

MARINES™

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE

INTEGRATED COMBAT **TEAM**

RESERVE MARINES VOLUNTEER
FOR THE FIRST GROUND COMBAT
ELEMENT INTEGRATED TASK FORCE





COMMANDER'S CORNER

FORCE IN READINESS

As we close out another highly successful year of operations, I am proud and appreciative of the time, efforts and sacrifice of our Marines and Sailors. Spread across more than 160 locations, you are the link between the Corps and your communities. During 2014, the Marines and Sailors of Marine Forces Reserve executed over 74 percent of casualty calls and over 90 percent of funeral honors tasked to the Marine Corps as a whole. You supported over 350 community events and distributed millions of toys to less fortunate children throughout our country. These are critical responsibilities in which your performance continues to be superb. Again, for most Americans, you are the face of the Marine Corps.

The coming year will present challenges and demonstrate that the face of our Marine Corps is changing. The Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force is a main line of effort in the campaign to integrate our ground combat forces to the maximum extent possible. I have full confidence that our Reserve Marines participating in the GCEITF will perform well and continue to demonstrate the hallmark of Marine Forces Reserve: readiness.

Lastly, we must continue to be ever vigilant of the importance of taking care of our Marines, not just because it is a critical component of readiness, but also because it is our sacred duty and responsibility. Suicide prevention is an ongoing fight in which knowing your Marines and looking out for their welfare is a crucial tool. Reserve Marines must overcome the challenge inherent in the limited interaction that uniquely characterizes Reserve duty. I know you will meet this challenge head-on. Thank you for your outstanding efforts during 2014, and I look forward to meeting and exceeding 2015's challenges as your commander.

Semper Fidelis,
Lt. Gen. Richard P. Mills
Commander, Marine Forces Reserve

SNAP SHOT



Percussionists with Marine Corps Band New Orleans pose next to the Kansas City Chiefs drum Nov. 16, 2014, after performing during half time at the Chief's Salute to Service game.

PHOTO BY CPL. BRYTANI MUSICK

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MARINE CORPS RESERVE

QUARTER 4 2014

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PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. IAN FERRO



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Reserve, active, male and female Marines comprise the first Integrated Task Force

Marines with Marine Forces Reserve serve food to more than 240 guests during the Thanksgiving lunch at Ozanam Inn, a homeless shelter in New Orleans, La., Nov. 19. The Marines are constantly involved in volunteer and community service in the local New Orleans area as well as across the country.

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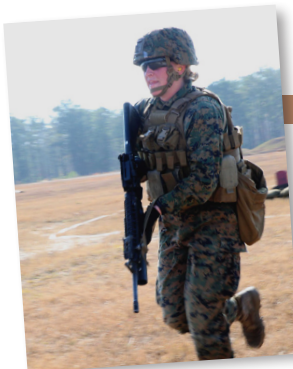
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ON THE COVER

Lance Cpl. Stephanie Jordan, a rifleman with Co. A, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force sprints back to the rest of her fire team during a fire-team assault aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 16, 2014. The GCEITF is composed of male, female, Reserve and active Marine volunteers who are the first to be part of an integrated combat team.

PHOTO BY CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK





NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS ONLY

MARINE CORPS RESERVE

TOYS FOR TOTS

Toys for Tots

Lance Cpl. Sebastian Allii, left, and Cpl. Matthew Bialy, right, collect toys and hand out raffle tickets for the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program during the 6th Annual Guitar Pull at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Nov. 19.

PHOTO BY CPL. GRACE L. WALADKEWICS



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. MICHELLE M. REIF

LEADERSHIP:

NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR LANCE CORPORAL LEADERSHIP COURSE

Marine administrative message 521/14 announced the launch of a command-sponsored Lance Corporal Leadership and Ethics Seminar, as well as updates to enlisted professional military education promotion requirements for active and Reserve Marines.

Marine Corps University established the seminar to enhance small unit leadership and ensure a better understanding of Marine Corps ethos. The seminar is to be planned and implemented at the unit level by the command sergeant major or senior enlisted advisor. Prior to attending the seminar, lance corporals must complete the distance education MarineNet Leading Marines course. Both the Leading Marines course and seminar are required for promotion to corporal, effective Oct. 1, 2015.

For more information and a complete list of updated enlisted PME requirements for all grades, see **MARADMIN 521/14**. ■



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. DAVID FLYNN

OPPORTUNITIES:

ACTIVE RESERVE PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE FOR ENLISTED MARINES

Applications are now being accepted for fiscal year 2015 active-duty opportunities available to enlisted Marines through the Active Reserve program. The AR program provides a force of well trained and experienced full-time, Reserve-component Marines to facilitate the integration of the Total Force. AR program benefits include active-duty pay and entitlements, including the potential to attain active duty retirement benefits. The Reserve component seeks to access 230 enlisted Marines to the AR program during FY15.

For more information and a list of the eligible military occupational specialties, visit **MARADMIN 504/14**. ■

LATERAL MOVE:

SELECTED MARINE CORPS RESERVE PROGRAM ALLOWS MARINES TO RETRAIN



PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. ORRIN G. FARMER

M **ARADMIN 584/14** announces the Selected Marine Corps Reserve

Lateral Move Program for military occupational specialty retraining of Marines assigned to SMCR units, and prior service Marines requesting affiliation with SMCR units. The Marine Corps Training Information Management System will be used to identify appropriate school seats for qualified Marines. All requested course dates should begin no earlier than 60 days after the date of the total force retention system submission.

For all application requirements and information, see the **MARADMIN**. ■



THE BATTLE OF INCHON

Marine tank commander is waving Leathernecks to the rear of his tank as it prepares to take out a point of resistance on Wolmi Island, gateway to Inchon.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DEFENSE DEPT. MARINE CORPS PHOTO BY SGT. FRANK C. KERR

The Battle of Inchon was an extreme strategic blow for the United Nations against the invading North Korean People's Army in South Korea. The operation involved some 75,000 troops and 261 naval vessels and was considered impossible by many.

U.S. MARINES LANDED AT THE WESTERN PORT CITY OF INCHON, NEAR SEOUL, AND WERE POISED TO MOVE INLAND TO RETAKE THE CAPITAL AND DECISIVELY CUT THE ALREADY TENUOUS NORTH KOREAN SUPPLY LINES.

The amphibious operation was conceived by Army General Douglas MacArthur. Inchon was a tactically challenging amphibious target, with long approaches through shallow channels, poor beaches and a tidal range that restricted landing operations to a few hours a day.

The 1st and 5th Marines went ashore on the morning of Sept. 15, 1950. Resistance and casualties were modest, and initial objectives were quickly secured. Over the next several days, as supplies and troops poured ashore at Inchon, the Marines moved relentlessly toward Seoul.

For more information visit:
<http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/events/kowar/50-unof/inchon.htm>

2ND LT. RAYMOND G. MURPHY (1930–2007), USMCR
U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE, COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

Although painfully wounded by fragments from an enemy mortar shell while leading his evacuation platoon in support of assault units attacking a cleverly concealed and well-entrenched hostile force occupying commanding ground, 2nd Lt. Murphy steadfastly refused medical aid and continued to lead his men up a hill through a withering barrage of hostile mortar and small-arms fire, maneuvering his force from one position to the next and shouting words of encouragement. Undeterred by the increasing intense enemy fire, he immediately located casualties as they fell and made several trips up and down to direct evacuation teams to the wounded. His resolute and inspiring leadership, exceptional fortitude, and great personal valor reflect the highest credit upon 2nd Lt. Murphy and enhance the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.



CITATION COURTESY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY ARCHIVE

THE HARD FACTS

• MOTTO

THE 4TH TANK BATTALION MOTTO IS "53 DAYS." WHEN RESERVE MARINES WERE ACTIVATED FOR THE KOREAN CONFLICT, IT WAS JUST 53 DAYS UNTIL THEY PARTICIPATED IN THEIR FIRST COMBAT ACTION, THE LANDING AT INCHON IN SEPTEMBER 1950.

• OPERATION

THE CODE NAME FOR THE OPERATION WAS OPERATION CHROMITE.

• THE NUMBERS

THE OPERATION INVOLVED SOME 75,000 TROOPS AND 261 NAVAL VESSELS.

• THE DRIVING FORCE

THE MAJORITY OF UNITED NATIONS GROUND FORCES INVOLVED WERE U.S. MARINES, COMMANDED BY GENERAL OF THE ARMY DOUGLAS MACARTHUR. MACARTHUR WAS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE OPERATION, OVERCOMING THE STRONG MISGIVINGS OF MORE CAUTIOUS GENERALS TO A RISKY ASSAULT OVER EXTREMELY UNFAVORABLE TERRAIN.

Sources:

<http://www.history.navy.mil>
<http://www.globalsecurity.org>



RESERVE FORCES AROUND THE WORLD:

MARINES PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISES TO PREPARE THEM FOR REAL-WORLD CONFLICTS AND OPERATIONS. (QUARTER 4: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2014)



European Command

JOINT WARRIOR

GDP-ISAF

JOINT WARRIOR

Joint Warrior is a United Kingdom multinational exercise that involves numerous warships, aircraft, Marines and troops. It prepares maritime forces, including ships, submarines, aircraft and personnel for the challenges of real-world activity, from maritime security and counter-piracy to combat operations.

OCT. 6-17, 2014

GEORGIA DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM

A program designed to train Georgian infantry battalions to conduct full-spectrum operations in a counterinsurgency environment and deploy Georgian battalions to Afghanistan. Marines help increase the Georgian armed forces' capacity to train and prepare for coalition operations.

FEB. 19 TO NOV. 30, 2014

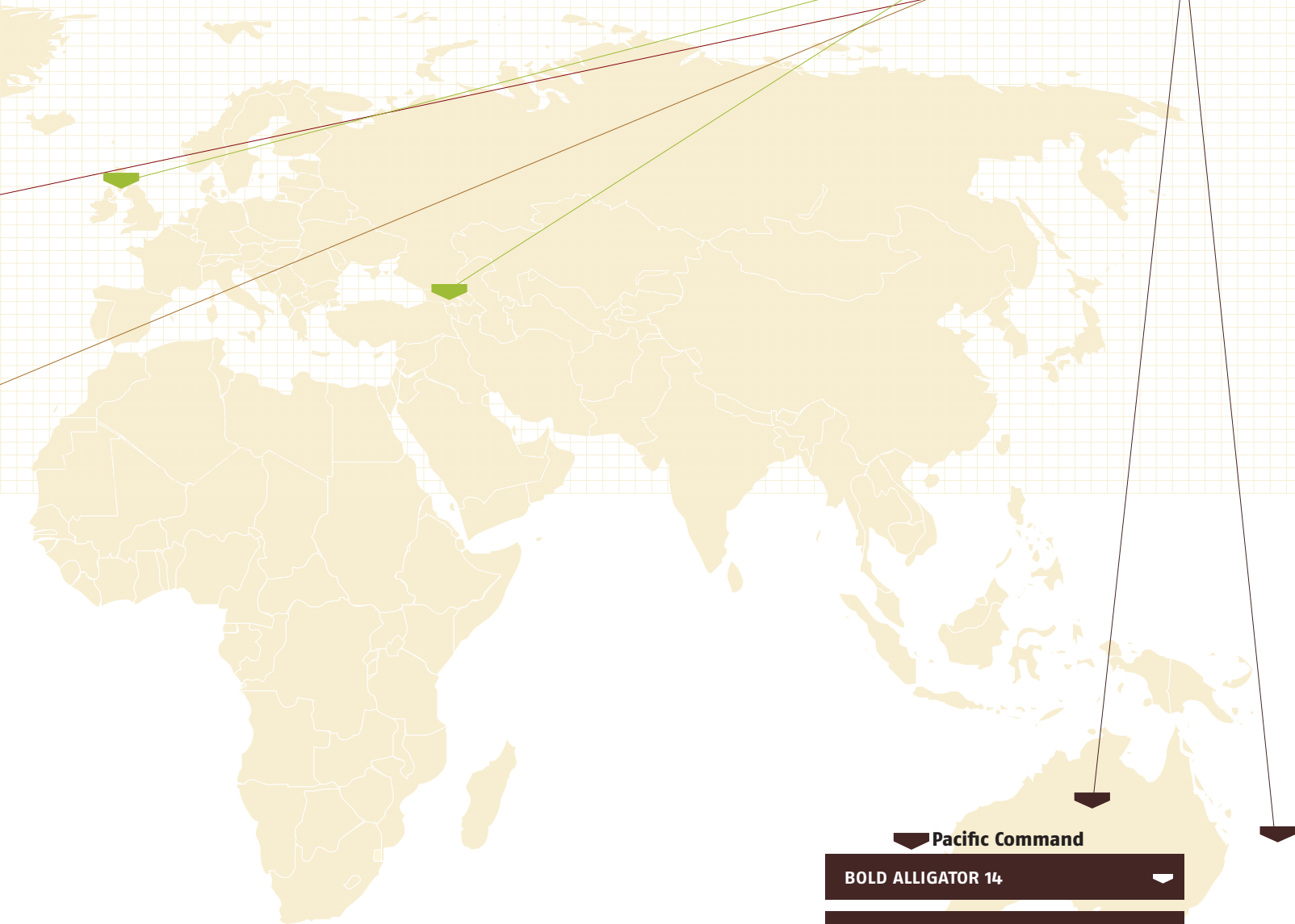
Northern Command

DECISIVE ACTION ROTATION 15

NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER DAR 15

Fourth Force Reconnaissance Company participates in a joint service rotation that allows units to fully exercise their mission-essential task list to support the force's core competencies: wide-area security and combined-arms maneuver.

SEPT. 26 TO NOV. 8, 2014



Southern Command

SOUTHERN PARTNERSHIP STATION

SOUTHERN PARTNERSHIP STATION
Southern Partnership Station is a 4th Fleet deployment designed to strengthen civil and maritime capabilities with partner nations in the Caribbean, Central and South American regions.

MAY 11 TO OCT. 10, 2014

Pacific Command

BOLD ALLIGATOR 14

BOLD ALLIGATOR 14

Bold Alligator 14 is a scenario-driven exercise designed to improve naval amphibious core competence, increase proficiency in operations ranging from foreign disaster relief to limited force entry, and help grow interoperability with coalition forces.

OCT. 28 TO NOV. 10, 2014

KIWI KORU 2014

KIWI KORU 2014

Kiwi Koru is designed to enhance defense relations with New Zealand through conducting multinational training and advancing interoperability between forces. Training includes combat lifesaver training, Law of Armed Conflict scenario play, counter improvised explosive device training and jungle operations.

NOV. 3 TO NOV. 24, 2014



CELEBRATING THE LEGACY

PORTLAND, ORE.

DATES: Nov. 15

USMC UNITS: 6th Engineer Support Battalion

PARTICIPATING NATIONS: United States

“OUR LEGACY IS MORE THAN JUST DATES AND STREAMERS; IT’S ABOUT THE MARINES THAT CAME BEFORE US AND HONORING THE TRADITIONS, THE EXPERIENCES AND THE EXAMPLES THAT THEY SET FOR US.”

-Lt. Col. Charles Donnelly, 6th Engineer Support Battalion commanding officer



Retired Col. James “Rip” Harper christens a D7G bulldozer used in operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom, outside the Naval Support Activity Portland after 6th Engineer Support Battalion’s battle color rededication ceremony in Portland, Ore., Nov. 15.

PHOTO BY CPL. TIFFANY EDWARDS

The Marines of 6th ESB, located in Portland, Oregon, celebrated the 70th anniversary of the unit’s formation with a battle color rededication ceremony Nov. 15. During the ceremony, the unit’s awards were cited while the battle streamers were secured to the battalion guidon.

“The rededication ceremony is held for the battalion to reflect on the history that we have endured over the past 70 years,” said Sgt. Maj. Billy Kruthers, the 6th ESB sergeant major.

Among the ceremony’s distinguished guests, which included 4th Marine Logistics

Group Commanding General Brig. Gen. Patrick Hermesmann, and the battalion’s first adjutant, retired Col. James “Rip” Harper. Harper served as the first 6th ESB adjutant as a first lieutenant in 1944, when the unit was formed in Guadalcanal. He later went on to command several other Marine Corps engineer battalions during his 24-year career.

After the ceremony, a D7G bulldozer used in operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom was dedicated to the battalion, commemorating the effort and sacrifices that 6th ESB Marines made over the past 70 years.

Retired Col. James “Rip” Harper (third from left) and Brig. Gen. Patrick Hermesmann, commanding general of 4th Marine Logistics Group (fourth from left), observe the 6th Engineer Support Battalion’s battle color rededication ceremony in Portland, Ore., Nov. 15.

PHOTO BY CPL. TIFFANY EDWARDS

A unit profile of 6th ESB begins on page 28



AAV DEMONSTRATION

TAMPA, FLA.

DATES: Dec. 5

USMC UNITS: 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion

PARTICIPATING NATIONS: United States, Saudi Arabia

"I THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR US TO BUILD TIES WITH THE ALLIES WE HAVE AROUND THE WORLD. IF A WAR WERE TO BREAK OUT SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD, WE CAN COUNT ON SOMEONE WHO HAS THE SAME EQUIPMENT THAT WE HAVE."

- Sgt. Skander G. Filipi, Headquarters and Service Company maintenance chief

Saudi Arabian Marine Corps officers visited Marines with 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion and attended a demonstration about the capabilities of amphibious assault vehicles at Marine Corps Reserve Training Center Tampa, Florida, Dec. 5.

The personnel, command and recovery vehicles were displayed

during the presentation. The Saudi Marine officers had the opportunity to ride in the AAVs to experience the vehicles' capabilities in different terrain.

The efforts of 4th AA Bn. resulted in a successful exhibition and created possible opportunities for future cooperation between the two nations.

Saudi Arabian Marine Corps officers meet with Cpl. Robert Loeffler, the assistant maintenance chief, Delta Company, 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion at the Marine Corps Training Center in Tampa, Fla., Dec. 5. The Saudi Arabian Marine Corps officers visited with 4th AA Bn. to attend a demonstration about the capabilities of amphibious assault vehicles.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. IAN FERRO



Saudi Arabian Marine Corps officers ride in the personnel amphibious assault vehicle at the Marine Corps Training Center in Tampa, Fla., Dec. 5. The Marines with 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion showed the vehicle's capabilities with an onboard demonstration.

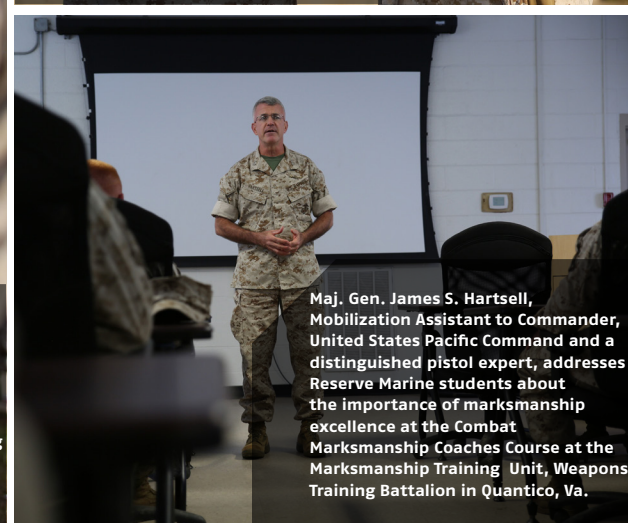
PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. IAN FERRO



Lance Cpls. James Leiter and Christopher Robeson score and repair a target during the combat pistol program pre-qualification at the Combat Marksmanship Coaches Course at the Marksmanship Training Unit, Weapons Training Battalion in Quantico, Va.



Gunnery Sgt. Matthew Logan (right), assistant chief instructor of the Combat Marksmanship Coaches Course, gives advice to marksmanship student Cpl. James Turner during the combat pistol program qualification at the CMC course.



Maj. Gen. James S. Hartsell, Mobilization Assistant to Commander, United States Pacific Command and a distinguished pistol expert, addresses Reserve Marine students about the importance of marksmanship excellence at the Combat Marksmanship Coaches Course at the Marksmanship Training Unit, Weapons Training Battalion in Quantico, Va.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. TIFFANY EDWARDS



CENTER MASS



In the middle of the woods of northern Virginia, surrounded by colorful fall foliage and crisp October air, Reserve Marines from across the nation focused not on their scenic surroundings, but their sight picture.

The fiscal year 2015 Combat Marksmanship Reserve Coaches Course consisted of 92 Marines, and was held at the Marine Forces Reserve Marksmanship Training Unit at Weapons Training Battalion, Quantico, Virginia, Oct. 13-26, 2014.

The course primarily educates Marines in the Selected Marine Corps Reserve and the Individual Ready Reserve in marksmanship training techniques as well as regulations for running safe and efficient weapons qualification ranges. Marines then take their new knowledge back to their units and keep the Marine Corps Reserve ready and qualified in rifle and pistol marksmanship.

"Marksmanship is the backbone of the Marine Corps, and as a coach, you get to directly impact every Marine that you coach out there on the firing line," said Gunnery Sgt. Kevin S. Worrell, chief instructor for the MARFORRES MTU.

"The importance of marksmanship is emphasized here, to take every Marine and make them the best rifleman possible, to eliminate the enemy."

-SGT. STEVEN PEW
STUDENT ATTENDING CMC COURSE

"Without coaches, Marines would not understand certain weapons systems, safety rules and the fundamentals of marksmanship, which is what our Corps is all about."

The Reserve-oriented CMC course differs significantly from its active-duty equivalent. While an active-duty course will average an eight- to 10-hour class day, with the course stretching over three weeks, the Reserve course averages a 12- to 14-hour class day, with only one scheduled

day off over a two-week period. This condenses three weeks of in-class instruction and practical application within a shorter time span. Reserve Marines are also required to bring their own protective gear, such as bulletproof vests and Kevlar helmets issued from their parent units, instead of being issued gear from the MTU when they arrive at the course.

"For Reserve Marines, the course counts as a two-week annual training evolution," Worrell said. "Throughout the Marine Corps Reserve, Marines go out to ranges all around the country. They could be on Army bases, civilian ranges, or any areas available, and they'll have to run rifle

Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Eppler (center), an instructor with the Marine Corps Reserve Marksmanship Training Unit, oversees Reserve Marines in their preparation time during the combat pistol program pre-qualification at the Combat Marksmanship Coaches Course at the Marksmanship Training Unit, Weapons Training Battalion in Quantico, Va.



marksmanship tables I through IV, or the new combat pistol program.”

Worrell added that because Reserve ranges often do not have permanent personnel that keep ranges maintained, stocked and staffed, the responsibility for range preparation falls on coaches and combat marksmanship trainers.

Master Sgt. Julia Carlson, an MTU instructor and internationally renowned competitive shooter with the MARFORRES MTU, said the course is made possible every year by assistance from the active-duty MTU personnel.

“We are a Reserve-run school, and we operate with the Reserve Marines’ interests in mind,” Carlson said. “As far as the course’s conduct and instruction are concerned, that is handled entirely by Reserve Marines. But it’s important to note that this is not something we do by ourselves. We have help from Weapons Training Bn., and the Quantico Reserve Support Unit.”

Sgt. Steven Pew, a student at the CMC course, said that despite the challenges faced during training, such as heavy rain and cold temperatures, he has gained sufficient knowledge to help train his unit in Germany.

“This is the fight that we take to the enemy,” Pew said. “There’s nothing else we do in the Marine Corps but put

rounds on target, because that is how we eliminate the threat. The importance of marksmanship is emphasized here, to take every Marine and make them the best rifleman possible, to eliminate the enemy.”

During the final days of the course, the class was visited by Maj. Gen. James S. Hartsell, Mobilization Assistant to Commander, United States Pacific Command, and the only Marine Corps general officer who is a distinguished pistol shooter. This designation is the highest individual award authorized by the U.S. government for excellence in marksmanship competitions.

“The reason your role as a Reserve Marine marksmanship coach is so important, is because you will help keep Marines alive the next time they have to shoot at an adversary,” Hartsell said. “These basic marksmanship principles are the key to keeping you and I alive and keeping our nation respected and feared around the world.”

An in-depth profile of “double distinguished” competitive shooter Master Sgt. Julia Carlson on page 32



Lance Cpl. James Whearry, a field artilleryman with 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, fires the M777A2 Lightweight Howitzer at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., during exercise Twisted Sister, a battalion fire exercise, Oct. 25. Field artillerymen receive various call for fire scenarios, some requiring them to fire a certain number of rounds in a given time, others requiring precision shooting involving each gun in the battery as well as other batteries combined.

FIRE

2014

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK





Lance Cpl. James Conley, a field artilleryman with 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, cleans the barrel of the M777A2 Lightweight Howitzer after firing rounds at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., during exercise Twisted Sister, a battalion fire exercise, Oct. 25. The purpose of swabbing the barrel after each firing is to ensure that the gun is sufficiently cooled so as not to prematurely ignite the next group of powder placed into the gun.

In the hills of Pennsylvania, a loud and thunderous blast is heard with only the “dragon’s breath” of the M777A2 Lightweight Howitzer seen through the trees after India and Golf Batteries with 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, unleash the accurate and continuous fury that is field artillery.

The M777A2 Lightweight Howitzer is the Marine Corps’ only means of indirect fire support in any weather condition, and the cannoneers of 3rd Bn., 14th Marines are masters of their craft, honing their skills during Exercise Twisted Sister.

“Artillery is of extreme importance on the battlefield,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Davis, commanding officer of 3rd Bn., 14th Marines. “When our maneuver elements and infantry have already engaged with the enemy, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions, the artillery is there to bring indirect fire support to their aid. We have the ability to reach out 18 miles with 24 cannons and 800

Marines that bring an awesome amount of fire power that enables the maneuver elements to engage the enemy with combined arms.”

It is essential in Marine Corps combined arms tactics to have the capability of moving at a moment’s notice. However, artillery was once laborious to move and emplace. That couldn’t be further from the truth for modern-day field artillery.

“The three words associated with artillery throughout the artillery community are shoot, move and communicate,” said Maj. Jeff Stewart, the operations officer for 3rd Bn., 14th Marines. “You have to do all three and they all rely on each other.”

The M777A2 Howitzer is designed to be more rapidly mobile than previous howitzers.

Batteries are able to displace and emplace in different locations within a matter of minutes, as well as hasty emplacements on the move if they need

to,” said Stewart, “Rapidly and mobility are key to our survivability as an artillery battery.”

Training during a battalion-sized fire exercise is focused on the battalion’s ability to command and control its battery elements in the field and honing their support maneuver warfare tactics.

“Support maneuver isn’t simply dropping artillery rounds into a designated area,” said Davis. “There is a difference between shooting artillery and conducting fire support. Shooting artillery is the process of simply putting a large round down range into an impact area. Fire support is when a maneuver element commander presents us with an issue that he believes coordinating his troops and our indirect fire through fire and maneuver and timing will enable him to engage the enemy and seize the objective. That requires coordination between live-fire support, the maneuver commander down range and the process of shooting artillery to bring all of that

together in a safe and effective way."

The gun batteries on the firing line are presented with a number of scenarios to better understand the different conditions and possibilities that could result when conducting support maneuver tactics.

"Since we have received shooting authorization, these Marines have put more than 100 rounds effectively down range in various different call-for-fire scenarios, meeting time hacks coordinated by Battalion is probably one of the hardest, because you never know exactly what could be going on at the battle field," said 1st Lt. Terence Foley, platoon commander Btry. I, 3rd Bn., 14th Marines. "Say we are coordinating a combined-arms attack. We have to get our shots in either before or after the plane has passed, and when the ground guys are clear. The slightest miscalculation could be devastating for our own guys, so training to better ourselves in those aspects makes sure we are at the top of our game."

Training in support maneuver warfare comes with its own logistical challenges given the sheer scale, size and distance between each unit, along with the battalions training capabilities to only bring the unit together in force twice a year.

"We have had some challenges; it's difficult to coordinate all the units coming in from different locations," said Stewart. "Artillery has a very heavy footprint and moving a couple hundred miles, in some cases, takes coordination. We have worked through and progressed into executing a sound tactical scenario to achieve all of our missions and essential task list. We are going to finish strong and conclude a successful operation."

Exercise Twisted Sister allowed 3rd Bn., 14th Marines to bring it all together for their fire exercise, practicing command and control of their batteries and elevating their support maneuver warfare tactics.

"One of the things we take seriously is our mission to support maneuver," said Davis. "These exercises are really important for us to hone our skills so that when we are put in front of our counterparts, whether reserve or active, we have the skills necessary to support them so that they understand that we take our mission of providing fire support seriously."



Field artillerymen with 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, prepare powder for an M777A2 Lightweight Howitzer before the next call for fire mission at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., during exercise Twisted Sister, a battalion fire exercise, Oct. 25. Before the batteries can fire, the guns receive coordinates from forward observers down range who are the eyes and ears of the gun batteries.



BEEN THERE
DONE THAT

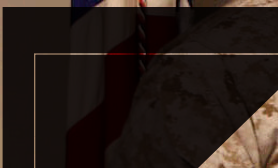


4th Marine Logistics group **REDEDICATION**

Lt. Col. Charles R. Donnelly, commanding officer of 6th Engineer Support Battalion, and Sgt. Maj. Billy Kruthers, 6th ESB sergeant major, attach battle streamers to the unit colors during the battalion's battle color rededication ceremony in Portland, Ore., Nov. 15.

PHOTO BY CPL. TIFFANY EDWARDS





4TH MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

LT. COL. THOMAS READY (LEFT), commanding officer of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 112, **Maj. Kevin Szepe (center)**, operations officer of VMFA-112, and **Col. Tray Ardesse (right)**, commanding officer, Marine Aircraft Group 41, were presented with the Secretary of the Navy's Safety Excellence Award for Marine Corps Reserve Aviation Safety Oct. 20.

CPL. KIRSTIN RODGERS



FORCE HEADQUARTERS GROUP

MARINES operate their tactical vehicles during New York City's Veterans Day Parade Nov. 11, 2014. Parade participants included Marines from 6th Communications Battalion, the Quantico Marine Corps Band, 1st Marine Corps District, and 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment.

CPL. FAREEZA ALI



4TH MARINE DIVISION

(TOP)

MARINES with Truck Company, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, march to the gravesite of Gen. Robert H. Barrow, 27th Commandant of the Marine Corps, during a wreath-laying ceremony at Grace Church of West Feliciana Cemetery in St. Francisville, La., Nov. 10.

GUNNERY SGT. KATESHA WASHINGTON

(BOTTOM)

STAFF SGT. Ryan Dowling, a sniper with D Company, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, fires an M40A5 Sniper Rifle from high angles at unknown distance targets at greater than 1,000 yards during a simulated overseas firing scenario in Pecos County, Texas, Sept. 24.

SGT. PAUL VINYARD

(RIGHT)

LANCE CPLs. Wayne Rohall (Left) and Steven Foster, field artillerymen with India Battery, 3rd Battalion 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, ram a round into a M777A2 Lightweight Howitzer, Oct. 25, at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK





MMA DEBUT

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. IAN LEONES

Sitting backstage at the Patterson Civic Center in Patterson, Louisiana, minutes before his debut mixed martial arts fight, John Zimmer kept his nerves down by cracking jokes.

"If I win this fight, I just want the other guy to know that he got beaten up by a nerd," said Zimmer, a security specialist with Headquarters Battalion, Marine Forces Reserve and a sergeant in the Individual Ready Reserve.

The fight was over within minutes. Zimmer took a flurry of punches to the face, but he was able to follow his game plan and trap his opponent, Kesler Jones, with a leg lock. Unfortunately, Jones escaped and submitted Zimmer with a guillotine choke.

The Metairie, Louisiana, native does not fit the stereotype of a "muscle head" MMA fighter. Weighing in at 137 pounds, the wiry Marine is as comfortable navigating security protocols as he is rolling in a grappling match.

Zimmer competed in his first MMA fight at the Caged Warrior Championship V in Patterson on Oct. 4, 2014.

For Zimmer, his passion for MMA complements his identity as a Marine.

"There are similarities between the two," Zimmer said. "Everything the Marine Corps does is about fighting as a whole. Being a Marine means training for combat. The difference between MMA and the Marine Corps is that one is for sport and one is for real.

Zimmer first became interested in martial arts through the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. This interest further developed when he deployed to Iraq in 2009 with Intelligence Support Battalion, Force Headquarters Group. During the deployment, he met Capt. Daniel Park, a MCMAP instructor trainer, who showed him new grappling techniques.

"He was a black belt with a red tab and he was a captain, which kind of shocked me," Zimmer said. "I went to him multiple times and asked, 'Sir, can you teach me some MCMAP?' I came to find out he had a kickboxing background and he also had a purple belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu."

Throughout the six-month deployment, the captain showed Zimmer advantages of different styles of fighting.

"He was the first person who showed me real grappling," Zimmer said.

When Zimmer returned from Iraq in 2010, he continued grappling at New Orleans Brazilian Jiu-jitsu where he has trained for the last three years. The Marine eventually moved from traditional forms of the sport to his own unique style.

"The same time I started training at NOLA BJJ, there was this coach Reilly Bodycomb," Zimmer said. "He comes from a different style of martial arts called combat Sambo."

Soon Zimmer was training in combat Sambo under the coaching of Bodycomb, a martial arts instructor who teaches at various gyms throughout the New Orleans area.



(Top left photo)
John Zimmer (left), a security specialist at Headquarters Battalion, Marine Forces Reserve, warms up before his fight at the Caged Warrior Championship V on Oct. 4, 2014, at the Patterson Civic Center in Patterson, La.

Bodycomb explained that combat Sambo is an unarmed combat system developed in the former Soviet Union. It was developed by combining a bunch of the folk styles of wrestling with Japanese judo and jiu-jitsu.

About nine months ago, Bodycomb tapped Zimmer to train for a MMA competition.

"John has a style of grappling that is very aggressive from the feet, which is very common in combat Sambo," Bodycomb said. "He's not a slow grappler and he doesn't have to get his submissions from the ground position, which is what most jiu-jitsu athletes do. The more upright the battle, the better his submissions get."

For the last nine months, Zimmer trained at least four days a week in submission grappling, sport Sambo, kickboxing and MMA rules sparring to prepare for his debut fight, Bodycomb said. The Marine dedicated roughly two hours a night to hone his abilities.

"To succeed in MMA, you need to want to succeed even through adversity, which I think is a thing a lot of people have trouble with," said Bodycomb. "The one thing that John is good at is pushing through adversity."

Jorge Menes, director of electronic systems security at HQBN MARFORRES, has known Zimmer since 2008 and works with him at Marine Corps Support Facility New Orleans. Menes is also a gunnery sergeant in the Selected Marine Corps Reserve and supervised Zimmer as a Marine.

"He's the type of Marine you would like to work for you," Menes said. "He follows directions really well, he's self-motivated and just sort of one of those Marines who needs very little direction."

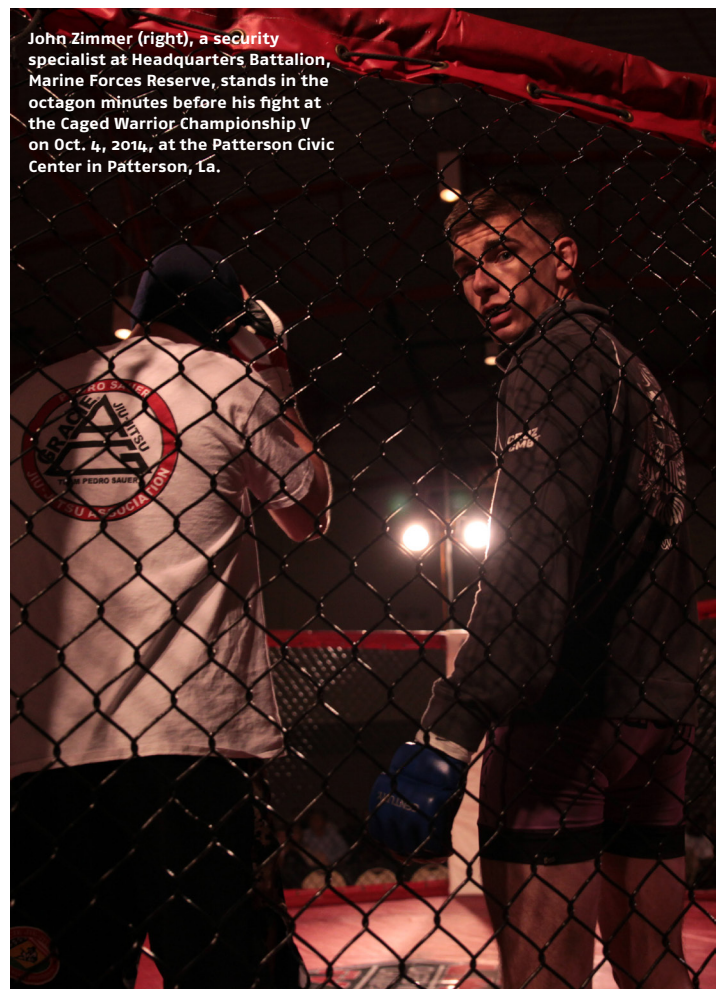
Menes views Zimmer's passion for MMA as something natural for a Marine to take interest in.

"There's a real draw to MMA for military guys because we do have an exposure to fighting," Menes said. "I think there is a real desire to be good."

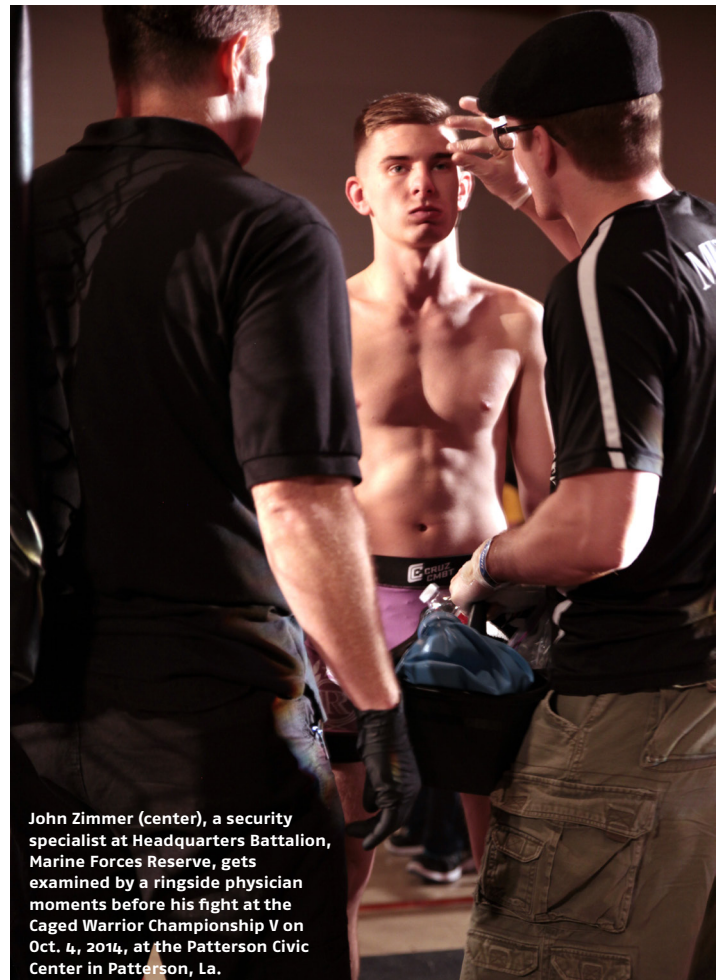
Even though Zimmer's debut fight went down as a loss, the Marine maintains a positive attitude toward practicing martial arts and grappling.

"Whenever you find something you are really passionate about, you can kind of tell that it's something you are going to do forever," Zimmer said. "For me it was jiu-jitsu and grappling. I just kind of found my thing with grappling."

Zimmer does not see himself competing in MMA again, but he is looking for his next test as a martial artist. His coach wants him to compete in a Combat Sambo invitational in Montreal, and he plans to continue training in kickboxing in the future.



John Zimmer (right), a security specialist at Headquarters Battalion, Marine Forces Reserve, stands in the octagon minutes before his fight at the Caged Warrior Championship V on Oct. 4, 2014, at the Patterson Civic Center in Patterson, La.



John Zimmer (center), a security specialist at Headquarters Battalion, Marine Forces Reserve, gets examined by a ringside physician moments before his fight at the Caged Warrior Championship V on Oct. 4, 2014, at the Patterson Civic Center in Patterson, La.

(Bottom left photo)
John Zimmer, a security specialist at Headquarters Battalion, Marine Forces Reserve, tries to fight off his opponent's take down at the Caged Warrior Championship V on Oct. 4, 2014, at the Patterson Civic Center in Patterson, La.



Marines with 2nd Platoon, Company A, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, receive their safety brief prior to boarding amphibious assault vehicles at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 2, 2014.

PHOTO BY SGT. ALICIA R. LEADERS

INTEGRATED TASK FORCE

STORY BY CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK


Aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, a new volunteer unit is using the time afforded by the Secretary of Defense to take a deliberate, measured and responsible approach to integrating women into combat arms specialties by research, assessment and development of occupational standards for ground combat arms occupational specialties and units.

The Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force is a unit bringing male, female, active and Reserve Marines into a single unit testing the abilities of its volunteers in military occupations not formerly open to females. The Task Force consists of volunteers from throughout the Marine Corps from various occupational fields.

"I volunteered because I got out of service in 2011, and I really missed the Marine Corps," said Sgt. Gabriela Caceres a field artillery cannoneer with Battery A, GCEITF. "This opportunity came up about women being given the opportunity to be in combat military occupational specialties, and it really excited me because I always wanted to do something like this so I came back just for this opportunity."

Like many other Reserve Marines, Caceres volunteered for the task force because she wanted to assist the Marine Corps by providing data needed to assess the baseline gender-neutral standards required for combat arms MOSSs.

Lance Cpl. Zack Byrd, a mortarman with Weapons Co., GCEITF, said he wanted to be a part of something that could foster change for future generations of war fighters.



Lance Cpl. Kelsey Darling, left, amphibious assault vehicle crewman, Company B, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, and Sgt. Michael Meyer, right, amphibious assault vehicle crewman, Co. B, GCEITF, prepare to conduct a simulated water tow of two AAVs during a field exercise at Landing Zone Falcon aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Nov. 12, 2014.
PHOTO BY CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ





Sgt. Gabriela Caceres, a field artillery cannoneer with Battery A, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, loads a round into a M777A2 Lightweight Howitzer during a live-fire training exercise aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 17.
PHOTO BY CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK



Lance Cpl. Stephanie Jordan, a rifleman with Company A, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, sprints back to the rest of her fire team during a fire-team assault aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 16. Reserve and active Marine volunteers will conduct individual and collective skills training in designated combat arms occupational specialties.
PHOTO BY CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK



"I feel like being a part of this unit, we are making history because this concept, of women in more combat roles has never been done before," said Byrd.

The implementation of women into more combat-involved occupations is a new concept with new challenges for those going through the training.

"Some of the challenges I have faced have been physical challenges," said Caceres. "This job is way more physically demanding than my previous one which was a supply warehouse Marine. Even though this may be tough, there is nothing that is going to stop me; I have proven I can do it, and I'm going to keep pushing and keep performing."

The Task Force Marines spend much of their time in the field training for the next event, honing their skills in their new jobs in preparation for the assessment. Males and females in the Task Force are working side by side to better themselves and ensure the highest levels of combat readiness by



Lance Cpl. Stephanie Jordan, a rifleman with Company A, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, fires the M203 grenade launcher during a fire-team assault aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 16. The GCEITF is composed of male, female, Reserve and active Marine volunteers.
PHOTO BY CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

establishing and maintaining rigorous standards, enhancing warfighting capabilities and realizing the potential of every Marine.

"It was strange at first working with males in an environment like this, but they are very supportive," said Lance Cpl. Eliyanna Heilig, a rifleman with Co. A., GCEITF. "We all work together; this is a new experience but a growing experience. We have seen what the guys go through in the infantry and they are seeing now what it is like for females and they are respecting us for it. They have been very supportive and they want to help us learn."

From October 2014 to July 2015, the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force will conduct individual and collective skills training in designated combat arms occupational specialties in order to facilitate the standards-based assessment of the physical performance of Marines in a simulated operating environment performing specific ground combat arms tasks.



Marines with Weapons Company, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, prepare to fire an 81mm mortar system during a live-fire exercise aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 16. The GCEITF is composed of male, female, Reserve and active Marine volunteers.
PHOTO BY CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

UNIT PROFILE



6TH ENGINEER SUPPORT BATTALION

LOCATION: Portland, Oregon

Marines of 6th Engineer Support Battalion stand in formation during their battle color rededication ceremony in Portland, Ore., Nov. 15, 2014. The battalion celebrated the 70th anniversary of its formation during the rededication ceremony with the battalion's first adjutant, Col. James "Rip" Harper. Harper was assigned as the battalions first adjutant as a first lieutenant in 1944, when the unit was formed in Guadalcanal during World War II.

PHOTO BY CPL. TIFFANY EDWARDS

The battalion was activated on Nov. 1, 1944, at Guadalcanal as the 6th Engineer Battalion, 6th Marine Division. During World War II, they participated in the Battle of Okinawa. Since then, 6th ESB has been deactivated, reactivated and re-designated multiple times over the last 70 years, participating in every war from Korea to Operation Enduring Freedom.

Consisting of more than 2,000 Marines disbursed in nine companies and two detachments across the nation, 6th ESB is the largest battalion in Marine Forces Reserve. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, 6th ESB was charged

with fueling coalition forces as they moved northward through Iraq. They also supplied purified water to the Corps' desert and urban encampments.

The battalion established roughly a dozen fuel and water points across southern Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, including sites in or near Baghdad, Nasariyah, Kut and Diwaniyah. Sixth ESB mechanics also completed more than 250 equipment repair orders and answered more than 150 requests to perform on-site repairs or recoveries for mechanically broken down or otherwise stranded vehicles.



6TH ESB QUICK FACTS

- During Operation Iraqi Freedom, the battalion completed a 60-mile-long expeditionary fuel line in a combat zone in three days. The line is six times longer than any other fuel line ever attempted in Marine Corps history, and ran from a U.S. Army bulk fuel farm in Kuwait to the battalion's own fuel farm deep within Iraqi territory. The 6th ESB Marines installed the system during the area's worst sandstorm in 20 years.
- The battalion was activated as a part of 6th Marine Division in Guadalcanal, which is the only Marine Corps division activated overseas during a war.
- On Aug. 16, 2013, the unit presented Purple Heart and POW medals to Earnest C. Brace, a Marine aviator who was the longest-held civilian prisoner of war during the Vietnam conflict.
- Unit Motto: We Are Ready.

COMMANDING OFFICER: Lt. Col. Charles R. Donnelly

SERGEANT MAJOR: Sgt. Maj. Billy Kruthers

MISSION: To provide mobility, counter mobility, survivability and general engineer support for the Marine Corps ground combat element. This includes building and deconstructing bridges, roads, fuel supply lines and strategic facilities and structures.



BE SMART,
BE SAFE



PHOTO BY ISAAC LAMBERT

SUICIDE PREVENTION: LOOKING OUT

BY LANCE CPL. IAN LEONES



According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the idea that suicide rates are higher during the holidays is a myth, but suicide is still a major health crisis that occurs year round. It is the 10th leading cause of death for Americans with more than 36,000 people taking their own lives; it is the leading cause of death in the military. The holidays are a time to care for one another and to look out for your fellow Marines. Here are some tips and facts for you to take an active step in suicide prevention.



PHOTO BY PFC. JOSHUA GRANT

THE STATISTICS

The Marine Corps has the highest rate of suicides among all branches in the Department of Defense with 23.1 suicides per 100,000 service members. For the current year 2014, there have been three active-duty Marine suicides, 10 Selected Marine Corps Reserve suicides, and four Individual Ready Reserve suicides.

SOURCE: WWW.MILITARYONESOURCE.MIL/CRISIS-PREVENTION
WWW.AFHSC.MIL/DOCUMENTS/PUBS/MSMRS/2014
WWW.CDC.GOV/VIOLENCEPREVENTION/SUICIDE/HOLIDAY.HTML

Marine Corps Order 1720.2 states that suicide prevention should not be viewed as a single event or training. Getting help for a fellow Marine in distress is a duty that is consistent with Marine Corps ethos and values.

R.A.C.E

To take an active role in suicide prevention and intervention, follow the R.A.C.E. acronym if you notice that a fellow Marine is in distress.

RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF DISTRESS

- Note changes in personality, emotions or behavior
- Note withdrawal from co-workers, friends and family
- Note changes in eating or sleeping patterns

ASK ABOUT THE SIGNS OF DISTRESS

- Calmly question the person about the distress you observed
- If warning signs are present, you must ask about suicide
- Asking the question is often just what the person needs to be able to talk about their thoughts or feelings to someone

CARE ABOUT THE MARINE AND SHOW IT

- Actively listen, don't judge
- Peacefully control the situation; do not use force; keep everyone safe

ESCORT THE PERSON TO SAFETY

- Never leave your buddy alone
- Tell them you would like to escort them to the chain of command, chaplain, medical, a behavioral health specialist or professional with whom they would feel comfortable

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE QUARTERLY SUICIDE REPORT CALENDER YEAR 2014

DO YOU NEED HELP FOR YOURSELF?

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Sometimes the hardest person to help is yourself. If you are feeling down or having thoughts of hurting yourself, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline has resources to help you at www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org. Here are a few of the resources that can help you recover if you are having suicidal thoughts:

- **FIND A THERAPIST OR SUPPORT GROUP:** Speaking to a therapist or attending a support group can help you work through your grief and improve your overall mental health.
- **CREATE A SAFETY PLAN:** Having a plan in place that can help guide you through difficult moments can make a difference and keep you safe.
- **WATCH STORIES OF HOPE AND RECOVERY:** Told through the voices of these individuals, their families, and the professionals in their support network, each inspiring story recounts one person's journey from a suicide attempt to the life of hope and recovery he or she is leading today.
- **READ STORIES OF ATTEMPT SURVIVORS:** This blog was created by the American Association of Suicidology to share that this can happen to anyone and that it's possible to recover, or learn to manage, and move on.

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE QUARTERLY SUICIDE REPORT
CALENDER YEAR 2014

For more help and information visit Marine Forces Reserve Psychological Health Outreach Program which offers psychological health care services to Marines and their families.





SAVED
ROUNDS



Master Sgt. Julia Carlson advises Lance Cpl. Troy Saur, a student at the Reserve Combat Marksmanship Coaches Course, on how to correct a shooter's position, Oct. 24, 2014, at Weapons Training Battalion in Quantico, Va. Carlson, a marksmanship instructor and competitive shooter with the Marine Corps Reserve Shooting Team, is one of only four women in civilian and military competitive shooting history that is double-distinguished with both the rifle and pistol.

COMPETITIVE SHOOTING

INSIDE THE MIND OF SHOOTING SUPERSTAR,
MASTER SGT. JULIA CARLSON

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. TIFFANY EDWARDS

Master Sgt. Julia Carlson's career in shooting has reached meteoric heights, as she is now one of only four women in competitive shooting history who is "double distinguished," meaning she has earned the highest awards in rifle and pistol marksmanship awarded by the United States Government. She is also one of the forerunners for women in competitive shooting. In 1998, the Provo, Utah native was the first female to win the National Trophy Individual Match, and in 1999 she was the first female to win the Service Rifle Championship, which she went on to win two more times. She is also the current 2014 champion.

In her first national matches as a teenager in 1993, Carlson came in contact with the Marine Corps Shooting Team. While she was there, the MCST swept the Civilian Marksmanship Program National Matches, winning the top prizes in each competitive category. The team's shooting prowess solidified Carlson's original plan of eventually joining the military.

"The image that I had of those Marines; I wanted to become that, to be a part of that," Carlson said. "That feeling of accomplishment I got after my first win; I got hungry for that."

After joining the Marine Corps, Carlson credits her mentors at her first duty station for recognizing the potential in her to become a powerhouse in competitive shooting.

While Carlson maintains her competitive career, she takes her role as a mentor and instructor to Reserve Marines very seriously.

After years of mentoring novice shooters and experienced marksmen, Carlson has learned about the motivations and mental states that Marines have about their shooting. After years of mastering a sport that relies heavily on mental clarity and fortitude, she has found ways to help others build on their strengths.

"I try to get shooters to realize that their connection to shooting is much more than just the need to qualify or to be promoted," Carlson said. "In the history of the Marine Corps, there have been millions of Marines who have shot on these same ranges, who have shot with similar motivations. It can be a family connection, such as fathers who got them into shooting, or the connection of duty, shooting to protect our right to remain free. Everyone has a personal answer, a reason deep down that is why they shoot."

Carlson has accumulated many reasons over the years for why she continues to shoot: to inspire her nine children; to carry on the legacy of the Marines who mentored her; to pass on that same legacy to the junior Marines she works with each new year; and ultimately, to feed her hunger to hit center mass. ■



Sgt. Daniel Vasselian was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device for combat actions while on his third deployment to Afghanistan. Daniel's wife, Erin Vasselian, and parents, Karen and Mark Vasselian, each were presented with medals during the ceremony on Oct. 13, 2014.

PHOTO BY SGT. RICHARD BLUMENSTEIN

BRONZE STAR

BRONZE STAR AWARDED TO SGT. DANIEL VASSELIAN

STORY BY CPL TIFFANY EDWARDS



Sgt. Daniel Vasselian was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with combat distinguishing device in Abington, Massachusetts, Oct. 13, 2014 for combat actions while deployed in Afghanistan.

Reserve Marines of Company B, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, presented Vasselian's family with the Bronze Star medal.

According to the award citation, on Dec. 23, 2013, Vasselian led his unit while under heavy machine gun fire to support an adjacent unit that was pinned down. Leonard fought alongside Vasselian and witnessed him entering the line of enemy fire to signal their unit's position to advancing support elements. Vasselian was killed during his efforts. Later, his unit nominated him for a Navy and Marine

Corps Achievement Medal. The request was returned by 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, with the order to nominate Vasselian for a Bronze Star instead.

"We are so proud he was awarded this medal," said Erin Vasselian, Sgt. Vasselian's wife. "There's nothing that can put a price on his life, but the fact that he has been commemorated through this award and in our community means so much to us as his family. We're so happy he will be remembered for his actions."

According to Vasselian's father, Mark, this Bronze Star serves as a source of pride and comfort for the Vasselian family, but their loss remains very close to their hearts. ■

A guest dances at the Thanksgiving lunch during the Marine Corps Band New Orleans performance at the Ozanam Inn, a homeless shelter in New Orleans, La., Nov. 19, 2014.

A THANKSGIVING MEAL

MARINES VOLUNTEER AT OZANAM INN HOMELESS SHELTER

STORY AND PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. IAN FERRO



Marines with Marine Forces Reserve visited the Ozanam Inn, a homeless shelter in New Orleans, Nov. 19, 2014, to help serve a special Thanksgiving meal and distribute cold weather clothing to those in need.

Along with the Marine volunteers, Marine Corps Band New Orleans created a festive and exciting atmosphere for the event, playing several traditional New Orleans songs while interacting with guests. From young kids to the elderly, everyone received a good meal and entertainment.

"It is very helpful to us when a group such as the Marine Corps comes in," said Clarence Adams, the Ozanam Inn administrator. "Having the Marines to come in has a big impact on the people being fed. They feel like they haven't been forgotten."

The Marines fed more than 240 people, including veterans wearing their old uniforms. ■

BUILDING A HOWITZER

RESERVE MARINE BUILDS CANNON HE FIRES IN THE FIELD

STORY AND PHOTO BY CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK



Lance Cpl. Wayne Rohall, a field artilleryman with India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine

Regiment, 4th Marine Division, maintains the ammunition on India Battery's Gun II. His job is to prepare the rounds for fire, load, then repeat. This job requires him to always to be ready whenever the battery receives the order to fire.

When he is not wearing his uniform, Rohall receives different orders to fire. Rohall works in a steel mill in Pennsylvania where he has assisted in the fabrication of steel that constructs the barrels for the M777A2 Lightweight Howitzer cannon - the same weapon for which he maintains ammunition during his Marine Corps annual training periods.

"I work at a steel mill where we have actually made a few of the barrels for the Howitzers," said Rohall. "So it's a great feeling for me to think that I could have helped make one of these guns, and then actually get to come out and shoot it on weekends."

If the weapon successfully fires, Rohall gets the feeling that both of his jobs, fabrication at the mill and maintaining the weapon's ammunition, were done correctly, giving him a sense of how hard work goes a long way. That hard work then transfers over to his performance in the field. ■



Lance Cpl. Wayne Rohall (right) a field artilleryman with India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, inspects ammunition with section chief Sgt. Julian E. Gomez III, before loading a M777A2 Lightweight Howitzer, Oct. 25, 2014, at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., during exercise Twisted Sister.



WITH THE
GEAR

SPECIFICATIONS

Length: 3 ft
Weight: 240 lbs
Height: 2.5ft
Load Capacity: 400 lbs
Function: Equipment Carrying
Engine Type: Single Cylinder, four-stroke gasoline
Speed: Up to four miles per hour



THE LEGGED SQUAD SUPPORT SYSTEM

The Legged Squad Support System is a robotic mule, capable of traversing rugged terrain with Marines while carrying much of their load. It is programmed to follow an operator and detect large terrain objects to maneuver around.

The robot is equipped with three joints on each leg to provide optimal mobility.

The LS3 is approximately the shape and size of a horse. A stereo vision system, consisting of a pair of stereo cameras mounted into the 'head' of the robot, has been integrated alongside a light-detecting and ranging component in order to enable it to follow a human lead and record intelligence gathered through its camera.

The LS3 does not require a dedicated driver, it has the ability to travel to designated locations using terrain sensing and GPS technology.

The robot is designed to reduce the load Marines haul on their backs without interfering with the team's mission.

The Marines gave feedback to the robot's development team, whose members said the robot has undergone drastic improvements since its beginning, and engineers are already working on improvements to mobility, stealth, and protection.

SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.BOSTONDYNAMICS.COM](http://www.bostondynamics.com)

QUICK FACTS

LS3

A two-year platform-refinement test cycle began in July 2012, with Marine and Army involvement, culminating in a planned capstone exercise, Rim of the Pacific 2014. During the exercise, LS3 robots embedded with Marines conducting field exercises. During this period, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency gathered data to finish the development of and refine the LS3's technologies to provide a suite of autonomy settings:

- Leader-follower tight: LS3 attempts to follow as close as possible to the path its leader takes
- Leader-follower corridor: LS3 sticks to the leader but has freedom to make local path decisions, so the leader doesn't need to think about LS3's mobility capabilities
- Go-to-waypoint: LS3 uses its local perception to avoid obstacles on its way to a designated GPS coordinate.

SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.DARPA.MIL/OUR-WORK/TTO/PROGRAMS/LEGGED_SQUAD_SUPPORT_SYSTEM_\(LS3\).ASPX](http://www.darpa.mil/our-work/tto/programs/legged_squad_support_system_(ls3).aspx)



Lance Cpl. Brandon Dieckmann, an infantryman with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, India Co., leads the Legged Squad Support System through an open field at Kahuku Training Area, Hawaii, July 10, 2014.
PHOTO BY SGT. WILLIAM L. HOLDAWAY



DOUBLE DUTY

PHOTO BY CPL BRYTANI MUSICK



COURTESY PHOTO



GI -VS- JOE

CPL JOSEPH NDE FAH

BILLET: Squad leader

TIME IN SERVICE: 5 years, 3 months

REASON FOR JOINING: I wanted to be a Marine. It was my lifelong dream. My country [Cameroon] looks at me like a role model.

RESPONSIBILITIES: I take charge of nine Marines. I have two fire teams. I have to make sure I have accountability of them all even between drills and check up on them to make sure everyone is doing okay.

MEMORABLE MOMENT: My most memorable moment would be [Exercise Immediate Response 2014]. It's exciting having all the nations come together to train.

JOSEPH NDE FAH

BILLET: Attorney

TIME IN SERVICE: 2 1/2 years

REASON FOR JOINING: I want to eventually go to the [Navy's] Judge Advocate General [Corps]. After I put in my five years for citizenship while in the Marine Corps then I'll put in my package for JAG.

RESPONSIBILITIES: I am responsible for counseling clients and litigating cases. For civil cases, so far, I limit myself to pretrial discovery and motion practice.

MEMORABLE MOMENT: I was once able to get charges thrown out against someone and got the case dismissed. I did the case for free and put in a lot of work. But in that case, I really saw the fruits of my labor.



MILITARY EXPRESSIONS FROM AROUND THE CORPS

AS YOU WERE: Disregard previous order
BARRACKS RAT: Marine who rarely leaves the barracks
POLICE CALL: Pick up trash

ROUTE RECON: Plan travel route before going on a trip
SMOKIN' AND JOKIN': When Marines are being unproductive
DEVIL DOC: Navy hospital corpsman attached to a Marine unit

STEP UP

and prevent sexual assault.



“Step Up” is a new sexual assault prevention program that will be taught to all active and Reserve Marines holding the rank private through lance corporal starting July 28, 2014. The aim of the program is to inform and teach Marines to step up and intervene before a sexual assault can occur.

Live 1-on-1 Help Confidential Worldwide 24/7

DoD
Safe Helpline
Sexual Assault Support for the DoD Community

Help is just a *Click, Call or Text* away!

For confidential victim assistance
visit www.SafeHelpline.org

For more information on the “Step Up” program and reporting procedures, see MARADMIN 288/14 on www.marines.mil.