

# MARDIV MONTHLY

#01  
MARCH  
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CAREER  
OPPORTUNITIES &  
RETENTION  
p.7

MARINE CORPS  
COOL PROGRAM  
UPDATE  
p. 12

MONTH IN REVIEW  
p. 24



COVER  
PHOTO

Photo by Cpl. Judith Ann Lazaro/USMC

U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Marek Krol, left, a rifleman, U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Savannah Dees, and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Keegan Farnsworth, all with 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, pose for a photo during exercise Cold Response 26 in Setermoen, Norway, March 14, 2026. Service members from 2nd Marine Division and allied partners participated in a full-scale Force-on-Force with a combined simulation designed to test operational readiness, improve coordination, and synchronize integrated operations, enhancing mission efficiency in cold weather conditions. A key component of NATO's enhanced vigilance activity Arctic Sentry, exercise Cold Response 26 is a Norwegian-led winter military exercise designed to enhance collective defense capabilities and ensure U.S. readiness to rapidly deploy and seamlessly operate alongside NATO Allies in challenging arctic conditions. Krol is a native of Florida, Dees of Georgia, Farnsworth of Idaho.

## CONTENTS

P. 4

*0311 day*

P. 5

*Squad Comp*

P. 6

*NEWSWEEK*

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Marine Corps has invested in career longevity by aligning lateral move opportunities with resume-building programs that rival civilian credentials. For commanders, this means a more capable, professionally developed force with Marines who bring additional certifications, technical expertise, and long-term commitment back to the unit. For junior Marines, it means you don't have to choose between staying in the fight and

building a competitive future, you can do both in the division. These programs are not limited to those pursuing a lateral move; they are available to every Marine who wants to sharpen their edge. By combining operational experience with nationally recognized credentials, Marines strengthen their value to the Corps while building a foundation that lasts well beyond a single enlistment.



## TARGETED MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTIES FOR RETENTION



### 0321 - Reconnaissance Marine

Reconnaissance Marines of 2nd Marine Division are the Division's premier force-in-readiness. Their experience cannot be rapidly regenerated, and increased retention ensures the next generation of 2nd Marine Division Recon Marines are trained by those who have mastered the fundamentals under real-world pressure.

Reenlistment is not just career continuation — it is a commitment to maintaining the lethality, credibility, and legacy of the 0321 community. Retaining en-

listed Recon Marines preserves combat readiness that is costly and time-intensive to rebuild. Experienced operators anchor small teams, sustain institutional knowledge, and ensure readiness of 2nd Marine Division



### 7316 - Small Unmanned Aircraft System (SUAS) Operator

Small Unmanned Aircraft System (SUAS) operators remain at the

forefront of a rapidly evolving battlefield capability that directly shapes tactical decision-making. Their expertise in aerial reconnaissance, target acquisition, and real-time intelligence provides commanders with a decisive advantage in complex environments.

Retention grants the division operators that are already technically proficient, skilled at integrating emerging technologies, and skilled in teaching new operators tactics that increase survivability and lethality across the Marine Corps.

Their experience is a combat multiplier that cannot be quickly replaced and becomes more valuable with every deployment and training cycle. For commanders, retaining experienced SUAS operators preserves critical ISR capability at the small-unit level and prevents a costly loss of technical expertise. Keeping trained operators in the formation ensures continuity, accelerates integration of new systems, and sustains the division's competitive edge in modern warfare.

# CREDENTIALING OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE: WHAT EVERY MARINE NEEDS TO KNOW




The Marine Corps is increasing awareness of its Credentiaing Opportunities Online (COOL) program. This program gives Marines access to civilian certifications and licenses that match their Military Occupational Specialties (MOS). A recent Marine Administrative Message (MARADMIN 111/26) shared updates and stressed the program's importance for professional growth and transition to civilian careers.

Marine Corps COOL is the main resource for Marines who want to build skills and prepare for jobs after service. It shows which certifications match each MOS and explains how to apply and get funding. The program is part of a Department of Defense effort to provide clear and standardized credentialing opportunities.

Key points from the MARADMIN include:

**Certification Alignment:** COOL helps Marines find civilian certifications and licenses that directly relate to their MOS.

**Funding Availability:** Funding is first come first served and separate from Tuition Assistance, so Marines should apply quickly.

**Eligibility:** The program is open to Active Component Marines, Selected Marine Corps Reserve members, and Marines on Active Duty Operational Support orders.

**Support for Advisors:** COOL also helps Career Counselors and Voluntary Education Center staff guide Marines in career planning and development.

The MARADMIN also explained updated funding rules. Officers and government civilians in cyber coded billets can receive funding through the Cyberspace Work force program, but the rules are strict and cannot be waived.

Marines can use the COOL website to explore certifications and find details about eligibility, funding, and how to apply. They can also contact their installation Voluntary Education Office or use the Contact Us link on the website for help.

The COOL program helps Marines improve their military performance and prepare for civilian careers. By offering certifications that match their MOS, it ensures they gain useful skills and credentials for both service and life after the military.



**“We encourage all eligible Marines to take advantage of this program and unlock their full potential.”**

Lt. Gen. William J. Bowers, Deputy Commandant for Manpower and

# MONTH IN REVIEW



Photo by Cpl. Xavier Alicea/USMC

U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Marek Campbell, left, and Lance Cpl. Danian Trujillo, both riflemen with Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, participate in live-fire squad attacks in Setermoen, Norway, Feb. 24, 2026. The live-fire training was part of exercise Cold Response 26. A key component of NATO's enhanced vigilance activity Arctic Sentry, exercise Cold Response 26 is a Norwegian-led winter military exercise designed to enhance collective defense capabilities and ensure U.S. readiness to rapidly deploy and seamlessly operate alongside NATO Allies in challenging arctic conditions.

## 0311 DAY

Infantry Marines, past and present, used the day to reflect on deep-rooted history and culture of the rifleman community, reinforcing the bond that unites generations of warriors. Through shared stories, photos, and motos, both veterans and active duty Marines celebrated the identity and legacy of the 0311 Infantry Marines, emphasizing the discipline, sacrifice, and pride that define their role.

Although not an official holiday, 0311 day has grown into a meaningful Marine Corps tradition, underscoring the critical importance of the rifleman within the warfighting mission. It serves as a powerful reminder that, regardless of changing technology or tactics, the infantry Marine remains the backbone of combat operations and the foundation upon which the Corps' effectiveness is built.

## COLD RESPONSE 26



Photo by Sgt. Alexis French/USMC

U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Cody Johnson, a utilities systems technician with Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, participates in an ice-breaker drill in Setermoen, Norway, March 20, 2026. The drill teaches Marines how to survive and regain composure after falling through ice, an essential Arctic survival skill learned during exercise Cold Response 26. A key component of NATO's enhanced vigilance activity Arctic Sentry, exercise Cold Response 26 is a Norwegian-led winter military exercise designed to enhance collective defense capabilities and ensure U.S. readiness to rapidly deploy and seamlessly operate alongside NATO Allies in challenging arctic conditions.

The Marines of 2nd Division demonstrate exceptional resilience as they confront the unforgiving conditions of the Arctic Circle in Bardufoss and Setermoen, Norway, during exercise Cold Response 26. Battling extreme cold, deep snow, and limited daylight, they remain fully engaged in this large-scale NATO winter warfare exercise, which is specifically designed to push the limits of endurance and operational capability in harsh environments. Led by Norway and involving more than 25,000 troops from 14 nations, the exercise highlights not only the importance of multinational cooperation but also the Marine Corps' ability to adapt, endure, and succeed in some of the most challenging conditions on Earth, proving their readiness to face any mission.



## 2ND MARINE DIVISION BAND

Staff Sgt. Jazz M. Vu a musician with the 2nd Marine Division Band was named the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Musician of the Year in recognition of his accomplishments. This prestigious distinction is awarded to a Marine of the appropriate grade, typically a Staff Sergeant or Gunnery Sergeant, of whom demonstrates exceptional performance, leadership, and technical proficiency within the Marine Corps band program and their respective occupational specialties. Staff Sgt Vu's selection reflects not only his individual talent and dedication to musical excellence, but also his ability to lead and inspire fellow Marines, upholding the highest standards of professionalism within the field of military music.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Brian Bolin Jr./USMC  
U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Jazz Vu, a musician with the 2nd Marine Division Band, performs during a holiday concert in Jacksonville, North Carolina, Dec. 12, 2025. The band played selections of popular holiday songs as part of their annual winter concert series. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Brian Bolin Jr.)

## SQUAD COMPETITION



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jaden Beardsley/USMC  
U.S. Marines with 2nd Marine Division participate in a live-fire machine gun range as part of an infantry squad competition on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, March 18, 2026. Marines took part in replicated combat scenarios and live-fire ranges in order to increase readiness and build camaraderie during competition.

Marines from multiple Infantry units across 2nd Marine division came together to compete in a rigorous squad level competition designed to push the limits of endurance, skill, and unit cohesion at Camp Lejeune, from March 17-20. Throughout the week, squads rotated through a series of demanding events that mirrored real world combat scenarios, including

marksmanship, fire and maneuver, and coordinated squad movement. The competition not only tested individual proficiency, but also emphasized teamwork, communication, and the ability to operate effectively under pressure.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Trujillo/USMC

A U.S. Marine Corps amphibious assault vehicle with Alpha Company, 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division debarks the Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship USS Gunston Hall (LSD-44) during Naval Integration Training Package 2 off the coast of North Carolina, Dec. 4, 2025. NITP-2 is an amphibious, ship-to-shore, part of a larger training evolution certifying amphibious combat vehicle crewmen to safely and properly conduct combat operations with the ACV. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Dominic Trujillo)

## 2ND AA BATTALION



Photo by Lance Cpl. Trujillo/USMC

U.S. Marines with 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, stand at parade rest during the 2nd Assault Amphibian birthday ball on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, March 21, 2026. The birthday ball, dubbed the "Gator Ball" was held to honor the unit's 84 years of amphibious warfighting and traditions.

Amphibian Assault battalions have played a vital role in Marine expeditionary operations since their origins in the Pacific theater, where the need to project combat power from sea to shore first defined their mission. Operating specialized armored vehicles designed to traverse both water and land, these units have enabled the rapid

and protected movement of Marines during large-scale amphibious assaults. Over time, their capabilities have evolved alongside advancements in technology transitioning from earlier assault vehicles to more modern, versatile platforms capable of handling complex operational environments. Beyond combat, these battalions have

also proven indispensable in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions, delivering personnel, supplies, and aid to areas inaccessible by conventional means. Their unique combination of mobility, protection, and adaptability continues to make them a cornerstone of expeditionary warfare and global response efforts.

## NEWSWEEK

**"UNCONVENTIONAL" - THE STORY OF THE NEW GENERATION ENTERING THE U.S. MILITARY HOW THEY BRING DIVERSITY AND NEW ATTITUDES, WHILE UPHOLDING THE TRADITIONS OF ONE OF THE OLDEST INSTITUTIONS.**



Naveed Jamali pictured above

Photo by Cpl. Maximum Orduna/USMC



Photo by Cpl. Maximum Orduna/USMC

U.S. Marine Corps 2nd Lt Daniel R. Starozytnyk, a Florida native with Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division. Hosted Newsweek Media to showcase a documentary on Marine Corps base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, on March 26th 2026. Unconventional Newsweek Media created a documentary on what it means to be a U.S. Marine, encapsulating footage with 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion and 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion. They then presented a preview of the documentary to respective units to show the hard work and dedication of always being ready to fight.

Throughout the month of March, 2nd Marine Division hosted the cast and crew of Unconventional, providing a firsthand look into the capabilities and culture of today's Marine Corps. Led by host Naveed Jamali the team embedded with 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion to capture the speed, mobility, and firepower of their light armored vehicles (LAVs), along with dynamic ship to shore operations. The visit highlighted not only cutting edge capabilities of modern Marines, but also reinforced the legacy of 250 years of Marine Corps warfighting excellence, showcasing how tradition and innovation continue to define the force today.

# RESOURCES

## 01. NAVY MARINE RELIEF SOCIETY



NMCRS is committed to helping Sailors, Marines, and their families with immediate, compassionate relief and long-term financial strength. The updated financial assistance model ensures you receive the support that truly fits your family's needs—today and for the future.

## 02. SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION & RESPONSE



The Single Marine Program (SMP) serves as the voice for single, unaccompanied Marines and any other single active duty servicemember in identifying QOL concerns, developing QOL initiatives, and providing recommendations through advocacy, recreational activities, special events, and community involvement.

## 03. SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM



Every Marine and Sailor of 2d Marine Division will be treated with decency, dignity, and respect, and will be provided full and equal opportunity for professional development and success. Judgments based on race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, and national origin have no bearing in this division, and will not be tolerated.

## 04. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY



USO North Carolina is part of the United Service Organizations, which was founded in 1941. USO is the nation's leading charitable organization to serve the men and women in the U.S. military, and their families, throughout their time in uniform. USO North Carolina supports military service men and women in the state of North Carolina. Eleven percent of U.S. military active-duty forces call North Carolina home. With seven major military installations, North Carolina has the fourth largest demographic of active and reserve duty components in the country.

**ANY CLIME  
ANY PLACE**

