



THE FIGHTING 13TH

Newsletter



Delivered Biweekly

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13TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT



BLT 2/4 Conducts Artillery Live Fire Training

U.S. Marines assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2/4, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, fire an M777 howitzer in support of a fire mission during unit-level training at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California, May 29, 2026. Unit-level training allows the artillery battery to hone fundamental skills for the 13th MEU during complex and austere operations. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Mary R. Jenni) [More Info](#)



BLT 2/4 Conducts an Urban Raid

A U.S. Marine assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2/4, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, provides a situation report to another squad during a simulated raid as part of Realistic Urban Training at Blythe, California, May 31, 2026. RUT is a critical pre-deployment exercise that enables the 13th MEU to integrate its command, aviation, ground and logistics combat 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 Info](#)



Maritime Raid Force Conducts a Military Free-Fall Insertion

U.S. Marines assigned to Maritime Raid Force, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, transit aboard an MV-22B Osprey assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 364 (Reinforced), 13th MEU, to conduct a military free-fall insertion in support of a simulated raid during Realistic Urban Training at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, May 27, 2026. RUT is a critical pre-deployment exercise that enables the 13th MEU to integrate its command, air, ground and logistics combat 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 Info](#)

COMMANDER'S CORNER



13th MEU Family and Friends,

The Fighting 13th recently completed Realistic Urban Training (RUT), successfully executing critical training to forge our warfighting readiness. We now pivot to our first at-sea training period alongside the U.S. Navy. This phase is critical to integrating naval forces and refining our amphibious capabilities. We are fully aware of the daily sacrifices our families make behind the scenes to facilitate this high-tempo preparation. Your constant commitment is a pillar of strength that our Marines and Sailors lean on, allowing them to remain focused on the mission. For your indispensable support, you have my highest appreciation.

Semper Fi,

Col. Richard Alvarez

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13TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

13th MEU Completes Realistic Urban Training, Boosts Deployment Readiness

By: 1st Lt. Hector Flores

YUMA, Ariz. – The 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) successfully concluded Realistic Urban Training (RUT), a major pre-deployment exercise held from May 26 to June 3, 2026, across various locations in the Southwest United States. This rigorous evolution featured diverse training missions designed to forge tactical cohesion across the Marine Air-Ground Task Force and maximize operational effectiveness in complex urban environments.



Throughout the exercise, over 1,000 Marines and Sailors from the 13th MEU's Command Element,

Battalion Landing Team 2/4, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 364 (Reinforced), Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 211, and Combat Logistics Battalion 13 integrated to form a cohesive MAGTF. The training took place in challenging and unfamiliar urban environments, including Glendale, Arizona, and Blythe and Glamis, California, providing realistic settings for complex, decentralized operations. While the MEU operated from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, training also occurred at military installations across the Southwest.

“Realistic Urban Training is a critical milestone that forges the individual elements of the 13th MEU into a unified, combat-ready MAGTF,” said Col. Richard Alvarez, commanding officer of the 13th MEU. “Operating in complex, austere and urban environments provides the realism necessary to develop the essential skills required for rapid crisis response around the globe. RUT has made the 13th MEU a better prepared, more lethal force.”

During RUT, the 13th MEU executed several core missions essential for crisis response, including two expeditionary strikes, three amphibious raids, and

two Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel (TRAP) missions. Both the Maritime Raid Force, comprised primarily of Reconnaissance Marines, and Battalion Landing infantry elements conducted raids supported by the full MAGTF.



The exercise showcased the full spectrum of the MEU's aviation capabilities, employing the MV-22B Osprey, CH-53E Super Stallion, AH-1Z Viper, UH-1Y Venom, F-35B Lightning II, and KC-130J Super Hercules aircraft. These platforms... [Continue Reading](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS & RESOURCES



Summer Nights

Cool off under the stars with an evening swim and a family movie! Marine Corps Community Services is hosting a poolside movie night on Thursday, June 18, 2026, from 6:45 PM to 9:30 PM at the 13 Area Pool, Building 1315. Enjoy the pool slides and diving board and purchase delicious food from onsite food trucks and vendors. Admission is only \$1 for all patrons over the age of two. For more details, please contact the organizers at 760-725-4344. [More Info](#)

Hot Rod Dads Car Show

Gear up for an exciting day of horsepower and fun! Marine Corps Community Services is hosting the Pacific Views Marine Corps Exchange Car Show on June 20, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Whether you are a classic car fan, a modification enthusiast, or just looking for a great weekend outing, this event has something for everyone. In addition to a stunning lineup of vehicles, local food trucks and vendors will be onsite with plenty of options for purchasing. Competitors can enter their vehicles to win across three distinct categories, including "Best Car in Show," "Best Classic Car," and "Best Modified Car." The event is free to attend and open to all authorized base patrons and their guests. For more information, registration details, or questions, please contact the organizers at 760-763-6979 today. [More Info](#)



New Parent Support Program Playgroup

The New Parent Support Program invites you and your little ones to the Little Learners Playgroup! This inclusive playgroup is designed specifically for children ages 0-5 and offers a welcoming environment for families to connect. Our casual gatherings feature a variety of fun, hands-on activities that support early childhood development while providing a fantastic opportunity for parents and caregivers to share experiences and build a supportive community network. Come join us for a morning of play, learning, and connection! For more information, registration details, or questions regarding the schedule, please contact the organizers at 760-576-9428 today. [More Info](#)