



RESPONSIVE VOLUME IX WARRIOR

JULY-DECEMBER 2019

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES
EUROPE AND AFRICA



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U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES EUROPE AND AFRICA

THE CRISIS RESPONSE FORCE OF CHOICE

Responsive Warrior is a visual representation of Marine Corps activities spanning two continents. Our Marines provide the geographic combatant commanders of U.S. European Command (EUCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) with highly capable forces who are ready to deploy at a moment's notice. We are the right force, in the right place, and always at the right time.

Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Europe and Africa (MARFOREUR/AF)

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Europe and Africa (MARFOREUR/AF), headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany is the Marine Corps Service Component Headquarters to U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) across all warfighting functions. Planning efforts from this headquarters translate strategic objectives into operational ones that will be achieved by our rotational forces: Marine Rotational Force-Europe and Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa.



Marine Rotational Force-Europe (MRF-E)

This force is comprised of an infantry battalion reinforced by enablers and a Marine Coordination Element deployed to two locations in Norway – Vaernes Air Base and Setermoen. The Marines' presence in Norway focuses on: regional engagements throughout the Nordic and Baltic States; conducting various exercises while supporting NATO and EUCOM operational plans; cold-weather and mountain training in arctic conditions; maintaining exercise prepositioned equipment; and enhancing our overall interoperability with allies and partners through military-to-military engagements.



Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa (SPMAGTF-CR-AF)

This team of Marines and Sailors operates at Morón Air Base, Spain, and Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, under the direction of the AFRICOM commander. SPMAGTF-CR-AF conducts crisis-response, contingency operations, and theater-security cooperation, enabling operations and other missions anywhere within the combatant command's geographic scope. The unit is a self-deploying, and highly-mobile crisis-response force enabled to respond to missions in both permissive and uncertain environments. Missions include the protection of U.S. personnel, property, and interests in the AFRICOM area of responsibility.



- AGILE SPIRIT 19
- ARCHIPELAGO ENDEAVOR
- PLATINUM EAGLE 19
- REINDEER II
- SEA BREEZE 2019
- RAIDER FURY 2019
- HMA MOROCCO 2019
- TROPICAL STORM
- MRF-E
- SPMAGTF-CR-AF

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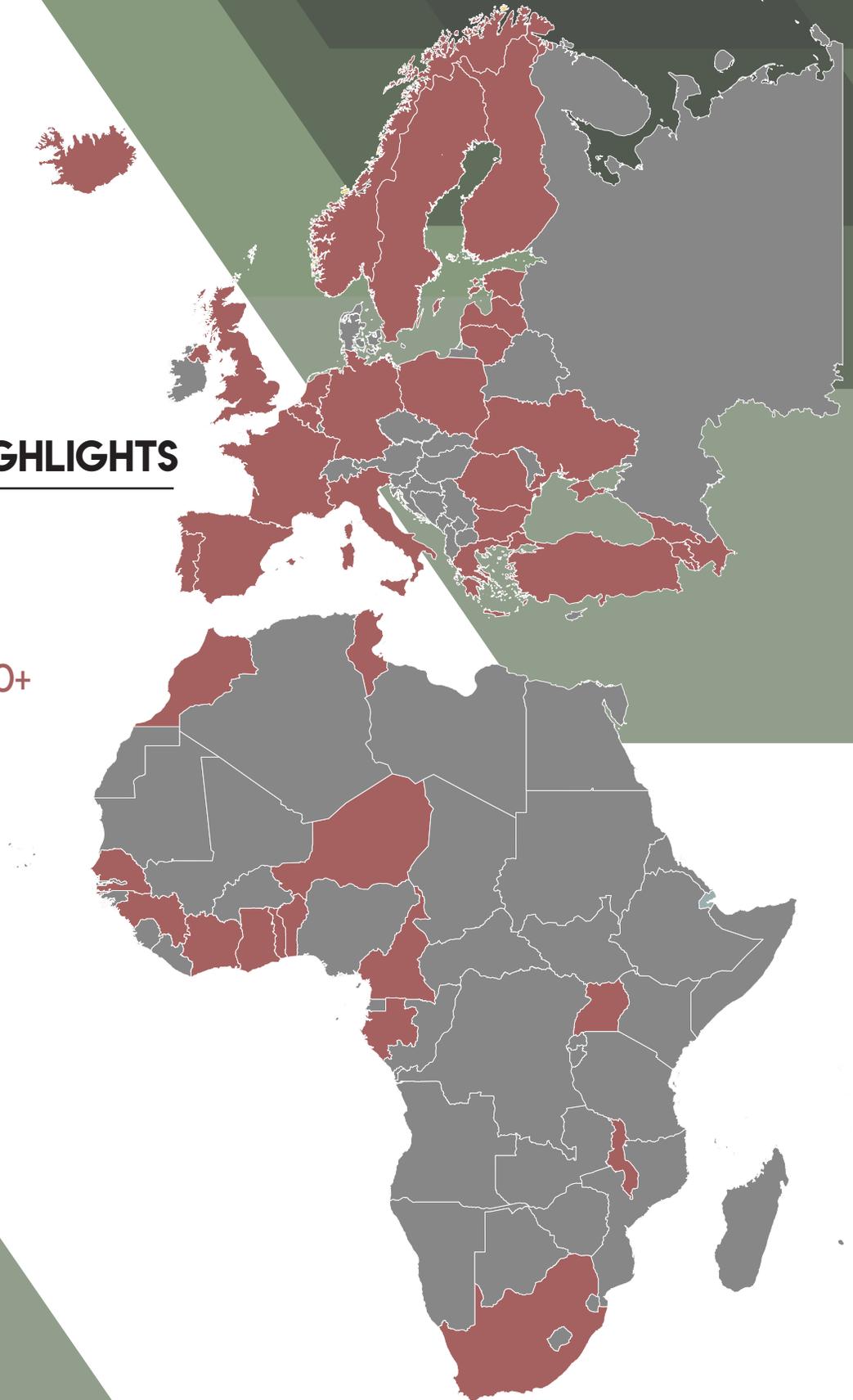
THE CRISIS RESPONSE FORCE OF CHOICE

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

OPERATIONS - 10

EXERCISES - 6

M2M/BILAT/TSC - 80+



AGILE SPIRIT 19

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 15



Exercise Agile Spirit 19 is an annually-scheduled, multilateral, field-training exercise held in Georgia at the Orpholo Training Area. This training is designed to enhance the United States', Georgian, and regional partners' interoperability; while also building a common understanding of each nation's tactics, techniques, and procedures. Agile Spirit 19 is led by U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa, and included both a multinational brigade-level command post exercise and a multinational battalion-level combined arms live-fire field training exercise at the Orpholo Training Area near Akhaltsikhe, Georgia. Agile Spirit continues to enhance and improve military capabilities between the United States and Georgia Armed Forces.



Top Right: U.K. Army medics with 1st Battalion, Irish Guards, perform an IV stick and search for any further injuries on a simulated casualty.

Bottom Right: A U.S. Marine prepares to fire a M252 81mm mortar system.

Top Left: Georgian soldiers carry a simulated casualty on a stretcher.

Middle Left: A U.S. Marine fires his service rifle.

Bottom Left: U.S. Marines pose for a group photo with British Army soldiers.

(U.S. Marine Corps photos by Sgt. Williams Quinteros)



ARCHIPELAGO ENDEAVOR

AUGUST 17 - SEPTEMBER 2



Archipelago Endeavour is an annual bilateral exercise that takes place in Berga, Sweden, involving Marine Rotational Force-Europe and the Swedish 1st Marine Regiment. This training exercised platoon-level offensive and defensive operations, raids and patrols. In addition, the Marines gained familiarity with Swedish communication networks, proficiency in combined arms fire and maneuver, and Swedish littoral vessels. Archipelago Endeavour enhanced our interoperability and strengthened the U.S. Marine Corps' strategic relationship with Swedish armed forces.



Top Right: U.S. and Swedish Marines hike to their objective point.

Middle Right: U.S. and Swedish Marines conduct radio checks.

Bottom Right: U.S. Marines transit on a Swedish Combat Boat 90.

Top Left: U.S. and Swedish Marines conduct a reconnaissance brief.

Middle Left: A U.S. Marine provides suppressive fire.



(U.S. Marine Corps photos by Lance Cpl. Joseph Atiyeh)



PLATINUM EAGLE 19

SEPTEMBER 9 - SEPTEMBER 20



Exercise Platinum Eagle 19 is a multilateral, combined-arms, live-fire exercise conducted in Babadag, Romania and involved forces from Romania, Bulgarian, Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, and the U.S. Marine Corps. This exercise is designed to improve interoperability between the USMC and allied and partner nations, reassure and reinforce relationships between allied and partner nations, and increase the readiness of the participating military units.

Top Right: A U.S. Marine loads an M252 81mm mortar system.

Middle Right: U.S. Marines fire at an objective.

Bottom Right: U.S. Marines fires an M240B machine gun mounted on an armored vehicle.

Top Left: U.S. Marines fire at an objective.

Bottom Left: U.S. Marines fire an M252 81mm mortar system.

Bottom Middle: U.S. Marines prepare to load an M252 81mm mortar system.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by 1st Lt. Christin St. John)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Larisa Chavez)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by 1st Lt. Christin St. John)



(A U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Larisa Chavez)



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(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Larisa Chavez)



REINDEER II

OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 1



Top Right: U.S. Marines conduct a live-fire range.

Bottom Middle: U.S. Marines walk to inspect their target points.

Bottom Right: U.S. Marines inspect their target points.

Top Left: U.S. Marines hike to the staging area.

Middle Left: A U.S. Navy Corpsman assesses a Norwegian soldier simulated casualty.

Bottom Left: U.S. Marines conduct a cold-weather hike.

Reindeer II is an annual brigade-level exercise multilateral cold-weather exercise involving the U.S. Marine Corps, as well as military forces from the Norwegian Army. Reindeer II focused on enhancing Marines' proficiency with cold-weather equipment so they can travel, survive, and enhance basic winter-warfare skills in harsh, cold-weather environments. U.S. Marines from Marine Rotational Force-Europe conducted Exercise Reindeer II in the vicinity of Setermoen, Norway. Exercise Reindeer II also increases interoperability between the U.S. Marine Corps and the Norwegian Army in a challenging operating environment, and reinforces mutually-beneficial defense relationships between participating countries, and demonstrates U.S. commitment to NATO.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Q. Hamilton)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Justin X. Toledo)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Q. Hamilton)



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(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Q. Hamilton)

MARINE ROTATION



A U.S. MARINE WITH MARINE ROTATIONAL FORCE-EUROPE 20.1, MARINE FORCES EUROPE AND AFRICA, FIRES A SHOULDER-LAUNCHED MULTIPURPOSE ASSAULT WEAPON.

(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Q. Hamilton)

AL FORCE-EUROPE





SEA BREEZE 2019

JULY 1 - JULY 12



Exercise Sea Breeze is an annual multinational maritime exercise conducted in Odessa, Ukraine with land, air, and amphibious components, and is co-hosted by Ukraine and the United States to enhance interoperability and capabilities among participating forces. The exercise seeks to build combined capability and capacity to ensure regional security and foster trust among participating nations. This was the 19th iteration of the exercise, bringing together 19 nations.



(U.S. Navy photo by MC Specialist 1st Class Scott Bigley)



(U.S. Navy photo by MC Specialist 1st Class Scott Bigley)



(U.S. Navy photo by MC Specialist 3rd Class T. Logan Keown)



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(U.S. Navy photo by MC Specialist 1st Class Scott Bigley)



(U.S. Navy photo by MC Specialist 3rd Class T. Logan Keown)

Top Right: U.S. Marines fire their M252 81mm mortar systems.

Bottom Right: A U.S. Marine fires a M252 81mm mortar system.

Middle Right: A U.S. Marine fires a M252 81mm mortar system.

Top Left: U.S. Marines conduct fast-roping drills.

Middle Left: U.S. Marines fire their M252 81mm mortar systems.

Bottom Left: U.S. Marines utilize signaling flares.



RAIDER FURY 2019

DECEMBER 10 - DECEMBER 12



Exercise Raider Fury 2019 is a bilateral field training exercise involving U.S. Marines, U.S. Navy Sailors, and the French Foreign Legion; and conducted at Camp de Carpiagne, France. The exercise focused on machine gun employment live-fire, fire team live-fire and maneuver, and interior military operations in urban terrain tactics.



Top Right: U.S. Marines conduct MOUT training.

Middle Right: A U.S. Marine fires an M240B machine gun.

Bottom Right: Marines conduct MOUT training.

Top Left: U.S. Marines fire down range.

Middle Left: U.S. Marines pose for a group photo.

Bottom Left: U.S. Marines prepare to shoot on a range.



(U.S. Marine Corps photos by Cpl. Kenny Gomez)

HMA MOROCCO 2019

DECEMBER 2 - DECEMBER 16



At the request of the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Marines and Sailors with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa delivered a “train-the-trainer” period of instruction to the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces in Kenitra, Morocco. Training included humanitarian mine action explosive ordnance disposal instructor training teaching techniques, course preparation, and practical application in order to increase the EOD capability of the Moroccan military. A U.S. Navy Corpsman also taught Tactical Combat Casualty Care to improve the Moroccan’s medical assessment and care.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by 2nd Lt. Grace Jenkins)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Brytani Musick)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Brytani Musick)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by 2nd Lt. Grace Jenkins)



Top Right: A U.S. Marine instructs a humanitarian mine action program class.

Middle Right: U.S. Marines, U.S. Navy Sailors, and members of the Utah National Guard, pose for photo with members of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces.

Bottom Right: A U.S. Navy Corpsman supervises a Royal Moroccan Armed Forces soldier as he assesses a simulated casualty.

Top Left: A U.S. Marine shakes hands with a member of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces during a reenlistment ceremony.

Middle Left: A U.S. Marine answers questions after an improvised explosive device practical application.

Bottom Left: Moroccan service members receive platform instruction.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by 2nd Lt. Grace Jenkins)

(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Brytani Musick)



TROPICAL STORM

NOVEMBER 20 - DECEMBER 16



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Kenny Gomez)

Tropical Storm is a multi-lateral training event hosted by the Belgian Armed forces alongside the Gabonese military in Libreville, Gabon. One platoon from the SPMAGTF-CR-AF 20.1 Ground Combat Element was invited to participate in the exercise. This exercise improved tactical proficiency skills alongside the Belgians in different events such as fast-rope from Belgian NH-90 Eurocopters, amphibious landings, and jungle survival training that included land navigation, shelter construction, foraging for food, and fire-building.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by 2nd Lt. Andrew Soto)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by 2nd Lt. Andrew Soto)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by 2nd Lt. Andrew Soto)

Top Right: U.S. Marines, Belgian soldiers, and members of the Gabonese Army observe an amphibious landing demonstration.

Middle Right: A Belgian soldier lights a flare during a signaling demonstration.

Bottom Right: U.S. Marines receive a demonstration about shelter construction from a Belgian Army soldier.

Top Left: U.S. Marines prepare to fast-rope from a Belgian Army NH90 Eurocopter.

Middle Left: U.S. Marines run an endurance obstacle course along the coast.

Bottom Left: U.S. Marines and Belgian Army soldiers withdraw from the beach after an amphibious landing.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by 2nd Lt. Andrew Soto)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by 2nd Lt. Andrew Soto)

MARINE ROTATIONAL FORCE EUROPE



The United States Marine Corps established a rotational presence in Vaernes, Norway, in January 2017, in order to enhance Marine Corps readiness to conduct training and operations in support of EUCOM requirements. The force, operating primarily in the Nordic region, is ready for employment throughout the EUCOM area of responsibility. The force was invited by Norwegian Defence Minister Ine Eriksen Søreide in an official statement October 24, 2016. MRF-E focuses on regional engagements throughout the Nordic and Baltic States by conducting various named maintaining and military-to-military engagements; cold-weather and mountain training in arctic conditions; and exercising prepositioned equipment, which enhances overall interoperability with allies and partners.

The force is part of a long-standing tradition of deploying Marines to Norway to train with our NATO ally. Initially, this rotational deployment of Marines in Norway was approved by the Norwegian government on a one-year trial basis, the Norwegian Ministry of Defence extended the agreement through calendar year 2018. On August 15, 2018, the Norwegian government announced that U.S. and Norwegian authorities agreed to extend and increase the rotational training mission of the Marine Corps in Værnes, and to add an additional location in Setermoen, Norway. The announcement also confirmed the expansion of the rotational force, authorizing up to 700 Marines to maintain a rotational presence in Norway.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl Brennon A. Taylor)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl Brennon A. Taylor)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl Brennon A. Taylor)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sergeant Justin X. Toledo)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Q. Hamilton)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Q. Hamilton)

Top Left: U.S. Marines sprint towards an objective point.

Top Middle: A U.S. Marine conducts an unknown distance stress live fire range.

Top Right: A U.S. Marine sights in while conducting Scout Sniper Stalking training.

Bottom Left: A U.S. Marine uses ski poles to climb out of the water during an ice-breaking drill.

Bottom Middle: A U.S. Marine fires a round from an M107 Special Applications Scoped Rifle.

Bottom Right: U.S. Marines conduct a cold weather hike.



SPECIAL PURPOSE MARINE AIR-GROUND TASK FORCE CRISIS RESPONSE-AFRICA



SPMAGTF-CR-AF is postured to respond to a broad range of military operations in the AFRICOM region, including U.S. Embassy reinforcement; fixed-site security; non-combatant evacuation operations; humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations; tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel; theater security cooperation; and other missions as directed. Additionally, SPMAGTF-CR-AF can serve as the lead element or the coordination node for a larger joint/combined element.

The official request for forces for a SPMAGTF-CR-AF was made in February 2013, and the Marine Corps established the initial force in March 2013. The force has repositioned to respond to unrest and contingency operations nine times: May, September, October, and December 2013; July and October 2014; March 2015; July 2016; and October 2017.

SPMAGTF-CR-AF also conducts military-to-military training exercises throughout the AFRICOM and EUCOM areas of responsibility, working alongside partner nations to promote regional stability in Europe and Africa.



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Nello Miele)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by 1st Lt. Andrew Soto)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Kenny Gomez)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Kenny Gomez)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Kenny Gomez)



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by 1st Lt. Andrew Soto)

Top Left: A U.S. Marine prepares an M-81 igniter during explosive ordnance disposal training.

Top Middle: U.S. Marines make their way to board an MV-22 Osprey.

Top Right: A U.S. Marine coordinates range procedures with a Portuguese Marine.

Bottom Left: A U.S. Marine calls out live-fire clearance alongside a Portuguese Marine.

Bottom Middle: U.S. Marines hold a defensive position during riot control training.

Bottom Right: U.S. Marines execute external lift training.



COMMSTRAT
COMMUNICATION STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS