About USS KEARSARGE, At Sea – Nine coalition partners joined the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps team for Exercise Bold Alligator 2012 sharing military experience from around the world.

Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain and the United Kingdom all participated or provided observers for the exercise.

Aboard the USS Kearsarge, a company of the Canadian Army and a company of Royal Marines each took an active part in the training. Training included martial arts, weapons familiarization training and participation in the beach assault. U.S. Marines have recently fought side-by-side with these allies in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. This exercise still proved useful to prepare all coalition forces for their next opportunity to operate together and proved that they could work from a sea-based environment.

“I think it’s fair to say that the more familiarity you have working in a coalition setting with other partners in an exercise framework, the easier it becomes to then transition to real operations because we understand each other’s cultures and decision making processes at the operational level and tactical levels,” said Royal Marine Maj. Chris Samuel, commanding officer of J Company, 42 Commando, Royal Marines. “We become interoperable in terms of understanding each other’s equipment, capabilities, and each other’s tactics, techniques and procedures.”

The coordination between the different key players of the scenario was the most difficult, explained Canadian Sgt. Maj. Eric Proulx of C Company, 3rd Royal, 22nd Regiment of the Canadian Army. The Canadian Army trains at the battalion level during its largest exercises, but training with larger