

Friday,
November 14, 2014

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Marine Corps Air Station
Beaufort, S.C.

The Jet Stream

"The noise you hear is the sound of freedom."



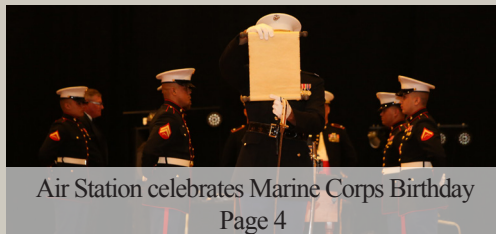
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Air Station celebrates Marine Corps Birthday
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In Remembrance: Beaufort honors veterans during Veteran's Day Parade

Cpl. Brendan Roethel
Staff Writer

Tri-Command service members participated in the Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony in downtown Beaufort, Nov. 11.

The annual event is held to recognize Beaufort's veterans and active duty service members. During the parade, the streets were lined with spectators waving American flags and cheering as the color guard, the Parris Island Marine Band, veterans and active duty service members and local organizations paraded through the streets. Following the parade, approximately 200 people were in attendance for the ceremony, including veterans and active duty service members of every branch of service.

"I have three relatives that all served in the Marine Corps," said Nancy Kurtweil, an Army veteran and Beaufort native. "I came out here to support all of the brave men and women who signed up, especially in times of uncertainty, and were willing to give everything up for what our nation stands for. I couldn't be more proud to have served and come from a military family."

The event had various guest speakers to include veterans and

local officials. During the ceremony retired Army Lt. Gen. John Ballantyne, the keynote speaker for the event, spoke about the ways veterans and citizens need to support one another.

"As service members, you sign up to fight to defend the freedoms of our nation, but citizens have their own duty," Ballantyne said. "We need to remember, respect and honor veterans. There needs to be an awareness and appreciation of what veterans and their families go through. There is so much sacrifice."

At the ceremony there was a prisoner of war, missing in action symbolic display and wreath laying to recognize those that passed away, were POW's or went missing in action.

Col. Peter Buck, the commanding officer for Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Brig. Gen. Terry Williams, the commanding general for Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, and Navy Capt. Anne Lear, the commanding officer for Naval Hospital Beaufort, represented the Tri-Command.

[MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 6](#)

The command teams of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island march in the Beaufort Veteran's Day Parade, Nov. 11. The annual event is held to recognize Beaufort's veterans and active duty service members. During the parade, the streets were lined with spectators waving American flags and cheering as the color guard, the Parris Island Marine Band, veterans and active duty service members and local organizations paraded through the streets. Following the parade, approximately 200 people were in attendance for the ceremony, including veterans and active duty service members of every branch of service.

Be COOL: get your credentials

Cpl. Sarah Cherry
Staff Writer

The Marine Corps announced its new Credentialing Opportunities On-line program in Marine Administrative Message 518/14, Oct. 15.

The website helps Marines find certifications and licenses associated with their job in the Marine Corps, and provides information, credentialing opportunities, professional development and education resources which apply in the civilian work sector, according to the MAR-ADMIN.

"The purpose of credentials is to show the employer that the skill sets for the Marines meets or exceeds their civilian counterparts," said Rickey Johnson, ca-

reer resource management center program manager. "If a Marine accompanies their resume with their credentials, it gives them a better opportunity for employment."

According to a poll called Employing Military Personnel and Recruiting Veterans conducted by the Society for Human Resource Management, two of the main challenges to hiring veterans are translating military skills to civilian experience and transitioning from the military structure and hierarchy to civilian culture.

"Credentials are a particularly important consideration for Marines transitioning from active service because they



[SEE COOL, PAGE 12](#)

Celebrating 239 Years



[More on Page 8](#)

Photo by Cpl. Sarah Cherry

Students from Bolden Elementary/Middle School celebrate the 239th Marine Corps Birthday during a cake cutting ceremony held aboard Laurel Bay, Nov. 7. Cake cutting ceremonies are a time honored tradition which Marines all over the world use to symbolize the Corps' Birthday. The event, which was also held at Galer and Elliot Elementary Schools aboard Laurel Bay, provided students with an opportunity to see and learn about Marine Corps traditions.



MESS HALL MENU

Monday - Friday Breakfast: 6 - 7:30 a.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
Dinner: 4 - 6 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday and holidays Brunch: 8:30 - 11 a.m.
Dinner: 4 - 6 p.m.

MIDRATS

Sunday - Thursday
11:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Takeout Window Hours:
Breakfast - Mon. - Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Lunch - Mon. - Fri. 12:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Dinner - Mon. - Fri. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday

Lunch Smoked ham and cabbage soup
Dinner Apple glazed corned beef and rice

Sunday

Lunch Baked fish with butter crumb topping
Dinner Pork chops with smothered onions

Monday - Friday Breakfast

Hot farina, hot hominy grits and oven-fried bacon

Monday

Lunch Pepper steak and rosemary potatoes
Dinner Spanish chorizo and potato soup

Tuesday

Lunch Beef with vegetables and barley soup
Dinner Bean with bacon soup and peas

Wednesday

Lunch Chipotle roasted sweet potatoes
Dinner Creole shrimp and corn

Thursday

Lunch Chicken with rice soup and breadsticks
Dinner Salisbury steak and southern style greens

Friday

Lunch Chicken and cheese enchiladas
Dinner Louisiana seafood gumbo and rice

CHAPEL SERVICES

Roman Catholic
• 9:30 a.m. - Sunday Mass
• Confession takes place before Mass
• Confession Monday - Thursday at noon

Protestant
• 9:45 a.m. - Protestant Church School (Sunday School)
• 11 a.m. - Protestant Sunday Worship Service (Children's church is also available at this time)
• 5 p.m. - Wednesday Protestant Bible Study
• 5 p.m. - Saturday Worship Service at Laurel Bay Youth Center

Buddhist
• 11 a.m. - Saturday Worship Service in the Chapel Fellowship Hall

Labyrinth Walk
• 8 a.m - 4 p.m. - Monday in the Chapel Fellowship Hall

Other Faith Groups
• For Jewish, Mormon and Islamic support, contact the Chaplain's Office at 228-7775

See something suspicious Say something.

Call (843) 228-6710 / 911 - IMMEDIATELY

USMCEagleEyes.org

Hotlines

MCAS Beaufort Station 228-7789
Inspector
Sexual Assault Response 228-6904
Coordinator
Force Protection information and concerns 228-6924
PMO Dispatch 228-6710
Severe Weather and Force Protection 1-800-343-0639

Sexual Assault

The contact number for a Uniformed Victim Advocate is 592-0646. This number can get you in contact with a UVA 24 hours a day.

Fraud, Waste and Abuse

If you know of or suspect any fraud, waste or abuse aboard MCAS Beaufort, call 228-7777. If you know of or suspect any fraud, waste or abuse within MAG-31, call (252) 466-5038. The automated answering service on these lines is available 24 hours a day.

MCAS Beaufort Movie Schedule

The Book of Life
Saturday 2 p.m.
PG (1:25)

THE JUDGE
Saturday 4:30 p.m.
R (2:21)

THE EQUALIZER
Saturday 7 p.m.
R (2:12)

MCRD Parris Island Movie Schedule

The Book of Life
Sunday 2 p.m.
PG (1:25)

THE BOXTROLLS
Sunday 4:30 p.m.
PG (1:40)

THE MAZE RUNNER
Sunday 7 p.m.
PG-13 (1:53)

Fall Word Search

S O A F N I E F M F G S T M P
S C A P I M O I G C O N R S U
E L A V P O U B P S U R E E M
L G X R T L Y T E U R O E V P
B U N B E A E A U K D C S A K
N R A A H C S S B A S A C E I
N L O J R O R A K I N G E L N
L D Z W N O N O M A I Z E Q S
B E R Q N C N W W O L L E Y Y
L R O O S S L F Y T S H H E J
B A B G R C A Z Z L P A K Z L
F S O O W T C T S E V R A H S
O G L E B F S S T J U P G U O
H O K Y U A H H Z T X K Z C G
C O N R O C D C F D A K O U P

Word Bank

- Autumn
- Fall
- Leaves
- Colors
- Raking
- Harvest
- Pumpkins
- Apples
- Pie
- Gourds
- Football
- Season
- Scarecrow
- Corn
- Maize
- Yellow
- Orange
- Red
- Brown
- Trees
- Acorns
- Turkey
- Hay

Sudoku

1					6			9
9	3		1					
	7	6					1	
6	1		8		7			
		5		4		2		
			2		3		5	6
	6					5	8	
					4		2	1
5			9					7

Answer key will be available on facebook.com/MCASBeaufort on Nov. 19.

Tri-Command Weather *7 Day Forecast*

			High / Low (°F)	Precip. %
Sat Nov 15		Sunny	57°/45°	0 %
Sun Nov 16		Partly Cloudy	66°/58°	10 %
Mon Nov 17		Rain	66°/41°	80 %
Tue Nov 18		Sunny	52°/37°	10 %
Wed Nov 19		Sunny	54°/40°	0 %
Thu Nov 20		Partly Cloudy	65°/52°	0 %
Fri Nov 21		PM Showers	68°/52°	40 %

Forecast according to weather.com

Happenings

- The Provost Marshal's Office plans to test the mass notification system on the first Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. The test will take place aboard MCAS Beaufort and Laurel Bay. It will announce the following twice; "This is a test of the Marine Corps mass notification system. This is only a test. Test 5 4 3 2 1. Test out". These tests are standard drills, and do not require any response. For further information, please contact the physical security section at 228-6335.

- In last week's edition of The Jet Stream an article titled "Suicide prevention: it's up to you" printed with incorrect contact information. For more information on suicide prevention call 228-7800 or 228-3213.

- A Thanksgiving Buffet is scheduled to take place at Traditions aboard MCRD Parris Island Nov. 24 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information call 228-1566.

- Santa's Mailbox will open Nov. 24, at the MCAS Beaufort and MCRD Parris Island libraries. The library will accept letters to Santa and write a letter back. For more information call 228-7682 or 228-1672.

- The photocopying of U.S. Government identification cards is a violation of Title 18, U.S. Code Part I, Chapter 33, Section 701 and punishable by fine and imprisonment.

Did you know...

Nov. 13, 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, containing the names of more than 13,000 Marines who lost their lives in Vietnam, was dedicated this date at the Memorial site in Washington, D.C. The dedication and parade that preceded it were part of a week-long National Salute to Vietnam Veterans.



Effective June 1, MCAS Beaufort will be in Tropical Cyclone Condition V for Hurricane season until Nov. 30. There are currently no threats. This year will be a below normal activity season. NOAA is predicting 8-13 named storms, 3-6 hurricanes and 1-2 major hurricanes.



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Brain Teaser

What word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

Answer for this week's brain teaser will be available on facebook.com/MCASBeaufort on Nov. 19.

Christians and politics part I

Cmdr. Bill Holiman
MCAS Beaufort Command Chaplain

Usually the Chaplain Corner article tells a story or gives advice about how to make your life better in some way, maybe anger management or suicide prevention. But now that the elections are done for this year I would like to address a hot button issue in the calmness of knowing that most of us won't have to vote for two more years. It is about Christians and politics. Yes, I know that is more scary than a haunted house but stay with me.

The last time I was at sea, onboard USS WASP (LHD 1) we had a video Bible study by a prominent Dallas Theological Seminary teacher from Romans 13. The video was made as he addressed an audience of Army ROTC cadets at Texas A & M as I recall. He called them all Ministers of God and proceeded to preach from Ro 13 on their authority and responsibilities. Well, one of our officers who was attending the Bible study was so upset by calling members of the military "Ministers of God" that she began to drown out the video feed with her loud objections and finally she got up and ran out of the chapel. So I know that there are strong opinions on this subject.

Here is a little of what Paul says: Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. 3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; 4 for it is a minister of God to you for the good. (Romans 13:1-4a, New American Standard Bible)

What do we do with what Paul says about the governing authorities? Remember something important, when Paul wrote Romans 13 almost no Christians worked for the Roman government. The emperor,

the Caesar, was named Nero and as the old joke goes, we name our kids Paul and our dogs Nero. Nero was not a nice man. And for nearly 300 years the Christian Church made it a Church rule that no one could be a church member and work for the government. It was only after the Emperor Constantine became a Christian in the 4th century that Church and state began to be on friendly terms.

Today all Americans, including people of faith, are by definition part of the government. We on this base are part of the Armed Forces, the folks "who carry the sword" as Paul describes government. And even if we weren't in the military every US citizen is part of the government. We vote, we pay taxes, we are self-governing. For us the government is not something far away, it is right here, we are deeply engaged in the govern-

"Look around for places where you can take safe risks, where you can express yourself, where you can learn to trust, and where you can find contentment regardless of the pressures and burdens that weigh you down."
- Cmdr. Bill Holiman

ment. The same letter that tells us "The gospel is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes," that tells us to offer our bodies as living sacrifices to God, also tells us to submit to the governing authorities, that those who govern are established by God, even Nero, that they are to reward the good and punish the bad. The government carries the sword. We are to be conscientious citizens, as John Stott puts it.

Paul tells us there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Therefore the one who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has established. That seems pretty straightforward and of course many people have taken it as absolute. When Pilate questioned

Jesus, Pilate thought that he had all power in earth. Jesus corrected him, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above." (John 19:11).

Usually the ones who want you to absolutely obey are those in power. But I submit that Paul is giving a general statement. He is as John Stott puts it, giving a divine ideal, not the human reality. We submit to the state when it is right, but not when it is wrong. Even in the military we are not supposed to carry out an illegal order. So with God and the government, we obey the government, we are conscientious citizens, we participate by voting, obeying the laws, paying taxes, going to work, and carrying out our duties.

But sometimes we have to stand up and say that the government is wrong. Sometimes it is the government that is rebelling against God. In Exodus we read of the Hebrew midwives who did not obey Pharaoh's command to kill the Hebrew boy babies and it said that God blessed them for that. When king Nebuchadnezzar commanded that everyone must bow and worship his golden image, the three young Hebrew men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego refused to obey. We could go on with many examples in both the Bible and in our own life experiences. You get the idea. When the government is wrong, we should say so and do something about it. Yet, the general principle of conscientious citizenship was followed by all these characters that I have just listed. Christians are not to be anarchists and bomb-throwers. We are not to be suicide bombers either. We are to conscientiously uphold the proper authority of the state. We are to participate in the state. Daniel worked for the Babylonian government. David was a king. Roman Centurions in the Gospels and Acts are always people of the highest possible character.

So when we get frustrated with government and the people in authority over us, remember that Christians are supposed to be conscientious citizens. We participate even when things are a mess. More next time!

- Beaufort.Marines.mil
- facebook.com/MCASBeaufort
- twitter.com/MCASBeaufortSC
- youtube.com/MCASBeaufortsc1

Editor's note: We at The Jet Stream care about our reader's opinion. In reaching our goal to put out the best possible product, we understand the importance of your feedback. Please add a comment to the "How can we improve The Jet Stream?" topic on our www.facebook.com/MCASBeaufort discussion board on how we can better your base newspaper.

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2014 Birthday Ball



Photos by Lance Cpl. Patrick McMahon



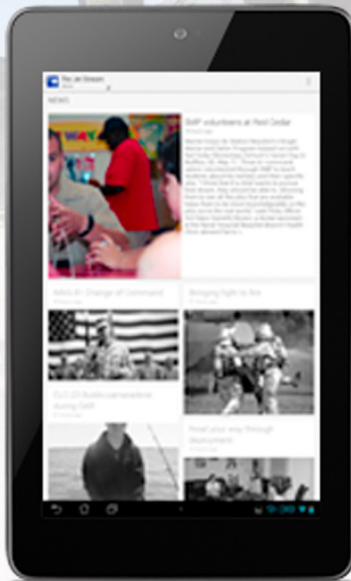
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OR download **Google Currents** from the App Store or Google Play store





Photo by Lance Cpl. Patrick McMahon



HITT

HIGH INTENSITY TACTICAL TRAINING

Fightertown Marines compete in the High Intensity Tactical Training games aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Nov. 5. During the event, Marines lifted weights, pulled sleds, and slam battle ropes as they raced against time.



Photos by Cpl. Sarah Cherry



The Jet Stream meets Issuu.

<http://issuu.com/thejetstream>



Photos by Cpl. Sarah Cherry



Leaving the Corps, diving into civilian career field

Cpl. Brendan Roethel
Staff Writer

The Department of Defense is working to aid service members leaving active service acquire civilian credentials for military experience and technical professions to help them transition into the private sector quicker.

These changes are being made after a change Congress made in 2012 to Title 10 of the U.S. Code. In the change, Congress gave the DoD the authority to let separating service members have job-skills training programs and in-

ternships or apprenticeships as part of their duty assignments, according to Frank DiGiovanni, the director of Force Readiness and Training in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense.

"There are many military career fields where, with just a little bit of gap training, you can step right into a civilian job," DiGiovanni said. "At Fort Lee, [Va.], right after you graduate the Allied Trade Specialist Program they were third-party certified by the American Welding Society. An instructor could take you out, you'd

do your weld, and if you passed, you'd get an American Welding Society certification. That's one example where there isn't much difference between the training they did in the military and what a service member would need to be successful on the outside."

Whether military training meets the requirements needed for civilian employment, licensing or certification depends on the career field. Some career fields may require additional training, or gap training, to meet necessary requirements.

"In truck driving, for example,

there are a couple of major differences," DiGiovanni said. "Most [military] trucks are automatic, and most of the large [commercial] trucks and trailers on the road are manual. Most of our trucks don't have air brakes, and most of the large tractor-trailers do."

Pilot credentialing programs have been implemented in truck driving, medical, supply, automotive mechanics, aircraft mechanics, information technology and manufacturing.

"I can't tell you how many Marines I see leave the Marine Corps

that are demotivated by the idea that they have to wait to enter their career field, because they have to get a degree in a field they already worked in for four to 20 years," said Rickey Johnson, the program manager for the Career Resource Management Center aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. "This program will help our nation show a greater appreciation for the hard work our service men and women accomplish, and helps them expedite their transition back to civilian life."

For more information contact your unit's career planner.

Reduce Reuse

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CORPS BITS



Otis assists jump school training

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT, N.C. - Crewmembers with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252 assisted the Basic Airborne School, 1st Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, at Fort Benning, Ga., Oct. 25.

The squadron orchestrated more than 15 passes over the drop zone, releasing nearly 180 airborne school students from several military branches during static-line jump training from 1,250 feet. The final 10 service members exiting the aircraft were jump masters conducting military free fall training from 13,000 feet.

VMGR-252 participated in the training during a training deployment for Marines slated to deploy with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response, according to Capt. Brian A. Hart, a naval aviator with the squadron.

"The purpose of practicing static-line jumping and military free fall is it is a means of tactically inserting troops, which is a routine mission for our squadron while deployed," said Hart.

According to Hart, the training simulated the operational tempo for the squadron's junior Marines to prepare them for the upcoming MAGTF deployment.

"The most difficult tasks for me, as a pilot, are the calculations involved with the jumper and timing to ensure each jumper hits their mark," said Hart. "It is important to have time management and maintain situational awareness at all times."

For many of the service members exiting the back ramp of the aircraft during the training, it was a first jump, calling for an experienced crew to guide them.

Master Sgt. James R. Holdaway, Gunnery Sgt. John Marsh and Staff Sgt. Christopher Maxheimer were the three crew masters during the training.

Crew masters control the flow of jumpers and maintain the safety of all personnel aboard the aircraft.

In order to ensure proficiency, crew masters train all year long, said Maxheimer. Whether supervising jump training or brushing up on your knowledge at home, the job requires consistent training.



I/11 polishes direct fire skills

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - Artillery units traditionally support ground troops with precise, long-range indirect fire, and are rarely called upon to engage targets with direct fire. Though direct engagements are not an artilleryman's primary mission, Marines on the gun line are expected to be adaptable and effective under any and all circumstances.

This expectation was put to the test when Marines with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, conducted direct fire training aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, Nov. 3. The training re-established specific close-quarters firing skills with the Marines, ensuring successful future combat operations.

Typically, an M777 Howitzer engages targets more than 20 miles away, safely out of harm's way. From time to time, though, an artillery battery can find itself under attack from enemies only hundreds of meters away. At that point, time is limited and the tempo of the battle drastically changes.

The training began with nearly an hour of dry fire, giving the Marines a chance to get a handle on making large adjustments quickly between targets. These adjustments were not the incremental bracketing of fires with which the artillerymen were accustomed; they were drastic adjustments going from high-angle indirect fire postures to dropping the guns almost horizontal to engage threats directly ahead of the gun line.

Following their dry runs, the artillerymen began firing live rounds at metal targets, representing enemy tanks. They were required to follow orders over the deafening blast of the howitzers and traverse between multiple targets, all while continuing to load and fire the cannon.

Realistic training for every combat contingency is the hallmark of 11th Marines' constant preparation to support the 1st Marine Division as part of I Marine Expeditionary Force's ground combat element.



Marines with 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division make their way to the shore at Onslow Beach, N.C., during beach operations training aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Nov. 4, as part of Exercise 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.

Bold Alligator 2014 moves ashore for beach operations training

Cpl. James Smith
II Marine Expeditionary Force

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. - The silhouettes of U.S. naval ships could be seen in the distance cruising off the coast of Onslow Beach, North Carolina, on the morning of Nov. 4.

Marines with 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force slipped ashore early in the morning to scout possible landing areas as part of Exercise Bold Alligator 14. The joint, scenario-driven exercise was designed to hone the naval services' expeditionary model for the 21st century.

Beach operations began with reconnaissance Marines securing a small foothold ashore to pave the way for follow-on forces.

"Once we landed our teams at Onslow Beach, we posted security, got the boats up onto the high water mark, pushed [inland] and started performing reconnaissance," said Sgt. Kyle Czapp, a team leader with 2nd Recon Bn. "For Bold Alligator, what we are testing out is getting these [reconnaissance] reports from the beach back to the ship so that follow-on forces can follow us in here and have an idea of what they're looking at before they get to shore."

Czapp said that his Marines have been preparing for this operation by conducting vigorous training and performing numerous run-throughs of the exercise.

"We've been doing amphibious operations for the past six to seven months, not only in preparation for Bold Alligator, but just for our regular tasks as well," said Czapp, a native from Warren, Michigan. "We've been sending people through dive school, practicing hydrographic surveys and going through rehearsals of this for the past three weeks."

Beyond amphibious operations, Czapp said his Marines are also able to utilize their various land and airborne insertion capabilities to provide commanders with valuable intelligence on the ground.

"Battle-space shaping is a huge ability that we bring to the fight," said Czapp. "It allows commanders to make better timely decisions on what forces they want to bring in after us and gives them a better idea of what's happening on the ground."

Shortly after the reconnaissance Marines landed, assault amphibious vehicles began making their way toward shore, sliding in behind the Marines of 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion.

"Our purpose is to move in, assault and secure the beach with a company of [infantry] embarked with my platoon," said 1st Lt. Lee McKinnon, assault amphibious vehicle platoon commander for 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division. "We are the first wave to come through and secure the beach."

Once we secure the beach, we push inland and secure main supply routes, essentially opening up supply lines for the Special Purpose [Marine Air Ground Task Force]."

Throughout the operation, the Marines were able to work hand in hand with U.S. Navy vessels and their Brazilian counterparts, who were familiar with operating the AAVs and performed the beach operation alongside 2nd AA Bn.

As the Marine Corps prepares for future operations, coalition partners will continue to play a large role alongside forward deployed crisis response and Marine Expeditionary Units around the world.

"The future of the Marine Corps is shifting back more toward amphibious roots," said McKinnon. "Now that we're moving that shift more toward the maritime forces again, we're putting a lot more effort into building our readiness as a sea-going military."

By practicing these types of maneuvers and executing operations on both land and sea, the Navy-Marine Corps team can aid force projection from the sea and support MAGTFs with logistical capabilities.

"The amphibious assault vehicles are what make the Marine Corps amphibious," said McKinnon. "Bringing these vehicles to the fight and coming with that type of firepower and overwhelming force is essential to the Marine Corps' mission and what we do as Marines."



Corps Shot

Cpl. Jonathan Waldman

LAV-25 Light Armored Vehicles from Charlie Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance detachment, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), fire on fixed targets as part of a combined arms engagement range during sustainment training in D'Arta Plage, Djibouti, Nov. 9.



Fightertown deployed:



MALS-31 Stingers
a detachment is currently deployed to the Western Pacific supporting VMFA-115 and VMFA(AW)-533.



VMFA-115 Silver Eagles
are currently deployed to the Western Pacific as part of the Unit Deployment Program.



VMFA(AW)-533 Hawks
are currently deployed to the Western Pacific as part of the Unit Deployment Program.

CORPS BITS



The Climb: Marines scale rocks at Joshua Tree National Park

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. - The sun shines bright over a mountainous landscape as one-by-one, Marines ascend the rock face. As they climb higher, they look for natural grooves in the rock to better anchor them on their way to the top. Joshua Tree Uprising in association with Mil-Tree, a non-profit organization, hosted a rock-climbing event for Marines at Joshua Tree National Park, Nov. 9.

"The rock climbing can sometimes be scary but it's the safest form of climbing," said Sue Cram, owner and lead guide for Joshua Tree Uprising. "We are all '25-plus' year climbing veterans and we do this full time. So when people want to come out here, it's as safe as it can possibly be."

Joshua Tree National Park is home to a vast amount of desert wildlife. It is open year-round and hosts a variety of activities for any participants; hiking, rock climbing and nature walks to name a few.

"It helps people that come from a lot of different places who don't really know [many people] on base and gives them an opportunity to meet new people and have a good time," said Pfc. Michael Trout, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School.

Joshua Tree Uprising was founded in 1999 and their reach spans to military organizations all over the country. Cram founded the organization in hopes of giving people an opportunity to explore their surroundings and experience Joshua Tree National Park. This is the second event they've hosted with the Single Marine Program.

"We were fortunate enough to be able to work with the military," Cram said. "We got in touch with Penny Moore and offered this opportunity for people to come out to Joshua Tree National Park and do something that can be very [fun]. Our support group is so strong, even if you're frightened of heights, it is just amazing to be able to come out."

The SMP hosts events like this to allow Marines access to the surrounding areas of Twentynine Palms.



Marines with the Maritime Raid Force, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, load into an MH-60S Seahawk helicopter on the flight deck of the USS Iwo Jima, Oct. 31. The MRF conducted fast-rope training using aviation support from Sea Combat Squadron 28. The 24th MEU is participating in exercise Bold Alligator, an exercise intended to improve Navy and Marine Corps amphibious core competencies.

24th MEU wraps up PTP, ready for deployment

Sgt. Devin Nichols
24th Marine Expeditionary Unit

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - The Marines and Sailors of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit closed the book on another six-month pre-deployment training cycle after a successful amphibious assault on Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Oct. 27.

The assault showcased the full gamut of the 24th MEU and its organization as a Marine Air-Ground Task Force, which included infantry Marines, aviation assets and heavy equipment operators with combat logistics tying it all together. The purpose of the PTP, often called a "work-up," is to prepare the MEU as America's premiere force-in-readiness and certify them to be able to accomplish a variety of missions from full-scale combat operations to humanitarian assistance.

"This amphibious assault and our other operations from the sea over the last few months demonstrate why the Marine Expeditionary Unit remains the Marine Corps' premier crisis response force," said the 24th MEU commanding officer, Col. Scott F. Benedict. "Although all Marine forces bring a crisis response capability to the table, none bring the balanced force in depth that the MEU provides the combatant commander to deal with uncertainty. The Marines of the MEU have worked very hard, we have been resourced, trained and certified by the MEF. We

are ready to go forward and accomplish our assigned tasks, whatever they may be."

The 24th MEU came together May 28, more than five months ago, and has conducted five major training events since—three of which took place at sea aboard the ships of the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group, which consists of the USS Iwo Jima, USS New York, and USS Fort McHenry.

All three ships will carry the 2,600 Marines and Sailors of the 24th MEU once they deploy. In fact, a large part of the PTP involved the integration between the staffs of the MEU and their counterparts in Amphibious Squadron 8. This meant that Marine and Navy staff members had to come together and work as one team, but it also meant synchronizing all three ships so they could effectively communicate.

"I learned how important the big picture is," said Cpl. Richard Whitling, the 24th MEU assistant Information Management Officer and Command Element training chief. "I was able to help link up command and control systems between ships so that the commander and his staff had a working COP [Common Operational Picture]. I had no clue how important that was before the work-up."

Marines at all levels benefited from the PTP, whether it was Marines conducting daily operations on the flight line or in the well deck, or others gearing up to assault a beach or a simulated hostile maritime vessel.

"PTP allows us a standardized platform in which we can gauge individual and collective tasks that need to be mastered prior to deploying," said Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan J. Croake, the combat engineer staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge for Combat Logistics Battalion 24, 24th MEU. "It acts as a tool for Marines to develop and hone the skills necessary to work cohesively with other Marines and units, and allows them to work through points of friction to better prepare them for the real thing."

Even at the small unit level, Marines came together to build upon their skills.

"Our company has improved tremendously during the PTP process," said Gunnery Sgt. Jason Polanco, the company gunnery sergeant for Lima Company, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 24th MEU. "I have seen Marines become more confident in the billets they fill, and leaders have enhanced their skills to ensure our company is successful."

After the MEU was certified for deployment, they remained on the ships to take part in exercise Bold Alligator 2014, an exercise intended to improve Navy and Marine Corps amphibious core competencies. With that mission complete, the MEU returned home to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where they will make final preparations and get a little time off. They are scheduled to depart on their deployment around the end of the year.



Blue Chromite: Marines assault Camp Schwab

CAMP SCHWAB, Japan - Three platoons of Marines with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, executed a ship-to-shore assault Nov. 1-2 during exercise Blue Chromite 15 at Oura Wan Beach.

Blue Chromite demonstrates the Navy and Marine Corps' amphibious and expeditionary capabilities from the sea to shore. Rehearsing integration of arms in a tactical scenario prepares Marines and sailors for future deployments.

This iteration of Blue Chromite integrated amphibious operations with the USS Germantown (LSD 42) and units internal to III Marine Expeditionary Force in one consolidated exercise, according to Maj. Ryan Donahue, the lead planner for Blue Chromite with 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF.

Marines left the USS Germantown in assault amphibious vehicles to assault the first objective at Oura Wan Beach. The simulated enemy resistance was provided by 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division.

"The Germantown was built for Marines," said Master Chief Petty Officer Samuel Olmstead, the command master chief of the USS Germantown and is from Bisbee, Arizona. "The whole point is to embark United States Marines and take them where the nation needs them to go."

Three platoons advanced from the shore to seek out the simulated enemy and secure the beach.

"Two platoons held blocking positions to the north and to the south, and that allowed the third platoon to move in and attack the objective on the hill," said Cpl. Seth Cooper, a squad leader with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines.

After securing the beach on the first day, the Marines rode in AAVs to the Central Training Area near Camp Schwab. Marines destroyed a notional enemy position in a live-fire exercise at Range 10 in the CTA. Completing their mission set conditions for units in other parts of the exercise.

The amphibious assault during Blue Chromite provided Marines, like Cooper, with a new experience they can learn from and pass on.

"The exercise got Marines used to working with outside agencies instead of just the Marine Corps and also it's a different type of attack," said Cooper from Mansfield, Ohio. "When the Marines move onto their next unit, they can be the person who knows about something like this because they have the experience."

11th MEU Djibouti Sustainment Training: 239th USMC Birthday

1st Lt. Colleen McFadden
11th Marine Expeditionary Unit

D'ARTA PLAGE, Djibouti - Two centuries ago, the United States welcomed the humble birth of its elite fighting force, the United States Marine Corps. Over the course of the next 239 years, the Marine Corps has seen action across the face of the earth, "from the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli."

Today, Marines and Sailors from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), reflected on this heritage and joined together to celebrate the birth of the Corps in locations throughout U.S. 5th Fleet, in the deserts of Djibouti, and across the three ships of the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group (ARG). On ship, Marines celebrated with their Navy brothers and sisters. In Djibouti, Marines celebrated alongside the French armed forces with the French Foreign Legion, displaying the deeply rooted traditions of the traditional Marine Corps birthday celebration. In Kuwait, Marines were joined by Soldiers and

Airmen also deployed in U.S. 5th Fleet.

"The Marine Corps' birthday is a moment when we celebrate our heritage in order to establish a frame of reference for our future," said Capt. Jonathan A. Wagner, company commander of Headquarters and Service Company, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 11th MEU. "The Marines recognized our rich history in 100 degree heat, with sweat in their eyes, and dirt on their faces. It isn't very often that you get to experience this type of camaraderie while being exposed to human factors."

The enablers of the celebration, from the cooks who artistically crafted the cake using Meals Ready to Eat (MRE), to the Marines who set security at the entry control points, worked as a team to make the celebration possible.

Sgt. Mario V. Castillo, a food service specialist explaining his involvement said, "It was an interesting experience making the cake here. We had minimal equipment and even less ingredients to make it. Using

what we had was much harder in the field but was a great challenge for our team."

The opportunity to train in Djibouti affords the Marines time to sustain their readiness and continually distinguish themselves as a responsive, expeditionary force. This exercise demonstrates the agility of the Marines to train in any climate or place with limited resources.

As Marines of the MEU reflect upon the decorated years of Marine Corps history in places far away from the familiar comforts of home, they know that they are carrying on the traditions of the warriors who have gone before them, embodying esprit de corps and remaining ever faithful as they continue their deployment.

Addressing his Marines aboard the USS San Diego, Lt. Col. Eddy I. Hansen, executive

officer of the 11th MEU, stated, "The Marine Corps' legacy is one of pride, professionalism, dedication to duty, and selflessness. We must pay tribute to those who have paved the way for us and honor their selfless spirit not only today on the Marine Corps' birthday, but each and every day."

Being forward deployed on amphibious ships allows the 11th MEU to project its capabilities in areas not easily accessible by land. The Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group, deployed in the U.S. Fifth Fleet area of responsibility, is postured, trained and ready to respond to any regional crisis.

But even in the midst of a busy training schedule, Marines will always make time to celebrate their service's birthday.



COOL

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are recognized and valued indicators that our Marines have the knowledge and skills civilian employers need" said Col. Lee Ackiss, Personal and Professional Development Deputy Branch Head for the Marine and Family Programs Division at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. of Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Marine and Family Programs Division.

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