



# MAREX 2009

Timor-Leste in October 2009



In cooperation with the Government of Timor-Leste, elements of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) will visit Timor-Leste in October 2009 to conduct a multi-lateral Marine Exercise (MAREX). This will include humanitarian assistance activities and field exercise that will enhance cooperation and partnership between the U.S., Timor-Leste, and the Australian militaries. We will focus our partnership primarily in three areas:

1. Assisting local healthcare workers in providing limited medical and dental treatment of Maubara, Occussi and Laga residents.
2. Partnering with local government and education officials to repair the Maubara

Secondary School. We will help repair the roof, construct additional school desks and chalk boards. This will help the students receive a better education by improving their learning environment.

3. The U.S. Marines and Sailors from the USS Bonhomme Richard, who are from California, will also be practicing their basic military skills, including helicopter operations and landing watercraft operations. In partnership with the Forces de Defense de Timor Leste (F-FDTL) and the International Stabilization Force (ISF), the U.S. Marines and Sailors will also be conducting limited training ashore.



The 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) is one of seven Marine Expeditionary Units currently in existence in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). The MEU is a Marine Air Ground Task Force commanded by a Colonel and is deployed from an amphibious assault ship such as the USS Bonhomme Richard. The MEU consists of a command element, reinforced infantry, a helicopter squadron and logistics support. The 11th MEU is currently based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California.

The 11th MEU was previously in Timor-Leste during April 2002 and conducted medical and dental assistance, provided air and sea logistics of humanitarian supplies and assisted the local community in a variety of community improvement projects.

## USS Bonhomme Richard Facts



### Ship:

Length: 844 feet (253.2 meters)

Displacement: Approx. 40,500 tons

Speed: 20+ knots (23.5+ miles per hour)

### Armament:

Two RAM launchers; two NATO Sea Sparrow launchers; two 20mm Phalanx CIWS mounts; four .50 cal. machine guns; three 25 mm Mk 38 machine guns.

### Aircraft:

Assault: 42 CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters  
Sea Control: 5 AV-8B Harrier attack planes. Six ASW helicopters

### Crew:

Ships Company:

104 officers, 1,004 enlisted

