

FACT SHEET

MARINE CORPS SECURITY FORCE BATTALION

Marine Corps Security Force Battalion headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia provides armed, anti-terrorism and physical security trained personnel to high value naval installations or units. The battalion maintains a worldwide presence at 10 different locations from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to Bahrain in the Arabian Gulf. The Marines protect key naval assets to include strategic weapons, command and control facilities and naval support activities. Marine Corps Security Force Battalion maintains three Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team (FAST) companies for deployments as directed by the Chief of Naval Operations.

The Marines of Marine Corps Security Force Battalion may also perform other functions as directed by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

ORGANIZATION

Marine Corps Security Force Battalion Organization: Comprised of over 2,300 Marines and Sailors stationed in the following locations.

Headquarters and Service Company MCSF, Norfolk, VA
2d Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team (FAST) Company, Yorktown
1st Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team (FAST) Company, Norfolk
3d Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team (FAST) Company, Yorktown (Cheatham Annex)
Training Company, Chesapeake, VA
MCSF Company, Bahrain
MCSF Company, Bangor, WA
MCSF Company, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
MCSF Company, Kings Bay, GA
MCSF Company, Patuxent River, MD
MCSF Company Europe, Rota, Spain
Cadres of Antiterrorism Trainers in 16 Navy Regions World Wide

MISSION

The mission of Marine Corps Security Forces is to detect, deter, and defend against threats, focusing on antiterrorism. The Marines do not see their mission as passive protection; rather it is more as if they are setting a trap for any foe entering their area of responsibility. Each Marine is highly trained in counter surveillance, physical security operations, urban combat techniques and martial arts. They are also equipped with advanced security technology.

CAPABILITIES

Marine Corps Security Forces are equipped and trained to provide a potent capability with a very small force by leveraging technology to its fullest. For example, a Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team (FAST) platoon of 50 personnel offers the following technical capabilities:

- Explosives and weapons detection
- Non-lethal (munitions and equipment)
- Portable barriers
- Thermal imagery
- Night Vision
- Intrusion Detection (IR and Microwave)
- NBC detection
- Designated Marksman
- Secure communications

RECENT OPERATIONS:

- Operation Just Cause in Panama (1989-1990)
- Operation Sharp Edge in Liberia (1993)
- Operation Desert Shield in Saudi Arabia (1990-1991)
- Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia/Kuwait (1991)
- Haitian migrant operations in Caribbean Sea (1992)
- Operation Restore Hope in Somalia (1992-1993)
- Operation Promote Liberty in Panama (1994)
- Operation Restore Democracy in Haiti (1994)
- Operation Safe Passage in Cuba and the Caribbean (1995)
- Bahrain Anti-Terrorist Contingency (1996)
- Response to Embassy Bombing, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (1998)
- Response to Embassy Bombing, Nairobi, Kenya (1998)
- Embassy Reinforcement, Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (1999)
- Support to USS Cole, Yemen (2000)
- Embassy Reinforcement, Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2001)
- Security for the USNS COMFORT in New York City Harbor following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center (2001)
- Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003)