

AZ Insider: Phoenix Rolls Out Red Carpet for Marines

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Kathy Shayna Shocket has the stories about people who make a difference.



Kathy takes us to the military celebration in Phoenix.

A group of about 34 marines, including a few top ranking officers and the color guard, a seven-ton tactical truck, and a Humvee turned heads in downtown Phoenix !

No it wasn't a parade. But it was a celebratory patriotic partnership. A major one.

"Phoenix really rolled out the red carpet for us," says **Capt. U.S. Marine Corps Craig Thomas**.

Yes, **Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton**, and **Congressman Ruben Gallego**, (a veteran Marine who served in Iraq) and his wife **Phoenix City Councilwoman Kate Gallego**; joined **Lt. Gen. David Berger**, **commanding general of First Marine Expeditionary Force** to promote the unique Phoenix - Marine partnership.

Lt. Gen. David Berger, Mayor Stanton, and Ruben and Kate Gallego say this event called Marine Week will bring the Corps' latest technology, state-of-the-art equipment, rich history and hundreds of Marines to Phoenix. "it's an opportunity to connect with Arizonans, and all patriots , thank them for their support and demonstrate why the Marine Corps is America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness."

How about the chance to climb aboard a variety of the Corps' aircraft? Or experience the ground equipment at static display venues throughout downtown Phoenix, including the latest edition of the Cobra attack helicopter and the multifaceted Assault Amphibious Vehicle? Well, that's part of the free experience for the public in the Phoenix area September 10-13. More than 600 Marines, most from Camp Pendleton, will not only be interacting with the public, but lending a hand to local communities through multiple community service projects, such as neighborhood clean-ups.



Kathy Shayna Shocket is a freelance Writer and TV-Field Producer based in Phoenix, AZ. She's a former TV Reporter w ho's also written for national publications such as TIME Magazine, MONEY Magazine, PEOPLE Magazine, the Hollywood Reporter and The NEW YORK TIMES. She can be reached at redkarpetgirl@aol.com