26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) / Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group (KSG ARG)  
6 Oct 15 – 3 May 16  
Post Deployment Brief  

Col Robert Fulford / CAPT Kirk Weatherly  
11 Oct 16
UNCLASSIFIED

Agenda

• ARG/MEU Mission
• Executive Overview
• Task Organization
• Summary of Operations
• Summary & Recommendations
• Questions

Top: 26th MEU supports Operation INHERENT RESOLVE with AV-8B Harrier airstrikes.
Bottom: USS KEARSARGE backloads Marines via LCAC after successful SEA SOLDIER Exercise in Oman
Executive Overview

- **Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group / 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit** deployed 06 Oct 2015 – 03 May 2016 to the European Command (EUCOM), Africa Command (AFRICOM), and Central Command (CENTCOM) Areas of Responsibility (AOR)
  - Deployment encompassed 210 days of which the ARG operated 181 days in a split configuration and 8 days disaggregated
  - The MEU deployment encompassed 242 days and 59 days disaggregated (as of 3 June)
    - **M777A2 Battery(·)(·) (Task Force Spartan)** was extended in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (OIR) in Iraq
- Provided forward presence as the Global Response Force, EUR/AF Rapid Response Force, and CENTCOM Theater Reserve
- Conducted joint and coalition operations/exercises & Special Operations Force (SOF) integration

### Operations:

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Mission and Task Organization

Amphibious Squadron Four
PHIBRON 4
CAPT Augustus Bennett

26th Marine Expeditionary Unit
Command Element
Col Robert Fulford

CPR-4 / ARG Personnel:
1989 Sailors

26 MEU Personnel:
2,442 Marines & Sailors

VMM-162(REIN)
Aviation Combat Element
LtCol Brian Koch

Battalion Landing Team 2/6
Ground Combat Element
LtCol Jim Lively

Combat Logistics Battalion 26
Logistics Combat Element
LtCol Dan Coleman

USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)
CAPT Larry Getz

USS ARLINGTON (LPD 24)
CAPT Sean Bailey

USS OAK HILL (LSD 51)
CDR Scott Bowman

TACRON 21
Fleet Surgical Team Four

Naval Beach Group Two

Assault Craft Unit Four

Assault Craft Unit Two

Beach Master Unit Two

Helicopter Sea Combat 28
**Port Visits**
17-19 Oct: Lisbon, Portugal (ARL)
18 Oct: Rota, Spain (KSG)
18-24 Oct: *Rota, Spain (OAK)
29 Oct: Souda Bay, Crete (ARL)
2-5 Nov: *Souda Bay, Crete (ARL)
13-17 Apr: Valencia, Spain (KSG)
14-17 Apr: Marseille, France (KSG)
16-20 Apr: Lisbon, Portugal (OAK)
19-20 Apr: Rota, Spain (KSG)
*Ship Maintenance

**Distinguished Visitor (DV) Visits**
7-8 Apr: Turkish Military Embark (ARL)
10 Apr: Tunisian DV Visit (KSG)
13 Apr: Spanish Navy Office Call (KSG)
13-17 Apr: Ship Tours/Marseille (ARL)
14-15 Apr: Ship Tours/Valencia (KSG)
17-19 Apr: Ship Tours/Lisbon (OAK)
18 Apr: Portuguese Flag Officer Call (OAK)
19 Apr: Commanding General, Marine Corps Forces Europe/Africa (KSG)

**Operations:**
1 JCPC FICE

**Exercises / Training:**
1 TRIDENT JUNCTURE (ARL)
2 EGEMEN (KSG)
3 NMIOTC Vessel, Board, Search & Seizure (VBSS) training
4 JOAN D’ARC
5 Karavia Range / GUNEX
6 Portuguese Bilateral Training

**SOF Integration:**
- Afloat Forward Staging
- Base (AFSB) planning (KSG)
- DLQs with Special Operations Command – Africa (SOCAF) & Europe (SOCEUR)
- AFRICOM Rapid Response Force – North (RRF-N)

**Other Initiatives:**
- Malta FONOPS
- PASSEX w/ Turkey
- SPMAGTF-CR-AF CQ/AAR

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**TSC Exercise**: EUCOM / AFRICOM Operations
(12 Oct – 1 Nov 2015 & 5 – 25 April 2016)

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**CENTCOM Operations**

(1 Nov 2015 – 5 Apr 2016)

**Port Visits**

- 13-17 Nov: Eilat, Israel (ARL)
- 17-20 Nov: Aqaba, Jordan (ARL)
- 21-24 Nov: Jebel Ali, UAE (OAK)
- 24-30 Nov: Manama, Bahrain (KSG)
- 23-26 Dec: Jebel Ali, UAE (KSG)
- 28 Dec-1 Jan: Manama, Bahrain (OAK)
- 31 Dec-4 Jan: Muscat, Oman (ARL)
- 8-11 Jan: Muscat, Oman (KSG)
- 13-19 Jan: *Manama, Bahrain (ARL)
- 17-24 Jan: *Duqm, Oman (OAK)
- 29 Jan-3 Feb: Manama, Bahrain (OAK)
- 31 Dec-4 Jan: Muscat, Oman (ARL)
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**Exercises / Training**

- IRON MAGIC (OAK)
- NATIVE FURY (OAK)
- SEA SOLDIER (KSG)
- PHIBLEX (KSG/ARL/OAK)
- FASTCENT Interop I, II, & III
- Maritime Raid Force (MRF) / SOF Interop
- Quick Reaction Force (QRF) / Casualty Evacuation (CASEVAC) Full Mission Profile (FMP) w/ Joint Special Operations Task Force – Arabian Peninsula (JSOTF-AP)

**Other Initiatives**

- MV-22 support to FLOTUS in Jordan
- Bahrain Airshow – 2x MV-22 & 2x AV-8B
- MISO Support to VPOTUS in Jordan
- Supported JSOTF-AP with (11) SMEEs in (5) countries
- Provided Counter / Human Intelligence Detachment (CHD) support to JSOTF-AP

**Mid-Deployment Vessel Repair (MDVR)**

- 19 Nov: Jordan Reception (ARL)
- 26 Nov: Commander, 5th Fleet (KSG)
- 9 Dec: Intel SES-1 (ARL)
- 19 Dec: Secretary of Defense (KSG)
- 23 Dec: Commandant of the Marine Corps (KSG)
- 3-4 Jan: Commander, Task Force 51 (CTF-51) / KSA Amb (KSG)
- 14 Jan: Dept of State Personnel (ARL)
- 18 Jan: CTF-51 Visit (OAK)
- 19 Jan: CTF-51 Visit (ARL)
- 23 Feb: Kuwait Reception (ARL)
Two Weeks in the Life of the KSG ARG / 26th MEU

End of November to beginning of December 2015

- Named Operations
  - AV-8B strikes in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE
  - FICE in support of JCPC in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)
  - Maritime Security Operation
- SOF Integration
  - CHD Support to JSOTF-AP
  - MRF / SOF Interop
  - Female Engagement Team (FET) and MRF SMEE
- Exercises
  - Exercise IRON MAGIC in UAE with OAK HILL and BLT/CLB
- Unit Level Training
  - Jordan Sustainment Training (372 Marines, Sailors, and aircraft)
  - Kuwait sustainment for H-1 detachment and MV-22 support to SPMAGTF-CR-CC
  - FASTCENT Interop

March 2016

- Named Operations
  - AV-8B strikes in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE
  - M777A2 Battery (-)(+) (TF Spartan) deployment to Iraq in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE
    - 1 x LNO to CJFLCC-I in Baghdad
    - 3 x LNO to TF Erbil
  - FICE in support of JCPC in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)
- SOF Integration
  - CHD Support to JSOTF-AP
  - EOD SMEE in Kuwait
- VPOTUS Support
  - 4x MV-22 self-deploy from KEARSARGE in North Arabian Gulf to Jordan in support of VPOTUS visit
- Exercises
  - PHIBLEX closeout actions in Kuwait

Deployment characterized by sustained concurrent split sea-based and distributed shore-based operations, exercises, and training
Summary & Recommendations

• PHIBRON Commander’s key takeaways/recommendations
  — The training provided by CSG4 and TACTRAGRULANT ensured the team was well prepared for operations in C6F and C5F. Our battle rhythm remained the same from workups throughout deployment. The strait vignettes mirrored our first transit.
  — The LPD and LSD were limited to organic sensors while conducting Maritime Security Operations. Persistent ISR is increasingly important to effectiveness during split operations.

• MEU Commander’s key takeaways/recommendations
  — The rigorous and aggregated ARG / MEU Pre-Deployment Training Program (PTP) forged a unified and adaptable Blue / Green Team that proved vital to our success over a dynamic deployment.
  — The MEU table of organization and equipment merits a holistic review to ensure all elements of the MAGTF are postured to fully capitalize on emerging concepts and technology without compromising the core capabilities required to address the evolving security environment.

• Strategic / Operational level lessons learned
  — Concurrent support to sea and shore based contingency operations, coupled with our investment in strategic partners through security cooperation, provides testament that the ARG / MEU Team remains the Nation’s most versatile and capable crisis response force.
  — Persistent and emerging threats across EUCOM, AFRICOM, and CENTCOM demand a more agile Tri-COCOM force sharing construct to capitalize on the full range of capabilities resident in the ARG / MEU Team.

Exercise EGEMEN
Doganbey, Turkey, Oct 27, 2015

UNREP with USNS Kanawha
Mediterranean Sea, Apr 6 2016

Exercise JOAN D’ARC
Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Mar 25, 2016

MK 38 Gun Shoot, Apr 3, 2016
Questions