



United States Marine Corps

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marine Task Force composites to conduct Certification Exercise, deploy

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. -- Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Crisis Response Central Command (SPMAGTF-CR-CC) 16.2 is scheduled to composite Sunday, Feb. 21 to conduct a three-day Certification Exercise aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., prior to deploying in support of Operation Inherent Resolve within the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

The CERTEX, a required portion of pre-deployment training for the deploying Marines and Sailors, will simulate unique environments and scenarios using role players, creating realistic situations Marines could encounter during future operations.

During the conduct of CERTEX, the SPMAGTF will be tested on a broad range of military operations; the same set of missions that may be directed by U.S. Central Command, including: U.S. Embassy reinforcement, fixed-site security, noncombatant evacuation operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel, theater security cooperation, and other missions as directed.

The Marine Corps' SPMAGTF is a forward deployed, scalable, shore-based force capable of crisis response, contingency operations and theatre security cooperation events within a U.S. combatant commander's area of responsibility. In its fourth iteration, SPMAGTF-CR-CC will continue to serve as the U.S. Marine Corps' crisis response force, providing support to Operation Inherent Resolve, regional partner nations, and other U.S. interests.

The Command Element for SPMAGTF-CR-CC 16.2 is built around the 5th Marine Regiment and provides command and control of the ground, logistics and aviation combat elements. The Ground Combat Element is comprised of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, the Logistics Combat Element of Combat Logistics Battalion 5 and the Aviation Combat Element of several units subordinate to Marine Aircraft Group 13.

******MEDIA COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS******

Media interested in covering this event must call the MCAGCC Public Affairs Office at (760) 830-6213 or email SMBPLMSCOMBATCENTERPAO@usmc.mil and must RSVP no later than 4:00 p.m. on FRIDAY, Feb. 5. Members of the media who have RSVP'd will meet at MCAGCC's MAIN GATE located on Adobe Rd. at a time to be determined, Feb. 22.