

SNAPSHOTS



A marine conducts cabin search and rescue training.



A team of marines returns from sniper training.



Extreme physical training is routine for the marines.

The PLA Navy Marine Corps special combat team provides helicopter support during a training mission.
PHOTOS BY WANG JING / CHINA DAILY

THE REAL HEROES



The Marine Corps special combat team conducts frogman training.

The daring exploits of the PLA Navy Marine Corps were made famous in the blockbuster *Operation Red Sea*

By ZHANG LEI

Blockbuster movie *Operation Red Sea*, which was popular among cinemagoers this year for its explosive action sequences, was based on the real life story of Chinese Navy marines in Yemen in 2015.

The film centers on the Dragon Commando unit, which in reality belongs to the Marine Corps of the People's Liberation Army Navy. Members of this special force have air, land, sea and underwater capabilities.

On April 9, 2017, the unit sent 10 men to free

the *Tuvalu OS35* freighter hijacked by pirates. Three pirates were captured in the mission. A cache of weapons and ammunition was also seized and 19 Syrian crew members were rescued.

The Dragon Commando pointed knife unit is an elite team of marines. Since its establishment, it has participated in escort operations in the Gulf of Aden nine times.

It has also competed in an international scouting competition, and taken part in joint missions with Russia, Pakistan, Australia and the United States.



The team rappels down a building during a training exercise.