

Marines with the Maritime Raid Force, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, prepare to breach a door during a mock raid Feb. 16. The raid took place during exercise Cobra Gold 2011, and was a bilateral exercise conducted by Royal Thai and U.S. Marines, with Singapore observers. For three decades, Thailand has hosted Cobra Gold, one of the largest land-based, joint, combined military training exercises in the world. Cobra Gold started out as a bilateral exercise, but has since grown to include Japan, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and South Korea as full participants and dozens of other countries as official observers.

Date Photo Taken: 2/16/2011 4:36:00 PM

Unit: 31st MEU

Photo ByLine: Lance Cpl. Garry J. Welch

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Photo Size: 813 KB

Petty Officer 1st Class Kimberlee Hazle, aviation boatswains mate (equipment) from Valley View, Texas, inspects the catapult prior to flight operations on board the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan. The catapult system is used to give aircraft the momentum they need to get airborne. The Ronald Reagan Strike Group is currently underway continuing training before deploying to the Western Pacific and Central Command areas of operation. (Photo by: Petty Officer 3rd Class Anthony W. Johnson)

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Burt Traynor, an aerial combat videographer, assigned to 1st Combat Camera Squadron, documents a local area training mission at Charleston AFB, S.C., Dec. 9, 2009. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Clay Lancaster/Released)

Photographer's Name: Staff Sgt. Clay Lancaster Location: Charleston Air Force Base

Date Shot: 12/9/2009 Date Posted: 1/21/2010 VIRIN: 091209-F-JO436-091

U.S. Navy aviation boatswain's mates motion to a Royal Thai Navy Bell 212 helicopter to take off from the flight deck of the forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2) as part of deck landing qualifications during exercise Cobra Gold 2011 Feb. 16, 2011, in the Gulf of Thailand. Cobra Gold is a regularly scheduled joint/combined exercise designed to ensure regional peace and strengthen the ability of the Royal Thai Armed Forces to defend Thailand or respond to regional contingencies. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Adam M. Bennett/Released)

Photographer's Name: MC3 Adam M. Bennett Location: USS Essex (LHD 2)

Date Shot: 2/16/2011 Date Posted: 2/16/2011 VIRIN: 110216-N-SO729-072

U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Roger Bevelhimer, assigned to the combat cargo division of the amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2), hauls cargo on the flight deck as part of a vertical replenishment at sea with dry cargo ship USNS Richard E. Byrd (T-AKE 4) during exercise Cobra Gold 2011 Feb. 15, 2011, in the Gulf of Thailand. Cobra Gold is a regularly scheduled joint/combined exercise designed to ensure regional peace and strengthen the ability of the Royal Thai Armed Forces to defend Thailand or respond to regional contingencies. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Casey H. Kyhl/Released)

Photographer's Name: MC2 Casey H. Kyhl Location: USS Essex (LHD 2)

Date Shot: 2/15/2011 Date Posted: 2/16/2011 VIRIN: 110215-N-WJ771-116

U.S. Marines observe the area during a patrol in Recon Camp, Thailand, Feb. 15, 2011, in support of exercise Cobra Gold 2011. Cobra Gold provides training opportunities for participating military partners, while also promoting relationships between multinational militaries and communities. The Marines are assigned to Echo Company, Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade. (DoD photo by Lance Cpl. Brennan O'Lowney, U.S. Marine Corps/Released)

Photographer's Name: LCpl. Brennan O'Lowney Location: Recon Camp

Date Shot: 2/15/2011 Date Posted: 2/15/2011 VIRIN: 110215-M-GX324-026

Air Force heavyweight Kent Brinson throws a punch during his bout Jan. 22, 2011 at Port of San Antonio, Texas. Brinson won his fight with Owaldo Escamilla by earning a unanimous decision from the judges. He is competing in the 2011 Armed Forces Boxing Championships at Lackland Feb. 15 to 18. (U.S. Air Force photo/Robbin Cresswell)

KODIAK, Alaska - Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan Loveland, an aviation maintenance technician with Air Station Kodiak and a Weyers Cave, Va., resident, sights the drifting 143-foot barge Brittney Moe southwest of Kodiak Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2011 at 10:48 a.m. The crew of the tug Seahawk lost the tow in heavy weather Tuesday morning and the crew of the MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter was directed to locate the barge and note its position while arrangements are made to recover barge. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Sara Francis.

Army Capt. Dan Morken of the 489th Brigade Support Battalion, Utah Army National Guard, fires at targets downrange during the Western Regional Biathlon Championships in Soldier Hollow, Utah, Feb. 5-6, 2011. For the first time in a number of years, the Utah National Guard hosted the championships, which included civilian, Army Reserve and National Guard competitors from Utah, Colorado, Nevada, Montana, Arizona, Oregon, Wyoming, Texas and Guam. (U.S. Army photo by Lt. Col. Hank McIntire)(Released)

A 51st Fighter Wing Security Forces Airman secures a building during Operational Readiness Exercise Beverly Midnight 11-01 at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea Feb. 14. The exercise allows Airmen to demonstrate their ability to complete the mission in simulated chemical environments while executing their primary duties, practicing self aid and buddy care, conduction post-attack reconnaissance and unexploded ordnance sweeps. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Senior Airman Evelyn Chavez)

51st Fighter Wing firefighters treat a "casualty" after a simulated aircraft crash during Operational Readiness Exercise Beverly Midnight 11-01 at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea Feb. 14. The exercise allows Airmen to demonstrate their ability to complete the mission in simulated chemical environments while executing their primary duties, practicing self aid and buddy care, conduction post-attack reconnaissance and unexploded ordnance sweeps. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Senior Airman Evelyn Chavez)

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Clint Koerperich, left, patrols with Afghan soldiers to investigate possible insurgent cache locations in the Zormat district of Afghanistan, Feb. 5, 2011. Koerperich is assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment. The soldiers acted on a tip provided by the Guardians of Peace program, which rewards Afghan citizens who provide useful and actionable intelligence to Afghan and coalition forces. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Smith

A 60 mm high-explosive round fires from the tube of an M-224 Company Mortar System as the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment gun team readies the next shot Feb. 11 during Exercise Cobra Gold 2011. Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew E. Winstead/4-25th ABCT PAO

1st Lt. Kenneth Havens, an air traffic controller with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, communicates with the pilot of a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 (Reinforced), 31st MEU, during a multi-lateral non-combatant evacuation operation exercise, Feb. 12. HMM-262 (REIN) helicopters evacuated Japanese citizens to the USS Essex (LHD2). The NEO exercise, held during Cobra Gold 2011, brought together the U.S., Thai, and Japanese armed forces in order to exchange ideas and prepare for potential evacuations involving their citizens in foreign countries.

BAN CHAN KREM, Thailand—Royal Thai Navy Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Nuchit practices applying a field tourniquet on Petty Officer 2nd Class Morgan Jensen, 4th Marine Regiment, Ground Combat Element, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force, here February 12 during Cobra Gold 2011.

February 11, 2011, A U.S. Marine with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB), sights in with his weapon during a simulated mechanized raid in AAV Camp, Kingdom of Thailand, for Exercise Cobra Gold 2011. Royal Thai Marines also participated in the raid. Cobra Gold 2011 marks the 30th anniversary of the exercise which focuses on basic military skills training, staff planning, and humanitarian and civic assistance projects. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl Brennan O'Lowney/Released)

Marines assigned to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (31st MEU), Maritime Raid Force, check their weapons during a call-away drill in the hangar bay of the forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2). Essex is part of the Essex Amphibious Ready Group on patrol in the western Pacific Ocean. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Adam M. Bennett/Released)

SIGONELLA, Sicily (February 4, 2010) Rear Adm. James G. Foggo, deputy commander, U.S. 6th Fleet, speaks with the crew of an Italian navy replenishment and logistic support ship Etna (A5326) during a tour of the ship to kick off Exercise Proud Manta 2011. Proud Manta is designed to provide operational training in the air, surface, and subsurface cooperation and coordination anti surface warfare operations in potential NATO response force task/roles and missions. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Gary A. Prill/Released)

International Security Assistance Forces assigned to Forward Operating Base Sweeney, Zabul Province, Afghanistan, look on as supplies float to the ground, Feb. 7. Winds during the drop gusted up to 20mph. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson)(Released)

COVENAS SUCRE, Colombia (Feb. 3, 2011) Colombian marine 1st Sgt. Julio Rhenals, left, guides Sgt. Christopher L. Coheley, assigned to Security Cooperation Task Force, on the steps of loading the barrel on the Vanguard, a robot used to confiscate improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The subject matter expert exchange was part of the Amphibious Southern Partnership (SPS) 2011. SPS is an annual deployment of U.S. ships to the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility in the Caribbean and Latin America. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Brittany J. Kohler/Released)

PHILIPPINE SEA (Jan. 31, 2011) - Gunners Mate 3rd Class Terrance Davis-Harris fires a shot line from the forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2) for a replenishment at sea with USNS Pecos (T-AO-197). Essex, commanded by Capt. David Fluker, is part of the forward-deployed Essex Amphibious Ready Group and is on patrol in the Western Pacific. (U.S. Navy photo by MCS 3rd Class Adam M. Bennett)