KEARSARGE Amphibious Ready Group
26th Marine Expeditionary Unit
Post Deployment Brief

Colonel Mark Desens
Commodore Pete Pagano
KSGARG & 26th MEU conducted missions across the full spectrum of operations from Humanitarian Assistance to Combat Operations.
Pakistan Humanitarian Assistance

- Heavy flooding affected 14.5 million people, destroying more than 722,000 homes prompting early deployment
- Deployed 4 x CH-53E via Stratlift ISO Pakistan HA/DR
- Close coordination with PAK Mil, World Food Programme, and World Health Organization
- Predictive Analysis of flood waters by MEU S-2 influenced Ambassador and PAKMIL decisions
- Austere Conditions: No material handling equipment. Minimal hygiene and life support

“Any Clime and Place”

Duration of Mission 57 days
Total Supplies Delivered 3,159,786 lbs
Average Heat Index (Day/Night) 103 F

“Any Clime and Place”

“If You Fly, You Work”

KSG: NATIONAL TASKING
CTH: MARITIME SECURITY OPS
PON: FHA/DR ALERT

FORCE LAYDOWN
53 DET
CTH
PON
KSG

UNCLASSIFIED
Flexible, Relevant, Made an Impact
Djibouti as a Strategic Hub

Djibouti Provides:
- Basing for ARG/MEU Enablers
- Critical Sustainment Training Venues
- Force Projection Node
- LCAC Beach Landing Site

Strategic Investment Recommended

~400NM TO MOMBASA (AIR LOG HUB)
~1400NM TO DJIBOUTI (SURFACE LOG HUB)

AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY
Kuwait: Sustaining the Theater Reserve

• Camp Buehring and Udairi Range
• Ali-al-Salem Air Base
• Washdown Facilities

Only Base in CENTCOM for conduct of U.S. unilateral training
Purpose

- Deny enemy sanctuary
- Support Afghan Gov’t build Rte 611
- Support Village Stability Operations

Key Takeaways

- MEU Main Effort
- Trained to OEF standards in PTP
- Relationship of BLT 3/8 with VMM-266
- Integration with MARSOC
USS CARTER HALL conducted an amphibious offload and then embarked 2 MH-60S Armed Helos for a Special Warfare training exercise.

2 x aircraft MH-60S detachment embarked on and operating from LSD for nearly 2 months:
No hangar? No problem!

Sea Base Connector CARTER HALL Offload accelerated by use of Army LSV
Operational Flexibility

**Situation Late February 2011**

- Regional Unrest
  - Lebanon Special Tribunal
  - “Arab Spring”
    - Tunisia
    - Egypt
    - Libya
- KEARSARGE and ENTERPRISE in Red Sea
- BLT 3/8(REIN) and 6 x MV-22B in Afghanistan

ARG/MEUs - operating from land, sea, and air – provide tactical and operational flexibility to the Combatant Commander

**FORCE LAYDOWN**

- KSG: NEO BPT, ODYSSEY DAWN
- CTH: MARITIME SECURITY OPS
- PON: NEO BPT, ODYSSEY DAWN

**ENTERPRISE to OEF**

- KEARSARGE to Libya

**Calendar**

- AUG
- SEP
- OCT
- NOV
- DEC
- JAN
- FEB
- MAR
- APR
- MAY
AV-8B Targets Destroyed:
- 35 T-72s
- 25 APCs
- 4 HET Vehicles
- 2 SP Arty
- 2 MRL
- 1 SCUD

USS KEARSARGE supported four embarked staffs
TACRON 21 provided 24/7 Tactical Air Command and Control
Joint Intelligence Center provided JOA-wide support
Coalition Integration

Big Deck Amphibs & STOVL Strike
Rapid Response…Immediate effects
• 21 March 2011, “BOLAR 34”, a USAF F-15E Strike Eagle crashed east of Benghazi, Libya
• MEU TRAP determined best available:
  – Uncertain Environment
  – Most responsive force

MV-22B executed 45 min faster than any other sea-based platform
• **Invest in Amphibious Forces**
  – *Improve Disaggregated Capabilities*

• **Advocate for Big Deck Amphibs and STOVL aviation**
  – *Seabasing provides flexible forward deployed capabilities across the spectrum of military operations*

• **Strategic Investment in Djibouti**

• **Sustain Relevance / Access to Kuwait**