

# MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION PLAYBOOK



## TOP ISSUES

- **Amphibious Combat Vehicle**
- **Marine Corps Force Integration Plan**
- **Pacific Reorientation**
- **Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR)**

## WHAT'S NEW

- **Exercise Judicious Response**
- **SAPR Progress Report To POTUS**

### POINT OF CONTACT:

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Current as of: **Friday, December 12, 2014**

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*\*Please check with the PA POC on the briefing card or your command PAO prior to using these talking points to ensure you have the latest guidance.*

**Current as of: Friday, December 12, 2014**

## AMPHIBIOUS COMBAT VEHICLE

### SITUATION

Some internal and external audiences are not informed about Marine Corps infantry mobility requirements and existing capability gaps and how a complementary system of capabilities, which includes the Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV), provides the most robust and flexible capability solution for the evolution of amphibious operations.

### STATEMENT/VIDEO

The Marine Corps will, in the near term, field an ACV in order to provide protected mobility for our infantry units throughout the varied terrain mixes in the littorals. The ACV will be amphibious. However, it will normally rely on surface connectors to conduct the preponderance of its ship-to-shore movement.

Risk over the midterm will be mitigated through survivability and sustainment upgrades to our current self-deploying Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV) to extend their service life through 2035.

In a longer term effort, in concert with the Navy, the Marine Corps will continue to explore capabilities that better enable high-speed, extended range surface littoral maneuver from ship-to-objective in order to fully replace its legacy AAVs that were first fielded in 1972.

An ACV video has been produced to provide the background and strategy behind the ACV acquisition decision:

<http://www.mccdc.marines.mil/Resources/AmphibiousCombatVehicle/ACVVideo.aspx>

### TALKING POINTS / Q&As

**TP1.** The evolution of operational maneuver from the sea (OMFTS) and ship to objective maneuver (STOM) requires developing a complimentary portfolio of capabilities within the [Ground Combat and Tactical Vehicle Strategy](#) (GCTVS) and Connector Strategy. The ACV is specifically designed to fill current protected mobility capability gaps within the portfolio of capabilities.

**TP2.** As a bridge to the ACV, which could be introduced into the operating forces as early as the 4th quarter of FY 20, the decision has been made to sustain and upgrade about a third of the AAV fleet.

**TP3.** Modern wheeled vehicles have substantially closed the maneuver performance gap that previously existed between tracked and wheeled vehicles with improved cross-country performance and shore-to-shore swimming capability.

**Q1. Is the decision to acquire the ACV moving away from the Marine Corps service-defining capability of transitioning from ship to shore and conducting forcible entry?**

A1. No. However, the need to modernize the service-defining capability of transitioning from ship to shore and conducting forcible entry and surface assault is unquestioned. Initial indications are that ACV prototypes developed by industry have a swimming capability equal to an AAV. However, this will need to be tested by the Marine Corps. High water speed (HWS) is still a very important capability and the Marine Corps will continue the research and development to pursue technology that may enable this capability without unacceptable trade-offs.

## **AMPHIBIOUS COMBAT VEHICLE (CONT'D)**

ACV 2.0 serves as a conceptual placeholder for a future decision around 2025. At that time, with the knowledge gained from the fielding and deployment of ACV 1.1 and 1.2, the state of the naval connector strategy and research and development work in support of a HWS capable, self-deploying armored personnel carrier will aid in an informed decision.

### **Q2. What will happen to the AAV?**

A2. The AAV and ACV are complementary capabilities. We have begun a survivability upgrade program to 392 AAVs, a sufficient number to support our MEUs and to provide a bridge to a longer range solution. These upgrades will provide for performance, reliability, and survivability improvements, and will be delivered to the Fleet beginning in FY 19.

### **Q3. Why have you chosen to go with a wheeled vehicle when you previously said a tracked vehicle was desired?**

A3. A combination of tactical, technical and budgetary factors led us to this decision. With that said, wheeled vehicle performance has improved greatly since we began our efforts to replace the AAV. Wheeled vehicles have:

- Greater mobility in complex, littoral terrain
- Increased IED protection (2X)
- Reduced fuel consumption (>1/2 fuel consumption)
- Reduced maintenance (improved mean time between failure)
- Reduced signature and smaller profiles (a critical survivability factor in a G-RAMM environment)
- Increased dispersion of personnel among more vehicles (a critical risk reduction factor)
- Design margins that allow for a family of vehicles of various configurations (personnel, command, and recovery variants; potentially others i.e.: indirect-fire, anti-armor in the future)
- Significantly reduced cost
- Less technological risk
- Nearer-term availability.

Additionally, we have determined that emerging anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) systems will require us, in some instances, to stand-off at distances beyond which even a high water speed ACV can reasonably achieve.

### **Q4. What impact will a wheeled ACV have on amphibious shipping and surface connectors?**

A4. The concept of employment for ACV places a premium on using enablers like the mobile logistics platform (MLP) and surface connectors. Programmed efforts, like the ship-to-shore connectors (SSC) that succeed existing landing craft, air-cushioned (LCAC), are critical to our approach. Longer term, we will look at the “art of the possible” regarding refinements to other platforms and the possible pursuit of non-traditional landing craft solutions. In much the same way the MV-22 has greatly expanded the amphibious forces littoral maneuver options, we must also innovate our surface connector fleet.

## **POINT OF CONTACT**

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## **BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE 14**

### **BACKGROUND**

Black Sea Rotational Force 14 conducts military-to-military engagements with Romanian and partner-nation forces from the Black Sea, Balkan and Caucasus regions. BSRF-14 marks the first iteration of a full-year rotation in the program's history. The ability to maintain international bonds and lasting partnerships, combined with the capability of limited but rapid crisis response, has made the program an essential year-round mission to U.S. European Command and its partners in the Eastern European region. BSRF-14 will continue to promote regional stability and security, increase military capacity and interoperability, as well as build and maintain partnerships with partner nations.

### **THEMES AND MESSAGES**

Promote Regional Stability; we share common security interests, including energy security and denying the Black Sea region as a haven for terrorists and a corridor for illicit trafficking in weapons of mass destruction, persons and drugs.

Maintain Enduring Partnerships: The Black Sea Rotational Force is a long standing military-to-military engagement with our partners in the region. We are committed to maintaining and further strengthening a close and solid relationship with these partner-nations in the Eastern European region.

Build Partner Capacity: A rotational U.S. presence military effort in the region significantly increases the level of cooperation between our militaries in training activities and exercises through which we develop our military capabilities and interoperability with partner-nation militaries.

### **Q&As**

#### **Q1. Why is the U.S. military in the Black Sea Region?**

A1. The U.S. military is in the Black Sea region to participate in Black Sea Rotational Force 14, an annual, year-long rotation of Marines to conduct security cooperation activities with partner-nations in the Black Sea, Balkan and Caucasus regions. The military-to-military engagements aim to enhance their professional military capacity and increase our interoperability. In addition, we are maintaining and strengthening our relationships with our partner-nations so we may collectively address common security challenges in the region.

#### **Q2. What will training consist of?**

A2. The military engagements will consist of counterinsurgency training, peacekeeping operations training, and military-to-military familiarization events in the areas of basic infantry skills, communications, logistics, non-lethal weapons employment, intelligence, combat life-saving and emergency first aid techniques, the military decision-making process, and noncommissioned officer development.

#### **Q3. What can you tell us about the purpose and objectives for BSRF-14?**

A3. The purpose of Black Sea Rotational Force 14 is to conduct targeted security cooperation activities with partner-nations in the Black Sea, Balkan and Caucasus regions in order to enhance their professional military capacity and increase our interoperability. Also, we are bolstering our relationships with partner-nations so we can collectively address common security challenges in the region.

## **BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE 14 (CONT'D)**

### **Q4. When does the rotation start and how long will it last?**

A4. Marines assigned to the first yearly rotation of BSRF-14 began arriving in Romania in August and are expected to return to their home stations in the U.S. in March, 2014.

### **Q5. What kind of unit are you bringing to the region?**

A5. The Black Sea Rotational Force is a company reinforced sized element, focusing around the weapons company from 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Marines. This unit also includes a logistics combat element and a command element. However, BSRF 14.2 does not have organic air capabilities.

### **Q6. What kind of equipment are they bringing?**

A6. The equipment will consist of motor transport assets, small arms, and communications equipment to include: 7-ton trucks, High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicles, ambulance, M-16s, 9mm pistols, 50-caliber machine guns, and communications gear.

### **Q7. How many military members are participating?**

A7. About 265 Marines and sailors from across the U.S. are participating.

### **Q8. Which countries are participating?**

A8. Romania and Bulgaria plan to participate in BSRF-14.

### **DVIDS Feature Page**

<http://www.dvidshub.net/feature/BlackSeaRotationalForce>

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

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## CAMP LEJEUNE HISTORIC DRINKING WATER

### BACKGROUND

In the 1980s, certain chemicals that were unregulated at the time were detected in wells of two of Camp Lejeune's drinking water distribution systems. The Marine Corps removed these wells from service the same day they were found to be affected. Since then, the Department of the Navy (DoN) has been working with the state of North Carolina and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify and to clean up sites at the base. Independent investigations found no violations of federal law. DoN has worked diligently to identify and to notify individuals who might have been exposed to contaminated water. Scientific and medical studies on this issue continue to investigate whether diseases and disorders experienced by former residents and workers are or are not associated with their exposure to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. Using good science, DoN's goal is to determine whether previous exposure to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune resulted in any adverse health effects for our Marines, their families or our civilian workers.

For additional information on this issue, review the Questions and Answers booklet: [Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Booklet](#) (2012) and the Q&A Booklet addendum (June 2013): [https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater/Documents/Camp\\_Lejeune\\_Addendum\\_v12.pdf](https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater/Documents/Camp_Lejeune_Addendum_v12.pdf)

The President signed the "[Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012](#)" into law. The law provides health benefits for 15 illnesses or conditions affecting veterans and their families who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune, N.C., for at least 30 days during the period from Jan. 1, 1957 to Dec. 31, 1987.

*Most recent update: On Nov. 20, 2014, ATSDR's study article "Evaluation of contaminated drinking water and preterm birth, small for gestational age, and birth weight at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina: a cross-sectional study" was released.*

*The purpose of this study was to evaluate associations between residential prenatal exposure to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1968 and 1985 and preterm birth, small for gestational age (SGA), term low birth weight (TLBW), and mean birth weight deficit (MBW). Birth certificates identified mothers residing at Camp Lejeune at delivery. ATSDR analyzed exposure data for the entire pregnancy and individual trimesters. For each period examined, births were categorized as unexposed if mothers did not reside at Camp Lejeune or if their residence on base received uncontaminated drinking water.*

*The Provisional PDF and ATSDR's factsheet that include results of the study can be viewed here: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/AdverseBirthOutcomesStudy.html>*

*For more information about this and other studies being conducted by ATSDR, visit <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/> or call (800) 232-4636.*

### KEY MESSAGE

This is a very important issue for our entire Marine Corps family and a deeply personal matter for Marine Corps leadership. We care about every person who has ever lived or worked at Camp Lejeune. Some members of our Marines Corps family have experienced health issues that they think are associated with the water they used at Camp Lejeune. We are concerned about these individuals, and we are working with leading scientific organizations to seek science-based answers to the health questions that

## **CAMP LEJEUNE HISTORIC DRINKING WATER (CONT'D)**

have been raised. We continue our commitment to find and notify those who used the water during the time period in question, and keep them informed regarding the latest scientific and medical information.

### **TALKING POINTS**

- The health and welfare of our Marines, Sailors, their families and our civilian workers are top priorities for the Marine Corps.
- The current drinking water at Camp Lejeune meets all government drinking water standards and is tested more often than required.
- The Corps continues to make progress notifying former residents and workers. We established a call center and registry in 2007 where people can provide contact information so we can notify them and keep them informed as these health studies are completed. We have registered more than 220,000 individuals and mailed more than 200,000 direct notifications.
- The Marine Corps relies on the scientific expertise of outside health agencies such as ATSDR to inform our understanding of this issue. Scientific/medical studies continue to investigate whether diseases and disorders experienced by former Camp Lejeune residents and workers are or are not associated with previous exposure to the drinking water at Camp Lejeune in 1987 or before.
- The President signed the “Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012” into law. The law provides health benefits for 15 illnesses or conditions affecting veterans and their families who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune, N.C., for at least 30 days during the period from Jan. 1, 1957 to Dec. 31, 1987.
- The Department of the Navy is supporting and working with both the Centers for Disease Control's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the National Academy of Sciences (specifically, the National Research Council (NRC)), and plans to continue support of ATSDR's study of possible associations between Camp Lejeune water exposures and health effects. We have dedicated more than \$30 million to fund these scientific efforts and also are coordinating with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

### **WEBSITES AND RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- [Official Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Website](#)
- [ATSDR Camp Lejeune Website](#)
- [VA Health Benefit Information](#)

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

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*\*\*\* Any media queries regarding the Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water issue should be directed to the point of contact at HQMC PA.*

*Any queries from individuals looking to register in the CLHDW notification database should be directed to the CLHDW call center at 1-877-261-9782. \*\*\**

### **36th COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE FOR ALL MARINES**

Marines, I am truly honored and humbled to serve as your Commandant. I'd like to begin my tenure by thanking General and Mrs. Amos for their four decades of extraordinary service and commitment. They transition to the next phase of their lives with the admiration, appreciation, and affection of all Marines and their families.

The Marine Corps is in great shape. We are recruiting and retaining high quality Marines who are fit, tough, and smart. Our Marines are well led, well trained, and well equipped. The infrastructure at our posts and stations -- our barracks, family housing and training facilities -- has been significantly enhanced over the past decade.

We remain forward deployed and forward engaged in the Pacific, South America, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Just in the last year, we have responded to crisis in the Philippines, South Sudan, Libya, and Iraq. In Afghanistan, we have remained engaged in combat operations. We have clearly demonstrated our flexibility, versatility, and adaptability. Marines are relevant and in high demand.

We have answered the call and we have delivered! Throughout the last decade, Marines have enhanced their reputation as the Nation's premier force in readiness. Today's Marines, like their predecessors, can be very proud to claim the title United States Marine.

Despite these accomplishments, much work remains to be done. As Marines, we maintain the highest standards and we constantly seek to improve. We will continue to attack by:

- Maintaining a first-rate, well-trained total force of Marines in a high state of readiness.
- Prioritizing the support of those Marines in harm's way.
- Developing and fielding MAGTF capabilities that will ensure that the Marine Corps remains an innovative, relevant, naval, expeditionary force-in-readiness.
- Building upon our success in leader development, professional military education, wounded warrior care, and family readiness.

Our Corps is informed by your input. I will continue to engage with Marines of all grades to solicit feedback. Your ideas will help us improve our warfighting and crisis response capabilities and provide the foundation for detailed Commandant's Planning Guidance in the New Year.

Know that I'm extraordinarily proud to stand in your ranks.

Thanks for who you are and what you do.

Continue to march . . .

- *General Joseph F. Dunford, 36<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps*

#### **POINTS OF CONTACT**

- HQMC Media Section, [ontherecord@usmc.mil](mailto:ontherecord@usmc.mil), 703-614-4309

## COMMUNITY COUNSELING PROGRAM

### BACKGROUND

Using an integrated community health approach, the United States Marine Corps Community Counseling Program (CCP) equips Marines and families with the skills to address life's challenges before there is significant impact to performance in their duties and relationships. The CCP assists Marines and families to accomplish their personal goals through short-term solution focused counseling, skill enhancement, education and referrals to other helping resources.

### TALKING POINTS

**TP1.** CCP provides training, education and other psychological health prevention services intended to reduce severity and support positive outcomes.

**TP2.** CCP provides confidential care worldwide to increase access to behavioral health services and assist Marines and their families in navigating the many support resources available. CCP is staffed with Masters prepared, state licensed, independent providers credentialed by the United States Marine Corps Credentialing Review Board.

**TP3.** Marines, Sailors, and their families may access help directly through the CCP, Family Advocacy Program, Substance Abuse Program, Chaplaincy, Family Readiness, or Navy Medical assets. There is no wrong door for getting help. Counselors at the CCP conduct screenings, actively assess needs, provide counseling, and connect Marines with additional resources through referrals and direct handoffs between programs and facilities. Fully coordinated care improves referrals to resources that match the individual's needs.

**TP4.** In addition, CCP collaborates with an individual's family and Command to encourage the development and maintenance of social supports, and reduces stigma through emphasis that seeking help is a strength-based action. Services offered by CCP counselors include care coordination, screening, counseling, and referrals.

**TP5.** Additional resources augment the Marine Corps integrated behavioral health programs. Military Family Life Consultants (MFLCs) are contracted, licensed providers embedded within units or on installations. The DSTRESS Line is a 24 hour phone, chat, and Skype line that provide counseling services with a "Marine to Marine" approach. It is staffed by veteran Marines and others with knowledge of the Marine Corps culture.

### POINT OF CONTACT

- Ms. Heather J. Hagan, Marine and Family Programs Division, Headquarters, PAO, 703-432-1544, heather.hagan@usmc.mil

**MARINE CORPS CREDENTIALING OPPORTUNITIES ON-LINE (COOL)**  
**01NOVEMBER2014**

## **BACKGROUND**

Credentialing Opportunities On-line (COOL) is the newest awareness and information resource capability that assists Marines in learning about certifications and licenses related to their Military Occupational Specialties (MOSs). Launched on Oct. 1, 2014, COOL explains how Marines can meet civilian certification and license requirements.

## **TALKING POINTS**

**TP1.** COOL is a link to education resources, transition readiness, translating Marine Corps knowledge to civilian opportunities, and general career and professional development (such as the United Service Military Apprenticeship Program).

**TP.2** COOL is a resource for:

- Marines who want to know what civilian credentials relate to their MOS and how to obtain them.
- Marines who want to distinguish themselves through growth in their occupational field or enhance their transition readiness.
- Education, Career and Transition Advisors providing guidance on education, personal and professional development, and career requirements and opportunities.
- Marine Corps Recruiters who want to show potential recruits the opportunities for professional growth and civilian career preparation available through service in the Marine Corps.
- Employers and Credentialing Boards interested in how military training and experience prepares Marines for civilian credentials and jobs.

**TP3.** Questions about credentialing opportunities can be addressed through either installation Education Service Officer or contact the Marine Corps COOL Program through the website.

## **WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- COOL Website: <https://www.cool.navy.mil/usmc/>

## **POINT OF CONTACT**

- Ms. Heather J. Hagan, Marine and Family Programs Division PAO, 703-432-1544, [heather.hagan@usmc.mil](mailto:heather.hagan@usmc.mil)

## DIVERSITY

### BACKGROUND

Diversity is the aggregate of the varied cultures, backgrounds, talents, skills and abilities among Marines that (1) ensures our connectedness and special relationship with the American public, (2) leverages America's varied pool of skills and abilities, and (3) maximizes individual differences as a force multiplier.

To that end, Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC) has an integral role at the accession point. During FY15, MCRC will continue to engage potential officer applicants, centers of influence and members of society at large in order to create awareness of opportunities within Marine Corps Officer and Enlisted programs.

These engagement opportunities build mutually beneficial relationships among diverse communities, dispel common misconceptions about the Marine Corps, and increase overall diversity accessions. Our survival, status and reputation depend on our special relationship with the American people. Diversity broadens the base of support within the populace and demonstrates inclusiveness in an ever changing demographic. The strategic end-state of the Marine Corps' Diversity Program is to strengthen our connectedness with the American people.

### TALKING POINTS

- The effort to improve diversity is rooted in our core values of honor, courage and commitment. These same values that compel Marines to respect others, act with moral, mental and physical bravery while embracing a spirit of determination and dedication also guide our efforts to improve diversity.
- Success in diversity related endeavors will ensure our ability to maximize the total capabilities of the Marine Corps by leveraging the unique strengths of all Marines.
- Rapidly changing demographics will continue to propel diversity forward as a strategic issue. Support from leaders at every level is key as that support is the catalyst required to ensure the Marine Corps continues to be ready, relevant and representative of the nation it serves.
- Five broad goals illustrate the direction in which the Marine Corps will move in order to confront challenges with diversity. The Marine Corps will:
  - Institutionalize diversity and inclusive policies and practices across the Marine Corps.
  - Maximize the positive effects of the total Marine Corps command climate.
  - Communicate the Marine Corps diversity mission through expanded community engagement, outreach and marketing.
  - Ensure each Marine is provided equitable opportunities for professional development and career progression.
  - Develop training and education packages to increase the Marine Corps' knowledge and understanding of diversity.

### **DIVERSITY (CONT'D)**

- The CMC intends for the Marine Corps to remain true to its forward-looking mindset by setting the expeditionary example for raising mission capability through diversity. The Corps will make a cultural change through policies of inclusion, increasing its institutional knowledge of diversity and, where practical, adopting best practices from other leading organizations.
- The strategic end-state of the Marine Corps' Diversity Program is to strengthen our connectedness with the American people.
- The Marine Corps is committed to making concerted efforts to attract, mentor and retain the most talented men and women who bring a diversity of background, culture and skill in service to our nation.
- The Marine Corps has reinforced its high priority on diverse officer recruiting and candidate mentoring in our recruiting efforts. The goal of diversity recruiting is to create a situation in which diverse populations are well informed about opportunities within Marine Officer and Enlisted programs, making them more familiar with and receptive to the Marine Corps thus generating more leads for both Officer Selection Officers (OSO) and Enlisted Recruiters.

#### **POINTS OF CONTACT**

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- LtCol Brian Proctor, MCRC Diversity, 703-432-9165, [brian.proctor@marines.usmc.mil](mailto:brian.proctor@marines.usmc.mil)

## DEFENSE POLICY REVIEW INITIATIVE (DPRI)

### BACKGROUND

On Apr. 26, the U.S.-Japan Security Consultative Committee (SCC) reconfirmed that the U.S.-Japan Alliance, supported by a robust U.S. military presence in Japan, including U.S. Marine Corps forces in Okinawa, continues to provide the deterrence and capabilities necessary for the defense of Japan and for the maintenance of peace, security and economic prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. To achieve the goals of the shared partnership between the two countries, the SCC decided to adjust the plans outlined in the May 1, 2006 SCC Document titled, "United States-Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation" (Realignment Roadmap). As part of these adjustments, the Ministers decided to delink both the relocation of the III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) personnel from Okinawa to Guam and resulting land returns south of Kadena Air Base from progress on the Futenma Replacement Facility.

### TALKING POINTS

- The U.S.-Japan alliance is stronger than ever and is the cornerstone of regional security and prosperity.
- The alliance is flexible to adapt to new U.S. initiatives and changing circumstances while maintaining deterrence.
- This agreement helps mitigate the impact of the Marine Corps presence on the Okinawan people and develops Guam as a strategic hub in the region.
- This plan helps achieve a force posture that is geographically distributed, operationally resilient and politically sustainable. The purpose is to better position our forces across the theater in order to enable cooperative security partnerships throughout the region.
- Some 9,000 Marines will be relocated from Okinawa, of which some 5,000 will be relocated to Guam.
- End-state Marine Corps presence remaining on Okinawa will be consistent with the level envisioned in the Realignment Roadmap.
- Consistent with the 2009 Guam International Agreement, Japan will contribute \$2.8 billion in FY08 dollars (\$3.1 billion in FY12 dollars because of inflation) toward facilities for the Marine relocation. Japan will also study developing training ranges in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for shared use as a part of that cash contribution.
- The governments of Japan and the United States will consider cooperatively developing training areas in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to be used as shared use facilities by U.S. forces and the Japan Self Defense Forces.
- The United States will return some unused land to Japan immediately and has specified other areas that can be returned after either Japan builds replacement facilities on Okinawa or Marine units have relocated from Okinawa.

### **DPRI/PACIFIC REALIGNMENT (CONT'D)**

- Both sides will contribute to the cost of sustaining Marine Corps Air Station Futenma as an operational facility until a Futenma Replacement Facility (FRF) is operational. The GOJ will focus on project related to safety and environmental impact mitigation.
- The movement of Marines to Guam will not be linked to progress on the FRF.

#### **WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/04/188587.htm>
- <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/04/188586.htm>

#### **POINTS OF CONTACT**

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## EBOLA

### BACKGROUND

Since Oct. 8, 2014 a detachment of 100 U.S. Marines and sailors from Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa provided support to the U.S. response to the Ebola crisis in Liberia, Operation United Assistance. These Marines and sailors have completed their mission and have returned to the EUCOM region.

The rapid self-deployment of SPMAGTF-CR-AF Marines and sailors by four MV-22 Ospreys and two KC-130J Super Hercules provided a timely, mission-critical airlift capability to the Joint Force supporting OUA. The Marines enabled the Joint Force to reach remote locations that were virtually impossible to access by ground transportation during the rainy season due to washed out roads. Additionally, SPMAGTF-CR-AF also sent a Forward Resuscitative Surgical System detachment, which provided an enhanced surgical capability to support U.S. service-members contributing to OUA.

Over the past two months, the Marines conducted over 170 missions, flew over 240 hours, and transported over 1200 passengers and over 78,000 pounds of cargo. They also supported the movement of key personnel, such as the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, Deborah Malac, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Powers, and various U.S. Government and relief agency workers, to visit treatment locations throughout Liberia.

### TALKING POINTS

- The president considers containing the spread of Ebola to be a national security priority that will require mobilizing the collective resources of the international community.
- The Defense Department brings unique capabilities and capacity to support its interagency partners, specifically the lead federal agency, USAID, as the US government collectively responds to the outbreak in West Africa.
- The Department is committed to supporting its interagency partners in responding to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and will adhere to strict and established safety protocols.
- The safety of our personnel is our highest priority.

### WEBSITES TO ACCESS TRAINING MATERIALS AND MORE INFORMATION

- [www.marines.mil/ebola](http://www.marines.mil/ebola)
- <http://www.dvidshub.net/feature/OperationUnitedAssistance#.VDWAPb5NzTQ>

### POINTS OF CONTACT

- Capt Eric Flanagan, HQMC PA, 703-614-4309, [eric.flanagan@usmc.mil](mailto:eric.flanagan@usmc.mil)

## ENERGY ETHOS

### BACKGROUND

In 2013, the Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM) Facility Energy (GF-1) issued the *Marine Corps Installations Energy Strategy* to guide how the Marine Corps procures, uses, and measures energy on installations. Unpredictable fuel costs and declining budgets are placing pressures on Base Operating Support (BOS) allocations, while battlefield conditions, natural disasters and enemies threaten our energy security. The Marine Corps has invested roughly \$1B on installation energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts since FY03, resulting in a 18.92% reduction in energy use intensity. Installations are now being charged to reduce utility demand by another 10% by 2020 through behavior change efforts.

### TALKING POINTS

#### Energy Ethos

- Investments in technology have positively impacted the cost of energy; but, technology investments are not enough to drive the Marine Corps to meet installation energy goals – behavior of Marines is another essential aspect. This requires that the Marine Corps adopt what the Commandant terms an 'Energy Ethos' – from bases to battlefield.
- Energy Ethos is the shared vision that the efficient use of energy resources is a critical component of mission readiness.
- Energy Ethos supports the mission by ensuring energy resiliency, reducing facility operating costs, and fostering a culture of efficient energy usage throughout the Corps.
- Under Energy Ethos, Marines consider how they impact energy and water use in their daily activities and strive to reduce their consumption through the development of efficient behaviors.

#### Unit Energy Manager (UEM) Program

The Unit Energy Manager (UEM) Program establishes the foundation and leads the charge for the implementation and adoption of an Energy Ethos in the Marine Corps.

The UEM Program promotes end-user awareness and behavior change in individual Marines by helping them understand their daily impact on the energy and water footprint and how they can improve their use habits.

Stakeholders across the Marine Corps, from the Commandant, to Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM) Facility Energy (GF-1), to the Expeditionary Energy Office (E2O), recognize a need for the UEM Program.

- The 2011 Expeditionary Energy Strategy states “Tenants and supported commands [will] identify an Energy Manager or representative at the individual unit or tenant level to coordinate unit and tenant involvement and actions as part of the installation’s overall Energy Program.”
- The 2013 Installations Energy Strategy created the UEM Program and asks installation commands and regional commands to participate.
- The 2014 Utility Demand Reduction Guidance calls for a 10 percent reduction in installation utility demand by 2020 against a 2013 baseline, which the UEM Program will help to meet.

The UEM Program:

- Establishes a Marine in each unit as the energy point of contact for Battalion or Squadron Commanders.
- Provides Operational Commanders with greater visibility of energy resources.

- Creates a touch point with Installation Commanders and IEMs regarding energy use within tenant units.

**Cost**

Marine Corps installations spent \$262 million on energy in FY13. Utility use makes up approximately 19 percent of Base Operations Support (BOS) funding.

The Marines Corps is re-entering a period with increased fiscal constraints on our base operating budgets. This requires that we address energy procurement and conservation through a smart combination of technological investment and culture change.

The Marine Corps has invested nearly \$1B on installation energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts since FY2003, resulting in a 18.92% reduction in energy usage intensity (EUI).

**WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

MCICOM GF-1 - <http://www.mcicom.marines.mil/Units/GFFacilities/GF1Energy.aspx>

**POINT OF CONTACT/SOURCING**

Rex Runyon, MCICOM PAO, [rex.runyon@usmc.mil](mailto:rex.runyon@usmc.mil), 703-692-1618

**EXERCISE STEEL KNIGHT 2015**

16003NOV2014

**OFFICIAL QUOTE:**

*“Over the last 10 years we’ve focused most of our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. We haven’t had the opportunity to get back out to sea to do the core skill set that define our Marine Corps – that is amphibious operations. So every opportunity we have to put amtraks back in the water, to put Marines back in the water and to simulate as best we can amphibious operations and work on that important piece. That’s why we have a Marine Corps.” - MajGen Nicholson, Commanding General of 1st Marine Division*

**BACKGROUND:** Steel Knight is the 1st Marine Division’s largest annual exercise designed to prepare them for deployment as the Ground Combat Element (GCE) of a Marine Air-Ground Task Force. It is focused on traditional Marine combined-arms doctrine, with live-fire armor, artillery, infantry and air operations.

**STATEMENT:**

CAMP PENDLETON, California – Marines and Sailors from the 1st Marine Division will participate in Exercise Steel Knight 2015, December 8-17, 2014. Training will focus on preparation for crisis and contingency response that will test I Marine Expeditionary Force’s ability to conduct shaping, fires and maneuver operations. The outcome of this training will maintain and refine our amphibious capabilities through tough, realistic training like the amphibious raid on the shores of San Clemente Island scheduled for Dec. 9-10.

**TALKING POINTS/ Q&As:**

**TP1:** *The focus of the exercise is to ensure that 1st Marine Division is fully prepared to deploy as a military force across the full spectrum of conflict and is capable of responding to any crisis across the globe.*

**TP2:** *Steel Knight requires the 1st Marine Division staff to employ amphibious capabilities as part of the scenario, enhancing the overall readiness of the Marine Corps to respond to any crisis as the nation’s premier force in readiness.*

**TP3:** *Annual training exercises like Steel Knight ensure that 1st Marine Division and participating units are fully prepared for employment as a maneuver force across the range of military operations, responding to any crisis across the globe.*

**TP4:** *Participating units will hone their conventional war fighting capabilities by practicing the skills needed to deploy and fight as part of a Marine Air Ground Task Force.*

**Q1:** *What is the purpose of Exercise Steel Knight?*

**A1:** *The purpose of Steel Knight 15 is to train and prepare the 1st Marine Division for deployment as the Ground Combat Element (GCE) of a Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF). Combined arms live-fire exercises such as Steel Knight 15 ensures that the 1st Marine Division is fully prepared for employment as a maneuver force across the range of military operations.*

**Q2:** *Could you tell me how this year’s Steel Knight differs from past iterations of the exercise?*

**A2:** *This exercise differs from previous years of landing on Red and Gold Beach aboard Camp Pendleton. Steel Knight 2015 will incorporate an amphibious raid on San Clemente Island. The raid will*

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*consist of an amphibious landing of reconnaissance and surface forces via Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV), to include insertion of an 80-Marine heliborne raid force utilizing MV-22 Ospreys.*

**ADDITIONAL SOURCES:**

[DVIDS 'bucket' for Exercise Steel Knight Coverage](#)

**POINT OF CONTACT:**

1st Lt. Morgan Frazer, I Marine Expeditionary Force Public Affairs, 760-763-7047,  
[morgan.frazer@usmc.mil](mailto:morgan.frazer@usmc.mil)

## EXPEDITIONARY ENERGY

### BACKGROUND

In March 2011, the Commandant issued the Marine Corps Expeditionary Energy Strategy and Implementation Plan to change the way we use energy. Over the last 10 years of combat operations, we have become more lethal, yet have become critically dependent on fuel and batteries, putting our expeditionary capabilities and Marines at risk. The demands of the future security environment are driving the Marine Corps to become a leaner force, centered on the MEB as the principal organization for planning, conducting steady-state activities, and responding to larger crises and contingencies. By 2025, the Expeditionary Energy Strategy specifically directs the Marine Corps to create a MAGTF capable of maneuvering from the sea while requiring liquid fuel only for mobility systems once ashore.

### TALKING POINTS

- The Expeditionary Energy program is focused on increasing the combat capability and tactical effectiveness of the Marine Corps, creating a lighter, more efficient force that goes farther and stays longer on every gallon of fuel we use.
- We do not do 'green'. Expeditionary energy investments lighten the load and increase efficiency for Marines at the tip of the spear, furthest away from main operating bases where risk is highest on the battlefield.
- The Marine Corps calculates "Return on Investment" in terms of military capability gained (lethality, speed, the ability to extend our forces deep into enemy territory), not dollars or gallons of gas saved.
- Through the Experimental Forward Operating Base (ExFOB) process, we have conducted 6 demonstrations at Marine Corps bases across the country, reviewed some 300 technologies, purchased 11 for extended user evaluation, and transitioned five to Programs of Record.
- Once fielded, energy and water technologies first demonstrated at ExFOB will increase the operational reach of the force. Additional capability gains, not detailed above, expected from these systems include:
  - Power patrol bases entirely on renewable energy
  - Conduct extended foot patrols with limited or no fuel or battery resupply
  - Lighten the carried load of batteries and water for a 96-hour patrol by ~58 lb
  - Reduce the need to carry multiple types of batteries
  - Reduce vehicle fuel use while idling by 30%
- ExFOB 2014 was held at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, from 12-16 May 2014. The focus of ExFOB 2014 is Tactical Energy Harvesting.
- We've had great success with material solutions in recent years, but technology alone is not the answer. We can't buy or innovate our way out of this problem. We have a behavioral element to address. The Commanders' Energy Readiness Program (CERP), launched in 2013, arms battalion and squadron commanders with fuel and power data, enabling them to plan and make decisions that can increase training days or extend operational reach. As budgets decline, programs like CERP will ensure that Marines extract the most readiness out of every gallon of fuel they use.

### EXPEDITIONARY ENERGY (CONT'D)

- The current and future security environment demands a forward-deployed crisis response force that is poised and flexible to respond to a host of threats at a moment's notice and able to sustain itself for significant periods, at a time and place of its choosing.
- The strategic rebalance to the Pacific, and the tyranny of distance associated with operations therein, underscores the value of a fast, lethal, austere MEB that is lighter and more energy efficient than it is today.
- October is 'Energy Action Month', watch the following video to see how Expeditionary Energy supports the warfighter:  
<http://www.marines.mil/News/MarinesTV.aspx?videoid=364513&videotag=Latest%20Videos&videopage=1&ccenabled=false>

### WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Marine Corps Expeditionary Energy Office
- Video: Expeditionary Energy
- Video: ExFOB
- <http://www.dvidshub.net/feature/ExpeditionaryEnergy>

### POINT OF CONTACT/SOURCING

- Capt. Maureen Krebs, HQMC PA, (703) 614-4309, [maureen.krebs@usmc.mil](mailto:maureen.krebs@usmc.mil)

## EXPEDITIONARY FORCE 21

### QUOTE

*“Expeditionary Force 21 is our vision for designing and developing the force that will continue to fulfill our responsibilities. But it is more than a vision – it is also an actionable plan and a disciplined process to shape and guide our capability and capacity decisions while respecting our country’s very real need to regain budgetary discipline.”– Gen. James F. Amos, 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps*

### TOPLINE RECURRING THEME

**“Forward and Ready: Now and in the Future”**

### TALKING POINTS

- Through Expeditionary Force 21 we will chart a course over the next 10 years to field a Marine Corps that will be: the right force in the right place at the right time.
- Expeditionary Force 21 does not change what Marines do but how they will do it.
- Expeditionary Force 21 provides an aspirational vision of how we will operate in order to guide experimentation, force development activities and inform programming decisions.
- Expeditionary Force 21 overarching goal is to improve how we support the requirements of Geographic Combatant Commanders (GCC).
- Expeditionary Force 21 approach is across four intertwined lines of effort:

#### 1) Refining Our Organization

- Expeditionary Force 21 focuses on three Marine Expeditionary Brigades (MEB) being capable across a range of operations and able to command or integrate with joint task forces.
- During the next 10 years, we must explore evolving the Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) to accommodate changes in basing, capability, capacity, as well as exploration of, operating in a disaggregated manner, prepositioned equipment, land basing, complementary force packages and alternative platforms.
- Special Purpose MAGTFs (SPMAGTF) will assume a greater role in crisis response and generate greater capacity for forward presence in more locations.

#### 2) Adjusting Our Forward Posture

- We will maintain one-third of our operating forces forward and flexibly distribute them over a wider area to deter adversaries and effectively respond to emergencies and crises. This involves changing dwell to 1:2.
- By 2017, we will have 22,000 Marines west of the International Date Line.
- We are orienting our forces to specific regions and positioning them to conduct sustained security cooperation activities.
- We will continue to sustain alert contingency forces that allow us to rapidly scale for action.

## EXPEDITIONARY FORCE 21 (CONT'D)

### 3) Increasing Naval Integration

- We are exercising the concept of forward “compositing”– forming up our reinforcing forces at or near the scene of a crisis.
- We remain dedicated to exploring holistic concepts of operation for launching assaults from a combination of amphibious ships reinforced by seabase platforms.
- We will strengthen our partnership with the Navy by integrating our operational staffs and institutionalizing our maturing concepts of employment.

### 4) Enhancing Littoral Maneuver

- The development and proliferation of anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) capabilities threaten freedom of action. This requires establishing advanced bases and austere expeditionary sites for employment of distributed short take-off vertical landing (STOVL) operations, which serve as an enabler for sea control and power projection.
- To complement the operational reach of our vertical connectors (helicopters and tilt-rotors), we are exploring a new generation of surface connectors (boats, self-propelled amphibious vehicles and landing craft) that enables us to maneuver through the littorals to positions of advantage.
- Fielding a high-speed, long-range high-capacity system of connectors, amphibious vehicles, boats, as well as the ships that project them forward, that are necessary for modernized amphibious operations.

## SUMMARY

Through Expeditionary Force 21, we will focus on crisis response; increase our emphasis on missions ranging from theater security cooperation through forcible entry; enhance our ability to operate from the sea and take advantage of all platforms and means; and, as a result, provide the right force in the right place at the right time. Our end-state is to provide Geographic Combatant Commanders with task-organized Marine Expeditionary Brigades (MEB) capable of rapidly responding to crises and contingencies within a joint and/or coalition framework. We will do this by rapidly compositing a combination of forward-deployed, forward-based and CONUS-based units under a scalable and rapidly deployable MEB command element.

## WEBSITE

[www.mccdc.marines.mil/EF21.aspx](http://www.mccdc.marines.mil/EF21.aspx) (11-minute video and other products available for download)

## POINT OF CONTACT

Maj. Anton T. Semelroth, CD&I/MCCDC PAO, 703-432-8420, [anton.semelroth@usmc.mil](mailto:anton.semelroth@usmc.mil)

## FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

### BACKGROUND

Domestic violence is a crime. It destroys families, impacts children, and negatively affects military readiness. The Marine Corps provides prevention education, review and determination of alleged abuse incidents, clinical treatment for families involved in or at risk for violence, home visits for new parents support efforts, case management, and 24/7 victim advocacy services through the Family Advocacy Program (FAP).

### TALKING POINTS

**TP1.** FAP continues to experience a decrease in the number of domestic and child abuse incidents, which can be indicative of early intervention efforts, workforce development initiatives and command and unit FAP education. For example, Domestic Abuse that met criteria in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 was 1,527 and has dropped to 835 incidents in FY2014. Child Abuse that met criteria FY2010 was 802 and has dropped to 668 incidents in FY2014.

**TP2.** FAP will continue to implement standardized curricula aimed to reduce incidents of abuse. Examples of these evidence-based practices include:

- The Period of PURPLE Crying offers coping strategies for caregivers to address their stress while keeping infants safe during excessive crying
- Nurturing Parenting Program focuses on increasing nurturing relationships
- Triple P Positive Parenting Program prevents social, emotional, behavioral, and developmental problems in children
- Skills, Techniques, Options, and Plans (STOP) reduces and eliminates the likelihood of future domestic abuse
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) is for children and adolescents who are experiencing significant emotional and behavioral difficulties related to traumatic life events
- Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) helps Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

**TP3.** Marine Corps Community Services and Community Counseling Program, FAP, military police, legal offices, chaplains, and our civilian counterparts are united in efforts to eliminate domestic violence from our bases, stations and the surrounding areas.

### RESOURCES/WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- DSTRESS Line 877-476-7734, [www.dstressline.com](http://www.dstressline.com)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
- Military OneSource's Domestic Violence toolkit called "How to Help Service-Connected Victims of Domestic Abuse" and is accessible at <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/abuse>

### POINT OF CONTACT

- Ms. Heather J. Hagan, Marine and Family Programs Division, Headquarters, PAO, 703-432-1544, [heather.hagan@usmc.mil](mailto:heather.hagan@usmc.mil)

## GROUND COMBAT ELEMENT INTEGRATED TASK FORCE

### BACKGROUND

The Marine Corps began developing an implementation plan to best research and assess the methods for integrating female Marines into combat arms units and MOSs. The Commandant of the Marine Corps' intent for the Marine Corps' Force Integration Plan is to maintain the highest levels of combat readiness by establishing and maintaining rigorous gender neutral standards, enhancing warfighting capabilities and realizing the potential of every Marine.

From Oct 2014 through July 2015, the GCEITF will conduct individual and collective level skills training in designated ground combat arms occupational specialties in order to facilitate the standards based assessment of the physical performance of Marines in a simulated operating environment performing specific ground combat arms tasks. The research and assessment period (Oct 2014-July 2015) is designed to generate a significant amount of data that will inform the decision making process on opening ground combat units and MOSs to female Marines.

Once all the personnel check in, the GCEITF will have around 650 Marines. About 400 of those will be volunteers, both male and female. They will be the focus of the assessment. The remaining GCEITF Marines will provide the leadership and normal staff functions to facilitate the training.

**GCEITF STRUCTURE:** The GCEITF unit structure is modeled after a Battalion Landing Team (BLT), meaning it consists mostly of infantry Marines, reinforced with combat engineers, artillery, tanks, amphibious assault vehicles and light armored vehicles. A BLT is typically assigned as the ground combat element for a Marine Expeditionary Unit.

The Marine Corps' deliberate approach to integrating women into combat arms specialties involves research, assessment and validation of current service approved training and readiness standards. During the research phase of the Integration Plan, the female Marines will execute the same tactical tasks as their male counterparts.

**GCEITF TRAINING & TIMEFRAME:** The GCEITF training started in October 2014 aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. Upon completion of an intensive 16-week training schedule aboard Camp Lejeune, the unit is scheduled to deploy for further training early spring 2015 to conduct the final performance assessment and evaluation. The 12-week evaluation will be conducted at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and the Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif.

All volunteers for the GCEITF fall under a Human Research Protection Program guided by the Institutional Review Board. The Marine Corps is complying with the standards as outlined by the HRPP. The signed volunteer informed consent states: "The research team will not divulge your identity or provide research related personal information to individuals and organizations external to the research project; however, the research team cannot provide assurance that your participation in this research will not become public knowledge. The research team cannot prevent actions (such as sharing information and photos via social media) by other participants, their family and friends, or others who may divulge your identity and participation in the study."

## **GROUND COMBAT ELEMENT INTEGRATED TASK FORCE (CONT'D)**

### **PA POSTURE**

Commanders and PAOs must assist the research team in complying with the human research protection guidance as outlined by the IRB. A GCEITF Marine must sign an IRB approved 'Supplemental Consent Form' in order to allow the Marine Corps to release the identity and imagery of that individual for use in Public Affairs products or media engagements. **All GCEITF media queries and requests for media embed should be forwarded to GCEITF PAO and HQMC PAO.**

### **TALKING POINTS**

**TP1.** We are using the time afforded by the Secretary of Defense to take a deliberate, measured and responsible approach to integrating women into combat arms specialties by research, assessment and development of occupational standards for ground combat arms occupational specialties and units.

**TP2.** We will ensure the highest levels of combat readiness by establishing and maintaining rigorous standards, enhance our warfighting capabilities, realize the potential of every Marine.

### **WEBSITES**

- <http://www.gceitf.marines.mil/>
- <http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/mcgce-itf>

### **POINTS OF CONTACT**

- Capt Maureen Krebs, OUSMCC, HQMC Public Affairs, 703-614-4309, [maureen.krebs@usmc.mil](mailto:maureen.krebs@usmc.mil)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Philip Kulczewski, GCEITF PAO, 910-449-8463, [philip.kulczewski@usmc.mil](mailto:philip.kulczewski@usmc.mil)

**USAFRICOM EXERCISE JUDICIOUS RESPONSE**

160026NOV2014

**BACKGROUND:** The two-part USAFRICOM Exercise JUDICIOUS RESPONSE (JR) will assess the 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade's regionally aligned, rapidly deployable, scalable Joint Task Force Headquarters capability for crisis response at Ft. Bragg, NC. JR-15 will assess transitions, authorities, intelligence collection, cyber security, communication synchronization, engagements, sustainment planning and joint and coalition integration. JR-15.1, from 10-26 Nov. 2014, is focused on crisis action planning, and JR-15.2 from 9-30 March 2015, is a command post exercise.

**STATEMENT:**

U.S. Africa Command will assess the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade's headquarters capability during Exercise Judicious Response 15.2 from March 9-30, 2015. The 2nd MEB is currently the only combatant command sponsored JTF brigade headquarters in the Marine Corps and JR-15 is part of the unit's plan to achieve full operational capability by the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2015.

**TALKING POINTS / Q&As:**

*TP 1. 2d MEB is the first MEB CE that has attained formal Combatant Command sponsorship for assessment as a JTF-Capable HQ.*

*TP2. JR-15 is a key event identified in the 2d MEB Campaign Plan for achieving full operational capability by Fourth Quarter FY-15.*

*TP3. USAFRICOM will use JR-15 to assess the Army 82nd Airborne and 2d MEB.*

*TP4. As described in Expeditionary Force 21, MEB development will include establishing JTF-capable command elements that are regionally focused to meet geographic combatant commanders' needs.*

**ADDITIONAL SOURCES:**

<http://www.mccdc.marines.mil/ef21>

<http://www.2ndmeb.marines.mil/>

**POINT OF CONTACT:** 1stLt John Parry, 2d MEB Public Affairs, 910-358-5238, [john.j.parry@usmc.mil](mailto:john.j.parry@usmc.mil)

## KEEPING FAITH

### QUOTE

*"I promised my Marines that we were going to do this responsibly and we would keep faith with the Marines. To do that, I don't want to cut 10,000 Marines in one year. I think that's irresponsible. ... We'll begin to draw down in a measured rate such that we don't break faith with Marines."*

*– Gen James F. Amos, 35<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps*

### TALKING POINTS

- The Marine Corps' greatest asset is our Marines.
  - The bedrock of the United States Marine Corps is our Marines. We value the men and women who have answered the call to serve as a Marine.
  - Our mission is to create quality Marines thus returning better citizens back to communities across our Nation.
  - The Marines who have faithfully served throughout the last decade have made invaluable contributions to our national security and our efforts overseas. We recognize their efforts and appreciate their service.
- The health and welfare of our Marines, Sailors and their families are a top priority for the Marine Corps.
  - We will ensure that all Marines (including single Marines that make up the majority of the Corps), Sailors and their families have availability and access to quality facilities and support programs, as well as resources and benefits that provide a quality standard of living.
  - We know that behind each Marine is a support network that enables the Marine to effectively do their job, whether on the front lines or the home front.
  - We have an array of assistance programs to support the health of our Marines and their families, including behavioral health, suicide prevention, substance abuse treatment and family advocacy.
- Taking care of our wounded, ill and injured and their families is a responsibility the Corps takes seriously.
  - The Wounded Warrior Regiment provides and facilitates assistance to wounded, ill and injured Marines and their family members, throughout the phases of recovery.
  - Access to trained legal counsel is available to wounded, ill and injured Marines throughout the Disability Evaluation System (DES) process to ensure their interests are protected.
  - We will enhance the capabilities of the Wounded Warrior Regiment to provide added care and support to our wounded, injured and ill Marines.
- As the mission changes overseas, we will conduct a smooth drawdown in the size of force that maintains the faith of our Marines and families, as well as meets the demands of national security.
  - Our goal is to reduce end strength through the normal attrition processes.
  - We will make concerted efforts to retain the most talented and qualified men and women who bring a diversity of background, culture and skill in service to our Nation
  - We think focused leadership at all levels is the key to having an effective drawdown process.

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### **KEEPING FAITH (CONT'D)**

- Once a Marine, always a Marine. There is no such thing as a former Marine.
  - The Marine Corps believes in taking care of its own, and that commitment does not end when they leave active duty.
  - We have launched an end-to-end transition assistance process improvement plan that directly improves the quality of support provided to our Marines from enlistment to post separation.

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

- HQMC PA, 703-614-4309, [ontherecord@usmc.mil](mailto:ontherecord@usmc.mil)

## MARINE CORPS 101

### QUOTE

*“The Marine Corps is America’s Expeditionary Force in Readiness – a balanced air-ground-logistics team. We are forward deployed and forward engaged: shaping, training, deterring and responding to all manner of crises and contingencies. We create options and decision space for our Nation’s leaders.*

*Alert and ready, we respond to today’s crisis with today’s force..... TODAY.”*

*– Gen James F. Amos, 35<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps*

### TALKING POINTS

- The Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) is the Marine Corps’ principal organization for conducting missions across the range of military operations. MAGTFs provide combatant commanders with scalable, versatile expeditionary forces.
- Marine Expeditionary Units (MEU) operate continuously across the globe and provide the President and the unified combatant commanders with a forward-deployed, flexible sea-based MAGTF. MEUs are capable of conducting amphibious operations, crisis response and limited contingency operations.
- The Corps has about 186,700 active-duty Marines, 39,600 in the Selected Marine Corps Reserve, and 68,000 in the Individual Ready Reserve. Some 29,300 Marines are deployed across the globe. Barring unforeseen funding challenges, the Marine Corps will realize its final strength of 182,000 active-duty Marines by the end of FY16.
- The final force structure will include 24 infantry battalions, as well as the implementation of 18 MV-22 squadrons. It also allows for such enduring presences as seven MEUs, SPMAGTFs – Crisis Response AF, CENT, and SOUTH, Marine Rotational Force Darwin, enhanced Cyber capabilities, and increased embassy security personnel.
- For 8% of the FY14 DoD Budget, the Marine Corps provides America with:
  - 15% of Active Ground Maneuver Brigades
  - 11% of the Fighter/Attack Aircraft
  - 11% of the Artillery Batteries
  - 12% of the U.S. military personnel in Afghanistan
  - Seven flexible and scalable MEUs
- About 37% of Marines are lance corporals and below – our most junior ranks in the Marine Corps, and 61% of Marines are 25 years-old or younger. Fewer than one in nine is an officer.
- View the latest [Marine Corps 101 Presentation](#).

### POINT OF CONTACT/SOURCING

- HQMC PA, 703-614-4309, [ontherecord@usmc.mil](mailto:ontherecord@usmc.mil)

*\*Sourced via Marine Corps Concepts & Programs 2011 and [CMC statement](#) on the release of the defense budget.*

## **MARINE CORPS FORCE INTEGRATION PLAN (MCFIP)**

### **BACKGROUND**

In January 2013, the Secretary of Defense rescinded the 1994 Direct Ground Combat and Assignment Rule which restricted women from assignment to 'units whose primary mission is to engage in direct combat on the ground,' and directed each of the services to open all military occupational specialties and units to females by Jan. 1, 2016. The Marine Corps continues to take a deliberate, measured and responsible approach to assess the units, occupational fields and specific military occupational specialties that are closed to our female Marines with the goal of opening units and billets to the maximum extent possible while maintaining our high combat readiness.

### **LINES OF EFFORT**

LOE 1: Since 2012, we have assigned female officers and staff non-commissioned officers in open MOSs to more than 20 of our closed, non-infantry, combat arms battalions at the headquarters level. Based on the success of integrating female Marines in those battalions to date, we are extending the assignment of female Marines in in these units to include non-commissioned officers and expand those assignments down to the company and battery level. *A MarAdmin was released outlining the expansion of assignments:*

<http://www.marines.mil/News/Messages/MessagesDisplay/tabid/13286/Article/172214/announcement-of-change-to-assignment-policy.aspx>

LOE 2: We have expanded our entry-level training research effort that began at Infantry Officer Course and Infantry Training Battalion. Upon graduation from recruit training, female Marines will now be able to volunteer for combat arms-MOS training schools prior to attending their assigned MOS training school. Female Marine company grade officers from the operating forces and supporting establishment can also volunteer for Infantry Officer Course. Thus far, 98 women have graduated from the 0311 Rifleman POI at ITB for LOE2 (approx. 44% graduation rate from volunteers). To date, 24 women have volunteered for IOC and none have graduated.

LOE 3: From Oct 2014 through July 2015, the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force will conduct individual and collective level skills training in designated ground combat arms occupational specialties in order to facilitate the standards based assessment of the physical performance of Marines in a simulated operating environment performing specific ground combat arms tasks. The research and assessment period (Oct 2014-July 2015) is designed to generate a significant amount of data that will inform the decision making process on opening ground combat units and MOSs to female Marines.

LOE 4: MarAdmin 493/14 announced the opening of 11 primary MOSs in the artillery, ground ordnance maintenance and low altitude air defense occupational fields to female Marines. Female Marines will be able to enter these MOSs through the normal accessions process and, in some cases, lateral moves.

### **KEY THEMES AND MESSAGES**

#### **Deliberate, Measured and Responsible**

*Deliberate:* The Marine Corps is conducting a thoughtful, intentional, and careful process of planning, analysis, and assessment in order to provide the opportunity for each Marine to realize his or her potential while increasing operational capability across the range of military operations.

## **MARINE CORPS FORCE INTEGRATION PLAN (MCFIP) (CONT'D)**

*Measured:* We are using the time afforded by the Secretary of Defense to take a systematic approach to integrating women into combat arms specialties by research, assessment and validation of current occupational standards.

*Responsible:* We must continue to field America's crisis response force that is ready to fight and win for this nation on short notice, in the most difficult, uncertain and brutal circumstances of combat.

### **Maintaining Standards**

We must maintain the highest standards for all Marines to enable them to excel in any mission across the range of military operations. We have the opportunity to assess the standards we have in place against twelve years of combat experience. We will not lower our standards; it would be a disservice to the nation and detrimental to our national security.

The Marine Corps does not succeed as the nation's crisis response force by being average; we must maintain high standards while providing equitable opportunity for a viable career path for all Marines.

### **Maintaining Combat Readiness**

We will ensure the highest levels of combat readiness by establishing and maintaining rigorous standards, enhance our warfighting capabilities, realize the potential of every Marine and maintain the faith of the American people in their Marine Corps.

As our Corps moves forward with this process, our focus will remain on combat readiness and generating combat-ready units while simultaneously allowing each Marine the opportunity to succeed; it's simply the right thing to do. Our ongoing deliberate, measured and responsible approach will integrate female Marines in the ground combat element to the maximum extent possible.

This is not a question as to how well our female Marines have performed in combat; their records and personal decorations speak to their superb performance over the last 13 years of war. This is a matter of allowing every Marine the opportunity to compete, based on their ability to meet gender neutral occupational standards required of the occupational specialty.

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

*If queried or preparing your commander for a media engagement, please contact HQMC Media Section who can provide you with a comprehensive communication strategy that outlines the four new measures and associated questions and answers.*

### **POINT OF CONTACT/SOURCING**

- Capt Maureen Krebs, HQMC Media Officer/MCFIP PAO, 703-614-4309, [maureen.krebs@usmc.mil](mailto:maureen.krebs@usmc.mil)

## MARINE ROTATIONAL FORCE-DARWIN

### BACKGROUND

In November of 2011, U.S. President Barack Obama and former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced the deployment of U.S. Marines to Darwin and Northern Australia, for approximately six months at a time, where they will conduct exercises and training on a rotational basis with the Australian Defence Force. The first two deployments consisted of approximately 200 Marines each and occurred in 2012 and 2013. This year's deployment consisted of approximately a 1,150 member Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF).

### KEY MESSAGES

- MRF-D is a cost-effective way to expose U.S.-based Marine units to various training environments while maintaining readiness and military partnerships with the Australian Defence Force and regional partners throughout Southeast Asia.
- MRF-D exercises the interoperability and combined capability of a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) and our Australian allies. Military relationships between the United States and our partner nations are critical to maintaining balance and stability across the globe.
- United States' vital interests are best served by having forward-positioned maritime forces around the globe, postured to prevent conflicts, and committed to the overall cooperative security in the region.

### TALKING POINTS

- Having a rotational Marine Corps deployment to Darwin is a tangible demonstration of the United States' sustained commitment to the U.S.-Australia alliance and to the Asia-Pacific region and will enhance regional security cooperation activities, disaster relief response capabilities, and the ability to respond to various crises throughout the region due to proximity.
- Marine community engagements in the Northern Territory are intended to add depth to our relationship with Australia. Beyond purely military training, we greatly appreciate Australia's hospitality and believe we have much to learn, and much to share, with our gracious hosts.
- The U.S. Marine Corps and the Australian Defence Forces are committed to continuing our tradition of more than 100 years of global partnerships and security cooperation between Australia and the United States of America. U.S. military-ADF relations date back to the early 20th century and we have been coalition partners in every significant conflict throughout the world, including World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

### DVIDS Unit Page

<http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/MRF-D>

### POINT OF CONTACT/SOURCING

- MARFORPAC PA Deputy Director: Chuck Little, DSN 315-477-8309, cell (808) 673-8921, email: [chuck.little@usmc.mil](mailto:chuck.little@usmc.mil)

## MARINE SECURITY GUARD EXPANSION

### BACKGROUND

The 2013 National Defense Authorization Act directed the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to develop a plan to provide the end strength and resources necessary to increase the number of Marines in the Marine Corps security guard program to provide diplomatic security by up to 1,000 Marines, without degrading the readiness of the Marine Corps.

### TALKING POINTS

- The Marine Corps Embassy Security Group (MCESG) has more than 1,500 Marines stationed throughout the world at MSG detachments and regional headquarters. Detachments are in more than 150 countries.
- The Marine Corps is in the process of opening 14 new MSG Detachments, right-sizing the detachments at all Department of State-designated High Threat/Risk Posts.
- The mission of the MSGs was amended June 2013 to the following: To provide protection to mission personnel and prevent the compromise of national security information and equipment at designated diplomatic and consular facilities. MSGs will be prepared to execute plans for the protection of the mission and its personnel as directed by the chief of mission or principal officer through the regional security officer.
- Marine Security Guards are created from Marines who volunteer for this unique duty after going through an intense screening process. Upon arrival at MSG school, they are given the training required for them to protect classified material at whichever post they are assigned to worldwide. The school lasts eight weeks for both watch standers and detachment commanders.
- The MSG Security Augmentation Unit (MSAU) was created July 2013 with the first three squads fully operational August 2013. Within forty-five days of standing up, MSAU MSGs conducted its first deployments to eight separate embassies during the anniversary of 9/11. During its first year of existence, MSAU conducted over 30 deployments in support of the Department of State.
- The primary mission of MSAU is to provide rapidly deployable, specially trained, augmentation elements to provide security at designated U.S. diplomatic and consular facilities in order to protect U.S. diplomatic personnel and prevent the compromise of national security information and equipment. The secondary mission of MSAU is to provide security for classified material during overseas VIP visits, including those of the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary of State.
- The MSAU is comprised of 140 Marines, organized into ten, 13-man squads, plus a command element. It is designed to provide chiefs of mission a responsive, scalable option to increase the security posture at diplomatic posts based on current or projected security-related events at post. MSAU MSGs deploy for a period that best supports the mission but typically not exceeding 45 days. For lengthier missions, MSAU rotates personnel.

### POINT OF CONTACT/SOURCING

- Capt Eric Flanagan, HQMC PA, 703-614-4309, [eric.flanagan@usmc.mil](mailto:eric.flanagan@usmc.mil)

## MEU TRACKER

### 11th MEU

***The 11th MEU deployed July 25, 2014, with the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group aboard the USS Makin Island (LHD 8), USS San Diego (LPD 22), and USS Comstock (LSD 45). The MEU is currently deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility as a crisis response force and theatre reserve. While transiting through 7th Fleet, the MEU rescued 11 NOAA researchers from three remote islands in the direct path of a severe hurricane. In September, the MEU completed Exercise MALUS AMPHEX 14 (Malaysia-United States Amphibious Exercise) with the Malaysian Armed Forces. On Oct. 1, a crew chief died in the North Arabian Gulf as the result of an MV-22B mishap. In October, the MEU completed Exercise COUGAR VOYAGE 14, a multilateral exercise between representatives of the U.S., U.K. and Kuwait. The MEU is currently conducting sustainment training in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility and Djibouti.***

- Commanding Officer: Col Matthew G. Trollinger
- Units: BLT 2/1, VMM-163 (REIN), CLB-11
- Deployment Dates: Summer 2014 - Spring 2015
- PAO: Capt. Joshua S. Diddams, [joshua.diddams@makin-island.usmc.mil](mailto:joshua.diddams@makin-island.usmc.mil)
- Web: <http://www.11thmeu.marines.mil/>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/11thmeu>
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/11thmeu>
- Photos/Video: <http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/11meu>

### 15th MEU

***The 15th MEU formally composited on October 6, 2014 and is currently beginning their pre-deployment training. The 15<sup>th</sup> MEU began their Realistic Urban Terrain exercise in December, which will involve training events across southern California, Arizona, and Nevada. Some of those events will include activities in urban areas like downtown Los Angeles. The 15th MEU will deploy aboard the Essex Amphibious Ready Group aboard the USS Essex (LHD 2), USS Anchorage (LPD 23), and USS Rushmore (LSD 47).***

- Commanding Officer: Col Vance L. Cryer
- Units: BLT 3/1, VMM-161 (REIN), CLB-15
- Deployment Dates: Spring - Fall 2015
- PAO: Capt. Brian T. Block, [brian.block@usmc.mil](mailto:brian.block@usmc.mil)
- Web: [www.15thmeu.marines.mil](http://www.15thmeu.marines.mil)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/15thMarineExpeditionaryUnit](http://www.facebook.com/15thMarineExpeditionaryUnit)
- Photos/Video: [www.dvidshub.net/unit/15MEUPA](http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/15MEUPA)
- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/15thMEUOfficial](http://www.twitter.com/15thMEUOfficial)
- Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/15thmeu/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/15thmeu/)
- YouTube: [www.youtube.com/The15thMEU](http://www.youtube.com/The15thMEU)

### 22<sup>nd</sup> MEU

***The 22nd MEU deployed Feb. 8, 2014, with the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group aboard the USS Bataan (LHD 5), USS Mesa Verde (LPD 19) and USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44). While in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations, the MEU completed exercises with forces from Spain, Portugal, Greece and Israel. Currently deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility, the MEU completed Exercise Eager Lion 14 in Jordan, a bilateral exercise in Djibouti with the French 5th Combined Arms Overseas Regiment, and theater security cooperation exercises with other allied and***

***partner nations. The Bataan and her embarked Marines repositioned to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in late May to augment U.S. Crisis Response forces in the region, where it also rescued nearly 300 persons in distress in the Mediterranean Sea. The Bataan returned to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility in early July. From Aug. 10-14, the MEU supported an assessment of humanitarian options in support of displaced Iraqi civilians trapped on Sinjar Mountain by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and has been conducting surveillance and reconnaissance missions over Iraq with aircraft based on the Bataan since late July. On Sept. 1, a CH-53E Super Stallion with the MEU's aviation combat element crashed while attempting to land on the Mesa Verde; all 25 passengers and crew members were immediately rescued, while sustaining only minor injuries. The MEU and Bataan ARG were recently extended in U.S. 5th Fleet for an additional 21 days, making this a nine-month deployment.***

- Commanding Officer: Col William R. Dunn
- Units: BLT 1/6, VMM-263 (REIN), CLB-22
- Deployment Dates: Feb. 2014 – Oct. 2014
- PAO: Capt. Stewart M. Coles, [stewart.coles@usmc.mil](mailto:stewart.coles@usmc.mil)
- Web: <http://www.22ndmeu.marines.mil/>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/22ndmeu>
- Photos/Video: <http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/22meu>

#### **24th MEU**

***The 24th MEU composited May 27 and is scheduled to deploy with the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group later this year. The 24th MEU's command element, and elements of the aviation combat element, returned in January from the first full rotation of Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response.***

- Commanding Officer: Col. Scott F. Benedict
- Units: BLT 3/6, VMM-365 (REIN), CLB-24
- Deployment Dates: Winter 2014 – Summer 2015
- PAO: Capt. Sharon A. Hyland; [Sharon.Hyland@usmc.mil](mailto:Sharon.Hyland@usmc.mil), [Sharon.Hyland@iwo-jima.usmc.mil](mailto:Sharon.Hyland@iwo-jima.usmc.mil)
- Web: <http://www.24thmeu.marines.mil/>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/24thmeu>
- Photos/Video: <http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/24meu>

#### **26th MEU**

***Marines and Sailors of the 26th MEU are currently filling the role of the command element for Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa and Black Sea Rotational Force. The remainder of their personnel aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., are preparing for the unit's pre-deployment training program that begins in Spring 2015.***

- Commanding Officer: Col. Robert C. Fulford
- Units: BLT 2/6, VMM-266 (REIN), CLB-26
- Deployment Dates: Fall 2015 - Spring 2016
- PAO: 1st Lt. Gerard R. Farao, [gerard.farao@us.af.mil](mailto:gerard.farao@us.af.mil)
- Web: <http://www.26thmeu.marines.mil/>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/26meu>
- Photos/Video: <http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/26meu>

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## 31<sup>st</sup> MEU

***Throughout November, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Bn., 4th Marines, attached to the 31st MEU as the ground combat element, while the Harriers of VMA 231 (-) attached to VMM 262 (REIN) as part of the aviation combat element. In December and January 2015, the 31st MEU will conduct pre-deployment training exercises, including MEUEX, in preparation for the regularly-scheduled Spring Patrol 15.1 of the Asia-Pacific region.***

- Commanding Officer: Col. Romin Dasmalchi
- Units: CLB-31, BLT 2/4, VMM-262 (REIN), VMA-231
- The 31st MEU is the only continually forward-deployed MEU and remains the Marine Corps' force-in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.
- PAO: Capt Garron Garn, [garron.garn@usmc.mil](mailto:garron.garn@usmc.mil)
- Web: [www.31stmeu.marines.mil](http://www.31stmeu.marines.mil)
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/31stMEU>
- Photos/Video: <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/31MEU>
- YouTube: [www.youtube.com/the31stmeu](http://www.youtube.com/the31stmeu)

## BACKGROUND

Since World War II, in nearly every crisis, the Marine Corps has deployed projection forces, with the ability to move ashore with sufficient sustainability for prolonged operations. These forces have been organized into Marine Air Ground Task Forces (MAGTF), a combination of air, ground and support assets. MAGTFs are established for specific missions, or in anticipation of a wide range of possible missions. Combining air, ground and logistic assets maximizes the combat power of each of the war fighting elements. MAGTFs have long provided the United States with a broad spectrum of response options when U.S. and allied interests have been threatened and in non-combat situations that require instant response to crisis. Selective, timely and credible commitment of air-ground units have, on many occasions, helped bring stability to a region and sent signals worldwide to aggressors that the United States is willing to defend its interests, and it is able to do so with a significantly powerful force on extremely short notice.

The Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) is the smallest of the MAGTFs and comprises about 2,200 Marines and Sailors. Its major elements are the Command Element (CE), the Ground Combat Element (GCE), the Aviation Combat Element (ACE), and the Logistics Combat Element (LCE).

The CE comprises the commanding officer and supporting staff – about 200 Marines and Sailors. It provides the overall command and control essential for effective planning and execution of operations and synchronizes the actions of each element within the MEU. Skill sets falling under the command element include: administration, intelligence, operations, logistics and embarkation, communications, legal and public affairs.

The GCE is built around an infantry battalion and provides the overland combat power for the MEU. Assets inherent within the standard infantry battalion include: medium and heavy machine guns, mortars, combined anti-armor teams and scout snipers. While assigned to the MEU, the unit, designated a Battalion Landing Team, is reinforced with light armored reconnaissance vehicles, tanks, artillery, combat engineers and assault amphibian vehicles.

The ACE is a composite squadron that provides the MEU medium to heavy lift capability, assault support and close air support (CAS). Its assets include: MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft or CH-46 Sea Knight medium lift helicopters, CH-53E Super Stallion heavy lift helicopters, AH-1 Super Cobra

helicopter gunships, UH-1 Huey utility helicopters and AV-8B Harrier jump jets. With a force strength of approximately 500, the ACE includes air traffic control, aircraft maintenance/support and aviation logistics/supply capabilities.

The LCE, about 250 Marines and Sailors strong, provides combat support such as supply, maintenance, transportation, explosive ordnance disposal, military police, water production and distribution, engineering, medical and dental services, fuel storage and distribution, and other services to the deployed MEU. The LCE gives the MEU the ability to support itself for 15 days in austere expeditionary environments.

### **TALKING POINTS**

- MEUs operate continuously across the globe and provide the President and the unified combatant commanders with a forward-deployed, flexible sea-based MAGTF.
- The distinct ability of amphibious forces to gain access to critical areas anywhere in the world with ground, air and logistics forces enables the Navy-Marine Corps team to shape actions across the range of military operations to resolve conflict, conduct humanitarian assistance or combat the enemy in remote, austere environments that would otherwise be inaccessible.
- With the increasing concentration of the world's population close to a coastline, the ability to operate simultaneously on the sea, ashore, and in the air, and to move seamlessly between these three domains represents the unique value of amphibious forces.
- "Expeditionary" is not a bumper sticker to us, or a concept, it is a "state of conditioning" that Marines work hard to maintain.
- We are the nation's crisis response force of choice. We have a unique capability to respond to today's crises, with today's force – today.
- Always ready when the nation is least ready, Marines are either forward deployed or capable of deploying, often from the sea, on short notice to crises around the world.

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

- Capt Eric Flanagan, HQMC PA, 703-614-4309, [eric.flanagan@usmc.mil](mailto:eric.flanagan@usmc.mil)

## MV-22 OSPREY

### BACKGROUND

The V-22 is the world's first production tiltrotor aircraft. This aircraft's tiltrotor technology is revolutionizing military assault support in a manner not seen since the introduction of helicopters more than 50 years ago. Unlike any aircraft before it, the V-22 successfully blends the vertical flight capabilities of helicopters with the speed, range, altitude and endurance of fixed-wing transports. This unique combination provides an unprecedented advantage to warfighters, allowing current missions to be executed more effectively, and new missions to be accomplished that were previously unachievable on legacy platforms.

The MV-22B Osprey is the U.S. Marine Corps' version of this aircraft. The incredible effectiveness and survivability of this versatile aircraft have been demonstrated again and again, from land-based operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to sea-based operations in Haiti, Libya and the Philippines.. The MV-22B Osprey provides commanders with unprecedented agility and operational reach. As the U.S. Marine Corps continues to transition its aviation platforms in the years ahead, the MV-22B's revolutionary capability will remain a cornerstone of the Marine Air Ground Task Force.

### TALKING POINTS

- The MV-22 has been continuously deployed since October 2007, in extreme environmental conditions. The aircraft has deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and aboard amphibious shipping. It has expanded the operational reach of Marine forces by 340NM (60%) compared to other rotary wing assets.
- The MV-22 is exceptionally survivable. Aircraft engaged in the close in, kinetic fight in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) have taken small arms, rocket-propelled grenade and heavy machine gun fire on several occasions and in every instance were able to safely continue flight to friendly territory.
- The MV-22 is a very safe aircraft. Through material solutions, bi-annual software updates and enhanced pilot training, we have improved the safety of the MV-22 making it one of the safest aircraft in the Marine Corps.
- Concerns about maneuverability in combat were addressed with further flight testing and aircraft modifications that have resulted in a better understanding of the aircraft's flight characteristics, updated flight control laws that refine the performance of the aircraft, and a redesign of critical components to enhance their reliability.
- As is true with all aircraft, pilot training that is thorough and consistent is the best way to ensure an aircraft is safe and we maintain this standard without compromise.
- In addition to being a reliable and safe aircraft, the MV-22 has proven itself remarkably in combat for the past six years of continuous combat deployments.
- The Osprey's operational capability and flexibility was highlighted by the rescue of a downed U.S. Air Force pilot during Operation Odyssey Dawn.

### **MV-22 OSPREY (CONT'D)**

- The MV-22 continues to be the platform of choice for all missions from tactical troop inserts to planned and emergency resupply.
- The MV-22 is the safest rotorcraft ever fielded by the Marine Corps – with over 200,000 flight hours flown, which includes direct support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.
- The likelihood of a dual engine failure is extremely remote. Even so, pilots are trained to respond to a dual engine failure in both airplane mode and conversion (helicopter) mode flight. This training continues after flight school while in operational squadrons through the use of simulators.
- The interconnecting drive shaft is a key component to the single engine capability of the MV-22. Every tandem rotor aircraft, helicopter or tiltrotor, has an interconnecting drive shaft that maintains rotor synchronization during both powered flight and autorotation.
- The MV-22 is an extremely maneuverable aircraft with a large and versatile operating flight envelope which far outstrips that of the legacy helicopter it replaces. That envelope, and the procedures which govern the safe operation of the aircraft, are effective in both combat and peacetime operations. There are no separate aircraft operating limitations for either environment.
- The side-by-side rotor configuration of the MV-22 is not only a key to the aircraft's exceptional maneuverability, but it enhances its safety and survivability. Separating the engines and other key drivetrain components make them less susceptible to being damaged by instances of hostile fire.
- We would like to stress that there is no limitation in combat that is not applicable to daily flight operations. We believe the aircraft is safe in any operational environment and we would like to emphasize that the Marine Corps does not fly tactical mission profiles over populated areas unless directed to do so.
- Finally, a tiltrotor aircraft, by design, is a merging of helicopter and airplane design. The blending of these design characteristics results in a tremendously capable machine that continues to perform exceptionally well across a wide range of military operations.

#### **TRANSITION**

- East Coast transition is complete – Six VMMs, all have deployed.
- West Coast is underway – Four VMM complete, one in transition.
- Okinawa has two squadrons and they are supporting MEU operations.

#### **DVIDS Feature Page**

<http://www.dvidshub.net/feature/MV22Osprey>

#### **POINTS OF CONTACT**

- Capt Dustin Pratico, HQMC PA, 703-614-4309, dustin.pratico@usmc.mil
- Maj Doug Thumm, HQMC Aviation (APP-52), 703-693-4956, douglas.thumm@usmc.mil
- Maj Brandon Whitfield, HQMC Aviation (APW-52), 703-693-7108, brandon.whitfield@usmc.mil

## **TRANSFORMATION OF NON-APPROPRIATED FUND (NAF) REVENUE-GENERATING BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND NAF BACK-OFFICE SUPPORT FUNCTIONS**

1600 3 NOV 2014

**BACKGROUND:** Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) non-appropriated fund (NAF) revenue-generating business operations and back-office support functions are currently faced with a “perfect storm” of resourcing challenges that include reductions in appropriated funds (APF) support, top-line NAF sales pressures, and reductions in NAF dividends/contributions that support MCCS/MWR. Marine Requirements Oversight Council (MROC) Directive Memorandum 08-2014 directed the MCCS Board of Directors to: 1) develop implementation plans and supporting Plans of Action and Milestones (POA&Ms) to outsource or consolidate NAF business operations and NAF back-office support functions at the enterprise or region level and 2) study and implement additional/complementary means to solve the resource gap. In addition, as a concurrent action, the MROC directed the MCCS Budget Oversight Committee to develop an institutional and appropriately balanced NAF budgeting and allocation process and implementation plan for MCCS Board of Directors approval. The MCCS Board of Directors has approved transformation initiatives for Auto Skills, Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) Logistics and Store Operations, and NAF Procurement. Programs and support functions still under review include Clubs, Golf, and NAF Finance and Accounting. Cross-functional operational planning teams (OPTs) have also been established to develop an institutional and appropriately balanced NAF budgeting process and to identify business and community recreation core programs and levels of service at all installations. The goal of these efforts is to improve and sustain valued programs and to facilitate equitable delivery of those programs across all installations.

### **TALKING POINTS:**

**TP1.** Marine Corps leadership is committed to reorganize for efficiencies and best practices in order to continue to provide the most valued programs and services in an increasingly restricted fiscal environment.

**TP2.** Any staffing changes that result from transformation initiatives will occur in coordination with impacted commands and labor agreements, and be managed through attrition and reassignments to the maximum extent possible. Commands, unions and employees will be kept apprised of transformation efforts and final decisions of Marine Corps leadership.

**TP3.** MCX Logistics functions will be outsourced to streamline the flow of merchandise, reduce distribution costs, right-size MCX inventory, and reduce the footprint of MCX backrooms. The MCX will divest of current standalone warehouses at MCAS Miramar, MCB Camp Pendleton, MCAGCC 29 Palms, and MCB Camp Lejeune. MCX Logistics transformation is expected to result in an estimated \$12M savings by the end of FY16.

**TP4.** MCX store staffing will also be standardized to meet an organizational average labor-to-sales ratio of 8% by implementing a standard staff structure, scheduling to sales demand, and development of a retail operations support structure that models industry best practices. Staffing structures and labor to sales ratios will be established for each store type and via collaboration with each command. MCX store staffing transformation is expected to result in an estimated \$12M in savings by the end of FY16.

**TP5.** NAF Procurement offices will be regionalized to provide a responsive and professional workforce focused on leveraging volume discounts to reduce total spend and overhead costs. The consolidation of NAF procurement/contracting actions will be collaboratively developed/ validated with commands and will render a conservative 3% efficiency (estimated at \$5M) based on leveraged, volume procurements.

**TP6.** Auto Skills programs will transition to a revenue-generating, self-sustaining operation over a three-year period, thereby eliminating the need for \$2.3M of appropriated funds. Core program components and staffing will be offered in all facilities, fees will be regionally-synchronized, and unprofitable, discretionary services will no longer be offered. Regionally-synchronized pricing will be implemented by 1 Feb 15.

**TP7.** A cross-functional OPT comprised of headquarters program managers, senior leaders, and junior Marines has been chartered to identify MR programs and services viewed as core/most valued. OPT member input will be one element used to establish minimum common levels of service, staffing, and pricing structures. Outcomes of the OPT will be vetted through the MCCS Budget Oversight Committee and ultimately approved by the MCCS Board of Directors.

**TP8.** A cross-functional OPT has been chartered to develop an institutional and appropriately balanced NAF budgeting and allocation process. This new process is intended to level-set NAF resources across the institution in order to provide equitable programs and services that are deemed core. Outcomes of the OPT will be vetted through the MCCS Budget Oversight Committee and ultimately approved by the MCCS Board of Directors.

**ADDITIONAL SOURCES:**

MR Transformation Communication plan V2.0 (4/7/14)

**POINT OF CONTACT:** Mr. Bryan Driver, HQMC MR PAO, 703-432-2272, [driverbr@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:driverbr@usmc-mccs.org)

## OPERATION ATLANTIC RESOLVE

### **BACKGROUND:**

With the European Reassurance Initiative well underway, Operation Atlantic Resolve is gaining traction and the United States Marine Corps is taking resolute measures to promulgate the security and well-being of NATO's partners and allies. These measures include an increase in military exercises, training, augmentation and enhancement of NATO allies' readiness, prepositioning of equipment and naval force deployments in Baltic, Black Sea and Mediterranean regions. Operation Atlantic Resolve is part of the United States' reassurance and commitment to NATO allies they we remain steadfast in our unwavering obligation to collective defense through Article V of the Washington Treaty.

### **THEMES AND MESSAGES:**

#### PROVEN PARTNERS

- No nation can confront today's challenges alone – NATO is the most successful political and military alliance in history and the bedrock of transatlantic security.

#### STRATEGIC ACCESS

- U.S. Marine and NATO forces are poised to deploy to crises in this part of the world in a matter of hours – providing agility not possible for U.S.-based forces.

#### ECONOMIC SECURITY

- Marine forces based in Europe are a smart economic investment for the American taxpayer, providing essential crisis response capability in an unstable and dynamic environment.

#### COLLECTIVE SECURITY

- Our persistent presence measures in Eastern Europe are defensive in nature, fully in line with our international commitments and agreements, and necessary to reassure our allies of our collective defense.

### **Q&As:**

#### **Q1: What is Operation Atlantic Resolve?**

A1: Operation Atlantic Resolve is a demonstration of our continued commitment to the collective security of NATO and dedication to the enduring peace and stability in the region, in light of the Russian intervention in Ukraine specifically.

#### **Q2: Is the Marine Corps only committed to NATO allies when faced with Russian aggression?**

A2: Our NATO allies know that the commitment to the security of our allies is resolute. In meeting our global security commitments, the United States must have strong, committed and capable allies, which is why we have conducted numerous engagements, exercises and other training events across Europe. The U.S.-European strategic partnership has been forged over the past seven decades and is built on a foundation of shared values, experiences and vision.

#### **Q3: What does Operation Atlantic Resolve mean for MARFOREUR/AF and its ability to work with its partners on the continent?**

A3: Having allocated forces with a broad set of skills provides MARFOREUR/AF quickly deployable forces in the event of a contingency. More importantly, at this stage it allows for better opportunities for combined training and theater security cooperation engagements with our allies and partners, demonstrating we share a commitment to promote a peaceful and stable Europe.

## **OPERATION ATLANTIC RESOLVE (CONT'D)**

### **Q4: What does this have to do with the security of Americans in the United States? How is this helping national security?**

A4: National security begins abroad and Operation Atlantic Resolve supports U.S. national security priorities. Over the last couple of months those acts of aggression have been very worrisome for the US and our NATO allies, so we need to look at ways to reassure our NATO allies that the United States is committed to a Europe that is whole, free and peaceful.

### **Q5: Should taxpayer money be spent on countries in Europe?**

A5: NATO and other collective security agreements bring all of our peoples, all of our interests, and all of our economies closer together – serving as anchors for stability, security and prosperity. Today's forces based in Europe are a smart investment for the American taxpayer, providing essential crisis response capability in an unstable and dynamic environment.

### **DVIDS Feature Page**

<http://www.dvidshub.net/feature/OperationAtlanticResolve>

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## PACIFIC REORIENTATION

### QUOTE

*"Our recommendations [on rebalance] were guided by an updated defense strategy that builds on the president's 2012 defense strategic guidance. This defense strategy is focused on: defending the homeland against all strategic threats; building security globally by projecting U.S. influence and deterring aggression; and remaining prepared to win decisively against any adversary should deterrence fail. To fulfill this strategy, DOD will continue to shift its operational focus and forces to the Asia Pacific, sustain commitments to key allies and partners in the Middle East and Europe, maintain engagement in other regions, and continue to aggressively pursue global terrorist networks."*

*- Chuck Hagel, Secretary of Defense, Feb. 24, 2014*

### TALKING POINTS

- The Marine Corps is adjusting its force lay-down in the Asia-Pacific region to support the President's Strategic Guidance for the Department of Defense issued in January 2012.
- The concept of the preeminent importance of the Asia-Pacific region has long been part of our national strategy. This initiative by the U.S. government to refocus toward the Pacific is primarily diplomatic and economic, with the military playing a complementary role.
- The U.S. rebalance to Asia encompasses all aspects of U.S. engagement – diplomatic, economic, political, and military – as well as support for and participation in key multilateral institutions. Through this rebalance, the United States is committed to broadening the robust ties to regional Asia-Pacific partners.
- America has always been and will remain heavily invested in and committed to the Asia-Pacific. The United States traded \$2.38 trillion in goods and services with Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries in 2011, amounting to 56 percent of total U.S. trade. This trade of goods and services has increased 135 percent from nearly \$1 trillion in 1994 and continues to increase.
- Beyond our shared economic ties, five of the United States' seven major defense treaties are with Asia-Pacific nations and we have many more strong and enduring partnerships in the region. The Marine Corps' rebalance efforts in the Pacific are focused both on creating and strengthening partnerships with other nation's militaries. These efforts are also aligned with the Defense Guideline's direction for "innovative, low-cost and small-footprint approaches to achieve our security goals."
- We envision an Asia Pacific in which all countries cooperate to advance our common interests in the face of natural disasters and rogue elements which would disrupt the common values of security, stability and prosperity.
- We seek to have balanced capabilities strategically located between Hawaii, Guam, Japan and Australia so that we can train, exercise and operate with allies and partners, and to be able to respond to crises and promote security cooperation across the region.

## PACIFIC REORIENTATION (CONT'D)

- The Marine Corps is a force perfectly designed and suited for both crisis response and the Asia-Pacific maritime environment. In partnership with the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marines are America's proven crisis response force, ready to help an ally in trouble or protect vital interests.
- Two-thirds of the Marine Corps' operational forces are assigned to the Pacific. This allocation of resources is intuitive given the vast maritime and littoral nature of the theater. Our weighted presence is also appropriate in that our primary functions are to assure littoral access to the joint force commander and respond to crises. Having a versatile, experienced, ready-to-respond force like the Marine Corps in the region helps ensure the peace, stability, and prosperity that benefit everyone.
- The Marine Corps is the training partner of choice for the region, especially partnered with the Navy. The Navy-Marine Corps team has the skill sets and the resources our partners and allies in the region want, and we have built the rapport and trust that successful relationships require, ensuring we can work together when we need to. This is exemplified by the more than 70 different training exercises and expertise exchanges we conduct every year with partners and allies throughout this region.
- We see South Korea, Japan, Russia, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Australia and many other regional nations such as the Maldives, Vietnam, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Singapore and New Zealand interested in developing or improving their ability to respond to natural or man-made crises from the sea. Each nation's military possesses different capabilities and capacities to respond to these crises, and they understand they need to train so they can rapidly respond when needed. The Marines are eager to train with each of them. We tailor our Marine Air-Ground-Logistics teams to train with each nation when and where they want, and train to the capability and capacity they want.
- U.S. Marines are organized, trained and equipped to operate from ships, from the air, and ashore. This integrated force, the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF), is the key to Marine operations and provides a balanced, combined-arms force which is expandable, adaptable, and tailorable to the mission.
- The Asia-Pacific region's strategic importance by the numbers:
  - The Pacific encompasses more than half of the world's surface area and 61% of the world's population.
  - 40 percent of the world's trade transits the Strait of Malacca.
  - Five of our nation's most important mutual defense treaties are with nations in the Asia-Pacific region.
  - 13 of the 15 megacities in the Asia-Pacific are within 100km of the coast
  - Seven out of 15 trading partners for the U.S. are in the Asia-Pacific region.
  - Natural disasters killed an average of more than 70,000 people every year of the last decade in Asia and the Pacific.

### **DVIDS Feature Page**

<http://www.dvidshub.net/feature/Marinesinthepacific>

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

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## POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS

### QUOTE

*"I encourage all Marines who are suffering from PTS or are having difficulties coping to seek assistance through their chain of command and understand that "it's OK to not be OK" as long as they are seeking help. All Marines have a responsibility to look out for one another and assist a fellow Marine who might be struggling."*

*– Gen James F. Amos, 35<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps*

### TALKING POINTS

- We must ensure that every Marine understands that seeking help for issues such as combat or operational stress is not a sign of weakness. Reaching out is an act of courage and strength.
- We all must realize that stress injuries are a reality we must deal with and confront. It is an invisible enemy we can't afford to ignore.
- We are thoroughly screening all Sailors and Marines prior to expeditionary deployment, enhancing the delivery of care in theater and the identifying and testing all at-risk individuals returning from deployment.
- As Marine leaders, we have a responsibility to take care of all Marines and their families both on and off the battlefield. This responsibility includes helping Marines and their loved ones handle stress caused by today's high operational tempo, deployments and service in combat.
- Post-traumatic stress (PTS) is diagnosed as a disorder (PTSD) once the symptoms become distressful to a Marine and his or her ability to function in the military environment is impacted.
- Although most Marines with PTS symptoms will not develop PTSD, our leaders require the skills and training to identify and intervene earlier for those at the highest risk of developing PTSD, especially given that often there are long delays in the development of this condition.
- Enhanced resilience, achieved through training and improved physical and psychological fitness, can decrease post-traumatic stress, decrease the incidence of undesirable and destructive behaviors, and lead to greater likelihood for good health, personal growth and life satisfaction.
- Most service members who seek and receive psychological health support improve and remain on active duty. Most who improve, recover.

### ***Combat and Operation Stress Control***

- Stress is part of military life. Not all stress is negative. Stress can result in post-traumatic growth.
- Stress is a leadership issue affecting force preservation, readiness and the well-being of our Marines and their families.

## **POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS (CONT'D)**

- Since January 2010, we have been building Operational Stress Control and Readiness (OSCAR) teams within battalion and equivalent units. These teams consist of OSCAR Mentors (selected unit Marines and leaders), Extenders (unit medical and religious personnel) and Mental Health Professionals who work together to provide a network of support.
- This model empowers Marines with leadership skills to break stigma and act as sensors for the commander by noticing small changes in behavior and taking action early. OSCAR teams strengthen Marines, mitigate stress, identify those at risk and support treatment for those who need that support, with the goal of swiftly re-integrating Marines back into the force.
- Started for deploying infantry units, OSCAR teams are showing promising results and teams are now required across the total force.

### **WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- Combat and Operational Stress Control:  
[https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M\\_RA\\_HOME/MF](https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M_RA_HOME/MF)
- Leader's Guide to Managing Marines in Stress: <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/LeadersGuide/Deployments/CombatOpsStress/generalinfo.cfm>
- Semper Fi Fund resources page: <http://semperfifund.org/resources/>

### **POINTS OF CONTACT**

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**RELATED BRIEFING CARDS:** [Traumatic Brain Injury](#)

## **FISCAL YEAR 2015 PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES REALIGNMENT**

### **BACKGROUND**

As we shift from wartime to traditional training and special missions, Marine & Family Programs must reposition our capabilities to deliver core programs and services that best meet the needs of today's Marines and families. In accordance with this repositioning, the Fiscal Year 2015 budget calls for a reduction of \$27 million impacting Family Readiness, Family Care, and Semper Fit & Recreation Programs. With reducing end strength, changing demographics, mission, and environment at hand, we must renew our programs and services for the post-wartime environment.

Cognizant of the fiscal challenges ahead, the Commandant of the Marine Corps has emphasized the importance of maintaining high levels of readiness. Marine & Family Programs exist to support the mission readiness requirements of the Corps and unit and individual health and wellness goals of those we serve. Thus, our future actions must be prioritized in support of Marines returning from 10 years of warfighting and transitioning out of the Marine Corps. Through integrated programming and collaborative communication, our aim is to hedge against potential gaps and establish that there is no wrong door when a Marine or family member is seeking support.

### **TALKING POINTS**

**TP1.** We will reposition our capabilities based on information from our Marine and families to deliver core programs and services that best meets their needs. We have identified and protected core programs that meet established standards for effectiveness to ensure Marines and families are receiving services based on the highest levels of scientific evidence.

**TP2.** We have examined each installation using a base-by-base approach to identify operational efficiencies. With the drawdown in force and subsequent decline in the number of patrons, our staffing must reflect the decreased utilization. We have identified opportunities to consolidate fitness centers and Children, Youth, and Teen Program centers based on peak times, utilization, and proximity to other facilities; as well as institute fees when appropriate to ensure continued service.

**TP3.** This repositioning effort will focus on understanding the needs, prioritizing our capabilities to meet those needs, and communicating the benefits of our offerings. Repositioning of capabilities will provide an opportunity to advance our programs in their core mission and standards to enhance their relevance aboard installations and unit settings.

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

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## RECRUITING

### RECRUITING 101 BACKGROUND

- **QUALITY:** The quality accessions delivered to today's Marine Corps are the dividends of investments made to recruiting four to five years ago. Quality enables today's Marines to win today's battles.
- **RESOURCES:** Today's investment in recruiting provides the future, smaller and more agile Corps with the capability required to deliver the quantity and quality of new accessions required with higher steady-state annual accession mission, which is in line with 30-year historical averages (i.e. approximately 38,500 NPS enlisted).
  - MCRC personnel are always operational and committed to supporting the institution. Maintaining personnel (Marines and Civilians) is the most critical asset to respond to expected higher missions (starting in FY16) and undoubtedly tougher market conditions.
  - Advertising is a key component that drives success in our recruiting efforts. Adequate funding ensures we achieve nationwide basic awareness levels, resource the most cost-effective lead generation programs, and address the increasing number of critical audiences to include our diversity outreach.
- **DIVERSITY:** The Marine Corps is committed to making concerted efforts to attract, mentor and retain the most talented men and women who bring a diversity of background, culture and skill in service to our nation.

### RECRUITING 101 TALKING POINTS

- Recruiting has been and will continue to be the lifeblood of the United States Marine Corps, regardless of end-strength requirements. A lower end-strength for the Corps doesn't equate to 'easier' times for Marine Corps Recruiting. Our Recruiting Force is faced with many challenges and obstacles -- but the high caliber Marines we have serving in the trenches throughout the Nation continue to 'make mission' and meet the missions assigned by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.
- 99.8% of current recruits are high school graduates (DoD stand is 90%), and 74% score in the top three tiers of the Armed Forces Qualification Test (DoD standard is 60%).
- Recruiting quality youth ultimately translates into higher performance, reduced attrition and increased retention, which equates to lower costs and improved readiness for the operating forces.
- Quality saves money. Research has proven that increased accession quality is directly linked to decreased boot camp attrition and premature first-term separations. Quality accessions save the Marine Corps and American tax payer money.
- The future, smaller and more agile Marine Corps will require a sustained investment in recruiting resources in order to access the best and brightest of America's sons and daughters.

**RECRUITING (CONT'D)**

- Investing in a diverse and representative officer corps will help generate and sustain a future force that has the cultural expertise, language skill sets and a variety of philosophies needed to meet the operational requirements of the Marine Corps.
- In total, recruiting a quality and representative force costs less than 1% of the Marine Corps' overall budget. A significant overcorrection of resources allocated in support of the Marine Corps' recruiting efforts would threaten enduring new accession quality and combat capability.
- The Marine Corps Recruiting Command has approximately 3,760 Marines currently serving as canvassing recruiters. These Marines are in every community of our Nation delivering our 'Tough, Smart, Elite Warrior' message of opportunity to young men and women, educators, coaches, influencers and parents. To accomplish the recruiting mission assigned by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, our recruiters must overcome myriad challenges -- but they continue to successfully meet assigned recruiting missions, while maintaining and exceeding Department of Defense quality standards.

**DVIDS Unit Page**

<http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/MCRC?#.VA32xktNyro>

**POINTS OF CONTACT**

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## **RESTRUCTURED SPECIAL DUTY ASSIGNMENT PAY**

### **BACKGROUND**

In August of 2013 the Special Duty Assignment Pay (SDAP) budget profile for Program Objective Memorandum-15 was cut by roughly \$7 million per annum to meet budgetary constraints created by the current legislative fiscal environment.

Only 4 percent of the Manpower Personnel pay account is discretionary (Bonuses; Special and Incentive Pays). Most of the pay categories that make up the manpower account are mandated by law and are therefore non-discretionary (Basic Pay; Basic Allowance for Housing), leaving bonuses and special pays, such as SDAP, to bear the preponderance of the levied cost savings/reductions.

### **STATEMENT**

**(Restructured SDAP effective 1 Oct 2014):** All Marines currently serving in a SDAP designated assignment, and who have a join date to a SDAP designated assignment prior to 1 Oct 2014, will continue to receive SDAP at the same level for the duration of their assignment. New entrants in special duty assignments after 30 Sept 2014 will receive SDAP based on the policy effective 1 Oct 2014.

### **TALKING POINTS**

**TP1.** As the DoD and Marine Corps move into a more resource-constrained environment we must fully evaluate each of our programs by weighing total costs and benefits of the current programs. Accordingly, we have decided to modify the SDAP Program. The decision to restructure the SDAP program was not taken lightly and we spent significant time evaluating all relevant factors before making a final decision on the changes.

**TP2.** The Marine Corps regards SDAP as a valuable tool to encourage members to volunteer to perform extremely demanding duties or duties demanding an unusual degree of responsibility.

**TP3.** The SDAP Program is implemented separately by each Service. The type of duties performed, degree of responsibility assigned, and the manning requirements for each special duty assignment differ across the DoD. Accordingly, the SDAP levels are awarded differently by each service.

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

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## **2014 SPAR PROGRESS REPORT TO POTUS**

### **Background**

In 2013, DOD was tasked by the White House to provide a report demonstrating progress in combating sexual assault; the report was delivered to the President December 2, 2014. The SAPR Progress Report does not replace the DOD's Annual Report on SAPR, which provides an in-depth analysis of reported sexual assaults and is typically released in late April, but is meant to show measures of progress across five primary lines of effort: prevention, investigation, accountability, victim advocacy/assistance, and assessment. One highly-anticipated aspect of the report is the top-line estimate of 2014 sexual assault prevalence rates for the DOD, as determined by the RAND Military Workplace Study (with elements of the previous-iteration Workplace Gender Relations Survey). Those rates were 4.3% for females in FY14, down from 6.1% in FY12, and 0.9% for males, down from 1.2%. In addition to the DOD statistical analysis, focus group results, and a military justice review, the report features service-specific assessments (consisting of a program narrative and a statistical narrative).

The Marine Corps' program narrative provides a summary of all Marine Corps SAPR initiatives since December 2011, such as establishment of a SAPR training continuum, the legal community reorganization and creation of the Victims Legal Counsel Organization, and SAPR personnel credentialing. The statistical narrative includes top-line Marine Corps estimates pulled from the 2014 RAND Study and FY14 reporting data from the Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database. Of primary note, the data shows:

- According to the RAND Study, 8.44% of active-duty females and 0.66% of males (approximately 2,300 total) experienced some type of Unwanted Sexual Contact in the year prior to being surveyed. That was a decrease of approximately 1,000 (from 3,300 total) in FY12, or 10.1% of females and 1.1% of males.
- From FY12 (453) to FY14 (855) the Marine Corps has seen an 89% increase in reports. Combined with the decrease in prevalence, this resulted in a decrease in the reporting gap from 90% in FY12 to 79% in FY14.
- Of the 855 total reports in FY14, 270 were for prior-to-service incidents, as compared to 177 prior-to-service incidents out of 876 total in FY13.

### **Statement**

The Marine Corps is attacking the scourge of sexual assault in its ranks through engaged leadership, effective deterrence, empowered reporting, zero tolerance and accountability. The number of sexual assaults in the Marine Corps, while trending downward, is unacceptable and is in direct opposition to our core values of honor, courage and commitment. The Corps owes to each Marine not just world-class victim services and appropriate accountability for their offenders, but most important, to enact programs that will lead to the prevention of this crime happening—this remains the enduring principle of all our SAPR efforts. Although we have a long way to go, the statistics show that the Commandant's SAPR Campaign Plan (published in 2012), and the comprehensive prevention initiatives undertaken since then, are beginning to turn the tide.

### **Talking Points**

- The prevalence of Marines experiencing Unwanted Sexual Contact (USC) dropped 30% from approximately 3,300 in FY12 to approximately 2,300 in FY14. That number encompasses 8.44% of active-duty female Marines, down from 10.1% in FY12, and 0.66% of male Marines, down from 1.1% in FY12.
  - Of the 855 total reports in FY14, 270 were for prior-to-service incidents, as compared to 177 prior-to-service incidents out of 876 total in FY13.

- Taken with the decrease in prevalence, the reporting gap – the amount of in-service USC not being reported – has decreased from 90% in FY12 to 79% in FY14. Closing the reporting gap is essential to both tackling the problem and especially providing supportive services to victims, and this is a promising sign.
- Credentialing requirements for all victim advocates, enhanced training for medical personnel, chaplains, and command teams; and initiatives such as expedited transfers, 8-Day Briefs, up-staffing of SAPR personnel, and expansion of counseling services have begun to instill victim confidence in the advocacy they receive. The most recent Marine Corps Victim Advocacy Survey found that 88% of victims felt all their supportive service needs were met.
- Changes to the military justice system, to include the establishment of the Victims' Legal Counsel Organization to represent victims at all stages of the adjudication process and the reorganization of the Corps' legal community to afford enhanced prosecutorial capabilities for special victims' cases, have resulted in higher victim confidence and participation in the system.
- We have seen a continued decrease in the number of victims declining to participate in the military justice process (from 10% in FY13 to 8% in FY14, which followed an 8% drop the previous year), as well as increases in the number of preferred sexual assault charges and the number of courts-martial (from 113 and 90, respectively, in FY13 to 159 and 103 in FY14).
  - While these statistics don't yet establish a stable trend line and more time must be given for further maturation of large-scale prevention initiatives, they are encouraging when taken with other indicators, such as increased perception of leadership engagement, victim satisfaction with services, and willingness of bystanders to intervene in risky situations.
    - 88% of Marines who observed a high-risk situation took action to intervene.
    - Overall, Marines perceive a favorable command climate in which mutual respect and trust is promoted and sexist comments and behaviors are actively discouraged (3.3 out of 4.0 scale for men; 3.2 out of 4.0 for women).  
*(Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute Organizational Climate Survey)*
- RAND's study indicates the Marine Corps has the highest sexual assault prevalence rate among the services (7.9% female/1.1% male). However, normalizing the data between the services by gender and age would likely show a more equal distribution of unwanted sexual contact incidents among female Marines compared to other female service members.
  - Because RAND's survey used new methodology, we are unable to provide data trends across years. More analysis is needed to account for variables in the Marine Corps data.
    - Rand will provide more complete findings in Spring 2015, which will include an assessment of how well demographics explain service differences.
  - The Marine Corps remains the youngest and most junior service, with 63% of all Marines aged 25 or younger and 42% in the rank of LCpl or below – the most at-risk demographic to experience a sexual assault.
    - Accounting for the unique demographics of the Marine Corps' young population and the correlating statistics compared to the other services, requires specific, focused prevention training for the junior Marine population. The Step Up training program, instituted in June 2014, provides such tailored training, along with Whole of Character training for DEP enlistees, enhanced SAPR training for recruits at the depots, and mandatory Take a Stand training for all newly-promoted NCOs, who directly oversee junior Marines.

**Point of Contact**

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## SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM 2015

### BACKGROUND

In January 2015, MARFORSOUTH will begin its fourth year of persistent security cooperation team support to USSOUTHCOM. Four Security Cooperation teams in the countries of Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador will focus on developing, building and sustaining partnerships, and increasing regional stability through tailor-made training to fit the unique needs of Partner Nation forces.

### KEY MESSAGES

- We are ready to address transnational security challenges through integrated and coordinated approaches with our partners.
- Our goal is to increase U.S. and partner-nation capability to execute our HA/DR, CTOC and other missions in a combined environment.
- Our approach is based on partnerships—partnerships based on shared values, shared challenges, and shared responsibility.

### TALKING POINTS

- We are committed to ensuring we and our partners are postured to provide ready and relevant forces to respond to crises.
  - Fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships with our partners is imperative to tackling our shared challenges. We count on our partners as they count on us.
  - Building partner-nation capacity is the key to leveraging our combined efforts to address our shared challenges.
  - Through continuous engagement, our partners are increasing their capacity in peacekeeping, stability operations, and disaster relief operations.
- Through Security Cooperation, partner nations are increasing their security capacity and professionalizing their militaries and security forces to address our shared challenges.
  - We are committed to building the capacity of our partners to counter the spread of transnational criminal organizations, and to protect citizens in Central America from the violence, harm and exploitation created by these criminal networks.
  - Cocaine, if not intercepted by U.S. agencies or our partner-nations, moves through Central America and Mexico and eventually lands on street corners across America, placing significant strain on our nation's health care and criminal justice systems costing American taxpayers an estimated \$193 billion in 2007 alone, the most recent year for which data is available.
  - We leverage our military-to-military relationships to have mighty impacts on regional security. Capable and effective partners respect human rights, share in the costs and responsibilities of ensuring regional security, and help us detect, deter, and interdict threats *before* they reach the U.S. homeland.

## **SEMPER FIDELIS FOOTBALL PROGRAM 2015**

**BACKGROUND:** The Semper Fidelis Football Program (SFFP) provides an opportunity for the Marine Corps to connect on a personal and local level with students and influencers, demonstrates our commitment to developing quality citizens, and reinforces how our core values of honor, courage, and commitment relate to success. The program aims to engage the nation's communities and attract top talent for the Marine Corps officer and enlisted programs. The SFFP and Semper Fidelis All-American game provides an opportunity for the Marine Corps to showcase its commitment to developing quality citizens and reinforces how Marine Corps values relate to success on and off the field. Bowl week events take place 29 Dec. through 4 Jan. in Carson, CA. The bowl game will take place at The StubHub Center and will be aired live on Fox Sports 1 Network, 4 January 2015, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. PST/9:00 – 11:00 p.m. EST.

### **TALKING POINTS / Q&As:**

- The Semper Fidelis Football Program builds effective leaders and quality citizens by instilling Marine Corps values.
- In addition to being tough, smart, elite warriors, the SFFP showcases Marines as model citizens of public service.
- Due to sequestration reductions in our budget it was determined that last year's SFFP would be the last, however, the Commandant has decided that this is one of those premiere events he would like us to continue and provided the resources necessary to execute the program.
- In its fourth year, the Semper Fidelis Football Program provides an opportunity for the Marine Corps to connect on a personal and local level with players and influencers, demonstrates our commitment to developing quality citizens, and reinforces how our core values of honor, courage and commitment relate to success on and off the field.
- The inaugural Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl was held at Chase Field in Phoenix, Ariz., on January 3, 2012
- This year's program includes an All-American Selection tour and a weeklong engagement that leads up to the nationally-televised Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl. Collectively, the program celebrates academic excellence, proven physical fitness, and quality of character.
- The Semper Fidelis Football Program provides Marines with opportunities to engage America's youth and their influencers nationwide, which informs a communal understanding of the Marine Corps' service opportunities and helps build effective leaders and quality citizens by instilling the Marine Corps' core values -- *Honor, Courage and Commitment*.
- The All-American Selection Tour recognizes and celebrates all selected players as exemplary athletes, youth leaders, high-academic performers and engaged community members.
- The Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl is unique because it brings together 90 high school-athletes from across the country who have demonstrated success both on and off the gridiron—our bowl participants are selected for being some of the most talented football players in the nation, as well as, high-academic performers and leaders in their communities.
- The overall cost to execute the Semper Fidelis Football Program, to include the selection tour and weeklong Semper Fidelis Bowl engagement is approximately \$2.5 million.

### **DVIDS Feature Page**

<http://www.dvidshub.net/feature/SemperFiFootball>

**POINT OF CONTACT:** Maj Stuart "Stu" Fugler, MCRC PAO 703-784-9454, [mcr CPA@marines.usmc.mil](mailto:mcr CPA@marines.usmc.mil)

## SEMPER FIT & RECREATION

### **BACKGROUND**

More than 14 million patrons visit Semper Fit & Recreation facilities world-wide comprised of 83 total programs and 612 facilities and recreation areas. The Semper Fit program strengthens resilience and contributes to military effectiveness by promoting and maintaining the mental and physical well-being of Marines and families through physical activities, prevention, and safe environments. Semper Fit ensures quality support for deployed Marines, combat readiness, and strengthens individual and unit resilience. Programs are available through installation Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS), but are also tailored specifically for units, such as alternative physical training (PT), functional fitness, and recreational activities. Semper Fit provides instruction to unit leaders to allow them to lead unit functional fitness through the use of installation facilities.

### **TALKING POINTS**

**TP1.** High Intensity Tactical Training (HITT) is focused on physical resiliency and combat readiness. There are 100 pre-designed workouts for any combat conditioning leader and fitness specialist. Phases of work out include pre-deployment, deployment, and post-deployment, or building your own workout templates. The HITT program is available through a website and mobile application providing Marines with a virtual resource to implement the program and bring it to their fingertips. The website for HITT is [WWW.USMC-MCCS.ORG/HITT](http://WWW.USMC-MCCS.ORG/HITT) and the free mobile app can be downloaded to any mobile device by visiting iTunes or Google Play.

**TP2.** Aquatics Maximum Power Intense Training (AMP-IT) is an in-water physical training program that consists of a variety of scientifically-proven, high-intensity exercises provided in an aquatic workout in rehabilitating and reconditioning injured military personnel.

**TP3.** Unit-Driven programming (alternative PT) recognizes that Marines have limited free time, and capitalizes on the connection of recreation programs serving as protective factors and mitigating personal risk. Programming may be designed for specific units allowing for modifications, within time parameters (2-4 hours), and typically contributes to unit physical training and cohesion needs. The primary motivation of Unit-Driven programs is connecting units through non-facility based programming, with an integrated approach to program delivery utilizing all the programs and resources from Semper Fit and Recreation.

**TP4.** Operation Adrenaline Rush (OAR) combines Combat and Operational Stress Control (COSC) principles with an outdoor recreational high adventure activity to aid in mitigating boredom and high-risk behavior of recently deployed Marines. OAR provides a vehicle to assist Marines re-integration by maintaining combat readiness, reinforcing unit cohesion, contributing to an improved climate perception and empowering small-unit leaders with necessary tools.

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

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**SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (SAPR)**

01NOVEMBER2014

**BACKGROUND**

Launched in June 2012 and currently in Phase II (Implement), the Marine Corps three-phase SAPR Campaign Plan is designed to reduce, with the goal to eliminate, sexual assault in our Corps. An addendum approved in April 2014 extended and augmented Phase II in order to sustain our momentum and to strengthen SAPR capabilities related to victim care, offender accountability, and program assessment.

**TALKING POINTS**

**TP1.** On November 4, 2014, BGen Austin E. Renforth, SgtMaj William T. Sowers, and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Micheal P. Barrett presented Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools (MCCSSS) with the 2014 Department of Defense (DoD) Sexual Assault Prevention Innovation Award aboard Camp Johnson, NC. MCCSSS was selected for this award based on its successful strategy—including an awareness campaign and a full-day class that all entry-level students must attend and pass—to prevent sexual assault.

**TP2.** Provisional Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) reporting data suggests that the Marine Corps sustained its high levels of reporting from FY13. Reporting is the bridge to victim care and offender accountability. More analyses and finalized data will be released as part of the FY14 DoD Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military, expected in April/May 2015.

**TP3.** In an effort to effectively outreach to a wide audience of Marines in fresh and relevant ways, Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC) SAPR launched its social media strategy in October 2014 with a post on Facebook and Twitter about the DoD Safe Helpline. Up to two social media posts or events are planned for each month and will encompass a range of topics with messaging about prevention, response/victim care, investigations, accountability, and assessment.

**WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- SAPR Website: [www.manpower.usmc.mil/familyprograms](http://www.manpower.usmc.mil/familyprograms)
- DoD Website: [www.sapr.mil](http://www.sapr.mil)

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## **SPECIAL-PURPOSE MAGTF CRISIS RESPONSE-AFRICA**

The official request for forces for a SPMAGTF-CR-AF was made in February 2013, and the Marine Corps established the initial force in March 2013. SPMAGTF-CR-AF made the Transatlantic flight of (2) KC-130Js and (6) MV-22B Ospreys to Morón Air Base, Spain in April 2013. Although positioned in Europe, SPMAGTF-CR-AF operates in support of USAFRICOM. Forward-basing of the SPMAGTF-CR-AF in Europe increases the capability of the command to rapidly respond to incidents on the continent of Africa in support of USAFRICOM combatant commander's contingency requirements. Since its inception, the force has positioned to respond to unrest and contingency operations five times: May, September, October, and December 2013, and May 2014.

### **KEY POINTS**

- SPMAGTF-CR-AF is a rotational contingent of approximately 800 Marines, sailors and support elements sourced from a variety of Marine Corps units to include II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. Its organic assets include 12 MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft, four KC-130J Hercules aerial refueling tankers, one UC-35, a logistics and sustainment element, and a reinforced company of infantry Marines. SPMAGTF-CR-AF is commanded by Col. Robert C. Fulford.
- SPMAGTF-CR-AF is a self-command and controlled, self-deploying, and highly mobile crisis response force allocated to U.S. Africa Command to respond to missions in permissive and uncertain environments to protect U.S. personnel, property, and interests in the AFRICOM area of responsibility.
- In addition to the forces positioned at Moron Air Base, an infantry company of Marines subordinate to SPMAGTF-CR-AF is positioned out of MK, Romania. The company is not attached to Black Sea Rotational Force, also at MK. This company is also allocated to USAFRICOM in order to provide additional rapid response forces to the African continent.
- SPMAGTF-CR-AF is postured to respond to a broad range of military operations in the AFRICOM region, including: U.S. Embassy reinforcement, fixed-site security, non-combatant evacuation operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel, theater security cooperation, and other missions as directed. Additionally, SPMAGTF-CR-AF can serve as the lead element or the coordination node for a larger joint/combined element.
- SPMAGTF-CR-AF also conducts military-to-military training exercises throughout AFRICOM and EUCOM areas of responsibility. Working with partner nations promotes regional stability on the European and African continents. These partnerships are at the core of dealing with regional issues and keeping peace in the region.
- This unit is unique amongst other crisis response forces because it possesses an organic aviation capability that allows for SPMAGTF-CR-AF to self-deploy.
- The current Command Element is sourced from 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, along with several augments from II Marine Expeditionary Force. The ACE is comprised of: VMM-264 from New River, NC and VMGR-252 from Cherry Point, NC. The GCE Detachment comprised of a rifle company reinforced sourced by Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment and a force protection company sourced by Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment.
- The LCE Detachment is comprised of Marines and Sailors from Combat Logistics Battalion 2.

### **POINTS OF CONTACT:**

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## **SPECIAL-PURPOSE MAGTF CRISIS RESPONSE-CENTCOM**

**BACKGROUND:** As part of the Department of Defense's continuing effort to improve its crisis response capability around the world, the Marine Corps stood up a Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Oct 1 as part of the "new normal" in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. This task force comprised of approximately 2,300 Marines and several aircraft based throughout the region, will improve CENTCOM's ability to support theater security cooperation events such as exercises, as well as respond to contingencies.

Planning for this deployment began in summer of 2013 and the deployment of the SPMAGTF is not in response to the ongoing operations in Iraq. There is no timetable on the duration of the deployment, but ground and aviation units are expected to rotate on a regular schedule.

There is no timetable on the duration of the deployment, although ground and aviation units are expected to rotate on a regular schedule.

### **TALKING POINTS / Q&As:**

**TP1** The unit is built around an infantry battalion (Reinforced) with an aviation element, organic lift and logistical capability to transport and sustain the force.

**TP2** SPMAGTF-CR-CC is a fully capable crisis response force with its own organic lift and air support capability.

**TP3** Maintaining a forward based expeditionary force within the CENTCOM AOR allows the Marine Corps to quickly respond to a variety of contingencies and operations as well as continue to strengthen military-to-military relationships with our allies in the region.

### ***Q1. Is this part of a build-up of forces for a future offensive operation against a potential adversary?***

**A1.** No. SPMAGTF-CR-CC is an expeditionary force that will provide a wide variety of contingency options, theater security cooperation engagement initiatives and offer an excellent opportunity for U.S. forces to focus on increasing defensive proficiency in critical mission areas while supporting long-term regional stability.

### ***Q2. Where will the units within SPMAGTF-CR-CC be located?***

**A2.** Due to host-nation sensitivities and for operational security we do not release specific locations of the units within SPMAGTF-CR-CC.

### ***Q3. Were any of these units redeployed from Operation Enduring Freedom/Afghanistan?***

**A3.** No. These units were formed from existing command and control structures based in the United States and overseas. These units, however, stand ready to support any operation throughout the region - to include Afghanistan and Iraq - during the duration of their deployment.

### ***Q4. How long will SPMAGTF-CR-CC be deployed?***

**A4.** No timetable has been given for how long SPMAGTF-CR-CC will remain in the CENTCOM AOR. The units that comprise the SPMAGTF will all be on 6-7 month rotations.

### **Unit Makeup**

Command Element-5th Marine Regiment Headquarters

Aviation Command Element- VMGR-234 (KC-130); VMM-363 (MV-22); VMA-211 (AV-8B)

Ground Combat Element- 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment

Logistics Combat Element- 5th Combat Logistics Battalion

### **POINT OF CONTACT:**

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## SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

### BACKGROUND

Saving lives requires vigilance. Engaged leaders are alert to those at risk for suicide and are ready to take action to help Marines address issues, foster hope and instill connectedness. Each tragic loss to suicide has far reaching impact on families, friends, and Marines left behind. At the unit level, suicide affects morale, unit cohesion, and ultimately unit effectiveness and readiness of Marines.

### TALKING POINTS:

**TP1.** Warning signs of suicide can be subtle, but recognizing these signs can prevent suicide:

- Appearing sad or depressed most of the time
- Withdrawing from friends, family, and society and losing interest in hobbies, work, school, or other things one used to care about
- Feeling hopeless, helpless, and worthless
- Talk about feeling trapped—like there is no way out of a situation

**TP2.** The events and risk factors triggering suicide include the following: legal or disciplinary problems, relationship problems, and financial problems. In addition, substance abuse and behavioral health problems appear to increase risk for suicide.

**TP3.** Suicidal ideation and attempts are higher among those with any history of sexual assault (whether before or after joining the military) compared to those with no sexual assault history.

**TP4.** Counseling and care management for Marines and families are offered on installations through the Community Counseling Program. Peer to peer support and resource navigation is available in the unit through Operational Stress Control and Readiness (OSCAR) mentors.

**TP 5.** The Marine Intercept Program (MIP) establishes procedures to ensure standardized coordination of care and case management services to all Marines and attached Sailors who were reported as having a suicidal ideation or attempt. MIP provides case coordination, safety monitoring, and outreach.

**TP6.** The DSTRESS Line is available to Marines, attached Sailors and family members a place to call and speak with “one of their own” about every day stress. Providing anonymous 24/7 services, the hotline phone number and website for chat access is 1-877-476-7734 and [www.dstressline.com](http://www.dstressline.com). DSTRESS is also available through Skype.

### WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Behavioral Health Information Network (BHIN) <http://bhin.usmc-mccs.org/>

### POINT OF CONTACT

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## **TRANSITION ASSISTANCE**

1 DECEMBER 2014

### **BACKGROUND**

Transformation of USMC Transition Readiness Program has emerged from a one-time training event into a self-guided approach that is delivered throughout a Marine's time of service. Our revised approach allows each Marine to select his or her own pathway (employment, education or entrepreneur) in order to receive transition information and education that is in line with that Marine's future goals and objectives. The Fiscal Year 2014 total attendance at the Transition Readiness Seminar (TRS) was 30,762 Marines. TRS is completely aligned with the multiagency and congressionally approved Transition GPS (Goals Plans Success) approach to transition developed by an interagency task force and overseen by the Department of Defense Transition to Veterans Program Office.

### **TALKING POINTS**

**TP1.** Personal Readiness Seminar (PRS) is the newest four hour mandatory training on personal and professional development programs and services, as well as an introductory on finance topics. We focus on two principle touch points: when Marines arrive at their first permanent duty station (PDS), and when they attend the Transition Readiness Seminar 12-14 months before separation. PRS highlights the online portal called eBenefits that provides access to all Veterans Affairs benefits. Also, PRS offers credentialing opportunities, military skills translation, career and education, how to interpret a personal assessment, and the importance of developing an individual development plan.

**TP2.** The Marine For Life Cycle is the embodiment of our ethos: "Once a Marine, Always a Marine". The class at the first Permanent Duty Station (PDS) provides basic information on personal financial management, creating an individual development plan, understanding Personal and Professional Development services.

**TP3.** Our Marine for Life philosophy, along with the nationwide network of Marine for Life representatives, is vital to this effort in reach-back and outreach support. Beginning with the recruiting process and extending into Veteran Marine status, every transitioning Marine will be able to connect to opportunities and resources.

**TP4.** A standardized Spouses Transition and Readiness Seminar (STARS) was created to orient spouses to the transition process and has become an additional resource for spouses. STARS is administered as part of the Family Member Employment Assistance Program (FMEAP).

### **WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- Website: [www.manpower.usmc.mil/familyprograms](http://www.manpower.usmc.mil/familyprograms)

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## VICTIMS' LEGAL COUNSEL ORGANIZATION (VLCO)

### BACKGROUND

On 14 August 2013, the Secretary of Defense directed that each Service immediately implement a victim legal advocacy program to provide legal advice and representation to victims of sexual assault. He directed that each Service establish initial operating capability not later than 1 November 2013 and fully establish victim legal advocacy services by 1 January 2014. The Marine Corps Victims' Legal Counsel Organization (VLCO) stood-up on 1 November 2013 with four regional VLCO offices aligned with each of the four Legal Services Support Sections (LSSS), LSSS-West, East, Pacific, and National Capital Region (NCR). In addition, there are now VLCO offices located at MCRD Parris Island, MCAGCC 29 Palms, MCAS Miramar, and MCB Kaneohe Bay.

### TALKING POINTS

- VLCO services are primarily intended for active duty military members and reservists on active duty who are victims of sexual assault; however, eligible victims of other crimes in violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) may also seek assistance from a Victims' Legal Counsel (VLC) under 10 USC §1044 and JAGINST 5800.7F (JAGMAN).
- Marine Corps VLC are judge advocates who are highly qualified attorneys with military justice backgrounds, and who have completed a certified victims' advocacy course. The VLCO chain-of-command is functionally independent of convening authorities, staff judge advocates, LSSS OICs, trial counsel, and defense counsel. VLC are under the supervision of, and report to, the OIC, VLCO, who reports directly to the SJA to CMC.
- VLCO services will supplement, not replace, existing victim support services, including assistance currently provided by VWAP, SAPR Program, FAP, SARC, and Victim Advocates.
- VLC assist victims to understand legal options including: obtaining restraining orders and military protective orders; making Restricted versus Unrestricted reports of sexual assault; and obtaining testimonial or transactional immunity regarding collateral misconduct before testifying against the accused in the case.
- VLC solely represent the interests of the victim, even where those interests may be different than the Government's interest in prosecuting the accused in the case.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

- VLCO Public Site:  
[http://www.hqmc.marines.mil/sja/Branches/VictimLegalCounselOrganization\(VLCO\)](http://www.hqmc.marines.mil/sja/Branches/VictimLegalCounselOrganization(VLCO))

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## WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT

### TALKING POINTS

- The Wounded Warrior Regiment is an enduring presence that will ensure our wounded, ill, and injured Marines will always receive comprehensive non-medical recovery care whether in time of peace or war. Having established a dedicated Warrior Care program, we have developed a capability that is beneficial and necessary to the Marine Corps taking care of its own.
- Founded in 2007, the Wounded Warrior Regiment (WWR) is the official U.S. Marine Corps command charged with providing non-medical recovery care to wounded, ill, and injured (WII) Marines. The WWR's headquarters element, located in Quantico, Va., commands the operations of two Wounded Warrior Battalions (WWBn) located at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Camp Lejeune, N.C., as well as multiple detachments around the globe.
- The Marine Corps takes care of its own and the WWR is our Corps' testament to "Keeping Faith" with our WII Marines.
- The WWR provides and enables assistance to all WII Marines, both combat and non-combat related wounds, illnesses, or injuries. In order to set the best climate for recovery, WWR focuses on supporting and strengthening the mind, body, spirit, and family of each Marine to promote balanced and total healing that enhances the recovery process.
- Through the WWR, the Marine Corps provides life-time support to wounded, ill, and injured Marines and their families, and continues to support Marines once they become veterans through regular outreach calls from the Sergeant Merlin German Wounded Warrior Call Center and face-to-face support from District Injured Support Coordinators. Through the outreach calls and face-to-face support, the regiment is able to support veterans by conducting needs assessments, connecting them to resources, and aiding them in achieving their long term recovery goals.
- The Sgt. Merlin German Wounded Warrior Call Center (WWCC) makes outreach calls to offer assistance on a wide variety of issues and receives calls on a 24/7 basis, including weekends and holidays. Assistance is provided on matters, such as service disability ratings, medical care, employment, counseling, and benevolent organizations for WII Marines and their families/caregivers. WWBn-East in Camp Lejeune, N.C. and WWBn-West in Camp Pendleton, Calif. both operate contact centers that reach out to active duty WII Marines who remain with or have returned to their parent commands.
- District Injured Support Coordinators (DISCs) are an integral part of the WWR command structure, located throughout the United States, providing support to WII Active Duty and Reserve Marines as they transition to Veteran status. The DISC program provides a variety of services, including non-medical care in which the goal is to return adjusted WII Marine veterans to their communities who have the knowledge and skills to self-advocate and help other WII Marines.
- DISCs are strategically placed with or near Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) locations. VISNs include medical centers, vet centers, and outpatient clinics offering primary and specialized care. This close proximity allows for direct coordination and resource sharing between the DISCs and VA health care providers.

### **WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT (CONT'D)**

- The WWR Medical Section, includes the Regimental Surgeon, Mental Health Advisor, Nurse Case Manager, Psychological Health Coordinator, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Coordinator, and Licensed Clinical Consultants which provide medical subject matter expertise, advocacy, and liaison to the medical community.
- Recovery Care Coordinators (RCC) are one of the first non-medical points of contact a WII Marine and their family will have with a Marine Corps support network. RCCs serve as the WII Marine's point of contact to help them define and meet their individual goals for recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration. The RCC identifies services and resources needed to help WII Marines achieve these goals.
- The RCC assists in developing a Comprehensive Recovery Plan (CRP). The CRP is a Marine's roadmap that captures a WII Marine's and family's needs, translates those into concrete goals and then provides specific, actionable steps to meet those goals.
- The WWR Transition cell connects wounded, ill and injured Marines with government and private employers, assists them with identifying education and job training resources, as well as providing interview, resume, and job application support.
- The Warrior Athlete Reconditioning Program (WAR-P) provides activities and opportunities for WII Marines to train as athletes, while increasing their strength so they can continue with military service or develop healthy habits for life outside the service.

#### **POINTS OF CONTACT**

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