

BEGINNING A NEW CENTURY

In 2002 the following commands, support elements, and activities were located at MCB Camp Lejeune.

II Marine Expeditionary Forces

The Marine Expeditionary Forces (MEF) are the largest Marine-Air-Ground-Task-Forces (MAGTF). The Marine Corps currently consists of three MEFs that are strategically placed for global coverage: I MEF is stationed in Southern California; II MEF is stationed in North and South Carolina; and III MEF is a forward-based unit in Okinawa and Hawaii. The location of these three forces near naval bases and other important transportation networks ensures an ability to deploy rapidly.

At Camp Lejeune, II MEF is headquartered in the former Naval Hospital on Hadnot Point, Building H-1. The building is now known as Julian C. Smith Hall, in honor of General Smith (1885-1975), who was on the board that selected Onslow County as the site for the future Camp Lejeune and served as Commanding General of the TTC, Camp Lejeune during World War II. Smith subsequently served as Commanding General of the 2d MarDiv at Tarawa.

The majority of elements making up II MEF, consisting of about 47,000 personnel, are based at Camp Lejeune and MCASs New River, Cherry Point, and Beaufort. The units that make up II MEF, which include ground, air, and logistics forces, are capable of "projecting offensive combat power ashore, while sustaining itself in combat without external assistance for a period of 60 days."

As with the other MEFs, II MEF is composed of a Command Element (CE), whose main purpose is operational planning and execution; a ground combat element, the 2nd Marine Division (MarDiv); a combat service support element, the 2nd Force Service Support Group (FSSG); and the aviation combat element, the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW). The CE, 2nd MarDiv, and 2ndFSSG are located at Camp Lejeune, and the 2nd MAW, with nearly 400 aircraft, is headquartered at MCAS Cherry Point with subordinate units at MCAS New River and MCAS Beaufort, South Carolina.

The MEF can be deployed in its entirety, or in smaller MAGTFs, such as a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), which consist of approximately 2,200 personnel. Routinely deployed MAGTFs include the 22nd, 24th, and 26th MEUs, which rotate to the Mediterranean as the landing force for the 6th Fleet.

2nd Marine Division

The 2nd MarDiv, the ground combat element of the MEF, is headquartered in Building H-1 (Julian C. Smith Hall). It is made up of three infantry regiments (2nd, 6th, and 8th); one artillery regiment (10th); and the 2nd Tank, 2nd Reconnaissance, 2nd Combat Engineer, Headquarters, 2nd Assault Amphibian, and 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance battalions. Formed in 1941, division units have been used as landing forces for the 6th Fleet, replacements in Korea and the Middle East, and in numerous peacekeeping missions. Members of the 2nd Marines were among the multi-national alliance in Beirut at the time of the 1983 terrorist bombing.



2nd Force Service Support Group

As the combat service support element for the II MEF, 2nd FSSG is the major source of heavy combat service support for the other three major tenants aboard Camp Lejeune. The group, composed of a H&S, 2nd Maintenance, 2nd Transportation Support, 8th Engineer Support, 2nd Supply, 2nd Medical, and 2nd Dental battalions, 2nd FSSG (Forward) and two combat service support detachments (located off Camp Lejeune) provide supply, maintenance, transportation, engineer, landing support, health services, and other special services. The 2nd FSSG is headquartered in Building 2, the former TTC and 2nd MarDiv Headquarters.



2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

The 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW) is headquartered at MCAS Cherry Point (about 40 miles north of Camp Lejeune) where three aircraft groups are stationed. In addition, MAG-31, which operates F/A-18 Hornets, is stationed at MCAS Beaufort, South Carolina. Two of the wing's helicopter groups, MAG-26 and MAG-29, are stationed at MCAS New River. In the mid-1990s more than 4,000 Marines with MAG-26 and MAG-29 were assigned to New River.



The units within MAG-26 currently consist of one training, one support, and six tactical squadrons of flying aircraft that include the AH-1W Super Cobra, the UH-1N Huey, the CH-46 Sea Knight, the CH-53D Sea Stallion, and the CH-53E Super Stallion. MAG-26 is the only group in the Marine Corps to have every type of fleet Marine helicopter. The group also contained the only CH-46 training squadron, HMT 204, which trained officers and enlisted in the operation, maintenance, and repair of the aircraft until its conversion to Marine Tilt-Rotor Training Squadron (VMMT)-204. The units of MAG-26 and MAG-29 are the most deployed aircraft squadrons in the Marine Corps.



Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 272, activated in 1986, provides essential aviation ground support for the aircraft groups assigned to New River. Other commands aboard New River include MACS 2, Air Traffic Control, Detachment B, which provides air traffic control for the air station, and also maintains field air control towers and radar. Two UC-12B Super King Airlifts, twin-engine turbo-prop planes, operate out of New River and complete missions assigned by the Air Transportation Coordination Office, Cherry Point.

The CH-46D/E *Sea Knight* helicopter is used by the Marine Corps to provide all-weather, day-or-night assault transport of combat troops, supplies and equipment.

Marine Corps Combat Service Support School

Today's Marine Corps Combat Service Support School (MCCSSS) is located in the Montford Point area, where the separate recruit training depot for African-American Marines was established in 1942. After integration of the Corps in 1949, however, the small camp was remodeled as a campus housing the Marine Corps Supply Schools, the predecessor to the present support schools.



In the past Montford Point's schools included supply, administration, food services, communications, field medical practices, and motor transport. There were also facilities for training and schooling Reservists.

MCCSSS now serves as the primary Military Occupational Specialty training site for Marines assigned to the fields of personnel administration and legal services, logistics operations, financial management, and ground supply. It also provides professional military education in its Combat Water Survival Swimming School and Instructional Management School.

Other activities located aboard Camp Johnson include the Field Medical Service School (FMSS), the Marine Corps Non-Appropriated Fund Audit Service, the Marine Corps Administrative Analysis Team, the Field Supply Maintenance and Analysis Office—One, and the East Coast Food Management Team. The FMSS, which was first activated in 1943 and reactivated for the Korean War, trains Navy Medical Department and Religious Ministry personnel for their initial assignment to ground, aviation, and combat service support units.

School of Infantry

Formerly known as the Infantry Training Regiment (ITR) and Infantry Training Schools (ITS), today's School of Infantry (SOI) is still located at Camp Geiger and is composed of two training battalions: the Infantry Training Battalion (ITB) and the Marine Combat Training Battalion (MCTBn).

Marines who complete basic training at Parris Island and who are assigned to the Infantry Occupational Field report to ITB, where they are trained in one of the following: Military Occupational Specialties (MOS); Marine Rifleman; Machine Gunner; Mortarman; Assaultman; or Antitank Guided Missileman. The MCTBn trains non-infantry Marines, who must also learn to operate effectively in a combat environment. MCTBn provides instruction in the use of a variety of weapons, how to conduct combat patrols, how to construct defensive perimeters, and how to perform limited offensive operations.

Advanced training for infantry Marines also continues at Camp Geiger. The Advanced Infantry Training Company (AITC) offers courses for squad leaders and platoon sergeants. AITC also offers advanced training for mortar and machine gunner leaders of the 2nd MarDiv. Specialty training for close combat instructors is also offered.

Significant Training Developments

Ranges

In 1963 there were 35 non-firing training areas and 52 firing ranges of all types at Camp Lejeune. As of 2000 there were 54 live-fire ranges, 89 maneuver areas, 33 gun positions, 25 tactical landing zones (TLZ), and a state of the art Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training facility. Live-fire ranges are located on the eastern and western sides of the base. Drop Zones and TLZs located throughout the base have been named for birds, such as Pigeon, Owl, Parrot, Cardinal, Jaybird, Sparrow, and Condor. Water Drop Zones (WDZ), however, have been named for aquatic creatures, including WDZ Gator and WDZ Shark. There are three impact areas on base: G-10 on the eastern side of the base; K-2 on the western side of the base; and N-1/BT-3, located along the shore and in Onslow Bay.

Greater Sandy Run Area

As early as the mid-1980s, even though Camp Lejeune consisted of 111,000 acres of land, the base was pressed for space because of the new weapons systems and new employment techniques. In 1992 Camp Lejeune purchased 41,100 acres west of the base and developed the Greater Sandy Run Area (GSRA) range complex. Prior to developing the parcel, however, an archaeological and architectural survey was conducted to determine whether any significant cultural resources were present on the site. The archaeological survey identified 22 sites that contained both prehistoric and historic materials. Three previously unidentified cemeteries were also identified.

Architectural remnants found in the area included the site of Camp Davis, a World War II facility originally conceived in 1940 as a Barrage Balloon Training Center (BBTC) under the command of the U.S. Army Air Corps. Construction was begun on 14 December 1940 across the ACL railroad tracks from the small community of Holly Ridge. In March 1942, as a result of the major U.S. Army reorganization after the beginning of World War II, Camp Davis was designated as an Anti-Aircraft Artillery Training Center (AAATC), one of seven in the Army, under the newly formed AAA Command.

Before the BBTC was relocated to Tennessee in early 1942, Camp Davis was the Army's first BB School and was the only post to have all three principal elements of Coast Artillery—Anti-Aircraft, Seacoast Defense, and Barrage Balloon—under a single command.

Camp Davis was closed on 1 October 1944 as a result of the Allied successes in the war, which reduced the need for Anti-Aircraft Artillery personnel. At its closure, Camp Davis contained 60,000 people, 3,000 buildings, and covered over 44,000 acres.

During its three and a half years of existence, Camp Davis activated or trained six brigades, nine groups, 10 regiments, nine separate battalions, six gun battalions, 21 automatic weapons battalions, four search light battalions, five barrage balloon battalions, four operations detachments, one separate battery, and one Coast Artillery Regiment (Tractor Drawn) (155 mm).

From February to July 1945 Camp Davis served as an Army Air Force convalescent and redistribution center. In August 1945 Camp Lejeune took control of the camp and used it as a training facility for the Royal Netherlands Marines and as a storage facility. The Navy acquired the leases to Camp Davis in June 1946 and used the facility for rocket research (Operation Bumble Bee). In January 1948 the camp was deactivated. The buildings were dismantled, with many sold intact or as lumber. Prior to the Marine Corps development of the area, very little remained of Camp Davis aside from the grid pattern of its streets.

Ranges completed at the GSRA complex include the 1,000x3,000-meter SR-7, designed for Light Armored Vehicles (LAVs), amphibious assault vehicles (AAVs), and tanks, and the 1,000x5,000-meter SR-10, a maneuver area large enough to host combined armed exercises for infantry, tanks, LAVs, AAVs, and aircraft. The ranges include computer-controlled targets.

Urban Combat Training

In recent decades Marines have put more emphasis on urban terrain warfare training, as more of the world's population inhabits large cities in coastal regions and as the Corps participates in military operations other than war. In





The MOUT area of Camp Lejeune provides urban combat training for Marines. Basic training still involves amphibious landings, sniper training, and infantry training.

1997, of the 20 locations to which U.S. Marines were deployed, 55 percent were in urban or combined rural and urban areas. Recognizing that urban areas represent the battlefields of the future and the need to train better in combat conditions, Commandant General Alfred M. Gray directed that state-of-the-art MOUT training facilities be built at Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton.

The 40-acre, \$7.9 million, 31-building complex, representing a full-scale model of a small city, with permanent multi-story buildings, single-family dwellings, a full-size sewer system, and a soccer stadium, was opened on 18 September 1990. Camp Lejeune's "city" consists of buildings, bridges, roadways, sidewalks, street lamps, and many other fixtures one would find in a metropolitan area. Dramatic scenarios are designed to test Marines in combat readiness for urban environments, where terrorist attacks are likely or urban disturbances can erupt. Exercise situations are designed to be as realistic as possible by limiting mobility, communications, and fire support—even including intrusive news cameras such as those encountered during the landings in Somalia. Confusion is one of the main problems in an urban environment. MOUT training helps Marines to identify the enemy, secure areas, and adapt to rapidly changing conditions.

Aviation

In the late 1990s New River became home to Bell-Boeing Helicopter's MV-22 Osprey, which is a vertical and short takeoff and landing (VTOL) aircraft. The Osprey is a multi-engine, dual-piloted, self-deployable, medium lift, VTOL tiltrotor aircraft; that is, the craft takes off and lands like a helicopter but can tilt

its rotors forward to fly like an airplane. It is designed for combat, combat support, combat service support, and Special Operations missions worldwide. It is intended to replace the CH-46E and CH-53D medium lift helicopters. The primary use of the Osprey is in the amphibious assault transport of troops, equipment, and supplies from assault ships and land bases. Advantages of the craft include its ability to go into hostile areas at higher speeds, combined with its hover mode that can offload troops without having to land on a runway. Conversion from the helicopter hovering mode to forward airplane flight takes only 12 seconds and the wings become lift effective between 100 and 120 knots.

MCAS New River has gained a stellar role in the testing and fielding of the MV-22, and was selected as the home for the first MV-22 training squadron and as the future home of several initial operating squadrons. New River received its first Osprey on 15 September 1998, and on 10 June 1999 activated MAG-26's VMMT-204, previously known as HMT-204.

In 2000 two accidents involving Marine-flown Ospreys resulted in review of the mission capabilities and performance of the craft and have placed the program in jeopardy. Four MV-22s have crashed with a loss of 30 lives during the development phases. The most recent crash, in December 2000, occurred during night training exercises near Jacksonville. As a result of the crashes and investigation of reported maintenance fraud, VMMT-204 has been grounded and its commander relieved of duty. The year 2001 began with the situation in doubt and the program under close scrutiny as solutions are being sought.

