10th Marine Regiment, *Fireball*

By 10th Marines

Located at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., 10th Marines is the oldest and one of the proudest of the Marine regiments with over 100 years of service. The 10th Marine Regiment provides fire support to the 2nd Marine Division, employing the M777A2 towed 155 mm howitzer and the M327 towed 120 mm mortar Expeditionary Fire Support System (EFSS).

During April, 10th Marine Regiment concluded Exercise Saipan Rain, a regimental-level exercise aboard Camp Lejeune. A first-of-its-kind exercise, Saipan Rain included capabilities from across II Marine Expeditionary Force to include bridging assets, aviation-delivered ground refueling and multiple days of live-fire execution. First Battalion and 2nd Battalion deployed to Twentynine Palms, Calif., and fired in support of Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 3-16, while batteries supported two different Marine Expeditionary Units (MEUs) and two different Unit Deployment Program rotations. Of note, Battery E returned from their combat deployment supporting Operation Inherent Resolve with the 26th MEU and Battery C returned from Exercise Cold Response 2016 in Norway.

In May, 10th Marine Regiment participated in the II MEF Exercise. Also in May, Battery G replaced Battery E as the artillery unit supporting the Global Response Force, and Battery K supported Tactical Air Control Party 3-16. Also, Battery F conducted an artillery raid exercise to Bombing Target-11 utilizing internal lift assets with MV-22B Ospreys and the 120 mm Expeditionary Fire Support System in support of 10th Marine Regiment Exercise Fireball Siege 1-16. This exercise marked the first time that artillery assets from any unit used the predominately aviation range and a local venue for 10th Marine Regiment units to conduct a live-fire, over-the-horizon raid.

During July, elements of 1st Battalion participated in Fleet Week Boston, Mass., and elements of 2nd Battalion participated in Core Training for Midshipmen. During this month, personnel from 2nd Battalion underwent Tactical Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Integration Course in Twentynine Palms, Calif., and one platoon from Battery K deployed in support of the Black Sea Rotational Force. Also in July, 2nd Battalion, along with supporting units, held a memorial service for Staff Sgt. Louis Cardin, who gave his life...
timney, 2nd marines/ u.s. marine corps

as a marine air ground task force command element. (lance cpl. kelly l.

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u.s. marines with gun five, a battery, 1st battalion, 10th marine regi

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timney, 2nd marjdv/ u.s. marine corps)

in april, 1st battalion took part in exercise saipan rain, with

battery a and battery i completing a variety of internal training ob-

jectives and executed training involving the full magtf element,

including dryland and wetland bridge crossings, conducted with

bridge company, combat logistics regiment 25, as well as a riv-

er crossing via a field expedient ferry. battery k, 1st battalion, was

attached to 2nd battalion for exercise saipan rain in order to maxi-
mize available training opportunities. these operations allowed for

continuous movement throughout the camp lejeune training areas
during the exercise. the battery also conducted internal training such

as patrolling, battery defensive operations, combat life sav-
ing training and night and day convoy operations. timely and accu-

rate fires were executed in support of the battalion and regiment to

include several fire-for-effect missions, out of traverse missions,

fire plans and coordinated illumination missions. also in april, bat-

tery b, deployed to crow valley, philippines, in support of exercise

balikatan 16 with an integrated philippine marine artillery platoon

while battery i participated in itx at twenty-nine palms, ca.

in june, working closely with 2nd marine aircraft wing support-

ing aircraft, battery a conducted a platoon-level raid with the efss.

prior to the exercise, rehearsals were conducted with the aircraft

crews which helped to develop procedures for the on-loading and

off-loading of the mortars. during this raid the platoon was able to

refine procedures and techniques in relation to loading, off-loading,

emplacement, displacement and the firing of the efss. additional-

ly, in may and june, battery b deployed to combined arms training

center fuji in support of exercise fuji 16.6 and exercise fuji viper.

in august, the battalion embarked its gear and traveled to fort

stewart, ga., to participate in exercise arrowhead thunder. during

the exercise, the battalion conducted a variety of artillery training

to include a full-scale live-fire air assault. two howitzers and 64

rounds of ammunition were lifted via ch-53 super Stallions to the

air assault location while simultaneously two MV-22 Ospreys trans-

ported a platoon of Battery A Marines to the same location. once

on the ground, the platoon accurately and efficiently fired rounds

working directly with the observers. the air assault was complete

upon the platoons lift and return back to the battery’s position.

pfc. jaylen d. miller and lance cpl. aaron j. spann, fire direction control

men with kilo battery, 1st battalion, 10th marine regiment, 2nd marine

division, manually plot data for a fire mission after receiving information

about a simulated target during exercise arrowhead thunder. (courtesy

photo)
Battery C concluded the fiscal year’s training by conducting howitzer training in the East Fuji Maneuver Area in close coordination with Battery I from 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment in September.

Throughout the year, the battalion continued to prepare batteries and platoons to deploy independent of the battalion. These separate deployments included supporting Marine Expeditionary Units, the Unit Deployment Program and the first-ever rotations of artillery platoons deploying with combined arms companies to the continent of Europe.

2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, Gunslinger
By 2nd Battalion, 10th Marines

The 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, started the year in support of Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 1-16 from Oct. 15 to Nov. 12. During this exercise, Battery F and Battery L supported the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF), specifically 8th Marine Regiment. Batteries deployed to Okinawa, Japan, as part of the Unit Deployment Program and the first ever rotations of batteries and platoons to deploy independent of the battalion. These separate deployments included supporting Marine Expeditionary Units, the Unit Deployment Program and the first-ever rotations of artillery platoons deploying with combined arms companies to the continent of Europe.

2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment

Top: U.S. Marines with 2nd Battalion, 10th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, conduct artillery combined arms and fire support training during Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 3-16 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. Eighth Marines and subordinate units participated in ITX 3-16 to ensure all elements of Special-Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force 8 are prepared for upcoming deployments and operational commitments. (Staff Sgt. Keonaona C. Paulo/ U.S. Marine Corps)

Bottom: Marines with Lima Battery, 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment fire an M777 Howitzer during a live-fire exercise at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 30, 2015. This was the last exercise Lima conducted as a standalone battery. (Cpl. Kirstin Merrimarahajara/ U.S. Marine Corps)

In January, 2nd Battalion executed Battalion Firing Exercise 1-16 aboard Camp Lejeune with a focus on the use of the 120 mm EFSS, direct fire capabilities, and the efficient passage of control via digital and voice communications between a Forward and a Main Combat Operations Center.

In February, Battery L was officially deactivated as an active Marine Corps unit after supporting the prior ITX while Battery F participated in both Exercise Eager Response, a long-range, long-duration raid where a platoon of 120 mm mortars were transported by MV-22B Osprey aircraft in support of 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment’s maneuver objectives. Nearly immediately afterwards, Battery F supported Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 2-16 in Yuma, Ariz.

In April, 2nd Battalion took part in Exercise Saipan Rain, serving as the higher headquarters for Battery K in order to complete battalion-level training objectives involving the full MAGTF. These operations allowed for continuous movement throughout the Camp Lejeune training areas during the exercise. The battalion also conducted internal training such as patrolling, battery defensive operations, Combat Life Saving training and night and day convoy operations. Timely and accurate Fires were executed in support of the battalion and regiment to include several fire-for-effect missions, out of traverse missions, fire plans and coordinated illumination missions.

During the summer, Battery E served as the main effort for Task Force Spartan from Fire Base Bell near Makhmour, Iraq. While attached to the 26th MEU, Battery E conducted over 600 missions in support of Iraqi and Kurdish Security Forces and Operation Inherent Resolve.

From Aug. 2 to Sept. 2, 2nd Battalion deployed in support of Regimental Exercise Arrowhead Thunder 16 to Fort Stewart, Ga. During the exercise, the battalion employed the M777A2 at the battery, battalion and regimental levels while providing general support to the 2nd Marine Division.

Throughout the year, the battalion continued to prepare batteries and platoons to deploy in support of Marine Expeditionary Units, the Unit Deployment Program and the first ever rotations of artillery platoons inside Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, Thunder Regiment
By 12th Marines

Located aboard Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, with 3rd Battalion collocated and 1st Battalion located aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, 12th Marine Regiment provides mortar, cannon, and rocket fire support to 3rd Marine Division and III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) across the Pacific Region.

Throughout 2016, Marines and Sailors from 12th Marines conducted over 26 mission rehearsals in six different countries, employing the M777A2 towed 155 mm howitzer, the M142A2 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), and the M327 towed 120 mm mortar Expeditionary Fire Support System (EFSS). Many of these exercises were conducted by cannon and rocket batteries deployed from the United States to Okinawa, Japan, as part of the Unit
Deployment Program. The quantity, diversity, and quality of these mission rehearsals demonstrates the readiness and proficiency of the 12th Marine Regiment to provide all-weather Fires to 3rd Marine Division and III MEF throughout the Pacific Command area of responsibility (AOR).

In January, Headquarters Battery, 12th Marines, conducted reconnaissance, selection, occupation of position (RSOP) training in the Central Training Area (CTA) on Okinawa. Simultaneously, the division Fire Support Coordination Center (FSCC), regimental Fire Direction Center and Target Acquisition Platoon conducted a Fire Support Rehearsal Exercise in Okinawa.

During the months of January and February, Marines from 1-12th Marines deployed to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC), at Twentynine Palms, Calif., to participate in Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 2-16 from Jan. 10 to Feb. 23. While at ITX, 1-12th Marines provided Fires in support of 5th Marine Regiment’s combined arms breaching, air assault and mechanized maneuver.

The 12th Marine Regimental Headquarters strengthened its relationship with the Western Army Artillery of the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF) through a bilateral exchange in February. The division FSCC and regimental headquarters practiced their ability to coordinate and deliver Fires in support of 3rd Marine Division by participating in division and regimental command post exercises.

Forward deployed batteries from 3rd Battalion conducted exercises across the western Pacific in February, with Battery B, 12th Marines conducting live fire in the Hijiudai Maneuver Area, Kyushu, Japan, as part of the artillery relocation training program (ARTP) and Battery K, 11th Marines conducting live-fire training in Thailand as part of Cobra Gold 2016. The ARTP is a routine training event where forward deployed USMC artillery forces conduct live-fire training throughout mainland Japan to maintain combat readiness in support of the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security. Rotation of the east coast battery completed a busy month for 3rd Battalion, with Battery A, 10th Marines being replaced with Battery B, 10th Marines.

First Battalion conducted live-fire training with both Battery A and Battery C at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in March. Additionally, Headquarters Battery and Battery A conducted digital fire support training (DFST) in March.

Twelfth Marine Regiment deployed to the Philippines in April to participate in Balikatan 2016 as the ground combat element headquarters. Twelfth Marines served as the headquarters for a USMC infantry battalion (2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment), U.S. Army infantry battalion (2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment), a reconnaissance platoon from 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, a cannon battery (Battery B, 10th Marines), and a HIMARS battery (Battery F, 14th Marines). The culminating event for 12th Marines was a live-fire exercise in Crow Valley that included the live fire of HIMARS reduced range practice rockets.

Battery B, 12th Marines, forward deployed to Okinawa with 3rd Battalion, and conducted live fire at Combined Arms Training Center Fuji on the Kanto Plain, on Honshu in mainland Japan. The rotation of batteries continued in April, with Battery K, 11th Marines returning to the U.S. and the arrival of Battery I, 11th Marines. Battery I quickly established itself and conducted ARTP training at the Ojоjihara Maneuver Training Area in May.

Also in May, Battery R, 11th Marines became the first HIMARS battery to rotate to the Pacific AOR as part of the forward deployed force. Over the course of the deployment, the battery traversed 3,200 miles, firing 36 practice rockets to demonstrate the ability to rapidly deploy via air and surface craft to support the theater commander’s mission requirements in both consolidated and distributed operations.

In June, the Regimental Headquarters deployed to the Republic of Korea as part of the Korea Marine Exchange Program. This program strengthens the relationship and capabilities of both U.S. and ROK Marines in support of the defense of the ROK. During the exchange, Battery R, 11th Marines conducted its first live-fire exercise, firing 24 practice rockets at the Rocket Valley Live–Fire Range in the ROK. First and 3rd Battalions exchanged batteries, with Battery B, 12th Marines returning to Hawaii and Battery R, 12th Marines joining the forward deployed force in Okinawa.

In Hawaii, 1st Battalion conducted Spartan Fury 16.2, a battalion-level exercise at Schofield Barracks, with A and C batteries in the first part of May. First Battalion participated in Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2016, the world’s largest international maritime exercise, from June 20 to Aug. 4. This exercise gave 1st Battalion a valuable opportunity to conduct training in amphibious operations and conduct battalion-level live–fire training at the Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) on the Big Island of Hawaii. During this time, Battery C, 12th Marines also supported 3rd Marine Infantry Regiment at PTA during Exercise Lava Viper.

In August, the regiment conducted home station training in preparation for larger exercises to come in the fall. The Regimental Headquarters Battery conducted RSOP training in the CTA on Okinawa, while 1st Battalion conducted DFST on Oahu and Battery C, 12th Marines conducted a live–fire exercise at Schofield Barracks. First Battalion quickly transitioned to the Big Island of Hawaii, conducting live fire at Exercise Spartan Fury 16.3 at the PTA. Third Battalion returned Battery B, 10th Marines to Camp Lejeune, N.C., and received Battery C, 10th Marines into the regiment.

Twelfth Marine Regiment deployed its Regimental Headquarters Battery and 3rd Battalion from Okinawa and 1st Battalion from Hawaii to Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji, Japan, to participate in Dragon FIREX 16.1. From Sept. 5–23, 12th Marine Regiment exercised command and control of 1st and 3rd Battalions, massing the regiment in the East Fuji Maneuver Area, by executing regimental fire plans and counterfire. This marked the first time in several years the regiment had aggregated both of its geographically separated battalions for live fire. Additionally, regimental leadership continued to nurture its relationship with the JGSDF though subject matter expert exchange and informational presentations.

In September and October, Battery R, 11th Marines deployed two HIMARS platoons aboard KC-130s to support Exercises Valiant Shield 2016 in Tinian and Blue Chromite 2017 in Japan, while one platoon landed in the Philippines from a Spearhead-class Transport Expeditionary Fast vessel to provide Fires for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit during Philippine Bilateral Exercise 33.

Marines from 1-12th Marines deployed from Kanehoe Bay, Hawaii, to MCAGCC in Twentynine Palms, Calif., for a second time in 2016 to participate in ITX 1-16 from Oct. 13 to Nov. 18. First Battalion demonstrated the flexibility of Marine artillery by successfully integrating cannon batteries deploying from Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton for live–fire operations during ITX, while supporting 4th Marine Infantry Regiment, deploying from Okinawa.

Third Battalion began October by rotating Battery I, 11th Marines back to Twentynine Palms, Calif., and receiving Battery M, 11th Marines on Okinawa. In late October, 3rd Battalion deployed Battery C, 12th Marines to the ROK to participate in Exercise Hoguk, a bilateral amphibious exercise with the ROK Marine Corps. The battery
conducted an air assault using the 120 mm EFSS mortar aboard CH-47 helicopters and conducted live fire. November ended the inaugural rocket battery deployment, with Battery R, 11th Marines returning to Camp Pendleton and Battery S, 11th Marines replacing them. In mid-November, 3rd Battalion deployed again to CATC Fuji for a battalion ARTP, which lasted until Dec. 3.

14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Dark Cloud
By 14th Marines

The 14th Marine Regimental Headquarters is currently located aboard Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas, and its subordinate units are spread throughout 15 cities and 12 states in the continental United States. Second Battalion, 14th Marines Headquarters Battery, is located in Grand Prairie, Texas, with batteries located in El Paso, Texas (Battery D); Oklahoma City, Okla. (Battery F), and Huntsville, Ala. (Battery K). Third Battalion, 14th Marines Headquarters Battery, is located in Bristol, Pa., with batteries located in Joint Base McGuire–Dix–Lakehurst, N.J. (Battery G); Richmond, Va. (Battery H); Allentown, Pa. (Battery I), and Chattanooga, Tenn. (Battery M). Fifth Battalion, 14th Marines Headquarters Battery, is located in Seal Beach, Calif., along with two of its subordinate batteries (Battery O and Battery N). Fifth Battalion’s remaining two batteries are located in Spokane, Wash. (Battery P), and Buckley Air Force Base, Colo. (Battery Q). Communications Company, 14th Marines, is located in Cincinnati, Ohio, with a Communications Detachment in Indianapolis, Ind.

The 14th Marine Regiment provides general support rocket artillery and direct support/general support/cannon artillery support to 4th Marine Division units, as well as unit and individual augmentation to I Marine Expeditionary Force, II MEF and III MEF. It also provides communications voice and data communications support throughout the division. Fourteenth Marine Regiment units have continued to serve as a force multiplier for the total force, habitually integrating in both active and reserve battalion and higher level exercises throughout the U.S., as well as outside the continental United States exercises.

The regiment additionally serves as a force artillery headquarters (FAHQ), providing a task–organized capability which facilitates command and control of GS Fires in support of Marine Air Ground Task Forces (MAGTF). During the 2016 fiscal year, the regiment participated in multiple reserve and active component exercises and in MAGTF–level exercises across all three MEFs, during which Marines from the regiment rehearsed and provided fire support around the globe and augmented MEF staffs as the FAHQ. Fourteenth Marines continues to support its enduring tasks to provide community relations, funeral honors, and casualty assistance calls officer support to its surrounding communities.

The official 14th Marine Regiment Sharepoint page is located at: https://sharepoint.marforres.usmc.mil/msc/div/14MR/SitePages/Home.aspx

Marines of the 14th Marine Regiment Headquarters Battery conduct a machine gun range during their annual training aboard Fort Hood, Texas, on 13 June 2016. The regiment provides general support rocket artillery and direct support/general support cannon artillery support to 4th Marine Division units, and serves as a Force Artillery Headquarters which provides a task–organized capability to facilitate command and control of general support Fires in support of the Marine Air Ground Task Force. (Staff Sgt. Thomas J. Endres/U.S. Marine Corps)
Second Battalion, 14th Marines, continues to provide general support rocket-missile Fires to the total force. Maximizing its proximity and relationships with sister-service hosts, the battalion habitually conducts joint training with active component Army units in order to build relationships and procedures for integration in a joint environment. With continuing budget reductions, emphasis was placed on exercising organic, home-site assets to capitalize on the previous year’s success with high frequency (HF) digital fire mission processing via the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS). Training priorities remained HF voice proficiency and the refinement of HF digital mission processing via AFATDS while maintaining core competencies of the batteries’ launcher crews. Training capitalized on the geographic dispersal of the batteries throughout the United States – Oklahoma City, Okla.; Huntsville, Ala.; El Paso and Grand Prairie, Texas – which allowed the battalion to focus on long-range command and control and distributed operations requiring independent, dispersed training exercises.

In December 2015, Battery D executed the first-ever for Marine Forces C-130 borne live-fire Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System raid. In April 2016, Battery F deployed two High Mobility Artillery
Rocket System launchers to the Philippines to support Exercise Balikatan with 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force. In June, the battalion developed long-range C-130 raid packages and executed them with Battery K at Fort Bliss, Texas, in order to refine tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) for future HIMARS doctrinal planning and review.

Training in 2016 capitalized on previous years’ success with long-range HF communications capabilities which allowed 2nd Battalion to command and control its geographically dispersed subordinate units, to include joint training and passage of control with 1st Armored Division, Division Artillery (USA), during Exercise Iron Rage in July. Battalion staff primaries were trained and integrated into 14th Marines FAHQ architecture, and follow-on communications and command post exercises allowed for proof of concepts and refinement of TTPs.

The official 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, sharepoint page is located at: https://sharepoint.marforres.usmc.mil/msc/div/14MR/SitePages/2nd%20Battalion.aspx

The 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, Facebook page is located at: https://www.facebook.com/2ndBattalion14thMarines/  

3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, Liberty  
By 3-14th Marines

During the past year, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines, executed a training plan that culminated with the battalion’s participation in Exercise Saipan Rain. During this exercise, the battalion integrated with 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, to conduct training aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. The predominance of training during the fiscal year focused on the development of the battalion staff’s command and control capability and training to its mission-essential tasks. Specific emphasis was placed on decentralized operations at both the platoon and battery level.

In terms of time and resources, Exercise Saipan Rain represented the largest share of the battalion’s planning efforts. Over 600 personnel from the battalion participated in this year’s annual training exercise at Camp Lejeune. As the cornerstone of the battalion’s annual training efforts, all key unit leadership participated in this exercise, to include the battalion and battery staffs.

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, fire an M777-A2 howitzer during an indirect-fire exercise on Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 30, 2016. The exercise was designed to integrate, build relations with 10th Marine Regiment and conduct firing drills on unfamiliar terrain. (Lance Cpl. Melanye E. Martinez/U.S. Marine Corps)
Communications Company, 14th Marine Regiment

Organic to the 14th Marine Regiment, Communications Company provides general communications support to the entire 4th Marine Division. Throughout the year, leadership from the company focused on, and supported numerous planning conferences representing the regiment and the division. Communications Company Marines participated in Integrated Training Exercise 4-16 aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif., alongside 5th Battalion. Communications Company also provided support to the Marine Forces Reserve Communications Exercise, providing planning guidance to participating units, as well as building data servers used to support the exercise. In August, Communications Company deployed to Camp Grayling, Mich., to provide support for Exercise Northern Strike 16, a joint integrated Fires training exercise sponsored by the National Guard Bureau.

From very high frequency adaptive networking wideband waveform training to requesting and utilizing mobile training teams from Marine Corps Network Operation Support Center and the Communications Training Center -2 in preparation for upcoming exercise support, the company continues to ensure its support to both 14th Marines, and the 4th Marine Division as a whole.

Marine Artillery Detachment, The Home of Marine Artillery

By MARDET

The Marine Artillery Detachment, Fort Sill, Okla., commanded by Col. Timothy Parker, is home to all artillery training in the Marine Corps. With 87 permanent party Marines and five civilians, the Marine Detachment teaches 12 Marine-specific courses and collaborates with the Army on six additional joint courses. These courses include entry-level and career-progression artillery and fire support related instruction. Additionally, the MarDet promotes the advancement of artillery programs and instruction through direct coordination with Marine Corps Operating Forces, Headquarters Marine Corps, the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab, Training and Education Command and the U.S. Army’s Fires Center of Excellence.

The Marine Detachment is organized into several school houses to accomplish its mission and tasks. They include: the Marine Corps Cannoneer School, the Target Acquisition School, Marine Corps Observed Fires School, Enlisted Gunnery School and Officer Instruction Branch. All of these schools are supported and supervised by the detachment headquarters element comprised of a special staff, S1, S3, S4 and the Marine Battery.
The Cannoneer School is responsible for entry-level and advanced training on the M777A2 Howitzer, the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System and the Expeditionary Fire Support System, a towed 120 mm rifled mortar.

The Enlisted Gunnery School is responsible for entry-level fire controlmen training as well as advanced operations training in order to produce qualified operations chiefs in the operating forces. Enlisted Gunnery School also provides assistance/instruction for the Cannon Crewman Course and Marine Artillery Officer Basic Course.

The Target Acquisition School is organized into three sections. The Radar Section provides entry-level and advanced training for Q-46B and Q-49 radars as well as radar theory and target processing techniques. The Artillery Electronics Maintenance section provides entry-level training for intermediate level repairs of all artillery electronics. The Sensor Support Section instructs entry level and advanced skills in acoustics, artillery meteorology and survey.

The Observed Fires School provides entry-level training in scout observer procedures, advanced instruction in battalion and regimental fire support coordination and instructor and operator certification for the Marine Corps Target Mensuration Only Program.

Both the Target Acquisition School and the Observed Fires School provide some level of instruction to the Marine Warrant Officer Follow-on Course, Captains Career Course, Marine Artillery Officer Basic Course and the Army Warrant Officer Basic Course.

The Officer Instruction Branch (OIB) provides entry-level training for lieutenants and career-level training for captains. The OIB partners with the Army’s 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery, and the 428th Field Artillery Brigade to teach Marine, Army and international officers to be artillerymen in a joint setting.

Finally, the Marine Battery consists of the battery commander, battery first sergeant, battery gunnery sergeant and three platoon sergeants which supervise, mentor and assist in the training of upwards of 450 Marines depending upon the time of year. The battery is responsible for executing the Marines awaiting Training Program for the entry-level Marines that report to Fort Sill, Okla.

This year proved to be very busy for the MarDet. The respective branches trained over 1,400 officer and enlisted Marines in their entry level and career progression courses.

In addition to training artillerymen, the MarDet sent representatives to the Spring Artillery Operational Advisor Group (AOAG) in March and the Fall AOAG in October. Major topics discussed there included the Target Handoff Systems, Ground/Air Task Oriented Radar and artillery ammunition efforts, doctrine updates, fire support future strategies, and centrally managed joint tactical air controllers. The MarDet has also submitted and/or published updates to Marine Corps and joint doctrine to include the Artillery Training and Readiness Manual rewrite, Marine Corps Warfighting Publications (MCWP) 3-16 Fire Support Coordination in the Ground Combat Element, MCWP 3-16.1 Artillery Operations, Marine Corps Reference Publication 3-16D Dynamic Targeting, and MCWP 3-16.7 Marine Artillery Survey Operations.

Additionally, during 2016, the Marine Battery participated in several base and local volunteer events. These included the Commander’s Cup Cross Country 5K, Marine Corps League Scholarship Dinner, Fort Sill Partnership School Program, International Festival and the Buffalo Burger Cookout. The Marine Battery also hosted the 24th Annual Devil Dog Run fundraiser accumulating over $20,000 in funds from registrations and T-shirt sales.

As the MarDet looks forward to the year ahead it will continue to focus on making artillerymen and providing timely support to Fleet Marine Forces stationed around the world. The dedication and professionalism of the instructors and staff of the MarDet will ensure that its training produces knowledgeable and professional artillerymen that can operate in any clime or place.

Marines in the Fort Sill Marine Artillery Detachment train in a simulated fire direction center Oct. 17 as part of their last week of class before graduating.

(Marie Berberea)