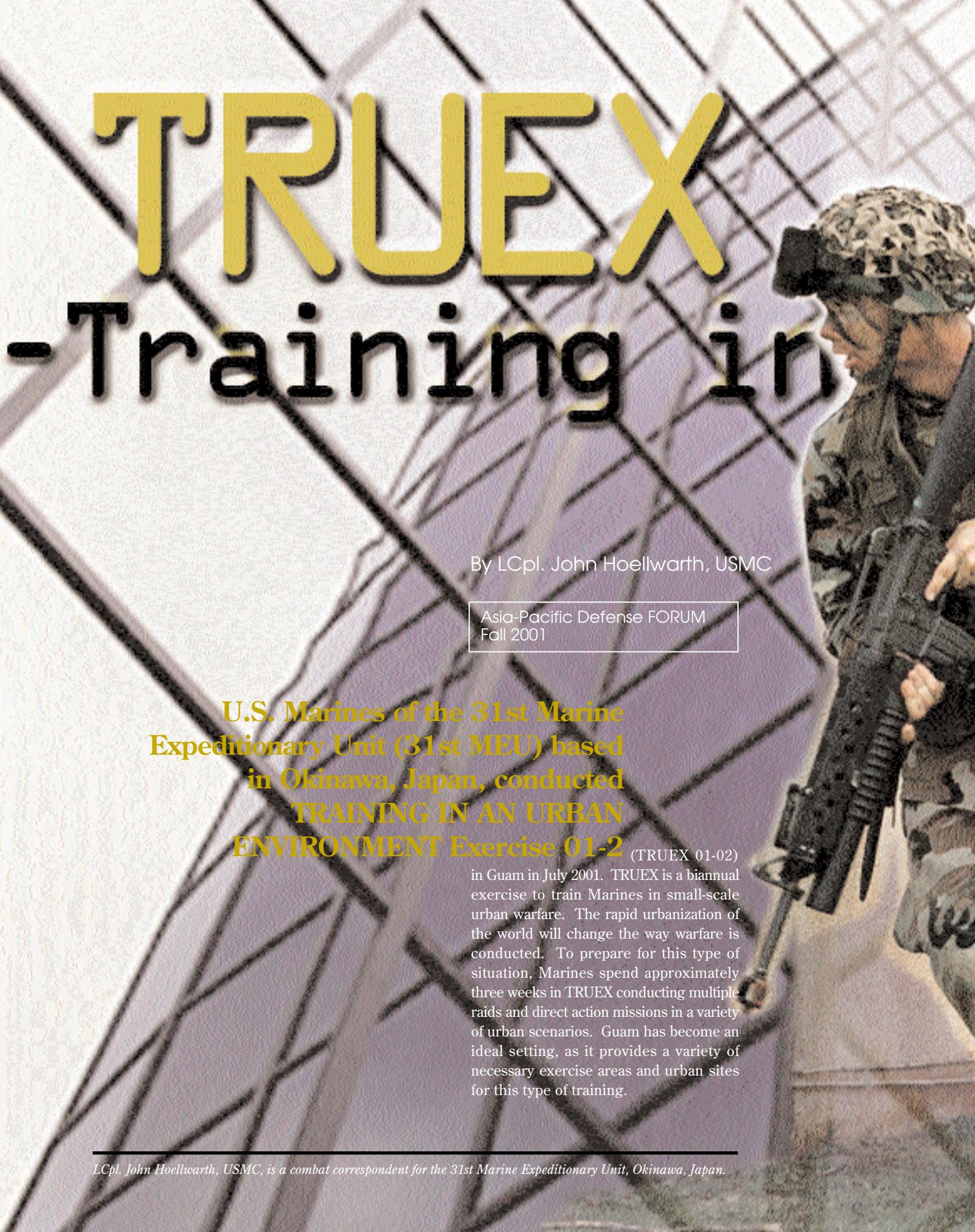


TRUEX -Training in

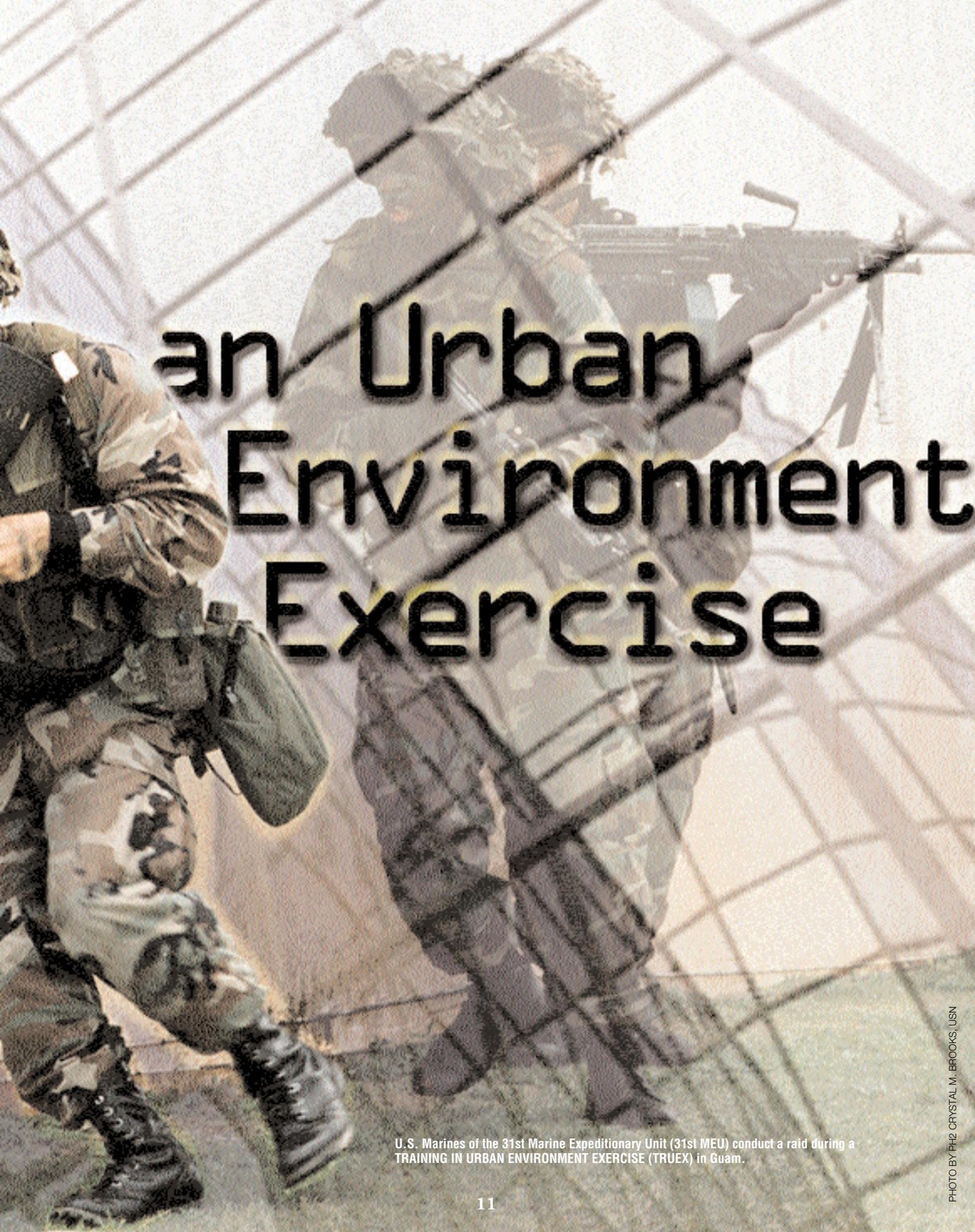


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U.S. Marines of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (31st MEU) based in Okinawa, Japan, conducted TRAINING IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT Exercise 01-2 (TRUEX 01-02)

in Guam in July 2001. TRUEX is a biannual exercise to train Marines in small-scale urban warfare. The rapid urbanization of the world will change the way warfare is conducted. To prepare for this type of situation, Marines spend approximately three weeks in TRUEX conducting multiple raids and direct action missions in a variety of urban scenarios. Guam has become an ideal setting, as it provides a variety of necessary exercise areas and urban sites for this type of training.

A photograph of U.S. Marines in an urban environment. The scene is viewed through a chain-link fence. In the foreground, a Marine in camouflage gear is partially visible on the left. In the background, two other Marines are visible; one is holding a rifle. The overall tone is gritty and tactical.

an Urban Environment Exercise

U.S. Marines of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (31st MEU) conduct a raid during a TRAINING IN URBAN ENVIRONMENT EXERCISE (TRUEX) in Guam.



Rapid regional urbanization requires new approaches to training for combat. Twice a year, Pacific-based U.S. Marines spend approximately three weeks in a TRUEX, conducting raids and direct action missions in various urban scenarios.

TRUEX has traditionally involved only the Maritime Special Purpose Force (MSPF) of the MEU. For this evolution, the exercise also included a robust reconnaissance and surveillance team, security forces, and specialized detachments of the 31st MEU's command element.

Before leaving Okinawa, the MSPF conducted interoperability training to assist MEU reconnaissance elements in training with the MEU's direct action unit in MSPF operations. The MSPF comprises select members of force reconnaissance and the MEU's ground combat element. The III Marine Expeditionary Force's Special Operations Training Group teaches MEU Marines the special techniques required for MSPF operations.

Interoperability training is quite important, as the MEU rotates its ground combat element every training cycle. The battalion landing teams, the MEU's ground forces, deploy to Okinawa every six months as part of the Unit Deployment Program. As the MEU gears up for a new cycle, TRUEX introduces the battalion landing teams to the MEU's rapid response planning process. The rapid response planning process is considered unique to Marine Expeditionary Units, because a MEU's high operational tempo requires it to be able to plan for any contingency within six hours of receiving the call to duty. Gaining familiarity with this process by the battalion landing teams pays off later





The Japan-based USS *Essex* (LHD 2), with 31st MEU Marine exercise participants embarked, conducts a general quarters drill during a TRUEX.



PHOTO BY PH2 CRYSTAL M. BROOKS, USN

during events leading up to the SPECIAL OPERATIONS CAPABLE exercise (SOCEX). TRUEX also provides battalion landing team Marines with the training necessary to carry out other missions during SOCEX.

As the U.S. Marine Corps' continuously forward-deployed and combat-ready MEU, the training and experience received during TRUEX hones the 31st MEU's skills for any real-world situations it may encounter. □

Helicopters of the 31st MEU extract U.S. Marines from a TRUEX urban warfare maneuver in Guam.