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24th Marines:

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Strategic Opportunity

Multi-national company-level combined and joint exercise that focuses on enhancing interoperability between USMC and partner-nation Marines in the areas of amphibious operations, non-combatant evacuation operations, peacekeeping and disaster relief.



Goals

- ✓ Build Partner Nation Marine Corps/Naval Infantry capabilities to operate aboard and off amphibious ships.
- ✓ Enhance USMC and partner-nation Noncombatant Evacuation Operation interoperability for potential regional natural disaster or relief operations.



History

Partnership of the Americas began in 2006 as a company level multinational exchange exercise where a USMC unit traveled to Chile and Peru to conduct military-to-military exchanges. At the time, U.S. Navy ships were participating in UNITAS Pacific 2006 in the region and were willing to provide naval support to the U.S. Marines ashore.

In 2008, the U.S. and Colombian Marines participated in a humanitarian exercise aboard the USS Boxer in Central America and continued to Peru to conduct an amphibious landing in Salinas, Peru. As a result of the mutually supporting efforts, the Marines were able to conduct a multinational training exercise with the host nation while also completing a humanitarian mission in San Clemente, Peru.

In 2009, UNITAS GOLD, the 50th Anniversary, and USMC Partnership of the Americas were simultaneously executed to provide U.S. Navy South with the ability to showcase a multinational exercise with a full spectrum of naval operations (surface ships, submarines, aviation and amphibious force projection). Brazil, Colombian, Mexican, Peruvian and Uruguayan Marines joined U.S. Marines and Canadian Army Soldiers to conduct an amphibious landing in Mayport, FL and a Non-Combatant Evacuation exercise in Camp Blanding, FL.

In 2010, USMC Partnership of the Americas is scheduled for July 2010 in Ancon and Salinas, Peru. Marines from Peru, Ecuador, Paraguay, Colombia, Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina and Mexico will join U.S. Marines and Canadian Army Soldiers.

Through exercises UNITAS and POA, the Navy/Marine Corps team will continue to build Partner Nation Marine Corps/Naval Infantry capabilities.