Medium-Range Intercept Capability Integrated in III Marine Expeditionary Force



U.S. Marines with III Marine Expeditionary Force evaluate equipment readiness on the Medium-Range Intercept Capability system on Mason Range, Guam, June 24, 2026 in support of VALIANT SHIELD 2026. The MRIC provides a state-of-the-art missile system that defeats enemy cruise missiles and other manned and unmanned aerial threats. Exercises like VALIANT SHIELD allow Pacific Command Joint Forces the opportunity to integrate forces from all branches of service and with our allies to conduct precise, lethal, and overwhelming multi-axis, multi-domain effects that demonstrate the strength and versatility of the joint force and our commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance. Cpl Benjamin Catindig)

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP S. D. BUTLER, Japan – In a significant

step to ensure regional stability and deter aggression, III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) has officially integrated the Medium-Range Intercept Capability (MRIC) into its forward-deployed forces. This modernization effort ensures III MEF remains postured with the essential capabilities required ahead of any potential crisis in the region.

As the character of war continues to evolve, III MEF continues to adapt its forces to support our warfighters. The MRIC is a state-of-the-art mobile air defense system designed to defeat enemy cruise missiles alongside a wide range of manned and unmanned aerial threats. By integrating a highly reliable, combat-proven interceptor, MRIC delivers an effective defense network for Marine Corps forces.

The MRIC system provides a decisive competitive advantage in mobile air defense, providing rapid coverage wherever it's needed. This flexibility significantly enhances III MEF's ability to provide close-in, low-altitude, surface-to-air defense, while giving the Joint Force the unprecedented ability to exist, persist, and sustain operations inside an adversary's weapons engagement zone.

Beyond the tactical advantages, the forward deployment of MRIC is a demonstration of the III MEF's commitment and contribution to the collective security of the region.

"Our modernization efforts and forward posture send a clear message to the region," said Lt. Gen. Roger Turner, III MEF Commanding General. "By enhancing our defensive capabilities with the MRIC, we are strengthening our ability to stand with our allies and partners. We want to assure them that through these technological advancements, III MEF is ready and able to answer the call in times of crisis."