



MARINES: Netflix Unveils the United States' "911 Force"

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Netflix has launched the docu-series "MARINES", described as a military "coming-of-age" that immerses viewers in the life and operations of the **31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU)**. Filmed primarily over three months in 2024, the documentary provides an unfiltered portrait of the members of the Nation's "911 force", from recruits to leaders.

An Authentic Frontline Portrait

The series ventures into the heart of operations rarely seen by the public. Viewers will experience the tension of high-risk maritime boarding missions, known as **Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS)**, and witness delicate in-flight refueling maneuvers of fifth-generation fighter jets **F-35B Lightning II**.

"This series offers a raw, authentic, and unvarnished look at the 31st MEU," said

Lieutenant Colonel Matt Hilton, director of the Marine Corps Entertainment and Media Liaison Office (EMLO). *"We collaborated with world-class producers because they were committed to accuracy and integrity. Our goal is to help the public better understand the mission of our Marines and Sailors."*

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The producers, Kim Woodard and Greg Henry of Lucky 8, praised the "tremendous and rare" opportunity to document the intensity of deployment and training, thanks to "complete and unlimited" access. Although the EMLO facilitated the production to ensure compliance with safety and accuracy standards (SAPP), the Marine Corps had no editorial control over the final edit, ensuring that viewers see the series exactly as conceived by the creators.

Modernization and Strategy

The project was strongly supported by **General Eric M. Smith**, 39th Commandant of the Marine Corps, who requested that the filmmakers have "complete, unlimited, and unvarnished access" to tell the story "through the eyes of our corporals".

"MARINES" not only focuses on individuals but also highlights the crucial role of the Marine Corps within the National Defense Strategy, particularly through the concept of **"Stand-In Force"**. This concept emphasizes rapid crisis response, continuous readiness in the field, and strategic deterrence throughout the Indo-Pacific.

The series also delves deeply into the ambitious modernization initiative, **"Force Design"**, launched in 2020. This program redefined units, streamlined personnel, and rapidly integrated advanced technologies. Through "Force Design", the Marines have been equipped with cutting-edge gear and weaponry, transforming them into a force that, in many respects, resembles more **elite special operations teams** than the traditional image of frontline fighters.

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Launch and Celebrations

The release of "MARINES" on Netflix coincides with the official Marine Corps birthday celebrations worldwide, adding significance to the 250th anniversary of the institution. All four episodes are now available for streaming, and screenings of the first episode are also held at Marine Corps community service theaters on bases.

News link: <https://www.marines.mil/News/News-Display/Article/4329534/netflix-premieres-marines-docuseries-on-the-250th-birthday-of-the-us-marine-cor/>