Chief Minister Adam Giles has welcomed the opportunity to meet today with the most senior US Marine in the Pacific to discuss the success of recent rotational deployments to the Top End.

At Parliament House this morning, Mr Giles met with Lieutenant General Terry Robling, Commander of US Marine Corps Forces Pacific and senior Australian Defence Force Officers.

"It was a great pleasure to meet with Lieutenant General Robling and discuss how we can maximise the benefits flowing to the Territory and the United States from the Marine deployments here," Mr Giles said.

"The latest rotation of around 200 Marines has just left Darwin after a successful deployment which included unilateral training, bilateral training with the Australian Defence Force, and training with regional partners.

"Bilateral training exercises provide a great opportunity for Australian and US forces to learn from each other in the field.

"It is great to see the US Marine Corps takes the Top End rotations as seriously as we do. We look forward the third rotation of around 1100 Marines arriving in the Top End next dry season.

"The benefits to the local economy are significant. An economic impact assessment released by the Department of Defence in May this year estimated that the rotational deployment of 1100 Marines would increase the Territory’s Gross State Product by $5.6 million in 2014."

Lieutenant General Robling was extremely positive about the current cooperation between the two military forces.

"I appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Chief Minister and personally thank him and the Northern Territory government for their support to our Marine Rotational Force-Darwin rotations in 2012 and 2013," Lt Gen Robling said.

"Both rotations of Marines to Darwin have been a tremendous success because of the support of the Australian government and the community surrounding Darwin.

"Our rotational presence reflects the enduring US-Australia alliance and common security interests in the region.

"We look forward to working together to continue to make the 2014 rotation of Marines a success."

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