



Corporal Matthew Bradford, Sergeant Divyesh Malkan and Corporal Andrew Beams check out their accommodation at Robertson Barracks.



Above and below: Commanding General Marine Forces Pacific Lieutenant General Duane D. Thiessen speaks to Timber Creek elders.

BIRDS'-EYE VIEW

Before the main wave of Marines hit the ground in Darwin in April, Australia's Chief of Army Lieutenant General David Morrison and the Commanding General, Marine Force Pacific, Lieutenant General Duane D. Thiessen, popped in to meet the elders of Timber Creek, the traditional land owners of the region that includes Bradshaw Training Area.

Flanked by a high-powered entourage, the pair took the opportunity to talk with the community about the arrival of US Marines into the region. Following the meeting, Lieutenant General Morrison took Lieutenant General Thiessen on a helicopter tour of the Bradshaw Training Area, offering his guest an opportunity to see a defence training facility that is only marginally smaller than the US state of Connecticut.



FIRST OF MANY

The Marines have landed

Australia welcomed the first company-sized rotation of United States Marines to Darwin in early April.



Approximately 200 Marines from Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, arrived at RAAF Base Darwin around midnight on 3 April before an official welcome parade at Robertson Barracks and a move out bush to commence exercises in some of the Australian Defence Force's premier training areas.

The Marines were welcomed at the airport by Minister for Defence Stephen Smith, Minister for Defence Science and Personnel Warren Snowdon, United States Ambassador for Australia Jeffrey Bleich, United States Consul General Frank Urbancic, Commanding General Marine Forces Pacific Lieutenant General Duane Thiessen, and Head Implementation Team (US Force Posture Review) Major General Michael Krause.

Following their arrival, the Marines were processed through Australian Quarantine Service (AQIS) and Customs, before moving on to Robertson Barracks, home of the Australian Army's 1st Brigade.

This initial Marine Corps rotation has been deployed to Australia as part of the enhanced Australia US defence cooperation announced by Prime Minister Julia Gillard and United States President Barack Obama on 16 November last year.

