



Overall classification: **UNCLASSIFIED**  
This slide is: **UNCLASSIFIED**



**26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) /  
Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group (KSG ARG)  
6 Oct 15 – 3 May 16  
Post Deployment Brief**



**Col Robert Fulford / CAPT Kirk Weatherly  
11 Oct 16**

Overall classification: **UNCLASSIFIED**  
This slide is: **UNCLASSIFIED**

# Agenda

- ***ARG/MEU Mission***
- ***Executive Overview***
- ***Task Organization***
- ***Summary of Operations***
- ***Summary & Recommendations***
- ***Questions***



Top: 26th MEU supports Operation INHERENT RESOLVE with AV-8B Harrier airstrikes.  
Bottom: USS KEARSARGE backloads Marines via LCAC after successful SEA SOLDIER Exercise in Oman

# Executive Overview



- **Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group / 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit deployed 06 Oct 2015 – 03 May 2016 to the European Command (EUCOM), Africa Command (AFRICOM), and Central Command (CENTCOM) Areas of Responsibility (AOR)**
  - *Deployment encompassed 210 days of which the ARG operated 181 days in a split configuration and 8 days disaggregated*
  - *The MEU deployment encompassed 242 days and 59 days disaggregated (as of 3 June)*
    - *M777A2 Battery(-)(+) (Task Force Spartan) was extended in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (OIR) in Iraq*
- **Provided forward presence as the Global Response Force, EUR/AF Rapid Response Force, and CENTCOM Theater Reserve**
- **Conducted joint and coalition operations/exercises & Special Operations Force (SOF) integration**

## Operations:

## Exercises/Training:

### EUCOM/AFRICOM

### CENTCOM

### EUCOM/AFRICOM

### CENTCOM

- AFRICOM N+6 ALERT
- ITALIAN AV-8B DELIVERY
- MALTA FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION OPERATIONS (FONOPS)

- MARITIME SECURITY OPERATIONS (MSO)
- INHERENT RESOLVE
  - AV-8B
  - M777A2 BATTERY(-)(+)
- SUPPORT TO THE FIRST LADY OF THE US (FLOTUS)
- SUPPORT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE US (VPOTUS)
- MOBILE THEATER RESERVE
- FIRES AND INTERGRATION COORDINATION ELEMENT (FICE) IN SUPPORT OF THE JOINT COMBINED PLANNING CELL (JCPC)

- TRIDENT JUNCTURE
- EGEMEN
- NATO MARITIME INTERDICTION OPERATIONS TRAINING COURSE (NMIOTC)
- TURKEY PASSING EXERCISE (PASSEX)
- KARAVIA RANGE / GUNNERY EXERCISE
- JOAN D'ARC
- SOF DECK LANDING QUALIFICATIONS (DLQ)
- FLIGHT TRAINING W/ FRANCE
- PORTUGAL BILATERAL TRAINING
- SPECIAL PURPOSE MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE – CRISIS RESPONSE – AFRICA (SPMAGTF-CR-AF) INTEROP

- SEA SOLDIER
- AMPHIBIOUS LANDING EXERCISE (PHIBLEX)
- IRON MAGIC
- NATIVE FURY
- 3x FLEET ANTI-TERRORISM SECURITY TEAM – CENTRAL COMMAND (FASTCENT) INTEROP
- ARMY / AIR FORCE CENTRAL (ARCENT/AFCENT) DLQs
- HELICOPTER MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON 15 DLQs
- 11x SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE EXCHANGES (SMEE)
- SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM – JORDAN (SCT-J)
- SPECIAL PURPOSE MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE – CRISIS RESPONSE – CENTCOM (SPMAGTF-CR-CC) INTEROP



# Mission and Task Organization

## Supported/Supporting Command Relationship



**Amphibious Squadron Four**  
PHIBRON 4  
CAPT Augustus Bennett

**26th Marine Expeditionary Unit**  
Command Element  
Col Robert Fulford



**CPR-4 / ARG Personnel:**  
1989 Sailors

**26 MEU Personnel:**  
2,442 Marines & Sailors

**VMM-162(REIN)**  
Aviation Combat Element  
LtCol Brian Koch



**Battalion Landing Team 2/6**  
Ground Combat Element  
LtCol Jim Lively



**Combat Logistics Battalion 26**  
Logistics Combat Element  
LtCol Dan Coleman



**USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)**  
CAPT Larry Getz



**USS ARLINGTON (LPD 24)**  
CAPT Sean Bailey



**USS OAK HILL (LSD 51)**  
CDR Scott Bowman



TACRON 21



Fleet Surgical Team Four



Naval Beach Group Two



Assault Craft Unit Four



Assault Craft Unit Two



Beach Master Unit Two



Helicopter Sea Combat 28



# EUCOM / AFRICOM Operations

(12 Oct – 1 Nov 2015 & 5 – 25 April 2016)

**Operations:**

1 JCPC FICE

**Exercises / Training:**

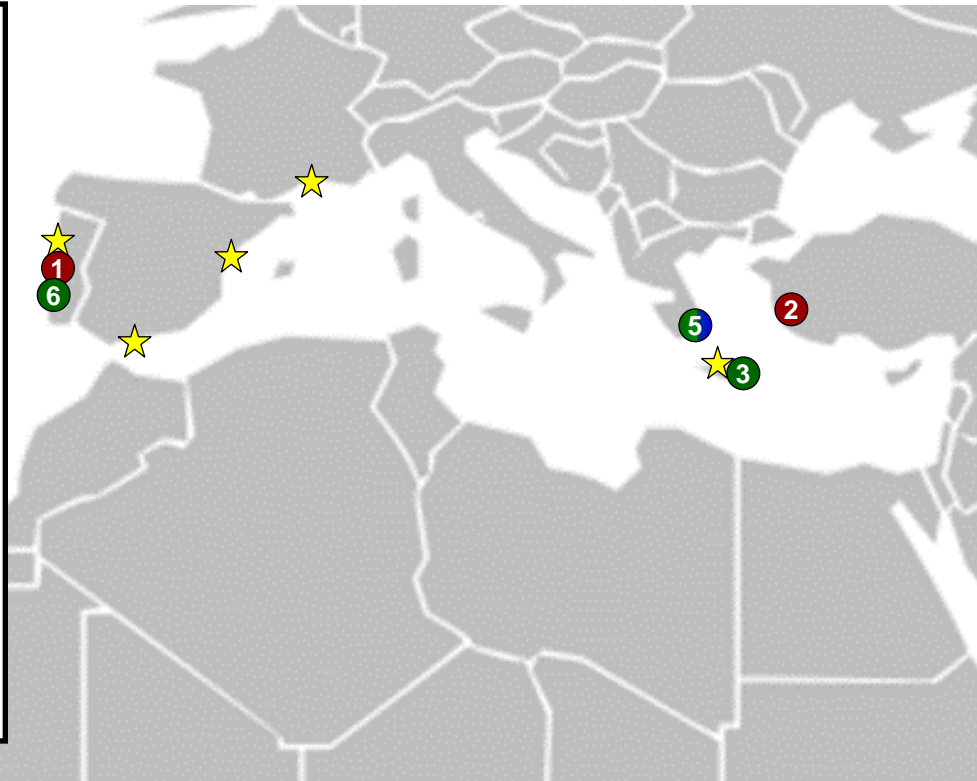
- 1 TRIDENT JUNCTURE (ARL)
- 2 EGEMEN (KSG)
- 3 NMIOTC Vessel, Board, Search & Seizure (VBSS) training
- 4 JOAN D'ARC
- 5 Karavia Range / GUNEX
- 6 Portuguese Bilateral Training

**SOF Integration:**

- Afloat Forward Staging Base (AFSB) planning (KSG)
- DLQs with Special Operations Command – Africa (SOCAF) & Europe (SOCEUR)
- AFRICOM Rapid Response Force – North (RRF-N)

**Other Initiatives:**

- Malta FONOPS
- PASSEX w/ Turkey
- SPMAGTF-CR-AF CQ/AAR

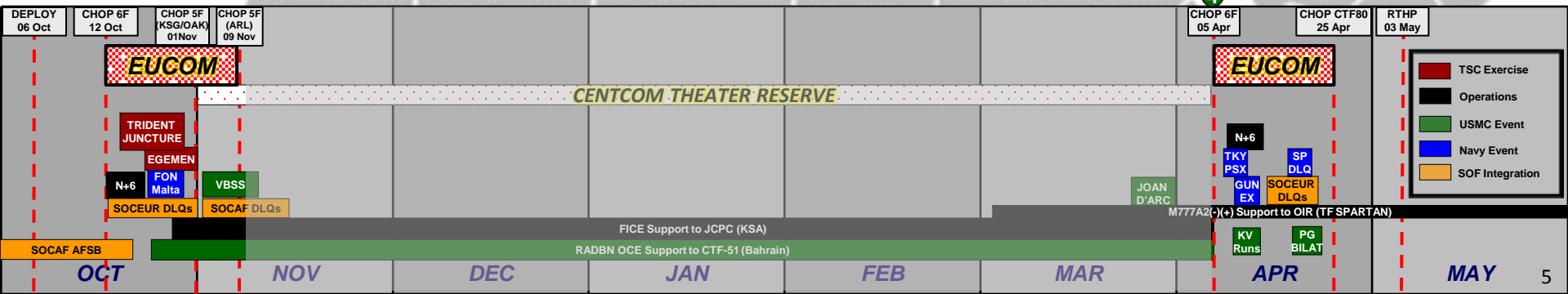


★ **Port Visits**

- 17-19 Oct: Lisbon, Portugal (ARL)
- 18 Oct: Rota, Spain (KSG)
- 18-24 Oct: \*Rota, Spain (OAK)
- 29 Oct: Souda Bay, Crete (ARL)
- 2-5 Nov: \*Souda Bay, Crete (ARL)
- 13-17 Apr: Valencia, Spain (KSG)
- 14-17 Apr: Marseille, France (KSG)
- 16-20 Apr: Lisbon, Portugal (OAK)
- 19-20 Apr: Rota, Spain (KSG)
- \*Ship Maintenance

**Distinguished Visitor (DV) Visits**

- 7-8 Apr: Turkish Military Embark (ARL)
- 10 Apr: Tunisian DV Visit (KSG)
- 13 Apr: Spanish Navy Office Call (KSG)
- 13-17 Apr: Ship Tours/Marseille (ARL)
- 14-15 Apr: Ship Tours/Valencia (KSG)
- 17-19 Apr: Ship Tours/Lisbon (OAK)
- 18 Apr: Portuguese Flag Officer Call (OAK)
- 19 Apr: Commanding General, Marine Corps Forces Europe/Africa (KSG)

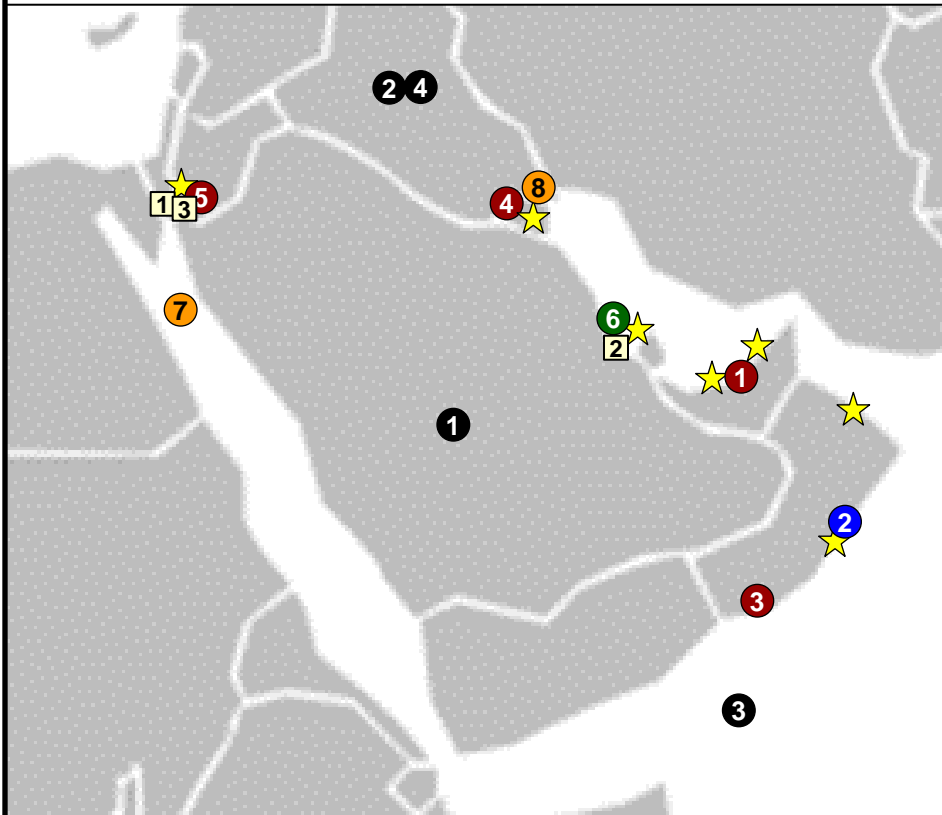


- TSC Exercise
- Operations
- USMC Event
- Navy Event
- SOF Integration



# CENTCOM Operations

(1 Nov 2015 – 5 Apr 2016)



**Operations:**

- 1 JCPC FICE
- 2 OIR – AV-8B Support
- 3 Maritime Security Ops (24 Nov – 1 Dec)
- 3 Maritime Security Ops (1 – 10 Dec)
- MSO Patrol (20 – 30 Mar)
- 4 TF SPARTAN (M777A2 OIR SUPPORT)

**Exercises / Training:**

- 1 IRON MAGIC (OAK)
  - 2 NATIVE FURY (OAK)
  - 3 SEA SOLDIER (KSG)
  - 4 PHIBLEX (KSG/ARL/OAK)
  - 5 SCT-JORDAN
- Sustainment training in:
- Djibouti
  - Jordan
  - Kuwait
- 6 FASTCENT Interop I, II, & III
  - 7 Maritime Raid Force (MRF) / SOF Interop
  - 8 Quick Reaction Force (QRF) / Casualty Evacuation (CASEVAC) Full Mission Profile (FMP) w/ Joint Special Operations Task Force – Arabian Peninsula (JSOTF-AP)

**Other Initiatives:**

- 1 - MV-22 support to FLOTUS in Jordan
- 2 - Bahrain Airshow – 2x MV-22 & 2x AV-8B
- 3 - MV-22 support to VPOTUS in Jordan
- Supported JSOTF-AP with (11) SMEEs in (5) countries
- Provided Counter / Human Intelligence Detachment (CHD) support to JSOTF-AP

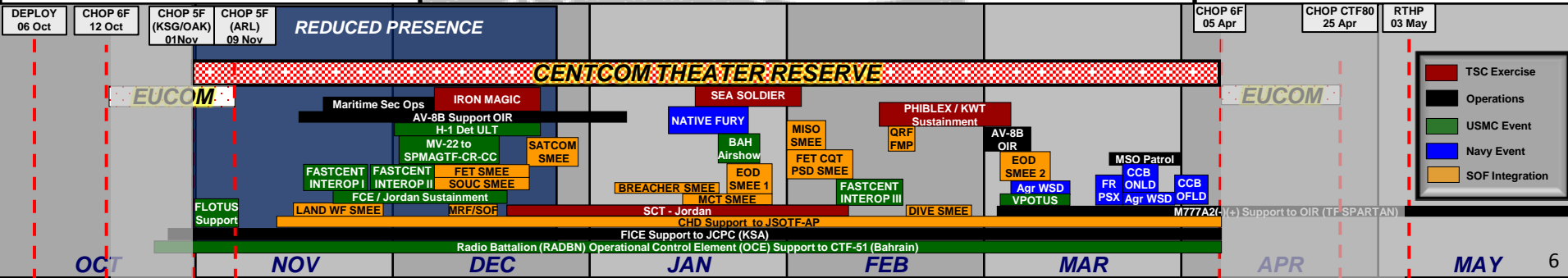
**★ Port Visits**

- 13-17 Nov: Eilat, Israel (ARL)
- 17-20 Nov: Aqaba, Jordan (ARL)
- 21-24 Nov: Jebel Ali, UAE (OAK)
- 24-30 Nov: Manama, Bahrain (KSG)
- 23-26 Dec: Jebel Ali, UAE (KSG)
- 28 Dec-1 Jan: Manama, Bahrain (OAK)
- 31 Dec-4 Jan: Muscat, Oman (ARL)
- 8-11 Jan: Muscat, Oman (KSG)
- 13-19 Jan: \*Manama, Bahrain (ARL)
- 17-24 Jan: \*Duqm, Oman (OAK)
- 29 Jan-3 Feb: Manama, Bahrain (OAK)
- 5-23 Feb: \*Manama, Bahrain (KSG)
- 9-13 Feb: Abu Dhabi, UAE (ARL)
- 22-25 Feb: Kuwait City, Kuwait (ARL)
- 12-15 Mar: Manama, Bahrain (ARL)
- 13-15 Mar: Muscat, Oman (OAK)
- 25-30 Mar: Aqaba, Jordan (KSG)

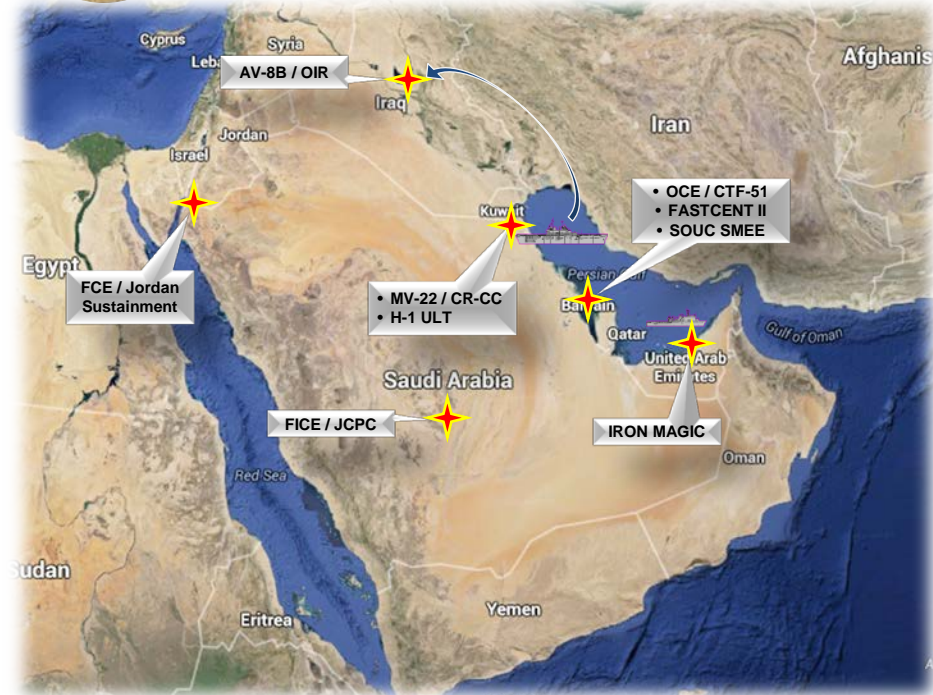
\*Mid-Deployment Vessel Repair (MDVR)

**DV Visits**

- 19 Nov: Jordan Reception (ARL)
- 26 Nov: Commander, 5th Fleet (KSG)
- 9 Dec: Intel SES-1 (ARL)
- 19 Dec: Secretary of Defense (KSG)
- 23 Dec: Commandant of the Marine Corps (KSG)
- 3-4 Jan: Commander, Task Force 51 (CTF-51) / KSA Amb (KSG)
- 14 Jan: Dept of State Personnel (ARL)
- 18 Jan: CTF-51 Visit (OAK)
- 19 Jan: CTF-51 Visit (ARL)
- 23 Feb: Kuwait Reception (ARL)

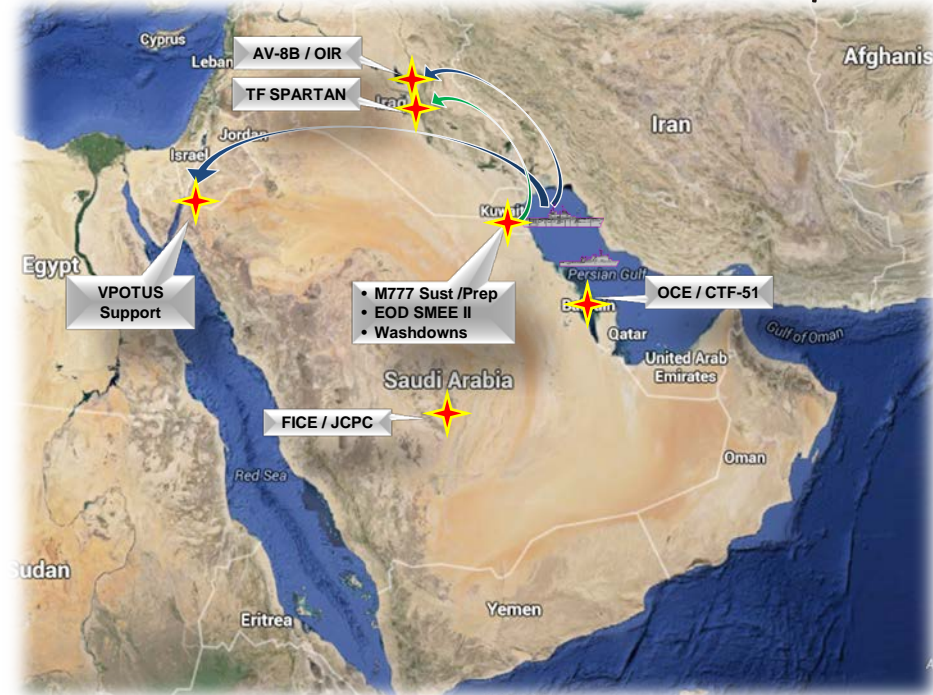


# Two Weeks in the Life of the KSG ARG / 26th MEU



## End of November to beginning of December 2015

- Named Operations
  - AV-8B strikes in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE
  - FICE in support of JCPC in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)
  - Maritime Security Operation
- SOF Integration
  - CHD Support to JSOTF-AP
  - MRF / SOF Interop
  - Female Engagement Team (FET) and MRF SMEE
- Exercises
  - Exercise IRON MAGIC in UAE with OAK HILL and BLT/CLB
- Unit Level Training
  - Jordan Sustainment Training (372 Marines, Sailors, and aircraft)
  - Kuwait sustainment for H-1 detachment and MV-22 support to SPMAGTF-CR-CC
  - FASTCENT Interop



## March 2016

- Named Operations
  - AV-8B strikes in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE
  - M777A2 Battery (-)(+) (TF Spartan) deployment to Iraq in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE
    - 1 x LNO to CJFLCC-I in Baghdad
    - 3 x LNO to TF Erbil
  - FICE in support of JCPC in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)
- SOF Integration
  - CHD Support to JSOTF-AP
  - EOD SMEE in Kuwait
- VPOTUS Support
  - 4x MV-22 self-deploy from KEARSARGE in North Arabian Gulf to Jordan in support of VPOTUS visit
- Exercises
  - PHIBLEX closeout actions in Kuwait

# Summary & Recommendations



Operations

- **PHIBRON Commander's key takeaways/recommendations**
  - *The training provided by CSG4 and TACTRAGRULANT ensured the team was well prepared for operations in C6F and C5F. Our battle rhythm remained the same from workups throughout deployment. The strait vignettes mirrored our first transit.*
  - *The LPD and LSD were limited to organic sensors while conducting Maritime Security Operations. Persistent ISR is increasingly important to effectiveness during split operations.*
- **MEU Commander's key takeaways/recommendations**
  - *The rigorous and aggregated ARG / MEU Pre-Deployment Training Program (PTP) forged a unified and adaptable Blue / Green Team that proved vital to our success over a dynamic deployment.*
  - *The MEU table of organization and equipment merits a holistic review to ensure all elements of the MAGTF are postured to fully capitalize on emerging concepts and technology without compromising the core capabilities required to address the evolving security environment.*
- **Strategic / Operational level lessons learned**
  - *Concurrent support to sea and shore based contingency operations, coupled with our investment in strategic partners through security cooperation, provides testament that the ARG / MEU Team remains the Nation's most versatile and capable crisis response force.*
  - *Persistent and emerging threats across EUCOM, AFRICOM, and CENTCOM demand a more agile Tri-COCOM force sharing construct to capitalize on the full range of capabilities resident in the ARG / MEU Team.*



Exercise EGEMEN  
Doganbey, Turkey, Oct 27, 2015



UNREP with USNS Kanawha  
Mediterranean Sea, Apr 6 2016



Exercise JOAN D'ARC  
Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Mar 25, 2016



MK 38 Gun Shoot, Apr 3, 2016





# *Questions*