



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
15TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT
BOX 555365
CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA 92055-5365

Internet: <http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/15thmeu/>

15th MEU
Public Affairs Office
Box 555365
Marine Corps Base
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055

For more information:
Phone: (760) 725-0183

MEDIA ADVISORY #12-006

May 3, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

15TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT TO TRAIN IN URBAN AREAS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines and sailors from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit will be training throughout Southern California May 6-19 to ready the unit for its deployment to the Western Pacific and Middle East regions beginning later this year.

The unit's Maritime Raid Force and Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel platoon, along with selected members from the unit's aviation and command elements, will base at Naval Air Facility El Centro. Training will be conducted in the vicinity of San Bernardino, Riverside and Yuma counties. The combination of these locations supports mission-essential training and brings a dimension of urban realism not found on a singular military base.

All aspects of this training have been coordinated with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. As part of the training, Marine Corps helicopter pilots will practice urban flying and navigation techniques using routes and altitudes approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. Measures have been taken to reduce the amount of aircraft noise during the training, but residents near the exercise may hear the sounds of helicopters.

The Marines respectfully request that local citizens near the training venues keep a distance from the training, for their own safety and that of the service members.

The mission of the unit is to provide a rapid-response force capable of conducting conventional amphibious and selected maritime operations from the sea, surface or air.

“Realistic urban training allows the Marines and sailors of the 15th MEU to exercise vital skill sets that better prepare them for what they face while forward deployed,” said Col. Scott D. Campbell, the unit’s commanding officer. “Bringing together the entire Marine-Air-Ground Task Force in an exercise such as this one allows us to train our Maritime Raid Force, conduct shore-based command and control and provide our aviation combat element with quality, realistic training,” added Campbell.

The MEU is composed of a command element and three major subordinate elements. They are Battalion Landing Team 3/5, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364 (Reinforced) and Combat Logistics Battalion 15, the ground, aviation and logistics elements respectively.

Media that would like to cover the training are invited to attend May 9. Please contact the 15th MEU public affairs officer, 1stLt Justin Smith at justin.e.smith@usmc.mil, (760) 725-0183.

-USMC-

