



Expeditionary Strike Group 2

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bold Alligator 2011, Revitalizing the Amphibious Force

NORFOLK, Va. – Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group Two (ESG 2), and Commander, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (2nd MEB) in coordination with ships assigned to the U.S. Second Fleet will conduct a joint large-scale fleet synthetic training amphibious exercise, which will revitalize the fundamental roles as “fighters from the sea.”

The exercise, Bold Alligator 2011, is a large-scale U.S. naval amphibious exercise that will focus on conducting major amphibious operations simultaneously with a non-combatant evacuation. It will be the first ESG/Marine Expeditionary Brigade-level exercise in almost 10 years.

The exercise will focus on the fundamental aspects and roles of amphibious operations to improve amphibious force readiness and proficiency for executing the six core capabilities of the Maritime Strategy – forward presence, deterrence, sea control, power projection, maritime security and humanitarian assistance/disaster response.

Bold Alligator will be supported by the Fleet’s use of distributed training networks to provide operational and tactical training in a realistic simulated environment.

“Bold Alligator will strengthen and refine our basic expeditionary capability to project and sustain combat power ashore,” said Rear Adm. Kevin Scott, commander, ESG 2. “This joint exercise will demonstrate that we are ready to successfully execute essential missions in support of the nation's Maritime Strategy.”

“The Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Chief of Naval Operations championed a comprehensive restoration of amphibious proficiency and capability,” explained Brig. Gen. Owens, 2d MEB deputy commanding general and commanding general of 2nd MEB. “In full partnership with the Navy, this restoration will allow amphibious forces to proactively address future security challenges, respond to crisis, and prevail in conflict.”

Bold Alligator participants include: ESG 2, 2nd MEB, 6th Marine Regiment, Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 29, Combat Logistics Regiment (CLR) 25, Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 6, PHIBRON 8, Tactical Air Control Group (TACGRU) 1, Tactical Air Control Squadron (TACRON) 21, TACRON 22, Commander Naval Beach Group (CNBG) 2, Beach Master Unit (BMU) 2, Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 2, Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 4, USS Bataan (LHD 5) and USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7).

Response cells with supporting roles include: USS Mesa Verde (LPD 19), USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43), USS Ashland (LSD 48), USS Anzio (CG 68), USS Cole (DDG 67) and USS Elrod (FFG 55).

Training centers include: Commander Strike Force Training Atlantic Norfolk, Tactical Training Group, Atlantic Dam Neck, Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Atlantic, Commander Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, Commander Afloat Training Group Norfolk & Mayport, and 2d MEB Simulation Center.

The synthetic training will provide a dedicated opportunity to train decision makers, promote coordination between warfare commanders, execute amphibious strike force operations, and familiarize its staffs with real-time operations and terminology, all while in an inport training environment.

The exercise will run from Dec. 11-17, 2010.

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MEDIA NOTE: The exercise will feature a media day Dec. 13 (time TBD) during the exercise on board USS Bataan (LHD 5). Media partners wishing to participate should contact ESG 2 Public Affairs at (757) 462-1282 or 2nd MEB Public Affairs at 910-378-5920 by December 9, 2010. Interview requests regarding the exercise are welcomed.

Please follow the exercise through our web site and Facebook account.

For more information regarding the Chief of Naval Operations 2011 Guidance:

[Adm. Gary Roughead](#)

For more information regarding the Commandant of the Marine Corps 2011 Guidance:

[Gen. James F. Amos](#)