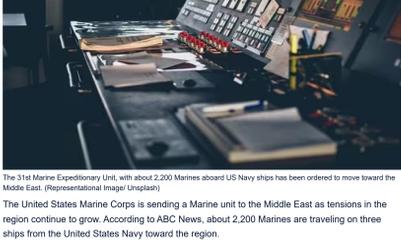


What is the Marine Expeditionary Unit? Where is US deploying 31st MEU in Middle East?

The US is sending about 2,200 Marines to the Middle East. Scroll down to read what is MEU
Published on: Mar 14, 2025 12:18 AM IST
By Shashi Arora



The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, with about 2,200 Marines aboard US Navy ships has been ordered to move toward the Middle East. (Representational Image/Unsplash)

The United States Marine Corps is sending a Marine unit to the Middle East as tensions in the region continue to grow. According to ABC News, about 2,200 Marines are traveling on three ships from the United States Navy toward the region.

The unit being deployed is the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (31st MEU). It is usually based in Japan and normally operates in the Indo-Pacific under [United States Indo-Pacific Command](#) but it has now been ordered to move toward the Middle East.

Also Read: Why 2200 US Marines, 3 warships are being sent to the Middle East amid Iran war, officials explain

What is a Marine Expeditionary Unit?

According to the official website, a Marine Expeditionary Unit is a mobile military group from the United States Marine Corps that operates from ships at sea. These ships act like floating bases which allows the unit to move quickly and respond to crises in different parts of the world. The unit includes both air and ground forces and works closely with the [United States Navy](#).

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A typical MEU has about 2,200 Marines and sailors who travel on several amphibious ships. Before they deploy, they go through about 26 weeks of training to prepare for many different types of missions.

Structure and missions of a MEU

A Marine Expeditionary Unit is made up of four main elements that work together during operations.

The Command Element serves as the headquarters of the unit and manages command and control for all ground, aviation, and support forces.

The Ground Combat Element provides the main combat power. It is built around a Marine infantry battalion and can include tanks, artillery, amphibious vehicles, engineers, and reconnaissance teams.

The Aviation Combat Element includes helicopters and jets used for transport, attack missions, air defense, and aerial support, along with the crews and equipment needed to operate them.

The Logistics Combat Element provides essential support such as medical care, transportation, equipment maintenance, and supplies that allow the unit to operate in the field.

While deployed, the MEU can carry out a wide range of missions, such as peacekeeping, humanitarian and disaster relief operations, security missions, evacuating civilians from danger zones, reinforcing military forces, amphibious raids, reconnaissance and operations to secure airfields, ports, or offshore energy facilities.

Why the 31st MEU is being deployed?

According to the officials, the deployment does not necessarily mean the unit will be used as a ground force in Iran. Instead, the unit provides a range of military capabilities that can be used by commanders if needed.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR [Khushi Arora](#) is a Content Producer at Hindustan Times, where she writes for the US Desk, covering everything happening in the United States, with | [Read More](#)

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Quote of the day by Maya Angelou: 'You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to...'

Maya Angelou's words serve as a powerful reminder that life's hardships and experiences do not define your identity or self-worth.

Updated on: Mar 22, 2025 7:01 AM IST
By Shashi Arora

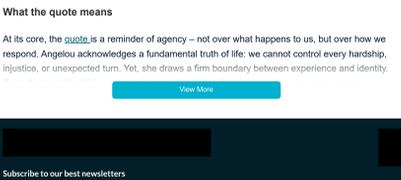


Read more to find out what Maya Angelou's words mean! (Pinterest)

This year's quote of the day is by [Maya Angelou](#): "You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them." The line is drawn from Letter to My Daughter, the third book of essays by the celebrated African-American writer, poet, and civil rights activist.

Also Read | Quote of the day by Franz Kafka: "Logic is of course unshakable but it cannot hold out against a man who wants to live"

Known for her powerful voice in literature and her unwavering commitment to justice, Angelou's work often explored themes of identity, resilience, race, and womanhood. Through both her poetry and prose, she chronicled lived experiences of discrimination and struggle, transforming them into narratives of strength and survival that continue to resonate across generations.



Maya Angelou was an African-American poet, essayist and civil rights activist. (Pinterest)

At its core, the quote is a reminder of agency – not of what happens to us, but over how we respond. Angelou acknowledges a fundamental truth of life: we cannot control every hardship, injustice, or unexpected turn. Yet, she draws a firm boundary between experience and identity.

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