



WING UPDATE

4TH MAW NEW ORLEANS

The mission of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing (4th MAW) is to augment, reinforce, and sustain the Active Component with an operational aircraft wing under a Total Force construct.

The 4th MAW is currently comprised of approximately 7,000 Marines assigned to 4 groups and 20 squadrons. Personnel conducts daily distributed operations from 21 sites in 16 states with rotary- and fixed-wing aircraft and unmanned aerial systems to include: AH-1W, UH-1N, CH-46E, CH-53E, MV-22B, KC-130T, F/A-18A, F-5N, UC-12W, UC-35C/D, and RQ-7B. 4th MAW functions as a fully operational Marine Aircraft Wing integrating three core capabilities in support of the Marine Corps' Total Force: aircraft operations, aviation ground support and aviation command and control. During 2013, within all of its groups, 4th MAW deployed units, detachments and individual augments across the range of military operations in support of overseas contingency operations (OCO), the Unit Deployment Program (UDP), Combatant Commanders' Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) missions, and other joint and service-level operations, and training exercises.

LCpl Nate Rose of HMLA-773 watches one of his escorting AH-1W Super Cobras fly near his crew aboard the UH-1N Huey.

PHOTO COURTESY: U.S. MARINE CORPS

Despite the heavy demands on its units over the previous ten years of conflict, 4th MAW continued to source all requirements in a predictable and sustainable fashion with proficient and combat-ready units while further enhancing long-term and habitual relationships with the Active Component. This was the result of integrated command and staff actions across eight operational lines of operation as developed and defined by our Active Component warfighting commanders:

1. The Current Fight
2. Unit Deployment Program
3. Theater Security Cooperation
4. Predeployment Training Program Support
5. OPLANS/CONPLANS
6. Staff Augmentation
7. Be the "Shock Absorber" for the Active Component
8. Enduring and Habitual Relationships

For the last two decades, 4th MAW served as a Strategic and Total Force Reserve, deploying forces overseas in support of both emerging and planned rotational requirements. As a Strategic Reserve, 4th MAW works in close coordination with the Commander, Marine Forces Reserve and Headquarters Marine Corps, Aviation (HQMC Avn) in developing a Reserve aviation integration plan that will support Marine aviation long into the future.

To this end, 4th MAW generated significant progress in accordance with the Force Structure Review Group and Aviation Plan Reserve Integration





Strategy. This progress focused on: transition and acceptance of the first reserve MV-22B by Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 764 (VMM-764); preparation for Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 234's (VMGR-234) transition from the KC-130T to the KC-130J in March 2014; transfer of all Military Police personnel and equipment from the three Marine Wing Support Squadrons (MWSS) and the Wing Headquarters to the 4th Law Enforcement Battalion, Force Headquarters Group; and consolidation of all three Marine Air Control Squadron 24 (MACS-24) Meteorological Detachments into one detachment located aboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Joint Reserve Base (JRB) Fort Worth, Texas, in preparation for the arrival of the Meteorological Mobile Facility next generation system during calendar year 2014.

Operationally, to provide support for the current fight, 4th MAW stands ready for real-world emergent and preplanned requirements. In order to do so, HQMC Avn Plans and Policies, Marine Forces Reserve, Marine Forces Command, and 4th MAW routinely review applicable policies and authorities to determine how capabilities of the Wing can be most effectively employed to support the combatant commanders' operational requirements. As an integral part of the Marine Corps' Force Generation Process, 4th MAW works closely with the Active Component in



ensuring a systematic, service-wide approach to selecting, resourcing, and preparing units for deployment. The process consists of pre-deployment scheduling, training plan development, training plan execution, assessments, reporting, trend reversal, and certification. By doing so, 4th MAW is ready and able to fully integrate with Active Component aviation forces already engaged in combat operations.

In 2013, 4th MAW's lines of operation served to facilitate the efficient and effective synchronization of core capabilities in support of the Total Force by working to reduce the impact of high operational tempo on the Active Component. Effectively, 4th MAW operated as a "shock absorber" for the Active Component. This was achieved by aligning essential resources in order to rapidly reset/refit units

TOP LEFT

Marines with VMGR-234, MAG-41, 4th MAW, check fuel hose connections prior to an aviation-delivered ground refueling mission at Fort Campbell, KY.

PHOTO COURTESY: U.S. MARINE CORPS

TOP RIGHT

HMLA-773 prepares for a flight near Barstow, CA, in support of exercise Raven 14-01. Exercise Raven is an aviation training exercise designed to provide air support to Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command to better prepare them for their upcoming deployment.

PHOTO COURTESY: U.S. MARINE CORPS

BOTTOM

Avionics technicians LCpl Stephan Labrador and Cpl Eddie Nghiem install a new terminal in a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter.

PHOTO COURTESY: U.S. MARINE CORPS

and detachments, redirecting training to appropriate mission sets as dictated by the current threat environment and as directed by higher headquarters. This resulted in 4th MAW's contribution of over 1,500 Marines deployed with units or as individual augments in support of OCO, UDP, TSC missions, and exercises worldwide. Of the hours flown by 4th MAW, over 67% were in direct support of the Active Component, involving deployments across the globe.

For example, while supporting Marine Forces Africa Command, Marine Reserve KC-130T aircraft and Marines from VMGR-234 and -452 were mobilized and assigned to support Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Africa (SPMAGTF-AF) and Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response. Additionally, 4th MAW mobilized and deployed the command element for SPMAGTF-AF 13.1 from Marine Air Control Group 48 (MACG-48).

In support of Marine Forces Central Command (MARCENT), 4th MAW activated and mobilized UC-35D and UC-12W detachments from Marine Reserve Squadrons (VMR) Andrews and Belle Chasse and sourced members of the Aviation Command and Control Team (AC2T) for duty as battle directors and liaison officers to the U.S. Central Command's (CENTCOM) Air and Space Operations Center, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Additionally, VMGR-234 and -452 mobilized and deployed a KC-130T detachment in support of RFF-12XX requirements. In support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, 4th MAW mobilized and deployed detachments from our MWSS units that provided water and bulk fuel capabilities to the MAGTF. Lastly, 4th MAW provided over 30 individual augments to the MARCENT Command Element in Bahrain in direct support of MARCENT (Fwd) and II MEF (Fwd) operations in the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR).

In support of Marine Forces Pacific Command (MARFORPAC),



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2013 proved to be an especially busy year for 4th MAW. This support consisted of two separate deployments sourcing the UDP with both rotary- and fixed-wing air assets from 4th MAW. The mobilization and deployment of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 112 (VMFA-112) provided Marine Aircraft Group 12 (MAG-12) with the requisite Anti-Air Warfare and Offensive Air Support sorties while the deployment of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772 (HMH-772) Detachment 1 commenced the Marine Corps' UDP resumption with rotary-wing aircraft. Both deployments ran concurrently from June/July 2013 and concluded during the end of December/January 2014.

The 4th MAW also participated in multiple combined, bilateral, and joint exercises in every combatant commanders' AOR. The scope of this exercise support ranged from individual augments to the sourcing of large detachments. Through participation in exercises such as African Lion (Morocco), African Endeavor (Nigeria), Blue Flag 13-2 (Arizona), Bold Quest (Multiple Locations), Emerald Warrior (Florida), Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Old Harbour (Alaska), IRT Beckley (West Virginia), Exercises Key Resolve (Korea), Maple Flag 46 (Canada), New Horizons (Belize), Panamax (Florida), Terminal Fury (Hawaii),



TOP

Marines of HMH-772 load a CH-53E Super Stallion onto a C-5 Galaxy on 30 May 2013, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ. Nearly half of HMH-772 personnel departed the Joint Base on 30-31 May, for a six-month deployment to MCAS Futenma, Japan. The C-5 and its crew are assigned to the 433rd Airlift Wing at Joint Base San Antonio, TX.

PHOTO COURTESY: U.S. AIR FORCE

BOTTOM

LCpl Trevor Cannefax of HMLA-773 secures his helmet strap before a flight.

PHOTO COURTESY: U.S. MARINE CORPS

A CH-47 Chinook helicopter from the Army 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment receives fuel from a Marine Corps KC-130T.

PHOTO COURTESY: U.S. MARINE CORPS

Ulchi Freedom Guardian (Korea), and Song Yong (Korea), 4th MAW Marines and sailors supported the Active Component and our international partner nations.

Specifically, in the African AOR, 4th MAW provided multiple detachments in support of Exercise African Lion. African Lion is an annual bilateral training exercise in which Moroccan and United States forces work together in order to improve interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation's tactics, techniques, and procedures. 4th MAW Headquarters and the 4th MAW AC2T also deployed forces to the Pacific theater for multiple exercises. Exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian is a large command and control exercise that focuses on amphibious operations. Exercise Key Resolve is an annual CJCS-approved command post exercise which focuses on the operational aspect of integrated air and space operations. Overall, 4th MAW's support included Marines from every one of its flying aircraft, ground support, and command and control groups.

In addition to these diverse theater-wide exercise contributions, 4th MAW also provided critical

support to Marine Corps service-level training exercises to include the Integrated Training Exercise (ITX), MARSOC's RAVEN, Marine Air Command and Control System (MACCS) Integrated Simulated Training Exercise (MISTEX), Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course (WTI), Dawn Blitz, Steel Knight and various Marine Fighter Training Squadron adversary support to the fleet.

The ITX serves as the premier service-level exercises within the Marine Corps, as well as the culmination of a deploying unit's Predeployment Training Plan. Since 2006, 4th MAW has been actively engaged in preparing units for deployments in support of OCO. In 2013, 4th MAW participated in every ITX by providing Reserve aviation assets in support of the ground unit commander. VMGR-234 based at NAS JRB Fort Worth, and VMGR-452 based at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, NY, sourced a significant portion of the KC-130 exercise requirements for fixed-wing aerial refueling, aerial supply delivery, basic illumination, and rapid ground refueling.

Additionally, during ITX 4-13, ground combat Marines training at the Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, 29 Palms, CA, received extensive training in aviation close air support techniques, tactics, and procedures as a result of the support provided by HMLA-773. Also, critical assault support requests and simulated casualty evacuation missions were flown during ITX 4-13 exercises by the Marines of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 774 (HMM-774). In addition, MACG-48 and our MWSS units both supplied much needed command and control and aviation ground support for these exercises as well.

Marines from HMLA-773 also provided support to exercise Raven from 9-22 October 2013. Raven is a Marine Corps Special Operations Command (MARSOC) mission rehearsal and certification exercise designed to evaluate MARSOC Marines in the full spectrum of operations while immersing them in an environment simulating their deployed area of operations.

In the past year, 4th MAW also provided CONUS based support to Weapons and Tactics Instructor Squadron 1 (MAWTS-1) Courses 2-13 and 1-14. This augmentation



consisted of KC-130T refueling support from both of our VMGR squadrons, Early Warning (EW) radar support from MACS-24, RQ-7 assets from VMU-4 and over 90 maintenance Marines in direct support of MAWTS-1 from various 4th MAW units.

The 4th MAW also sourced Marine aviation's only adversary fighter squadron, Marine Fighter Training Squadron (VMFT-401) based at MCAS Yuma. The "Snipers" provided daily "Red Air" fixed-wing threat profiles in support of Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force fighter squadrons preparing for combat. They also flew in support of every WTI course developed by MAWTS-1.

In addition to exercise and training support, FRAG relief and mission support was regularly provided to multiple entities.

This support included over 192 individual KC-130T missions in support of I MEF, II MEF, and III MEF; and over 41 missions in support of the Marine Corps Training and Education Command. In addition, 4th MAW units also provided many different types of aviation support to the U.S. Southern Command, Marine Forces North, Marine Corps Special Operations Command, the U. S. Army Special Operations Aviation Regiment, and the Marine Corps Recruiting Command. Finally, Reserve pilots assigned to Marine Aviation Training Support Group 42 (MATSG-42) based in Pensacola, Florida, provided instructor pilot augment support to Marine Corps Fleet Replacement Squadrons and the Naval Air Training Command's primary and advanced flight training squadrons.

In summary, the 4th MAW routinely serves as the "shock absorber" for the Active Component, providing responsive, short notice aviation support for Fleet Marine Forces and the Training and Education Command. Throughout the year, 4th MAW consistently demonstrated their ability to source both planned and emergent requirements in support of the Marine Corps' Total Force. This ability to seamlessly integrate with the Active Component, whether in support of daily training operations or as part of a larger force in support of contingency operations, highlights the unique capabilities inherent in 4th MAW. As Marine aviation prepares for the future, 4th MAW will continue to stand ready as a Total Force Reserve aviation force, decisively shaped, trained, and ready to answer our Nation's call.