



THE FIGHTING 13TH

Newsletter



Delivered Biweekly

Vol. 1, Issue 2, June 1, 2026

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13TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT



BLT 2/4 Marines Familiarize with Counter sUAS Procedures

U.S. Marines assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2/4, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, observe a skydio X2 in flight while conducting a counter small unmanned aircraft system familiarization during Realistic Urban Training at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, May 25, 2026. RUT is a critical pre-deployment exercise that allows the 13th MEU to integrate its command, air, ground and logistics elements, ensuring the force is prepared to respond rapidly and effectively to crises in unfamiliar, urban environments. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Christian Cutter) [More Imagery](#)



Marines with Fury Co., BLT 2/4, Train for VBSS

U.S. Marine Corps Pfc. Angel Castaneda, left, and Pfc. Evan Parker, both riflemen assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2/4, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, perform close-quarters tactics to clear a hallway during a visit, board, search and seizure training event at a strategic operations facility in San Diego, California, May 11, 2026. This training provides the 13th MEU with an additional organic VBSS asset, ensuring the command has the flexibility to conduct simultaneous maritime interception operations. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Fernando Cruz Martinez) [More Imagery](#)



AH-1Z Vipers Execute Strike with Lethal Precision During RUT

U.S. Marine Corps AH-1Z Vipers assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 364 (Reinforced), 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, land after conducting a simulated airstrike during Realistic Urban Training at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, May 27, 2026. RUT is a critical pre-deployment exercise that allows the 13th MEU to integrate its command, air, ground and logistics elements, ensuring the force is prepared to respond rapidly and effectively to crises in unfamiliar, urban environments. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Grace Stover) [More Imagery](#)

COMMANDER'S CORNER



13th MEU Family and Friends,

The Fighting 13th is currently executing a productive Realistic Urban Training (RUT) exercise. While away from home, your Marines and Sailors are hard at work in complex environments, rapidly growing our team's cohesion and warfighting readiness. Following RUT, the MEU will continue preparations for the unit's first major training period aboard naval vessels, which I encourage you to discuss with your service member. This period is critical to integrating Naval forces, honing our amphibious capabilities, and ensuring we are a ready, deployable force. We are proud of the work the team is doing, but know our strength is amplified with the support from our families standing beside us.

Semper Fi,

Col. Richard Alvarez

DIGITAL
NEWSLETTER
AND MAILING
LIST SIGN UP





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13TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT



BLT 2/4 Marines Conduct TRAP Rehearsals

U.S. Marines assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2/4, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, embark an MV-22B Osprey to conduct tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel rehearsals for a simulated expeditionary airstrike during Realistic Urban Training at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, May 27, 2026. RUT is a critical pre-deployment exercise that allows the 13th MEU to integrate its command, air, ground and logistics elements, ensuring the force is prepared to respond rapidly and effectively to crises in unfamiliar, urban environments. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Grace Stover) [More Imagery](#)



An AH-1Z Viper Stages Prior to Aerial Operations

U.S. Marines assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 364 (Reinforced), 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, prepare to takeoff in an AH-1Z Viper to conduct a simulated expeditionary airstrike during Realistic Urban Training at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, May 27, 2026. RUT is a critical pre-deployment exercise that allows the 13th MEU to integrate its command, air, ground and logistics elements, ensuring the force is prepared to respond rapidly and effectively to crises in unfamiliar, urban environments. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Grace Stover) [More Imagery](#)



F-35 Stages Prior to a Simulated Strike

A U.S. Marine assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 211, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, conducts a pre-flight inspection aboard an F-35B Lightning II for a simulated airstrike during Realistic Urban Training at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, May 29, 2026. RUT is a critical pre-deployment exercise that allows the 13th MEU to integrate its command, air, ground and logistics elements, ensuring the force is prepared to respond rapidly and effectively to crises in unfamiliar, urban environments. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Martha Linares) [More Imagery](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS & RESOURCES

Summer Reading Program Kick Off Party

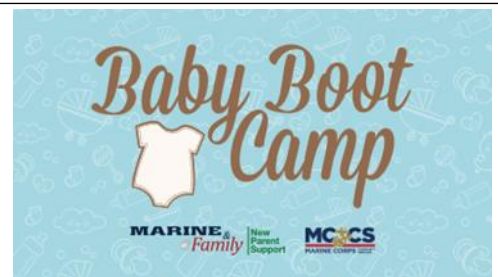


Summer Reading Program Kick Off Party

Readers of all ages looking for a fun and rewarding way to stay engaged this summer are invited to participate in the Department of Defense Libraries 2026 Summer Reading Challenge, "Plant A Seed, Read." Running from Monday, June 1 through Saturday, July 25, 2026, at the Patrick J. Carney Library, Building 1146 aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, this interactive challenge encourages participants to log their reading minutes to earn exciting badges. With customized tracks tailored specifically for toddlers (ages 0-4), children (5-12), teens (13-17), and adults (18+), the program offers a wonderful opportunity for the entire family to cultivate a love for books together. Families can also stop by the library to officially sign up, grab a full calendar of summer events, and enjoy family-friendly crafts and games in a welcoming environment. [More Info](#)

Baby Boot Camp

Preparing to welcome a new addition to your family and looking for a fun, interactive way to learn the basics? Join the Family Advocacy Program for Baby Boot Camp on Thursday, June 4, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Building 1122 aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Recommended for expectant parents in their third trimester or those preparing for adoption, this one-day class provides the hands-on skills needed to confidently care for a newborn. Participants will learn basic infant care, bathing, feeding, and diapering, while also discussing parental self-care, pre- and postpartum emotions, and helpful local resources. The Family Advocacy Program is dedicated to supporting families through every stage of life, ensuring you feel ready for this new chapter. [More Info](#)



Within My Reach

Looking to build stronger, healthier relationships and improve your communication skills? Join Marine & Family Programs for the "Within My Reach" workshop on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Pacific Views, Building 202860 aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. This comprehensive program is designed to help individuals develop vital skills for conflict resolution and making wise choices when it matters most. Participants will learn how to identify the factors of a healthy relationship, recognize dangerous communication patterns, and apply the Speaker-Listener Technique, while also exploring the unique dynamics of fatherhood, stepfamilies, and co-parenting. Whether you are single or navigating complex family dynamics, this workshop provides the tools to discover your strengths, understand forgiveness, and foster lasting, safe connections. [More Info](#)