a difference,” Posey said. “When someone younger who looks up to you asks you the question of what you did when you were younger, what can you tell them? You can tell them you were wild, drank, smoked and were out thugging in the streets. How many people get to say they served their country?”





# RED DAGGER

## RESERVE MARINES BREAK OUT OF THEIR COMFORT ZONE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. IAN LEONES

**M**arines with Company C, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, based out of Peoria, Illinois, participated in exercise Red Dagger at various training locations across the northeast United States, June 3-17, 2016.

The Marines were joined by British commandos from the 131 Commando Squadron Royal Engineers to complete the third consecutive iteration of this bilateral training exercise.

Last June, the Marines of 6th ESB traveled to Dartmoor, England, to conduct training that is normally outside of their comfort zone, such as mountain climbing and rappelling.

“We were there in 2015 and ran several training events across the southern portion of the country,” said Capt. Aaron R. Scroggins, the company commander, Company C, 6th ESB. “The year prior to that, we were in Quantico, Virginia, working on improvements of the base.”

This year’s training began at Fort Dix, New Jersey, where the troops conducted rifle, pistol and demolition ranges.

“We based all of these ranges on how the Marine Corps trains,” Scroggins said. “When we went to the pistol range, we used the Marine Corps pistol qualification as the basis for the training. We based our rifle training around table two and built on it from there. For demolitions, since both of our units share that capability, we based it off our schoolhouse training.”

For the British commandos, familiarization with the Marines’ weapon systems and techniques proved to be valuable knowledge.

“I really like to work with foreign weapons and equipment to work out the pros and cons of it,” said Staff Sgt. Andy Higgins, troop staff sergeant with 131 CSRE. “I think it broadens my horizons within the military to use equipment like the M16.”

The Marines and commandos then moved to Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, to conduct engineering operations, which included various construction and renovation projects.

“We have been able to work on several construction projects, which include construction of a parking lot by our motor transport support Marines, and various building improvements and renovations around Fort Indiantown Gap by our combat engineers,” Scroggins said.

Having integrated the Marines and British commandos into three platoons for the duration of the training, the troops completed a final field exercise, a simulated engineering mission in support of a regimental combat team.

“For our final field exercise, we are mentoring and evaluating our platoon commanders because the platoons are integrated with Marines and the British commandos,” Scroggins said. “Right now we have two Marine lieutenants serving as platoon commanders and a British commando lieutenant serving as the third. We’ve mixed it up by giving each platoon commander a platoon sergeant from the other unit. By doing that and keeping a good mix all around, we’ve been able to get that integration, the best practices from each unit and really nail down how to work together effectively.”





A fire team of Marines with Company C, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, and commandos with 131 Commando Squadron Royal Engineers, British army, plans their next movement during an urban assault simulation during exercise Red Dagger at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn., June 13.

Even though the troops do not share the same procedures, they are able to build off of each other's knowledge and gain respect for each other's strengths.

"They have a very different way of doing things, but it often leads to the same end result," said Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Wolfe, a team leader with Company C, 6th ESB. "The biggest thing I've learned from them is an attitude. Those guys stay positive no matter what. I've never heard them complain once. It's very humbling and eye opening."

The eye opening exchange of ideas drives this exercise and builds a lasting relationship with an allied partner nation.

"Overall, Red Dagger has been an outstanding event in just building personal relationships and being able to use that to build better Marines," Scroggins said. "Every time that these Marines come away from something like this, it creates massive changes in how they view the world. They get to see how other nations do things, then turn around and ask how they can improve and what other things they can do to become more effective."

With plans to keep the exercise going well into the future, the Marines of Company C will continue to keep their skill sets relevant and be ready to respond when the nation calls.



Lance Cpl. Robert L Herpel (right), a combat engineer with Company C, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, and Pvt. Antonio Comparetto (left), a sapper with 131 Commando Squadron Royal Engineers, British army, unwind barbed wire to build a defensive obstacle during exercise Red Dagger at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn., June 13.





BEEN THERE  
**DONE THAT**

## FORCE HEADQUARTERS GROUP

### **PUSH THROUGH THE PAIN**

Cpl. Joseph A. Myers, a military policeman with 4th Law Enforcement Battalion, Force Headquarters Group, participates in the oleoresin capsicum qualification course during exercise Platinum Wolf 16 at Peacekeeping Operations Training Center South Base, Bujanovac, Serbia, May 11. Exercise Platinum Wolf 16 is designed to seamlessly integrate Reserve Marines with the active component while demonstrating interoperability with partner nations in the region.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. DEVAN BARNETT











## 4TH MARINE DIVISION

**LANCE CPL. GERALD POTEPA** (right) and Lance Cpl. Brent Madison (left), mortar men with 2/24 Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, fire the 81 mm mortar during a fire support coordination exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind., April 14. The Marines coordinated with forward observers to provide suppressive fire with mortars while aviation assets, provided by air national guard units, destroyed the target.

PHOTO BY SGT. SARA GRAHAM



**MARINES** and Sailors with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Southern Command wait for a CH-53E Super Stallion to land at an LZ near Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., May 6. The Marines and sailors performed a limited recovery of aircraft and personnel exercise to ensure rapid response in the event of a natural disaster.

PHOTO BY CPL. KIMBERLY AGUIRRE







## 4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

**THE 4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING** color guard team march on the colors at a change of command ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California, April 29. Maj. Gen. William T. Collins relinquished command of 4th MAW to Brig. Gen. Bradley S. James, the previous assistant wing commander of 4th MAW.

PHOTO BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE

**MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM T. COLLINS** speaks at a change of command ceremony where he relinquished command as the commanding general of 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, to Brig. Gen. Bradley S. James at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., April 29.

PHOTO BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE

## 4TH MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP

**PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS BENJAMIN RAWSON** (left), a Fleet Marine Force hospital corpsman with Company C, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, and Lance Cpl. Edward Joseph (right), a team leader with 131 Commando Squadron Royal Engineers, British army, build a window frame for a barracks renovation project at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn., June 11. As part of the exercise, the Marines and British commandos worked on various renovation and construction projects around the Army base.

PHOTO BY SGT. IAN LEONES





# PLATINUM WOLF 16

## PARTNER NATIONS MASTER PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. SARA GRAHAM



Reserve Marines with 4th Law Enforcement Battalion, Force Headquarters Group, patrol the Serbian countryside during exercise Platinum Wolf 2016 at Peacekeeping Operations Training Center South Base, Bujanovac, Serbia, May 16. The Marines are working with the partner nations of Bosnia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Serbia to share new ideas, build interoperability, and master peacekeeping operations.









Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Brigade, Armed Forces of Bosnia, demonstrate riot control techniques during exercise Platinum Wolf 2016 at Peacekeeping Operations Training Center South Base, Bujanovac, Serbia, May 20. The soldiers worked with the partner nations of Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Serbia and the United States during the final field exercise where they mastered patrols, military operation urban terrain training, and build their interoperability.

**F**

ollowing two weeks of extensive training in peacekeeping operations and non-lethal weapons, seven countries including Bosnia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and the United States, joined together during exercise Platinum Wolf 2016 for their final field exercise on Peacekeeping Operations Training Center South Base, Bujanovac, Serbia, May 19-20, 2016. Their culminating event showed their mastery of all the skillsets taught by the participating partner nations.

Reserve Marines with Company D, 4th Law Enforcement Battalion, Force Headquarters Group, seamlessly integrated and worked hand-in-hand with all of the participating nations.

“It is interesting engaging with partner nations. I was coordinating training between a Macedonian officer and Slovenian officer at the same time,” said 1st Lt. Jonathan Stinson, platoon commander of Co. D., 4th LE Bn. “Having that experience is just fun working with people from an entirely different culture and background.”

With seven nations participating, the soldiers and Marines overcame unique challenges to include multiple language barriers.

“First of all, we have to learn to coordinate in the same language,” said Staff Sgt. Ivan Collautti, military police and crowd control instructor from Slovenia. “It is the most difficult to manage for the nations, it is their biggest obstacle.”

Despite the obstacle the U.S. Marines and European counterparts faced, they quickly found ways to communicate and effectively learn each other’s unique tactics and techniques.

“It’s interesting to know stuff like close protection, improvised explosive devices, the patrols, it’s very useful,” said Cpl. Simeon I. Dimitrov, an infantry soldier with the 26400 Mechanized Infantry Battalion, Bulgarian Armed Forces. “It’s good to work with other nations because all of the differences in the cultures and were like brothers in something like this, it is good to help each other.”

The Marines and partner nations stressed the importance of not only mastering their peacekeeping operations, but ensured that interoperability and understanding each other was a top priority, because they could end up anywhere with anyone.

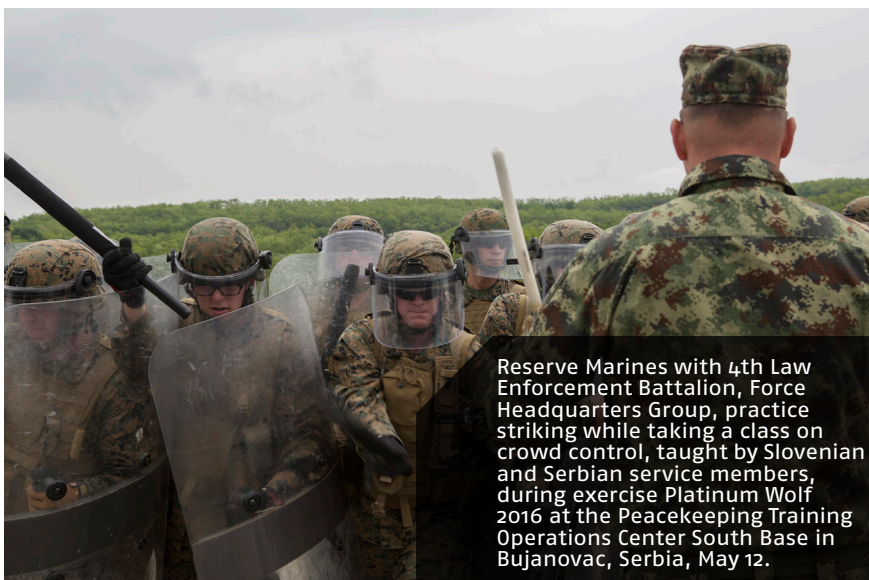




Sgt. Maj. Sasha Toshevski, first sergeant and non-lethal weapons instructor with the Macedonian Special Forces Regiment, instructs a Bosnian soldier on shotgun loading techniques while training in a non-lethal weapons class, during exercise Platinum Wolf 2016 at Peacekeeping Operations Training Center South Base in Bujanovac, Serbia, May 13.



Reserve Marines with 4th Law Enforcement Battalion, Force Headquarters Group, simulate clearing a room during exercise Platinum Wolf 2016 at Peacekeeping Operations Training Center South Base, Bujanovac, Serbia, May 18.



Reserve Marines with 4th Law Enforcement Battalion, Force Headquarters Group, practice striking while taking a class on crowd control, taught by Slovenian and Serbian service members, during exercise Platinum Wolf 2016 at the Peacekeeping Training Operations Center South Base in Bujanovac, Serbia, May 12.

“They never know what environment they could find themselves in while abroad on a mission,” said Capt. Zzorran Stankoski, company commander of the Macedonian Military Police Battalion. “They could receive different tasks and missions to execute. Maybe they will be in a situation where they have to control a riot using passive-aggressive resistance. They might also have to deploy the Taser, or expose someone to oleoresin capsicum, so they need to know the basics.”

After learning from each other and utilizing their different capabilities, each of the nations applied what they practiced together during their final field exercise. They conducted field operations including a final assault in a military operation urban terrain training scenario, where the nations worked together to clear a town with simulated insurgents.

After successfully clearing the town, the nations worked together on non-lethal weapons demonstrations showing their strength, teamwork, and a combination of the new skills they have taught each other. They also demonstrated how nations with different pasts and cultures can successfully come together to build important partnerships and ensure stability in their region of operations.

“There is a lot of significance to this training operation, this is a region that has experienced a lot of turmoil and ethnic violence in the past, so seeing these partner nations coming together working on a mutual purpose on promoting peacekeeping operations, that means a lot not just in the operational environment,” said Stinson.

With integration and peacekeeping training as the focus of the exercise, each nation successfully combined their unique capabilities and mastered the ability to conduct peacekeeping operations. Their training and participation in Platinum Wolf 2016 is a critical component of ensuring the United States and six Balkan nations can address any issue together and promote regional stability.





# CONTROLLED CHAOS

RESERVE MARINES LAUNCH ITX 4-16

STORY BY SGT SARA GRAHAM







Lance Cpl. Justin Jundante, a cannoneer with 5/14, 4th MARDIV, fires the M777 Lightweight 155mm Howitzer during Integrated Training Exercise 4-16, at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 14, 2016.

PHOTO BY SGT SARA GRAHAM



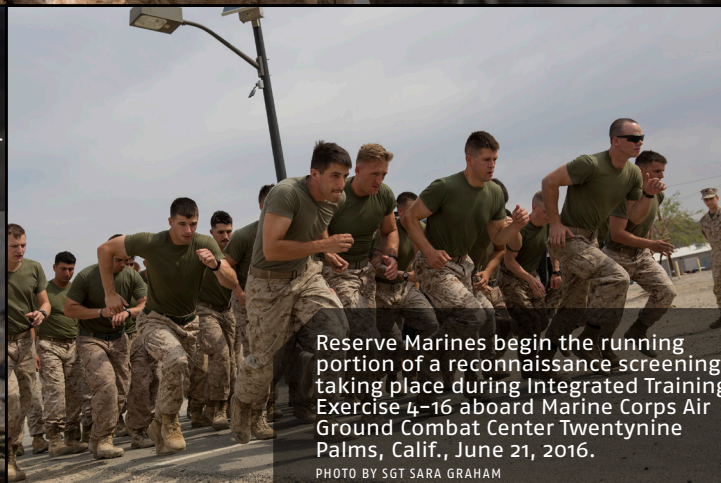
Lt. Gen. Rex C. McMillian, commander of Marine Forces Reserve, speaks to the Reserve Marines and Sailors attending Integrated Training Exercise 4-16 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 19, 2016.

PHOTO BY SGT SARA GRAHAM



Reserve Marines with 1/24, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th MARDIV, provide suppressive machine gun fire for ground units at range 410A during Integrated Training Exercise 4-16, at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 14, 2016.

PHOTO BY SGT SARA GRAHAM



Reserve Marines begin the running portion of a reconnaissance screening taking place during Integrated Training Exercise 4-16 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 21, 2016.

PHOTO BY SGT SARA GRAHAM



As the heat rose steadily over the course of two-weeks in the vast desert of southern California, so did the proficiency of the Reserve Marines completing their annual training aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California. The Marines attended multiple training scenarios where they sent bullets blazing down range as they combined ground, artillery and air capabilities during the exercise lasting from June 13-28.

Starting the first evolution of training for the Reserve Marines was 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. They worked through a series of ranges moving from platoon to company level training where they combined all the elements of a Marine Air-Ground Task Force in the final exercise.

“The whole exercise is built on a building block approach,” said Col. Michael Samarov, commanding officer of 25th Marines, 4th MARDIV. “Mechanized assault courses and airborne assault courses, where we add mechanized vehicles, tanks, artillery and aviation. Those are the culminating events of this exercise, with all of that put together with the battalion headquarters over the top controlling it.”

Building up to the final event, the Marines worked on a series of realistic scenarios including live-fire ranges, ground assaults and air support, all located in the Mojave Desert of Southern California. The desert offers rocky, mountainous terrain and soaring temperatures to simulate the challenges and realism of combat.

“The heat is a big factor, you are fighting the elements and getting use to that as much as you are training to a standard,” said Sgt. Maj. Glen Bragg, regimental sergeant major of 25th Marine Regiment.

Training through this type of environment in a live-fire situation is essential to ensuring the Marines are prepared to fight in any type of climate against any enemy.

“Combat is the ultimate contact sport, in this sport you don’t have nicely lined fields, you don’t have referees, we are wearing more gear and the opposing team isn’t trying to hit you they are trying to shoot you,” Samarov said.

In addition to working on their abilities to drive out the enemy defending a specific position, they were able to take advantage of the unique opportunities the base offers. This allows them to train in areas that they are not able to at their home units.

“In the Marine Corps this is the best training I have ever received, so it is pretty exciting to be able to go back to my team and junior Marines and pass on this knowledge,” said Cpl. Oscar Alarcon, fire support man with 5th battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th MARDIV.

After working through the crawl and walk phases of the training, the Marines moved on to the run. They combined all of their assets together during a two-day final exercise consisting of ground maneuver elements, mechanized operations and the use of air assaults. While 1/24 has completed their training during ITX, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th MARDIV, began the next evolution of ITX, following the same pattern to perfect their abilities to perform as a MAGTF.

“When these two infantry battalions that are here and all their attachments end this exercise, they will be as close as they possibly can be to their Active Component forces,” said Samarov. “Everything we do here saves time after activation, so we can get this battalion ready quickly and off to the fight with the Active Component.”





UNIT  
**PROFILE**



## 6TH COMMUNICATION BATTALION, FHG

**LOCATION:** Brooklyn, New York

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Capt. James Kenney-Prentiss (front), battalion adjutant with 6th Communications Battalion, Force Headquarters Group, Marine Forces Reserve, leads his Marines on a hike through the trails at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Butlerville, Indiana, June 10, 2016. The Marines battled hills and weather conditions during the hike and pushed each other to finish strongly.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. MELISSA MARTENS

**I**n an information society where communications technology evolves at a rapid pace, an increasing importance has been placed on tech savvy Marines to accomplish the communications mission of the Marine Corps. Within Marine Forces Reserve, the Marines of 6th Communications Battalion ensure that Force Headquarters Group stays connected, even when operating from an expeditionary environment.

Since 2013, 6th Comm. Bn. has supported continuing rotations of 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade. A detachment of 27 Marines remains in support of 5th MEB command element at all times in order to plan, install, operate, and maintain the deployable joint command and control system. The detachment remains in continuous support for real world operations, but also participates in coalition exercises.

Last year, 6th Comm. Bn. Deployed to Jordan in support of Exercise Eager Lion where they planned, installed, operated and maintained a communications network for more than 120 users and enabled command and control for ground forces. Later that year, Marines with 6th Comm. Bn. provided the same support in the United Arab Emirates in support of Exercise Iron Magic.

This year, 29 Marines participated in African Lion 2016 in Morocco to provide the Commander of Combined Joint Task Force-African Lion with SIPR, NIPR, and DSN capabilities through the use of satellite.

A highly utilized unit, 6th Comm. Bn. shows the total force how Force Headquarters Group maintains its readiness and its willingness to respond to ongoing operations in the United States and abroad.





# 6TH COMMUNICATIONS BATTALION QUICK FACTS

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•Founded: May 15, 1957 at Fort Schuyler in Bronx, New York, as 1st Communication Support Battalion in the Marine Corps Reserve.

•Redesignated in 1962 as 6th Communication Battalion, Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force in the Marine Corps Reserve.

•1997 relocated to Floyd Bennet Field in Brooklyn, New York.

Awards Recieved:

•Meritorious Unit Commendation Streamer for supporting operations in Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Southwest Asia from 1990–1991.

•Presidential Unit Citation Streamer for participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq during March–June 2003.

•National Defense Streamer with one bronze star.

•Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Streamer.

•Global War on Terrorism Service.

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## LEADERS

**COMMANDING OFFICER:** Lt. Col. John D. Cordone

**SERGEANT MAJOR:** Sgt. Maj. Thomas K. Ballentine

**INSPECTOR-INSTRUCTOR:** Lt. Col. Shannon M. Shea

**INSPECTOR-INSTRUCTOR SERGEANT MAJOR:** Sgt. Maj. Ramiro M. Olmos

**MISSION:** Provide communication support to Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group or to a designated Joint Task Force command element when directed. Additionally, to provide Ground Mobile Forces Satellite support to Force Headquarters Group in the conduct of its mission, as directed.

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BE SMART,  
**BE SAFE**



# HOW CAN I STEP UP?

## SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

Sexual assault is a crime that is incompatible with our core values of honor, courage, and commitment. It is an affront to the basic American principles we so bravely defend. Sexual assault goes against everything we claim to be as Marines. It is a crime.



# FACTS

- **YOU MUST HAVE CONSENT TO ENGAGE IN ANY AND ALL SEXUAL BEHAVIORS. CONSENT IS HEARING THE WORD "YES." IT IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF HEARING "NO." IT'S THE LAW!**
- **UP TO 75% OF THE PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ASSAULTS THAT OCCUR ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES INVOLVE THE ABUSE OF ALCOHOL BY ASSAILANTS, VICTIMS, OR BOTH.**
- **ACCORDING TO THE UNIFORM CRIME REPORT, IN A STUDY SURVEYING MORE THAN 6,000 STUDENTS AT 32 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE US: MORE THAN 90% OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS ARE COMMITTED BY PEOPLE THE VICTIM KNEW.**
- **ALTHOUGH THE MAJORITY OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS ARE NOT REPORTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT, RECENT RESEARCH INDICATES THAT REPORT RATES ARE INCREASING.**
- **LESS THAN 2% OF REPORTS TO POLICE ARE CONSIDERED FALSE REPORTS.**

[HTTP://STEPUPPROGRAM.ORG/TOPICS/SEXUAL-ASSAULT/#CONSIDERATIONS](http://stepupprogram.org/topics/sexual-assault/#considerations)

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Be aware of comments and behaviors from others that would indicate they were intent on having sexual intercourse even if the partner was unwilling.
- Notice if someone is getting ready to have sexual intercourse with a partner who is incapacitated.
- Don't pressure or encourage friends to drink or have sex as often or with as many people as possible.
- Don't joke about sexual assault; comments and jokes that are meant to "ease the tension" or are "just kidding around" can trivialize the severity of the behavior.
- Know your level of comfort with conversations and talk about sexual behavior. If you find groups or individuals who talk about sexual relationships that are not in sync with how you feel, don't be afraid to state your position.

## **IF YOU BECOME AWARE THAT A SEXUAL ASSAULT HAS OCCURRED OR ARE TOLD OF AN ASSAULT OCCURRING:**

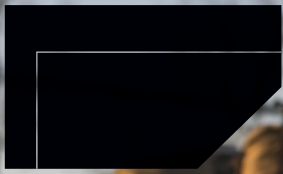
- Believe the person.
- Tell the victim it is not his or her fault.
- Encourage a report.
- Realize however, there may be reasons that the person does NOT want to report. Respect that decision.
- Don't pry or try to get information out of the person if he/she is unwilling to be forthcoming with information.
- If you learn of the perpetrator's identity, don't suggest physical or any other form of retaliation.
- Know available resources.
- Listen.
- Be patient.

FOR MORE INFORMATION HOW YOU CAN STEP UP  
VISIT:  
[HTTP://STEPUPPROGRAM.ORG/](http://stepupprogram.org/)





SAVED  
**ROUNDS**



Scout Snipers with 2/24 Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, run to a Black hawk Helicopter to practice insertion exercises during a fire support coordination exercise in Camp Atterbury, Ind., April 14. The Reserve Marines coordinated with Company B, 8th Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment (8-229 AV), 11th Aviation Command (Theater), a U.S. Army Black hawk crew, and the U.S. Air Force to conduct combined arms training during the duration of the exercise.



## 2/24 BRINGS STEEL RAIN

### MARINES CONDUCT COMBINED ARMS TRAINING

STORY AND PHOTO BY SGT. SARA GRAHAM

**R**eserve Marines with 2/24 Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, participated in a fire support coordination exercise April 2-16, 2016, at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. The exercise allowed the Reserve Marines to not only hone their skills and prepare for their upcoming annual training but also stressed team work and integration of their combined arms operations with a U.S. Army Reserve Assault Battalion and the U.S. Air Force throughout the exercise.

“We are here for a combined arms live-fire exercise,” said Capt. Jordan Overdorf, Weapons Company commander for 2/24. “We have weapons company shooting 81 mm mortars, we brought in air support, had scout snipers doing stalking and shooting qualifications, and the combined anti-armor team working on live-fire and maneuver ranges.”

In preparation for their annual training, 2/24 used multiple assets, combining the functions of their forward operators, 81 mm mortar teams, snipers and a combined anti-armor team. Each ran ranges that focused on team work between different while also allowing Marines to work on individual skills.

According to Cpl. Karl Pulliam, a vehicle commander with Broken Arrow Anti-Tank Training Company, 4th Marine Division, the training on the CAAT range allowed the Marines to work closely with their parent company, an opportunity not normally available during a standard drill weekend. The training resulted in a more fluid and cohesive unit overall. It also allowed the shooters more time behind the trigger, the drivers more time behind the wheel, and commanders to become more proficient in issuing orders from truck to truck.

“As a Reserve Marine you aren’t living and breathing the Marine Corps 24/7,” Pulliam said. “So anytime you get actual hands-on training with your weapons system, it helps your technical proficiency.”

Opportunities to run multiple ranges and train in a joint environment are important parts of overall readiness, and Reserve Marines must capitalize on them. A large focus was effective communication in conducting these missions with other branches of the military.

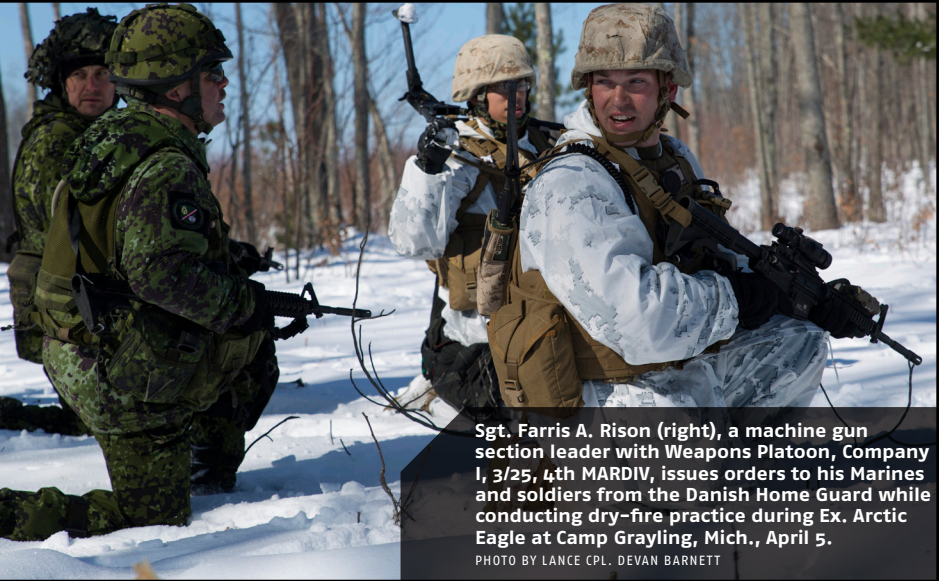
During the exercise, forward observers with 2/24 called in support from the pilots manning the A-10 Thunderbolt II, a low altitude close

air support aircraft provided by 163 Fighter Squadron, Air National Guard. In addition, 2/24’s sniper platoon also coordinated with Company B, 8th Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment (8-229 AV), 11th Aviation Command (Theater), a U.S. Army Black hawk crew, to enhance their skills in casualty evacuation exercises and insertion into enemy lines. To accomplish this, learning each other’s different ways of operating was an important part of completing the mission.

“I think it is important we are all on the same page, we are all learning to speak each other’s languages,” said Overdorf. “We all speak a little bit differently so we are learning to communicate and work with different agencies. I think it’s good Marines see a different side of things.”

The Reserve Marines worked hard during their training, they effectively worked with each other and with their sister services to build relationships and bonds that make the Reserve Force ready to respond to any contingency. ■





Sgt. Farris A. Rison (right), a machine gun section leader with Weapons Platoon, Company I, 3/25, 4th MARDIV, issues orders to his Marines and soldiers from the Danish Home Guard while conducting dry-fire practice during Ex. Arctic Eagle at Camp Grayling, Mich., April 5.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. DEVAN BARNETT

# ARCTIC EAGLE

RESERVE MARINES FOCUS ON DEFENSIVE TACTICS TO COUNTER NATIONAL CRISES DURING EXERCISE ARCTIC EAGLE

STORY AND PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. DEVAN BARNETT

**M**arines with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve participated in exercise Arctic Eagle at Camp Grayling, Michigan, from April 4-14.

More than 300 Reserve Marines joined the 81st Troop Command of the Indiana National Guard and the Danish Home Guard to serve as the Task Force Protection team during the exercise. The Task Force Protection team worked together to prepare offensively and defensively for possible national crises in arctic regions across the world.

“The purpose of the training is to exercise the Marine Forces Reserve’s ability to plug into a defense support to civil authorities mission in times of extreme crisis inside

the United States,” said Lt. Col. Michael D. McCarthy, commanding officer of 3rd Bn., 25th Marine Reg.

The Reserve Marines, as a part of the joint bilateral task force, learned from the Danish Home Guard and conducted simulated military scenarios similar to situations they could face in cold regions.

“The Marines will be tasked to provide critical infrastructure defense of a pipeline in Alaska,” McCarthy said. “The Marines will augment the Army and the Danish Home Guard as they are called upon to protect a pipeline under terrorist threat.

The exercise increased the knowledge of the Marines, Danes, and soldiers on how to respond to national threats while also being pushed physically in constant snow and below freezing temperatures. ■



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JOHN LEE

# SOME GAVE ALL

MARINES KILLED IN CHATTANOOGA AWARDED PURPLE HEART

STORY BY SGT. SARA GRAHAM

**F**our small boxes lay closely together, each of them encasing a metal heart emblazoned with the silhouette of President George Washington against a purple background at the end of a strip of purple ribbon adorned with two white stripes down each side. The boxes, one by one, were picked up and presented to the families of the Marines recognized for their commitment to the Corps and for the sacrifice they gave while fighting for each other and their country.

Gunnery Sgt. Thomas J. Sullivan, Staff Sgt. David Wyatt, Sgt. Carson Holmquist and Lance Cpl. Squire Wells, posthumously received the Purple Heart Medal in a ceremony on April 20, for their life-saving actions during an attack by a gunman at the Naval Operational Support Center and Marine Corps Reserve Center in Chattanooga on July 16, 2015.

Earlier this year, Purple Heart medals were presented to the family of Petty Officer Randall Smith, the Sailor who died of wounds received that day, and Sgt. Demonte Cheeley, the Marine recruiter, also injured at a recruiting office across town earlier in the attack. ■

# IRON RAGE 2016

14TH MARINES TRAIN WITH ONE OF CORPS’ DEADLIEST ROCKET SYSTEMS

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. GABRIELLE QUIRE



**B**attery F, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, conducted field operations with High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, one of the military’s deadliest weapon systems at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for their summer annual training exercise, “Iron Rage,” May 28-June 11. The exercise tested command and control proficiency at platoon and regimental levels in conjunction with other batteries from 14th Marines in Alabama and Texas.

The HIMARS is the Marine Corps’ most advanced artillery system, and 2/14 is the only HIMARS battalion in the Reserve Component. There are only two HIMARS detachments in the entire Marine Corps.

The HIMARS can accurately engage targets over great distances with high

volumes of lethal rocket and missile fire and deliver precise strikes from over 40 miles away. The weapon system is mounted on a truck and has the ability to provide fire support for Marines fighting in any climate or place.

HIMARS may be the most advanced and relevant artillery platform that exists in the 21st century offering the longest firing range that the Marine Corps has access to along with the ability to precisely select targets and limit collateral damage. The fact that the Reserve Component has the ability to employ this weapon system is another example of how it effectively augments, reinforces and supports the total force. ■







WITH THE  
**GEAR**

#### SPECIFICATIONS

WEIGHT: 77.6 LBS

LENGTH: 43.1 IN

BARREL LENGTH: 16.25 IN

CALIBER: 40MM GRENADE

ACTION: BLOWBACK (ADVANCED PRIMER IGNITION)

MAX RATE OF FIRE: 325-375 RPM (CYCLIC)

MUZZLE VELOCITY: 790 FT/S

MAX RANGE: 2,212 M

# QUICK FACTS

## MK 19

•The first model (Mod 0) in 1966 was determined to be unreliable and unsafe, but a total of 6 Mod 1 launchers were successfully tested on U.S. Navy riverine patrol craft in the Mekong Delta in 1972

•The Navy made further improvements to the weapon, resulting in the Mod 3 in 1976. The MOD 3 was adopted by the U.S. Army in 1983 and remains in service to the present day

•Production of the Mk 19 is managed by Saco Defense Industries (now a division of General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems)

•In November 2014, General Dynamics entered into an agreement with Advanced Material Engineering Pte Ltd, a subsidiary of Singapore Technologies Kinetics, to manufacture 40 mm high-velocity airburst ammunition for the U.S. military



# MARK 19 GRENADE LAUNCHER

First developed for use in the Vietnam War in 1966, the Mk 19 grenade launcher has also seen use in the Persian Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The Mk 19 is a belt-fed, blowback-operated, air-cooled, crew-served, fully automatic weapon that is designed not to cook off. It fires 40 mm grenades at a cyclic rate of 325 to 375 rounds per minute, giving a practical rate of fire of 60 rounds per minute (rapid) and 40 rounds per minute (sustained). The weapon operates on the blowback principle, which uses the chamber pressure from each fired round to load and re-cock the weapon. The Mk 19 can launch its grenade at a maximum distance of 2,212 meters, though its effective range to a point target is about 1,500 meters, since the large rear leaf sight is only graduated to 1,500

The Mk 19 grenade launcher replaced the earlier Mk 18 hand-cranked multiple grenade launcher. The 40 mm ammunition used (40×53 mm) is not interchangeable with that used in the M203 (40×46 mm). The M203 ammunition develops a lower chamber pressure, and resultant lower muzzle velocity and range, compared to ammunition loaded for the Mk 19. The Mk 19 fires from an open bolt.

[HTTP://WWW.WORLDPOLICY.ORG/PROJECTS/ARMS/  
REPORTS/SMALLARMS.HTM](http://www.worldpolicy.org/projects/arms/reports/smallarms.htm)  
[HTTP://ARMYPUBS.ARMY.MIL/DOCTRINE/DR\\_PUBS/  
DR\\_A/PDF/FM3\\_22X27.PDF](http://armypubs.army.mil/doctrine/DR_PUBS/DR_A/PDF/FM3_22X27.PDF)







## DOUBLE DUTY

PHOTO BY LANKE CPL. DEVAN BARNETT



### CPL. ERIC R. WHISMAN

**BILLET:** Training NCO

**TIME IN SERVICE:** 5 years

**REASON FOR JOINING:** I happen to believe that everyone should have the patriotism to serve their country in the military service, whether that's active duty, reserve, or in the guard. There is a long line in my family with patriotism and military service, so I wanted to do my part.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** To assist the squad leaders, team leaders, and the junior Marines in the knowledge and experience that I have gained over the past 5 years and to improve them as Marines proficiently and personally. I also serve as an extra set of eyes for the NCOs for the junior Marines and set the example for them.

**MEMORABLE MOMENT:** My most memorable moment was when I was a Lance Corporal and I went overseas for the first time to Botswana, Africa. We trained with foreign-nationals, our sister unit in Montana, and the National Guard of New Jersey. That experience really opened my eyes to what we do and what we're trained for as Marines.

### ERIC R. WHISMAN

**BILLET:** Fire Extinguisher Technician

**TIME IN SERVICE:** 6 months

**REASON FOR JOINING:** I got tired of working dead-end jobs and making minimum wage. My friends and family helped me get into the fire protection trade and I trained to earn my license in that field. The field for advancement really keeps me attached to doing this.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** I get dispatched and go out to inspect fire extinguishers for homes, businesses and schools all over town.

**MEMORABLE MOMENT:** When I received my license, saying I can go out there and finally do this in fire protection, it made me feel good about myself. It offered me the opportunity to go out there and earn a better living and finally being on the track for a good career.



### MILITARY EXPRESSIONS FROM AROUND THE CORPS

**HIMARS:** High Mobility Artillery Rocket System

**OSCAR MIKE:** On the move

**LOI:** Letter of instruction

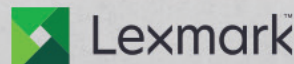
**TTP:** Tactics, techniques and procedures

**MRE:** Meal Ready to Eat





# Congratulations, Finalists!



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