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 D Thiessen, and Head Implementation Team (US Force Posture Review) Major General Michael Krause.

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

This initial Marine Corps rotation has 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.