

U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Operations:

11 September 2001 to 1 November 2003



Front Cover:

Marines deploying for Operation Iraqi Freedom walk the flight line to an aircraft waiting to take them to their destination.

Back Cover:

A helmet belonging to a Marine in 3d Battalion, 23d Marines, lists the locations where the battalion served in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

United States Marine Corps Reserve Operations

11 September 2001 to November 2003



*by Major Thomas W. Crecca
U.S. Marine Corps Reserve*

U.S. Marine Forces Reserve
New Orleans, LA
2005

PCN 190 00413 600

Foreword

The Gulf War of 1990 through 1991 represented a watershed in modern American defense policy. For the first time since the Korean War we undertook a massive mobilization of the Reserve components of our Armed Forces. This step was taken with a degree of uncertainty and hesitation. Many asked: Will they come? Can they fight? The first of those questions was answered with a resounding yes. In cities and towns, the men and women who had given up weekends and vacations to qualify for service answered the call to arms. The answer to the second question was more nuanced—units that had been properly equipped and trained performed magnificently. Some Services' units, hindered primarily by old policies and lack of resources, showed the results of neglect. Even those units, however, showed great spirit, and thus, great promise.

Throughout the next decade, Reserve component units and individuals served at a previously unprecedented rate both at home and abroad.

On 11 September 2001, a new enemy declared war on America. In one of the boldest moves of his administration, President George W. Bush immediately invoked the statutory authority to mobilize 1 million members of the Reserve and National Guard. The Department of Defense immediately set about to use that authority to call air, ground and naval units into service. This affirmative, confident deployment of Reserve forces was clearly the result of the demonstrated ability of the men and women of the Reserve components and of the lessons learned during and after Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm regarding how to sustain and employ this powerful augmentation force. They were no longer “weekend warriors.” Rather, they truly were—and continue to be—vital elements of the Total Force, giving real meaning to the phrase “one team, one fight.”

This is an account of the contributions of the Marines and sailors of the Marine Corps Reserve in the first two years of the Global War on Terrorism. It is a powerful first chapter to an ongoing story of dedication, heroism and competence. Our Commandant, along with many of those who have led these Marines in combat, repeatedly makes the point that Marines, both active and reserve, are indistinguishable. That is as it should be, but I trust readers will agree with me that telling this unique story does not diminish or reduce the bonds that tie together all who wear the Eagle, Globe and Anchor.

I am tremendously proud of the Marines and sailors portrayed here, and I am very pleased to open a window into their exploits and contributions.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Dennis M. McCarthy". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Semper Fidelis,
Dennis M. McCarthy
Lieutenant General
United States Marine Corps Reserve

Preface

Once a Marine, always a Marine, is a mantra binding the men and women who have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor during their lifetimes. Whether a Marine makes it a career or just one enlistment, serving either on active duty or in the reserve, we are proud to claim the title of United States Marines. The Marines are very conscious of their relationship with the public. They always seek to strengthen their ties to the American citizenry and ensure that “the term ‘Marine’ signifies all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue,” as articulated by the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major General John A. Lejeune. Whether you are on active duty or drilling in the reserves, the standard noted by General Lejeune remains the same.

The public’s understanding of the Marine Corps Reserve may vary. Many are familiar with the annual Toys for Tots campaign. However, the reserves serve as ambassadors to society by their visibility in the workplace and in community activities. While they train one weekend a month and two full weeks out of each year, they remain ready at a moment’s notice to integrate into an expeditionary force and accomplish the mission at hand.

This publication seeks to show the involvement of the Marine Corps Reserve in the Global War on Terrorism as well as its participation in other commitments that required the service of the reserve due to the active duty commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan. The intent here is to convey the “Ready, Willing, and Able” nature of the Marine Corps Reserve in defending the United States both at home and abroad in a most expeditionary fashion.

To illustrate the involvement of the Marine Corps Reserve, I chose to discuss the participation of the units in a general chronological order from the time of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon to 1 November 2003. With the exception of the individual Marines that served in the rescue efforts at the World Trade Center, this narrative focuses on unit participation. The date of 1 November 2003 is significant because in the late fall of 2003, the

Marine Corps began planning for the next phase of its participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This is when another request for forces was dispatched to Marine reserve units in preparation for subsequent deployments in late 2003 and early 2004.

This project was made possible by the guidance provided by Lieutenant General Dennis M. McCarthy, Commanding General, Marine Forces Reserve. General McCarthy underscored the need for the story of the Marine Corps Reserve to be told and illustrated as a key component of the Total Force concept. Under the leadership of Colonel John W. Ripley, USMC (Ret.), and the mentorship of Colonels Jeffrey J. Douglass and Jon T. Hoffman, this project got started and I was asked to make it a reality.


In my research I benefited from several recently produced sources covering the Marine Corps experience in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The *Operation Enduring Freedom Combat Assessment Team Summary Report* provided data and maps on the accomplishments of Task Force 58 in late 2001 and early 2002. Lieutenant Colonel Michael S. Groen and his staff at the 1st Marine Division produced *Operation Iraqi Freedom: No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy*, and Lieutenant Colonel Michael D. Visconage and Major Carroll N. Harris prepared the *Third Marine Aircraft Wing: Operation Iraqi Freedom*. The maps that I incorporated into my text were based on the maps used in these sources as well as the briefs given by the staffs of I Marine Expeditionary Force and Task Force Tarawa. Additionally, I had the opportunity to review and include the information discussed in the Reserve Combat Assessment Team’s *Marine Corps Reserve Forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom: Lessons Learned*.

I relied extensively on a combination of command chronologies, after action reports, and materials provided by the library, reference, and archive sections at the Marine Corps Historical Center in Washington, D.C. The units throughout Marine Forces Reserve also assisted in providing photographs that were incorporated into the

the historians of the Field Operations Branch, the Oral History Branch, the Chief Historian, and the Administration section of the Marine Corps Historical Center. After writing the narrative, I relied heavily on the expertise of the Editing and Design section to illustrate the text with graphics, pictures, and maps. The cumulative efforts of the individuals, sections, and branches mentioned were essential in making this publication possible.

Finally, I am very grateful for the encouragement and support of my wife, Pamela. She endured extended periods of separation during this time, but always provided invaluable advice, keen

insight, and words of wisdom throughout this endeavor. I also am very grateful for the support of Pamela's family and of my own as they continuously provided encouragement and respites in my drive to reach the finish line.

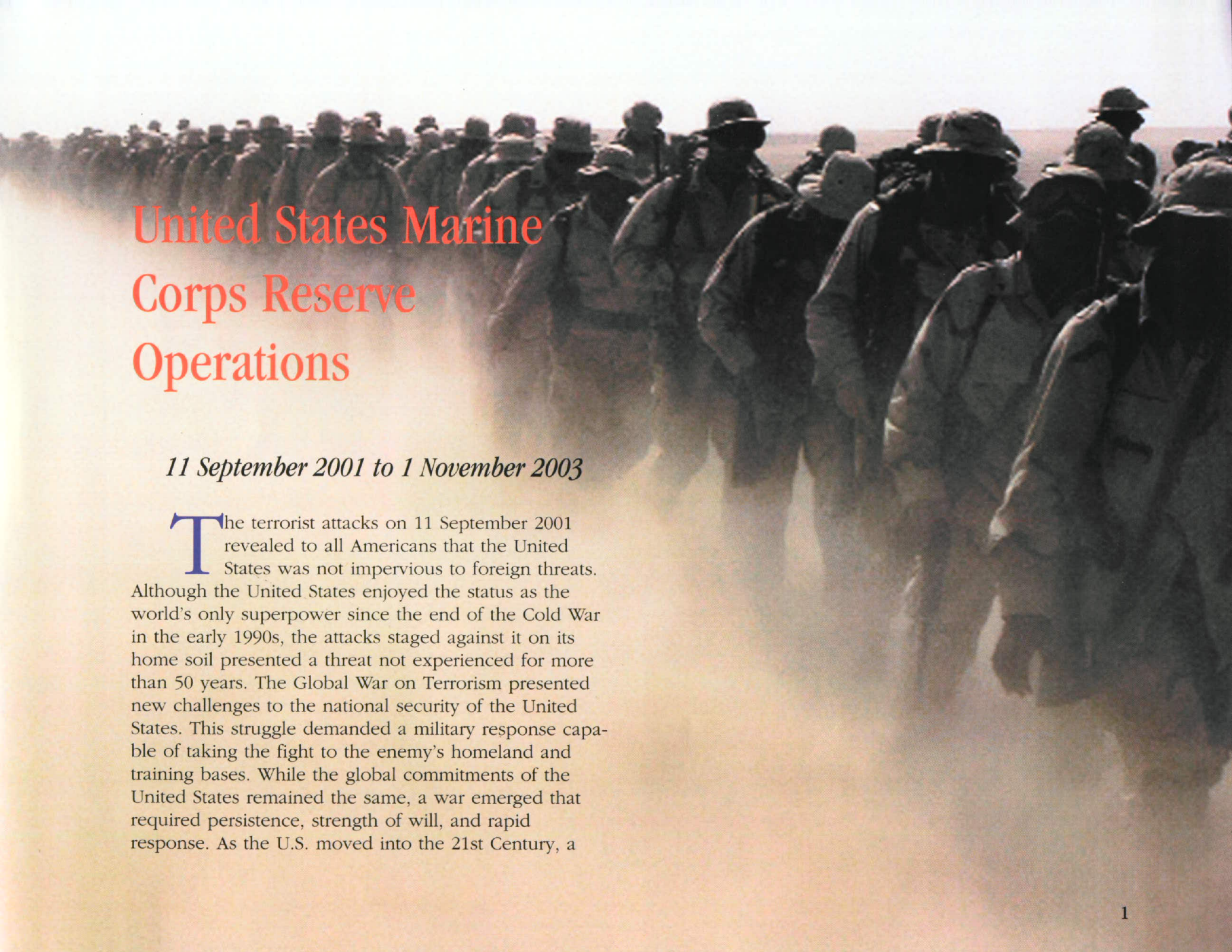
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Crecca". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "C".

Thomas W. Crecca
Major, United States Marine Corps Reserve

Table of Contents

Forward .....	.iii
Preface .....	.v
United States Marine Corps Reserve Operations .....	.1
11 September 2001 to 1 November 2003 .....	.1
Marine Forces Reserve .....	.4
Homeland Defense .....	.6
Marine Corps Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers .....	.6
Operation Noble Eagle .....	.7
4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism) .....	.8
Quick Reaction Force .....	.9
Stateside Support Provided by Units in Marine Forces Reserve .....	.10
Operation Enduring Freedom .....	.12
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba .....	.13
Combined Joint Task Force Consequence Management .....	.14
Aviation Support from the Persian Gulf to Afghanistan .....	.14
Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa .....	.20
Operation Iraqi Freedom .....	.24
The Reserve Contribution .....	.24
Ground Operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom .....	.26
Headquarters Battalion, 4th Marine Division .....	.27
4th Force Reconnaissance Company .....	.28
Company B and TOW/Scout Platoon, 8th Tank Battalion .....	.30
Company D and the TOW/Scout Platoon, 4th Tank Battalion .....	.35
4th Light Armor Reconnaissance Battalion .....	.37
Company A, 8th Tank Battalion .....	.39
Companies C and D, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion .....	.43
4th Assault Amphibian Battalion .....	.44
Detachment, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion .....	.45
2d Battalion, 23d Marines .....	.45
2d Battalion, 25th Marines .....	.49

1st Battalion, 24th Marines	.51
Security and Stability Operations	.53
Marine Forces Reserve Intelligence Section	.59
3d and 4th ANGLICO	.61
3d and 4th Civil Affairs Groups	.62
Air Operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom	.63
Coalition/Joint Force Air Component Commander Liaison Cell	.65
Marine Aircraft Group 42	.66
Marine Air Control Group 48	.67
VMGR-234, VMGR-452, and HMH-772	.71
Combat Service Support Operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom	.72
Headquarters and Service Battalion	.72
6th Engineer Support Battalion	.73
Bridge Company A, 6th Engineer Support Battalion	.76
6th Motor Transport Battalion	.77
6th Communications Battalion	.78
4th Landing Support Battalion	.80
4th Medical Battalion	.80
Analysis of Operation Iraqi Freedom	.81
Marine Corps Reserves and the Total Force	.82
Active Duty Commanders Assessment	.82
Skills Provided from Civilian Experience	.83
Individual Augmentees	.83
Other Global Commitments	.84
1st Battalion, 25th Marines, and Company C, 4th Light Armor Reconnaissance	.84
Conclusion	.86



United States Marine Corps Reserve Operations

11 September 2001 to 1 November 2003

The terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001 revealed to all Americans that the United States was not impervious to foreign threats. Although the United States enjoyed the status as the world's only superpower since the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s, the attacks staged against it on its home soil presented a threat not experienced for more than 50 years. The Global War on Terrorism presented new challenges to the national security of the United States. This struggle demanded a military response capable of taking the fight to the enemy's homeland and training bases. While the global commitments of the United States remained the same, a war emerged that required persistence, strength of will, and rapid response. As the U.S. moved into the 21st Century, a

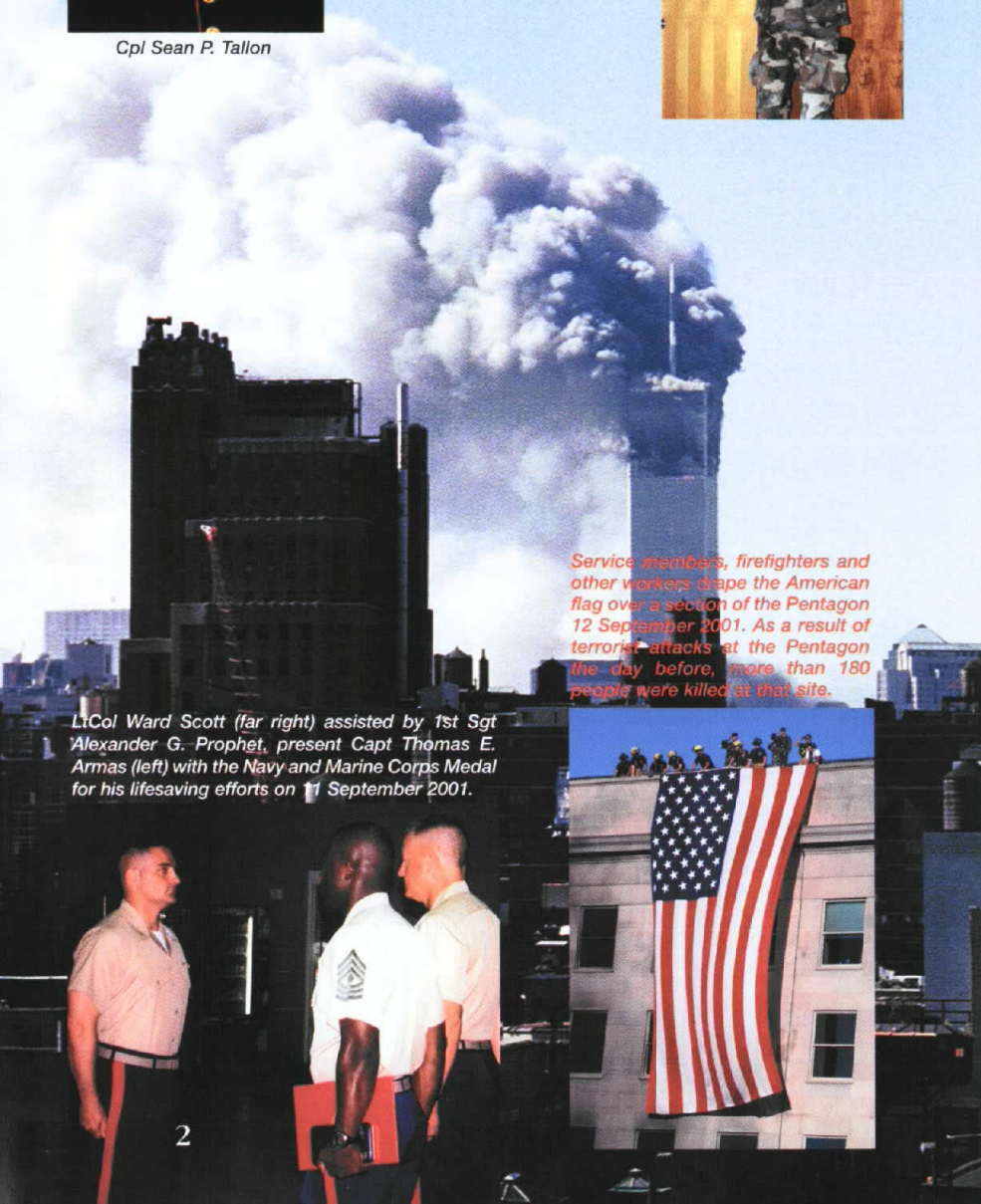


Upon his return, GYSgt John M. Leach, Prior Service Recruiter Region 1, tells a few Marines his experience searching for survivors at the World Trade Center in New York. He joined a 14-man team of naval reserve corpsmen attached to 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division, in the effort.

Photo by: Sgt Chanin Nuntavong



Cpl Sean P. Tallon



Service members, firefighters and other workers drape the American flag over a section of the Pentagon 12 September 2001. As a result of terrorist attacks at the Pentagon the day before, more than 180 people were killed at that site.

LTCol Ward Scott (far right) assisted by 1st Sgt Alexander G. Prophet, present Capt Thomas E. Armas (left) with the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for his lifesaving efforts on 11 September 2001.



solemn reminder of its vulnerability greeted the nation as a new generation experienced a surprise attack reminiscent of the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor in 1941. This generation's "day of infamy" claimed the lives of almost 3,000 citizens and numerous wounded.

Just as the Marines of a previous generation stood bravely at Pearl Harbor and fought in a desperate battle, so did today's Marines as they answered the call in the desperate hours that followed the terrorist attack on 11 September 2001. Some of these Marines wore a different uniform that day. They were going about their private lives working in their civilian professions when the attack came. At the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, they were not necessarily prepared to fight back, but they were ready to protect the lives of their fellow citizens and even gave of their own lives to save others.

A number of Marine reservists were at their civilian jobs in New York City when the two commercial airliners flown by terrorists crashed into the World Trade

This photograph was taken from the Staten Island Harbor immediately after the second World Trade Center tower was hit by a second aircraft. After the second impact, most observers began to realize the destruction was intentional.

Photo by: GySgt Matthew Olivolo





Sgt Calixto Anaya, Jr.



GySgt Mathew D. Garvey



SgtMaj Michael S. Curtain

Naval reserve corpsmen attached to the 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division, reflect after their return from searching through the ruins of the World Trade Center in New York City. Fourteen corpsmen and one Marine embarked on a journey through heavy traffic and crowds of people to join rescue efforts and help locate survivors. Pictured from left to right: GMG2 Alexander Valdez, HN Rodrick Rivera, HM3 Capodacqua, HM3 John Burnell and HM3 Michael Phillips.

Photo by: Sgt Chanin Nuntavong



An aircraft thundered over the Pentagon, seemingly illustrating America's resolve that terrorism would not destroy its way of life, as Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld reflected on the 11 September attacks. In the months since the attacks, Americans have been attempting to return to a more normal routine in their daily lives that includes, once again, commercial air travel.

Photo by: Sgt M. V. Trindade

Maj David Anderson, (center), Director of Marine Corps Public Affairs, New York, speaks to Lt John Durkin, (left), Emergency Service Unit, in front of a flag signed by rescue workers from the World Trade Center. The flag was on display in front of the CBS Studios on November 2001.

Photo by: LCpl Chad Simon



Photo by: GySgt Matthew Olivolo

A National Ensign flies amongst the devastation of one of the World Trade Center towers. Smoke, ash, and dust choked New Yorkers for days after the WTC towers collapsed.

Center. Captain Thomas M. Armas, a Secret Service agent for the Treasury Department and member of the Marine Corps' Individual Ready Reserve, established a triage site for the wounded and assisted in the evacuation of personnel from the World Trade Center's Twin Towers. While Captain Armas survived the terrorist attacks, Sergeant Major Michael S. Curtain, Gunnery Sergeant Matthew D. Garvey, Sergeant Calixto Anaya, Jr., and Corporal Sean P. Tallon tragically died in the rescue efforts at the World Trade Center.

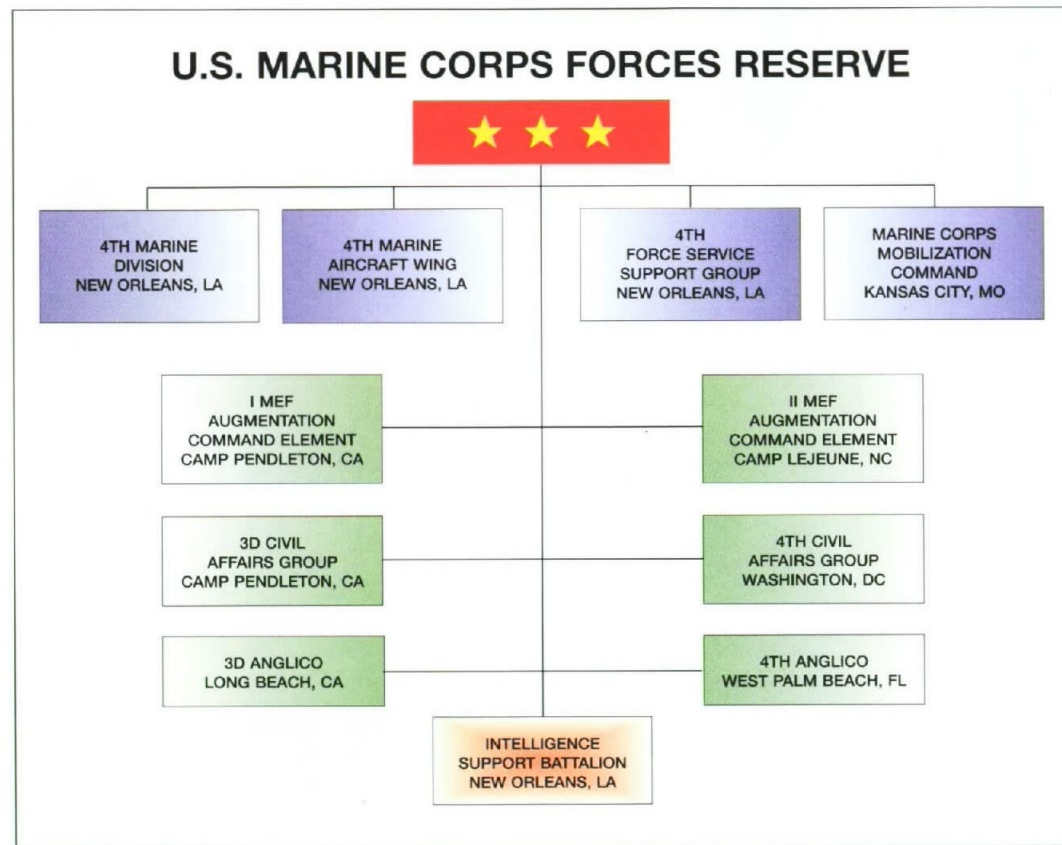
Sergeant Major Curtain served in the Emergency Services Unit of the New York City Police Department and was no stranger to traumatic events. Prior to 11 September 2001, he participated in the rescue efforts in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center and the 1995 bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building. In the latter case, the Emergency Services Unit of the New York City Police Department deployed to Oklahoma City supporting rescue and recovery operations. Serving as

New York City firefighters, Gunnery Sergeant Garvey, Sergeant Anaya, and Corporal Tallon responded to the attacks at the World Trade Center, giving their lives while saving others. As members of the Marine Corps Reserve, Sergeant Major Curtain, Gunnery Sergeant Garvey, and Sergeant Anaya served with the 6th Communication Battalion in Brooklyn, while Corporal Tallon served with Garden City's 2d Battalion, 25th Marines.*

Marine Forces Reserve

Established on 29 August 1916, the Marine Corps Reserve has been extensively involved in protecting America's interests. Since World War I, the Marine Corps Reserve has served a vital role in augmenting active duty forces to meet the massive demands in manpower, equipment, and skilled proficiency for the mission at hand. In the first part of the 20th Century, Marine reserves filled the ranks of an expanding Corps and distinguished themselves in combat in Europe, the Pacific, and Korea. In the latter part of the same century,

* Marine Corps Regiments are referenced simply, as in 25th Marines, rather than 25th Marine Regiment.



the integration of Marine reserves in peacetime operations as well as in combat was more prevalent, particularly in the wake of the Vietnam War and the abolishment of national conscription in 1973. At the close of the 20th Century, a large Marine Corps Reserve contingent provided a vital contribution to I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

On 6 June 1992, Marine Reserve Forces Command, headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana, was created, becoming the third Force Command in the Marine Corps

along with Marine Forces Atlantic and Marine Forces Pacific. Renamed Marine Forces Reserve on 1 November 1994, it is the largest command in the Marine Corps and includes the 4th Marine Division, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, 4th Force Service Support Group, and Marine Corps Mobilization Command. The mission of Marine Forces Reserve is to provide service to the community; augment and reinforce active duty forces in time of war, national emergency or contingency operations; and provide personnel and operational tempo relief for the active duty forces in peacetime.

Despite reductions in personnel levels across the armed forces in the 1990s, global commitments remained steady and so did the need for a maritime expeditionary force in readiness. In the aftermath of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and the end of the Cold War, the need for the integration of trained Marine reserve units and individuals into active duty forces continued.

The Marine Corps' expeditionary nature placed it in the forefront of the Global War on Terrorism. Marine expeditionary units came together in the Arabian Sea and moved inland into Afghanistan in the fight that overthrew that country's ruling Taliban regime, which had provided sanctuary to Al Qaeda terrorists. Marine reserves served an integral role in the air, on land, and at sea in Operation Enduring Freedom as they provided aviation support from naval shipping to inland operating bases, as well as guarding terrorist detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. As terrorist activity was detected in the

Horn of Africa, Marine reserves served in aviation support, force protection, and logistics sustainment roles.

High-level command and staff positions were filled by Marine reserves in the leadership and direction of the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism) and the Combined Joint Task Force-Consequence Management in Kuwait. As Marine Corps Reserve units mobilized in the wake of 11 September 2001, numerous individuals were mobilized to fill key staff positions at various command levels with I and II Marine Expeditionary Forces.

As political resolutions began faltering in the relations with Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, the United States prepared for another showdown with Baghdad. This time the mission focused on the removal of the Iraqi regime's leadership. In Operation Iraqi Freedom, Marine reserves served in all elements of the Marine air-ground task force as 50 percent of the Marine Corps Reserve was mobilized for the mission. The Marine Corps Reserve made substantial contributions in the command element, ground combat element, aviation combat element, and combat service support element, illustrating



the warfighting effectiveness of the Total Force concept.

As the Global War on Terrorism continues, the Marine Corps Reserve is working together with active forces in accomplishing this mission and other global commitments that existed prior to 11 September 2001. Since the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Marine Forces Reserve has supported numerous missions, which include homeland defense, stateside support, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and other global commitments. Many individual Marine reservists, as well as reserve units, have been mobilized to meet these obligations. Whether it is providing training for active duty units deploying overseas, fighting as a total force in the Global War on Terrorism, or deploying to meet missions traditionally performed by active duty forces, the Marine Corps Reserve remains "Ready, Willing, and Able."



Pilots from VMFA-321



Homeland Defense

Marine Corps Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers

Immediately following the attacks on the World Trade Center, Marine Forces Reserve activated the Marine Corps Emergency

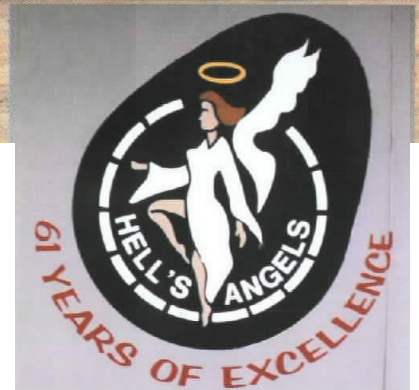
Preparedness Liaison Officers to assist the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the New York and Washington, D.C., areas. Marine Forces Reserve provided a group of liaison officers from Team III (Fourth Marine Corps Reserve District) to Marine Forces, Atlantic, in support of the operation later known as Operation Noble Eagle.



F-18 aircraft

Operation Noble Eagle

Operation Noble Eagle was the United States' response to the terrorist actions against the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. Team III provided assistance to civil authorities in the consequence management phase following the attacks. Team III operated in this support role until



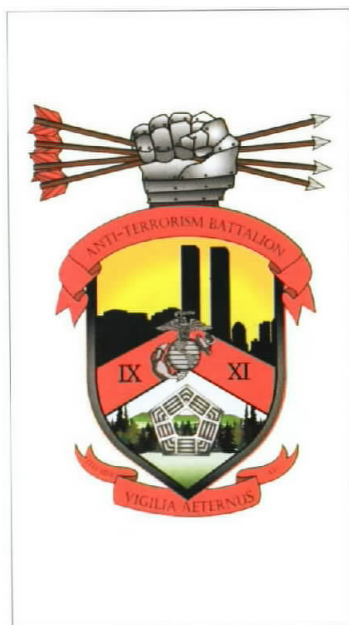
Marines from VMFA-321



ordered to stand down on 21 September 2001.

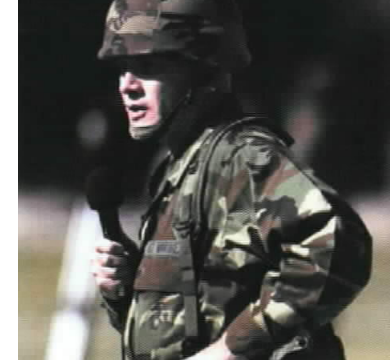
As the nation recovered from the shock of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, as well as the failed attack of United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in the Pennsylvania countryside near Somerset, the concern about continued attacks using commercial airlines remained. Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 321 (VMFA-321), located at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, had just completed a regular drill weekend on 9 September 2001. In response to the

The logo for 4th MEB (Anti-Terrorism), established after the 11 September terrorist attacks. The fist symbolizes leadership. The arrows, one for each aircraft in the attack, represent military readiness. The phrase Vigila Aeternus states how the Marines and America will remain vigilant until the war on terrorism is won.



attacks, the squadron commander, Lieutenant Colonel Robert A. Ballard, and his executive officer, Lieutenant Colonel William D. Reavis, arrived at the unit headquarters at 1300 and were informed by the squadron staff that all aircraft were fueled and ready to answer the call for assistance. The call came quickly as it was evident that combat air patrols were necessary to protect the Washington, D.C., area from further terrorist threats. Air National Guard units from Andrews Air Force Base dispatched combat air patrols late in the morning of 11 September, but additional aircraft and aircrews were needed to provide relief for the current mission. On the

BGen Douglas O'Dell, commanding general, 4th MEB (AT) addresses an audience gathered during the 4th MEB reactivation ceremony. The 4th MEB was reactivated for the first time in nearly 10 years following the attacks in New York and the Pentagon.



morning of 12 September, Marines from VMFA-321 flew combat air patrols in the Capital area and continued flying sorties until ordered to stand down on the evening of 12 September.

4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism)

As a result of the events on 11 September 2001, the Marine Corps activated 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism) (4th MEB AT), commanded by Brigadier



SSgt Michael D. Fay: Control No. 335-9-22
Motel "6" Bagram 4th MEB Liaison Detachment

General Douglas O'Dell, USMCR. The mission of the 4th MEB (AT) was to deter, detect, defend against, and respond to acts of domestic and international terrorism. The purpose of this organization was to provide theater level commanders (e.g. Commander, United States Central Command) a rapidly deployable force with specialized anti-terrorism training. The 4th MEB (AT) consisted of the Chemical-Biological Incident Response Force, elements from Marine Security Forces Battalion and Marine Security Guard Battalion, and a Marine infantry battalion specially trained in anti-terror tactics. These units were instrumental in re-establishing the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, and maintaining around the clock security for the compound.

Quick Reaction Force

Providing relief for the operational tempo of active duty forces and reinforcing the Marine Corps' role in homeland security; 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, from Garden City, New York, and 2d Battalion, 23d Marines, from Encino, California, were activated for the quick reaction forces rotations on the east and west



Sgt David Ahumada provides security for other Marines and civilians during riot control training in March 2002. The exercise honed the skills of 2d Battalion, 23d Marines, which was activated for homeland defense.



Large plastic shields about 4-feet high protected Marines from 2d Battalion, 23d Marine Regiment, from an angry mob during a riot control exercise held at Camp Margarita in March 2002.

coasts, respectively. The 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, deployed to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and integrated into the 2d Marine Division's training program. The 2d Battalion, 23d Marines, deployed to Camp Pendleton, California, and integrated into the 1st Marine Division's training program. Throughout 2002, both of these infantry battalions participated in their respective division's exercises and operations.

In addition to the quick reaction force mission, 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, served in other training missions that included exercises with NATO forces, such as providing support for the ongoing Operation Rapid Guardian, in which the Marines and Sailors from Company G, 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, completed an eight-week mission in the Balkans. Company G, 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, worked with NATO and non-NATO forces conducting security operations in the towns of Les Kovica and Drenova Glava in Kosovo. The mission included operations that deterred the smuggling of weapons and contraband, while providing medical civil action teams for local villages. This experience was very valuable because many of the Marines in 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, were police officers and firefighters in their civilian jobs. These unique skills would be in high

demand when this unit found itself in Iraq within the next year.

During 2002, 2d Battalion, 23d Marines, participated in numerous exercises that sharpened the unit's combat capability and familiarized them with the standard operating procedures of the active duty units in the 1st Marine Division. The unit was involved in several exercises that honed the battalion staff in command post operations while the subordinate companies participated in field training with specific emphasis on fire support coordination skills.

Stateside Support Provided by Units in Marine Forces Reserve

Since 11 September 2001, many of the Marine reserve units called to active duty have served outside the United States. However, some units provided detachments that were tasked with performing assignments in the United States. These units served an integral role in supporting the Global War on Terrorism with functions ranging from training support for deploying units to logistical resupply and maintenance repair for the sustainment of forces stationed in forward locations.



Photo by: Sgt Arthur DesLauriers
Sgt Michael Stoneburg and Sgt Kevin Rowe of MWSS-472, Detachment B, are awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal by BGen Jack W. Bergman, commanding general of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing.

Squadrons in the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing met the demands of maintaining and servicing fixed and rotary wing aircraft. Elements of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 41 (MALS-41) from Fort Worth, Texas, Marine

Aviation Logistics Squadron 42 (MALS-42) from Marietta, Georgia, and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 49 (MALS-49) from Fort Stewart Air National Guard Base, New York, moved to the Middle East, Okinawa, and stateside bases augmenting the maintenance crews of active duty Marine squadrons. These maintenance crews provided essential repair on the T56 turboprop engine, which strengthened the operational capability of the Lockheed KC-130 Hercules aircraft flown in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation



Photo by: Sgt Richard Kulleck
Sgt David W. Kosolkit inspects the airfield under a VTOL mat held by LCpls Sean M. Bond, Otilia Holguin, and John P. Quitiquit.

Iraqi Freedom by Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadrons 234 (VMGR-234) from Fort Worth, Texas, and 452 (VMGR-452) from Fort Stewart Air National Guard Base, New York. Aviation maintenance detachments were established at forward sites at the Shaik Isa Air Base, Bahrain, and Naval Air Station, Sigonella, Italy. This greatly enhanced the intermediate level maintenance activity, which reduced the resupply and repair time for the KC-130 aircraft.

In January 2003, Marine Wing Support Group 47 (MWSG-47) in Mount Clemons, Michigan and its subordinate commands: Marine Wing Support Squadron 471 (MWSS-471), Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Marine Wing Support Squadron 473 (MWSS-473), San Diego, California, prepared for service at Marine Corps Air Stations on the east and west coasts. The MWSG-47 Headquarters and MWSS-473 deployed to Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, California, and filled the operational requirements for the units of Marine Wing Support Group 37 (MWSG-37) serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Marine Wing Support Squadron 471 deployed to Marine Corps Air Station, New River, North Carolina, and filled the operational requirements for the units of Marine Wing Support Group 27 (MWSG-27) serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Marine Wing Support Group 47 Headquarters assumed the responsibility for all aviation ground support missions on the west coast. Subsequently, MWSS-473 performed the aviation ground functions at Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, and Marine Corps Air Station, Camp Pendleton, as well as the outlying airfields in the vicinity. Due to operational demands, MWSS-473 per-



Photo by: LCpl Nathaniel C. LeBlanc
SSgt Jason Magurno, calibration technician, Marine Aircraft Logistics Squadron 49, Marine Aircraft Group 49, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, a native of Mineola, New York, conducts calibration on equipment at Marine Corps Air Station, Futenma 17 June 2002.

formed the missions generally conducted by two active duty Marine wing support squadrons.

On the east coast, MWSS-471 was responsible for running the expeditionary airfield at Bogue, North Carolina, despite having an expeditionary airfield section of only seven Marines. Additionally, MWSS-471 was designated as both the combat service support element and aviation ground support element of the air contingency Marine air-ground task force for II Marine Expeditionary Force from 1 March to 30 September 2003.

While active duty Marine wing support squadrons returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom, MWSS-473 continued providing aviation ground support to the 2003 Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course conducted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona.

Even though the reserve F/A-18 squadrons remained stateside during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons 112 (VMFA-112), in Fort Worth, Texas, and 134 (VMFA-134), in San Diego, California, served an important role in providing operational support for active duty and reserve Marine units, as well as the other services of the United States armed forces. These squadrons

provided close air support for the combined arms exercises conducted at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California. They also provided aviation support for the following training: weapons and tactics instructor courses; air force and naval fighter weapons schools; and pre-deployment Marine expeditionary unit exercises.

Additionally, VMFA-112 participated in the testing of new combat technology. The squadron performed functional testing on the target location, designation, and handoff system which allows a pilot to receive an encrypted request in the form of a non-voice burst transmission from a ground forward air controller for close air support on an enemy position.

Since 11 September 2001, the Marines from the Marine Forces Reserve intelligence and counterintelligence sections operated extensively in numerous exercises, joint task force missions, and Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. These Marines provided critical expertise and support to the total force in conducting battlefield interrogations, threat vulnerability assessments, and counterintelligence force protection operations.

The Marine Forces Reserve intelligence organization consists of 10 detachments dispersed throughout the United States. These detachments comprise a sensor control and management platoon, one production and analysis detachment, and eight counterintelligence detachments. From February 2002 to November 2003, the Marine Forces Reserve intelligence section employed all its units and expended 100 percent of its assets in support of stateside and overseas requirements.

The sensor control and management platoon sup-

ported five joint task force counter-drug missions from March to June 2002 and again from October to November 2002. These missions took place in various border regions of the United States, intercepting drug smugglers and illegal immigrants. The sensor control and management platoon, in concert with U.S. law enforcement agencies, deployed a network of sensors that monitored rough, uninhabited terrain, guarding against drug smuggling operations, illegal immigrants, and suspected terrorists attempting to enter the United States.

In addition, the sensor control and management platoon deployed Marines in support of two Joint Chiefs of Staff directed exercises—Dynamic Mix in Spain, and Millennium Challenge at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, in the summer of 2002. The Marines honed their skills by employing and monitoring sensors in both defensive and offensive missions. The Marine Forces Reserve counterintelligence section also provided a detachment of 13 Marines to participate in Dynamic Mix as well as Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Operation Enduring Freedom

With evidence pointing to Al Qaeda as a sponsor, planner, and agent of the attacks on 11 September 2001, immediate plans were prepared for conducting military operations against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Afghanistan served as

the host site for many terrorist training camps with the Taliban government providing sanctuary and support to Al Qaeda and its leader, Osama Bin Laden. The United States and allied forces backed a group of Afghan militias called the Northern Alliance in its ongoing fight against the Taliban. Many suspected terrorists and Taliban fighters were captured and subsequently processed and transported for detainment at Camp X-Ray at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

With the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom in the autumn of 2001, Marine reserves were tasked with supporting overseas and homeland defense missions. They were quickly added to the list of available assets for current operations as well as new contingency missions in the Global War on Terrorism.

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

In October 2001, Marines from 1st Battalion, 23d Marines, in Houston, Texas, were activated and tasked

A group of Marines from Company B, 1st Battalion, 23d Marines, learn the lay of the land at U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where they provided security during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Photo by: Sgt Jennifer M. Antoine



Photo by: Sgt Jennifer M. Antoine
Marines load rounds into the M-249 squad automatic weapon during live-fire training at U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The Marines were part of the second rotation from Company B, 1st Battalion, 23d Marines, which arrived in Cuba to provide installation security, March 2002.

with assuming duties as detainment facility guards at Guantanamo Bay. In November 2001, platoons from Company B, 1st Battalion, 23d Marines, in Bossier City, Louisiana, traveled to Guantanamo Bay. These Marines provided installation security, allowing two active duty Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team (FAST) platoons to assume other missions. Company B, 1st Battalion, 23d Marines, spent six weeks training for their mission, which included special instruction from the Marine Corps Security Force Battalion in basic security guard skills, non-lethal weapons employment, riot control, and close combat. The mission of 1st Battalion, 23d Marines, was to guard both the 17-mile perimeter of the base at Guantanamo and the detainees at Camp X-Ray. In March 2002, another detachment from Company B, 1st Battalion, 23d Marines, composed of Marines from Austin and Houston, relieved the first elements serving at Guantanamo Bay.

Combined Joint Task Force Consequence Management

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the United States, the United States Central Command set up Combined Joint Task Force Consequence Management in October 2001. This organization provided rapid response forces in the event of an enemy attack by nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons. While serving as the Assistant Division Commander for the 1st Marine Division, Marine Brigadier General Christian B. Cowdrey received the assignment as the commander this unit.

After the Kuwaiti government requested assistance from the United States, Brigadier General Cowdrey moved his command to Kuwait in November 2001, joined by specialized German and Czech Republic Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) defense units. In April 2002, Brigadier General Cowdrey turned over the leadership of Combined Joint Task Force Consequence Management to Marine Brigadier General Craig T. Boddington, a reserve officer. Through intense training and many exercises, Brigadier General Boddington prepared his force for various contingencies until relinquishing the command to another Marine reserve officer, Brigadier General Cornell A. Wilson in February 2003. This training paid off when Iraq launched SCUD missile attacks on Kuwait in the early stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The rapid response teams immediately deployed and determined that the missile attacks did not contain substances of mass destruction. The Combined Joint Task Force Consequence Management remained very active protect-

ing U.S. and Coalition forces as well as the Kuwaiti public until it stood down in May 2003.

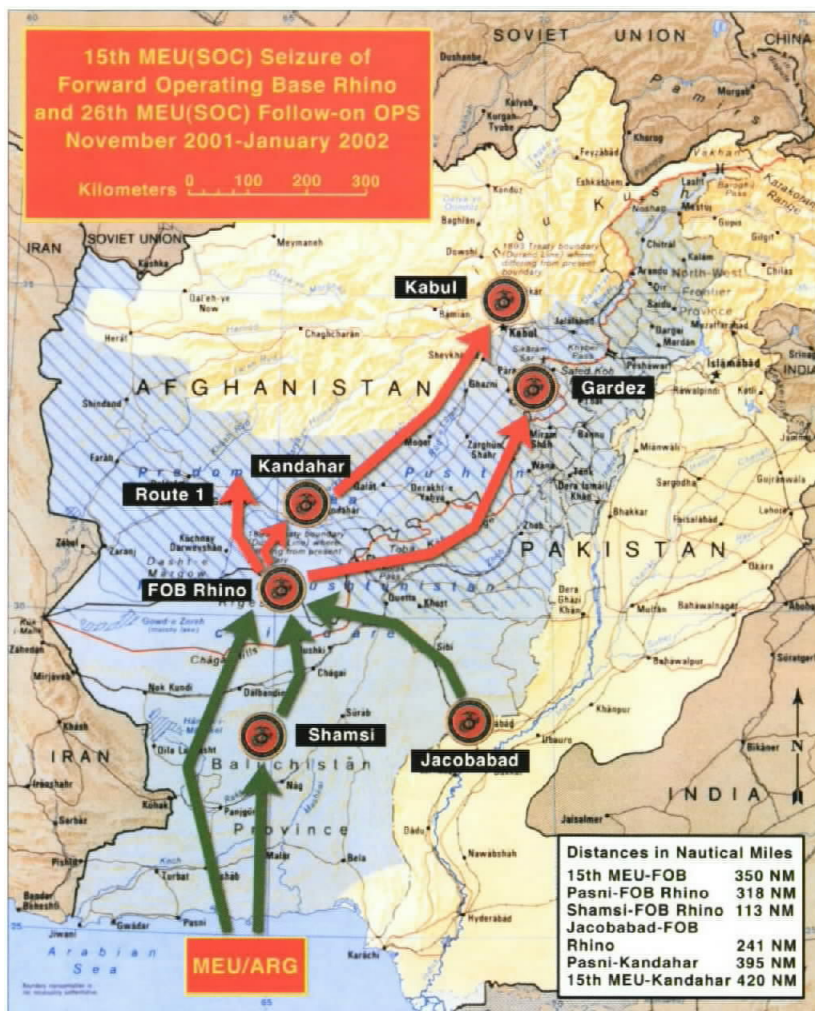
Aviation Support from the Persian Gulf to Afghanistan

Extraordinary demand was placed on the Marine Corps' Lockheed KC-130 "Hercules" and Sikorsky CH-53E "Sea Stallion" squadrons for operations in Southwest Asia. The reserve KC-130 squadrons from VMGR-234 and VMGR-452, as well as the reserve CH-53E squadrons from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 769 (HMH-769) at Edwards Air Force Base, California, and HMH-772 in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, were activated and supported critical missions in the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan. A need also existed for Marine air command and control systems directing aviation and protecting allied troops from terrorist attacks. This required the services of a Marine air control squadron and the use of both active duty and reserve units in completing this mission. Marine Air Control Squadron 2 (MACS-2) from Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point and Marine Air Control

A Marine CH-53E Super Stallion is refueled in the air by a KC-130 Hercules before making a logistics run in support of Operation Anaconda. Both aircraft are from the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) Aviation Combat Element, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Photo by: CWO2 William D. Crow





Squadron 24 (MACS-24), a reserve unit from Dam Neck, Virginia, performed this mission.

A critical need existed for additional KC-130 aircraft and CH-53E helicopters in support of ship-to-shore operations from naval ships in the Arabian Sea. To reach the forward operating base at Camp Rhino in Afghanistan, Marines had to travel more than 400 miles inland from ships in the Arabian Sea.

Moving supplies across this distance was a significant challenge, and could only be achieved through the combination of KC-130 Hercules refuelers and CH-53E aircraft. This combination was necessary because inland airstrips were not large enough to support larger U.S. Air Force aircraft in the early stages of operations.

