

Responsive Warrior

Volume One



Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa
May-December 2015



Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa

The crisis response force of choice

Responsive Warrior provides a visual representation of Marine Corps operations, exercises, and engagement activities across two continents. Our Marines continue to provide the geographic combatant commanders at U.S. European Command (EUCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) with a force whose capabilities are relevant and ready for deployment at a moment's notice. We are the right force in the right place and always at the right time.

U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa Headquarters

Our headquarters based in Stuttgart, Germany, provides support to our deployed rotational units and the EUCOM and AFRICOM commanders across all warfighting functions. Planning efforts from this headquarters translate strategic objectives into operational objectives which will be achieved by our rotational forces - Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa and the Black Sea Rotational Force.

Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa

This team of Marines and Sailors is forward deployed to Morón Air Base, Spain and Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy. While allocated to AFRICOM, they provide crisis response options for both Combatant Commanders. SPMAGTF-CR-AF may be directed to operate anywhere within the combatant command's geographic scope. They regularly train in Africa at Cooperative Security Locations, and engage with European partners which provide a powerful presence and enable timely response to crises.

Black Sea Rotational Force

Based in Romania, this contingent of Marines and Sailors train in the Black Sea, Balkans and Caucasus regions maintaining their readiness and strategic partnerships. Their efforts improve interoperability, promote collective security, and provide the capability for rapid crisis response as directed by EUCOM and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa.

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- AGILE SPIRIT (Republic of Georgia)



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Operational Highlights:

May – Dec 2015

17 Exercises

157 Theater Security Cooperation / Military-2-Military Events

In 16 Countries with 5779 Marines

Two Continents. One Force.



Cooperative Security Location — Training & Validation

U.S. Marines rehearse the U.S. Marine Corps' ability to maneuver across two combatant commands and operate from CSLs in Gabon, Senegal, and Ghana. The Marines and sailors can maintain an alert posture and conduct sustainment training at each of these sites.



Photo by Sgt Paul Peterson



Photo by LCpl Christopher Mendoza



Photo by U.S. Marine Corps

Top: U.S. Marines deploy into the Cooperative Security Location in Ghana. Bottom right: U.S. Marines train with partner nations in Africa at each of the cooperative security locations. Bottom left: A Gabonese soldier shares non-lethal tactics with a U.S. Marine from Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa.



AFRICAN LION 2015

(May 7 – 22, 2015)

(AL15) was the largest CJCS sponsored engagement on the continent of Africa and hosted approximately 2,800 U.S., Moroccan, African and European participants. AL-15 consisted of a U.S./ Moroccan CJTF CPX linked with an Intelligence Capacity Building Workshop, a Field Training Exercise, an Aviation Training Exercise, a Humanitarian/ Civic Assistance event, and a Peace Support Operations FTX. The exercise focused on UN Mandated Peace Operations in order to improve U.S. military interoperability with Royal Moroccan Armed Forces and Multi-National/ Regional Partners while exercising select MARFOREUR/AF and subordinate unit mission essential tasks.



Photo by MSgt Chad McMeen

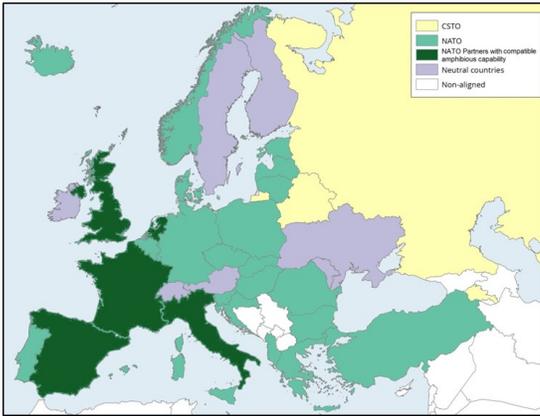


Photo by Cpl Desire Mora

Left: U.S. Marines and Moroccan Armed Forces demonstrate riot control techniques. Above: A U.S. Marine and Moroccan soldier embrace following a successful exercise. Below: A Moroccan soldier and U.S. Marine exchange weapons and firing techniques during African Lion 2015.



Photo by SSgt Jared Gehman



Allied Maritime Basing Initiative

An initiative to improve interoperability between Allies and U.S. Marines that is designed to provide the combatant commanders in EUCOM and AFRICOM a persistent year-round crisis response capability.

Right: A US Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey flies of the Spanish Juan Carlos I during flight operations and deck landing qualifications.
Bottom right: MV-22s aboard the Spanish Juan Carlos I prepare to deploy from the ship during training with Spanish, Portuguese, and U.S. Marines.
Below: Spanish sailors with the flight deck crew supervise the landing of an MV-22 Osprey aboard the Spanish Juan Carlos I.



Photo by SSgt Vitaliy Rusavskiy



Photo by SSgt Vitaliy Rusavskiy



Photo by SSgt Vitaliy Rusavskiy



Combined Arms Company

(Aug. 26, 2015—Present)

This unit is based at the Novo Selo Training Area in Bulgaria. The Company is formed from a tank section, artillery section, light armored vehicle section, combat engineer section and logistic support enablers. With more than 150 Marines, the Company has a unique capability to conduct operations, support crisis and contingency response, and conduct international military training exercises and engagements with eastern European partner nation military forces.



Photo by Cpl Justin Updegraff



Photo by LCpl Melanye Martinez



Photo by Cpl Justin Updegraff

Top: A U.S. Marine M1A1 Abrams tank patrols through the Novo Selo Training Area in Bulgaria.
Bottom right: U.S. Marines in Bulgaria are conducting mechanized drills that also include anti-armor tactics with Allies and international partners.
Bottom left: US Marines fire artillery at a range in Bulgaria.

TRIDENT JUNCTURE

(Oct 28 – Nov 6, 2015)

(TRJE15) was the largest NATO exercise conducted in the past 20 years with around 36,000 troops from more than 30 nations, including both NATO Allies and Partners. More than 5,000 U.S. service members participated in the exercise which was designed to train the troops of the NATO Response Force. Activities were hosted by Spain, Portugal and Italy with additional training in Belgium, Canada, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway and at sea in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. The Marine Corps 26th MEU, Fourth Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Black Sea Rotational Force and Special Purpose Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response all participated in the multi-national exercise.



Photo by Jason Johnston



Photo by Sgt. Austin Long



Photo by Jason Johnston



Photo by MSgt Chad McMeen

Above: A U.S. Marine with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit holds security with Portuguese Marines in Portugal. Middle left: Marines from 4th LAR pose of a group photo after the MPF offload. Bottom left: A U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey delivers U.S. and British troops to the training area as a joint field training exercise kicks off in Alvarez de Sotomayor. The aircraft launched from the Spanish Ship Juan Carlos I minutes before landing in the Spanish training area demonstrating how multiple countries can work together to accomplish the mission of responding to crisis.

PLATINUM EAGLE 2015

(May 17-30, 2015)

This is an exercise with 120 Marines from the Black Sea Rotational Force and over 400 Romanian and Bulgarian military forces training at Babadag Training Area Romania. This was a Battalion level exercise to improve infantry skills and increase interoperability with Romanian and Bulgarian forces. Concurrent with PL 15, MARFOREUR/AF conducted a sustainment exercise deploying Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force, Crisis Response, Africa MV-22s to support BSRF's rapid response platoon.



Photo by Sgt S. T. Stewart



Photo by SSgt Jessica Smith

Above: A U.S. Marine gives advice to Romanian soldiers during training in the Babadag Training Area in Romania.

Above right: U.S. Marines fire a Javelin at an empty tank hull in Romania.

Right: A U.S. Marine provides cover before leaving an LZ.

Below: U.S. Marines and Romanian soldiers observe anti-tank demonstrations.



Photo by SSgt Jessica Smith



Photo by 1stLt Sarah Burns

PLATINUM LION 2015

(October 25-November 7, 2015)

Platinum Lion, the first multinational live-fire engagement in which the Combined Arms Company participated, is a NATO-led exercise designed to increase readiness and build partner capabilities through realistic combat scenarios and objective-focused training. During the exercise, the participants orchestrated integrated squad offensive operations, maneuver training, and mechanized integration aimed at collectively increasing combined arms skills, anti-armor tactics and other capabilities needed for combat.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Melanye E. Martinez



Photo by Lance Cpl. Melanye E. Martinez



Photo by Lance Cpl. Melanye E. Martinez

Top: U.S. Marines with Combined Arms Company conduct field training with Bulgarians and Romanian armed forces at the Novo Selo Training Area.

Above: Bulgarian Army Soldiers ride in a Bulgarian vehicle during a field training exercise at the Novo Selo Training Area.

Top Right: A Romanian soldier participating in Platinum Lion, settles in at an ambush sight during a dismounted patrolling exercise at the Novo Selo Training Area.

Right: U.S. Marines with the Combined Arms Company ride in a light armored vehicle during Platinum Lion.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Melanye E. Martinez

PLATINUM LYNX 2015

(December 6 - 15, 2015)

This exercise was focused on mechanized integration, breaching techniques, dismounted live-fire tactics, indirect fire procedures and practical application. The Combined Arms Company transported the heavy equipment via rail operations from Zimnitsa, Bulgaria.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Melanye E. Martinez



Photo by Lance Cpl. Melanye E. Martinez

Top Left: U.S. Marines with Combined Arms Company, Black Sea Rotational Force, conduct field training with Romanian and Moldovan armed forces at the Smardan Training Area.

Top Right: U.S. Marines with Combined Arms Company, Black Sea Rotational Force, fire a HMMWV-mounted BGM-71 Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided (TOW) anti-tank missile at the Smardan Training Area.

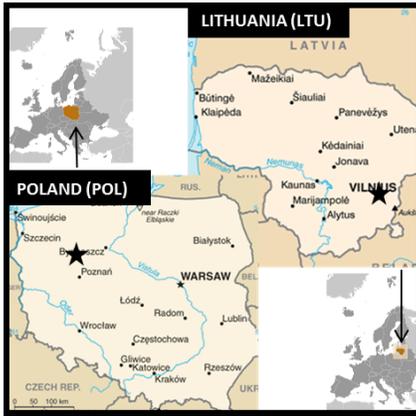
Right: U.S., Romanian, and Moldovan military members participate in a tank shoot rehearsal.

Below: U.S Marine M1A1 Abrams Tank with Combined Arms Company, Black Sea Rotational Force, fires at the Smardan Training Area.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Melanye E. Martinez



Photo by Lance Cpl. Melanye E. Martinez



SABER STRIKE 2015

(June 1-19, 2015)

This exercise was designed to promote regional stability and security; strengthen partner capacity; and foster trust while improving interoperability with NATO Partners. The overarching exercise concept had a focus on preparation of HQs and troops for the NATO Response Force (NRF). The Marine Corps supported with more than 200 Marines from the Black Sea Rotational Force and 4th ANGLICO providing infantry tactics, a Supporting Arms Liaison Team (SALT) and Fire Control Team (FCT), to support the Multinational Battalion HQ and maneuver units in the combined arms live fire FTX



Photo by Sgt Paul Peterson



Photo by Cpl Justin Updegraff



Photo by Sgt Paul Peterson

Top left: A U.S. Marine patrols through the woods in Lithuania.
 Middle left: Allies and international partners stand side-by-side ready to begin training.
 Bottom left: A U.S. Marine and Lithuanian soldier stand together at the start of the exercise.
 Below: U.S. Marines prepare for an attack on an enemy position in Lithuania.
 Bottom: A Lithuanian soldier directs maneuvers alongside U.S. Marines before going into the attack.



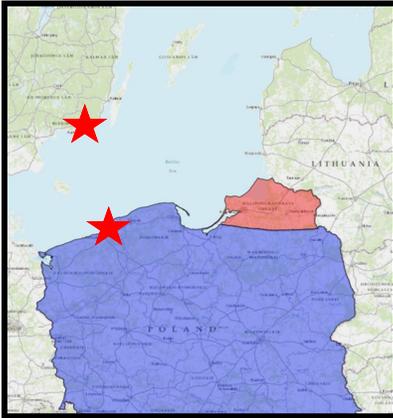
Photo by Sgt Paul Peterson



Photo by Sgt Paul Peterson

BALTOPS 2015

(June 8-19, 2015)



The premier maritime exercise in the Baltic Sea region and one of the largest exercises in northern Europe. A multinational force, including U.S. Marines, demonstrated the interoperability of NATO allies and partners while assuring nations of NATO's commitment to security and stability in the Baltic Sea region. BALTOPS 15 also delivered high-end training across the entire spectrum of naval warfare, including Anti-Air Warfare (AAW), Antisurface Warfare (ASuW), Antisubmarine Warfare (ASW) and Mine Counter Measures (MCM), as well as Amphibious and Maritime Interdiction Operations.



Photo by Cpl Alexander Mitchell



Photo by Sgt Tatum Vayavananda



Photo by LCpl Immanuel Johnson

Top: US Marine amphibious assault vehicles come ashore in Sweden during the exercise.
Above: A multinational crisis response force heads ashore in Sweden during an amphibious assault for the exercise.
Above right: U.S. Marines headed ashore load into a British troop carrying vessel from the HMS Ocean.
Right: A view of the British HMS Ocean as U.S. Marines come aboard.



Photo by LCpl Immanuel Johnson

