

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

- Operation Al Fajr 10-Year Anniversary
- Re-Flagging of MARSOC as Marine Raiders
- Voting Assistance Program
- Non-Appropriated Fund Business and Support Services
- Programmatic Priorities Realignment
- Pacific Horizon Exercise 2015
- Family Advocacy Program
- Special Operations Officer 0370 PMOS
- Large Scale Exercise 2014
- T-AKE 14-2
- Ebola
- SPMAGTF-CENT

POINT OF CONTACT:

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Current as of: Wednesday, October 08, 2014

INDEX

- 2D MEB MPF Exercise
- Afghanistan (RC-Southwest)
- Amphibious Combat Vehicle
- Black Sea Rotational Force 14
- Bold Alligator 2014
- Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water
- Civilian Manpower Review
- Community Counseling Program
- Diversity
- DPRI
- Ebola
- End Strength and Retention Optimization Group
- Expeditionary Energy
- Expeditionary Force 21
- Family Advocacy Program
- Female Dress Blue Uniform
- Foreign Area SNCO/Regional Area SNCO Program
- Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force
- Keeping Faith
- Large Scale Exercise 2014
- Marine Corps 101
- Marine Corps Force Integration Plan
- Marine Rotational Force- Darwin
- Marine Security Guard Expansion
- MEU Tracker
- MV-22 Osprey
- Non-Appropriated Fund Business and Support Services
- Operation Al Fajr 10-Year Anniversary
- Operation Atlantic Resolve
- Pacific Horizon Exercise 2015
- Pacific Reorientation
- Post-Traumatic Stress
- Programmatic Priorities Realignment
- Recruiting
- Re-Flagging of MARSOC as Marine Raiders
- Restructured Special Duty Assignment Pay
- San Francisco Fleet Week 2014
- Security Cooperation Team 2014
- Semper Fidelis Football Program 2015
- Semper Fit & Recreation
- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response
- Special Operations Officer 0370 PMOS
- Special Purpose-MAGTF Africa 14.2
- Special-Purpose MAGTF CR-AF
- **Special-Purpose MAGTF CR-CENT**
- Suicide Prevention and Response
- T-AKE 14-2
- Transition Assistance
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Tobacco Review
- Tuition Assistance
- Value of the Corps
- Victims' Legal Counsel Organization (VLCO)
- Voting Assistance Program
- Wounded Warrior Regiment

**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: Wednesday, October 08, 2014

2D MEB MARITIME PREPOSITIONING FORCE EXERCISE

QUOTE

"The Marine Corps' inherent agility, crisis response capabilities, and maritime focus make it well suited to carry out many priority missions under the President's defense strategy."

- Chuck Hagel, Secretary of Defense

BACKGROUND

The Maritime Prepositioning Force Exercise, led by the 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade and the Expeditionary Strike Group Two, is one part of BOLD ALLIGATOR 2014, the year's largest amphibious exercise on the East Coast with Navy, Marine Corps and multinational participants.

The MPFEX will be an MPF offload conducted by Combat Logistics Regiment 25 and Naval Beach Group Two in the vicinity of Jacksonville, Fla., throughout the month of August. An In-Stream Offload will occur from the mouth of the St. John's River to Blount Island Command from August 4-15. Some equipment will be come ashore at a commercial boat ramp in Mayport. CLR-25 Marines will then convoy those goods by road to Blount Island Command.

The MPF supports the National Military Strategy by supporting forward presence and crisis response. An MPF ship can support a MEU-sized element whereas an MPF squadron can support a MEB. The exercise is the first of its size and scope in 10 years.

Public Affairs will have an active posture for the exercise.

STATEMENT

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Marines, sailors and personnel with Combat Logistics Regiment 25, Naval Beach Group Two and Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island will conduct a Maritime Prepositioning Force Exercise in the area of the St. Johns River in August

TALKING POINTS/Q&As

TP1. The MPF supports the National Military Strategy by supporting forward presence and crisis response.

TP2. MPFEX serves as part of Exercise Bold Alligator, which will be the largest amphibious exercise on the East Coast in 2014.

TP2. CLR-25 and NBG-2 are working with the local authorities to ensure the in-stream offload and any exercise related activity will cause minimal to no disruption of normal commercial and private traffic.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

- <http://www.2ndmep.marines.mil/>
- <http://www.mccdc.marines.mil/ef21>

POINT OF CONTACT

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AFGHANISTAN (RC-SOUTHWEST)

QUOTE

“A tremendous amount of progress has been made in southwestern Afghanistan, and the elections prove that. The Afghan National Security Forces are capable, confident and credible in the eyes of the people as they secure their own nation.”

- Brig. Gen. D.D. Yoo, Commander of RC(SW)

BACKGROUND

Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan (MEB-A) provides the nucleus of the command element for Regional Command (Southwest), which is a U.S. and U.K.-led coalition command under the International Security Assistance Force located in southern Afghanistan and is responsible for Helmand and Nimroz provinces. RC(SW) supports the continued effort to provide security force assistance responsible for advising, assisting and supporting Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in protecting the population of Helmand and Nimroz provinces. RC(SW) will end its mission in Afghanistan by the end of December 2014.

TALKING POINTS / Q&As

- The ANSF lead 99% of security operations in Helmand and Nimroz.
- We have reorganized all of our advisors under a Consolidated Corps Advisor Team, and our main effort is now at the corps level as we focus on institutional development and sustainment to ensure we can set the conditions for a responsible transition of full security responsibility to the ANSF by the end of December 2014.
- Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan is the last U.S. Marine command to deploy to southern Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Q1. How many U.S. service members / Marines are serving with MEB-A?

A1. A total of 5,000 U.S. service members are serving with Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, 4,500 of them Marines.

Q2. What other coalition nations are part of RC(SW)?

A2: Coalition forces include the United Kingdom. Additional countries that have ended operations here include Bosnia, Estonia, Denmark, Georgia, Jordan and Tonga.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

- <http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/RC-SW>
- <http://www.isaf.nato.int/subordinate-commands/rc-southwest/index.php>
- <http://www.imef.marines.mil/Units/MEBA/media.aspx>

POINT OF CONTACT

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AMPHIBIOUS COMBAT VEHICLE

BACKGROUND

Three years ago, the Marine Corps cancelled the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle program to explore a more affordable and capable alternative for an Amphibious Combat Vehicle. After doing so, we determined that current and emerging weapons systems and ISR capabilities could require us to launch initial forces beyond 25 nautical miles as previously postulated. We also found that modern commercial and wheeled combat vehicles had substantially closed the performance gap between wheeled and tracked vehicles, to include shore-to-shore swim capability. The current ACV program has subsequently been refined to reflect a systems approach to the military problem of conducting amphibious operations from further offshore and at speed while enhancing protected mobility for the mission on land.

STATEMENT

The Marine Corps will, in the near term, field an Amphibious Combat Vehicle (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 AAVs to extend their service life through 2035.

In a longer term effort conducted in concert with the Navy, the Marine Corps will continue to explore capabilities that better enable it to conduct 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.

TALKING POINTS / Q&As

TP1. 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.

TP2. With current and projected amphibious platforms and connectors, the ACV will support our concept of operations that requires us to operate from up to 100 nautical miles from shore.

TP3. Wheeled vehicle performance has improved greatly since we began our efforts to replace the AAV.

Q1. Why have you chosen to go with a wheeled vehicle when you previously said a tracked vehicle was desired?

A1. A combination of tactical, technical and budgetary factors led us to this decision. We have determined that emerging 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.

Wheeled vehicle performance has improved greatly since we began our efforts to replace the AAV. Wheeled vehicles have:

AMPHIBIOUS COMBAT VEHICLE (CONT'D)

- 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.

Q2. What will happen to the AAV?

A2. 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. What impact will a wheeled ACV have on amphibious shipping and surface connectors?

A3. 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 alternative 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

- Maj Anton T. Semelroth, CD&I PAO, 703-432-8420, anton.semelroth@usmc.mil

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 3rd Battalion, 8th 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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BOLD ALLIGATOR 2014

BACKGROUND

Bold Alligator 2014 (BA14) is a large-scale, multinational naval amphibious exercise conducted by U.S. Fleet Forces and Marine Corps Forces Command. It is scheduled for Oct. 29-Nov. 10 in multiple locations from Virginia to Florida. Some 7,000 U.S. Marines and Sailors aboard more than 15 ships will participate, along with 1,000 service members from partner countries. During BA14, the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (2d MEB) will combine with Expeditionary Strike Group-Two (ESG-2), merging rapidly-deploying forces into a force designed to conduct multiple operations in an uncertain threat environment. The exercise will focus on crisis response and the refinement of MEB and ESG staffs' ability to integrate forward-deployed and follow-on forces in a live, scenario-driven exercise.

TALKING POINTS

- Navy and Marine Corps leadership share a common goal to refine and strengthen core amphibious competencies critical to maritime power projection by exercising a force designed to respond to threats to the United States and its allies.
- The capabilities that allow the amphibious force to conduct a forcible entry against an opposing military force are the same capabilities that make it the force of choice for crisis response and contingency operations
- BA14 will showcase the crisis response capability of an integrated ESG/MEB-level force and demonstrate a commitment to enhanced interoperability with partner nations.

Q&As

Q1. What is the purpose of the exercise?

A1. The purpose of Bold Alligator 2014 is to improve naval amphibious core competency by training an ESG/MEB team to plan and execute amphibious operations from a seabase in a challenging threat environment. The exercise will continue to reinvigorate our culture of conducting combined Navy/Marine Corps operations from the sea. The exercise represents Navy-Marine Corps ongoing efforts to meet the challenges of future warfare conflicts, crisis response and contingency operations, and humanitarian assistance/disaster response. Also, the multinational force will focus on operational and tactical decision-making and training, which test the ability of 2nd MEB, ESG-2, partner nation forces and subordinate units to composite and handle challenging scenarios composed of a range of missions.

Q2. Why conduct this exercise?

A2. As a force in readiness, the Navy-Marine Corps team must respond to crisis in uncertain threat environments. This kind of training ensures that we refine and strengthen our core competencies to maintain the highest level of readiness as "fighters from the sea."

Q3. How is Bold Alligator 2014 different from previous years' exercises?

A3. Bold Alligator 2014 strengthens the Navy/Marine Corps team's amphibious core competency and builds upon the successes and lessons learned of previous exercises in the series. The exercise this year will include an increase in coalition/partner nation participation, a greater focus on crisis response, and an emphasis on live, amphibious operations on multiple objectives.

BOLD ALLIGATOR 2014 (CONT'D)**Q4. Is this the first time an exercise of this nature has been conducted?**

A4. No. The Bold Alligator exercise began in 2008. Although Navy and Marine Corps amphibious training is routinely conducted, it usually occurs at the level of an Amphibious Ready Group and a Marine Expeditionary Unit. The Bold Alligator exercise series conducts amphibious training at the level of the larger Expeditionary Strike Group and Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

DVIDS Feature Page

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

POINTS OF CONTACT/SOURCING

- LtCol Gina Levy, MARFORCOM Public Affairs BA Lead, 757-836-1802
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- 1st Lt John Parry, 2d MEB Public Affairs, 910-451-5195

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

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 Aug. 13, 2014, ATSDR's "Mortality study of civilian employees exposed to contaminated drinking water at USMC Base Camp Lejeune: a retrospective cohort study" journal article was published.

The purpose of this study was to determine whether potential exposures to the drinking water contaminants at Camp Lejeune are associated with increased risk of death from specific cancers and other chronic diseases among civilian workers employed at the base. The study evaluated specific causes of death in 4,647 full-time workers who were employed at Camp Lejeune during 1973-1985. ATSDR also evaluated a comparison group of 4,690 full-time workers who were employed at Camp Pendleton during 1973-1985 but were not employed at Camp Lejeune during this period. The Camp Pendleton workers were not exposed to contaminated 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/civilianmortalitystudy.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. ****

CIVILIAN MANPOWER REVIEW

BACKGROUND

Because of budgetary challenges facing the Corps, the Commandant has directed a detailed review which would support an anticipated managed reduction of our civilian workforce as part of a comprehensive plan to reduce costs and ensure the Marine Corps remains ready to respond to tomorrow's crises with today's force.

MESSAGES/TALKING POINTS

- The Marine Corps, along with the other services, has been directed to reduce the overall budget which includes military and civilian personnel, contract services, facilities, IT, and other support functions. We are developing a plan with the goal of minimizing the impact to our personnel, both civilian and military.
- Reducing costs is necessary so that we can continue to maintain required readiness levels in a declining fiscal environment.
- The Marine Corps plans to achieve the necessary civilian workforce reduction through the use of voluntary workforce shaping flexibilities such as attrition, reassignments, early retirement, and incentive payments.
- The Marine Corps will meet its budgetary requirements through a total force approach to include a manpower drawdown for the active component, reserve component adjustments, and contract support and civilian workforce reductions.

POINT OF CONTACT

- Ms. Yvonne Carlock, M&RA PAO, Yvonne.carlock@usmc.mil, 703-784-9047

COMMUNITY COUNSELING PROGRAM (CCP)

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

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 FY14, MCRC is engaging 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 and to remain connected with the American public.

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 with the most stakeholders 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 a 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 minority 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

- Maj Stuart "Stu" Fugler, MCRC PAO, 703-784-9454, stuart.fugler@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

- Capt Eric Flanagan, HQMC PA, 703-614-4309, eric.flanagan@usmc.mil

EBOLA

BACKGROUND

As the Marine Corps continues to operate in West Africa, we must ensure our force is aware of the risks associated with the current Ebola virus. The health and safety of our Corps is of utmost importance. Hyperlinked below are training products that will assist commanders in ensuring their personnel are cognizant of the current issue and take necessary precautions prior to deploying to that region. The Department of Defense is planning for about 3,900 U.S. military members to support the overall effort, for a period of about six months. US Africa Command continues work to determine resources and assets needed. DoD is looking across the entire military to source mission requirements. U.S. military personnel will only provide direct patient care for DoD personnel; we will not be involved in the direct patient care of the local population. U.S. military personnel supporting this effort include medical personnel supporting health-care-provider training, engineers to construct the Ebola Treatment Units, logisticians and other transportation personnel to support the regional intermediate staging base, as well as, command and control staff for the Joint Force Command headquartered in Liberia.

TALKING POINTS

- The US whole-of-government response, which includes Defense Department support, is not an overnight process. The DoD is responding as quickly as possible, but it will take time to get all military personnel and equipment there to support the whole-of-government effort.
- 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.
- About 100 personnel from Special Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa deployed October 8 from Moron, Spain to Dakar, Senegal. From there, they moved onward to Monrovia, Liberia October 9. There SPMAGTF-CR-AF will provide interim resupply and transportation support until Army units arrive later this month.
- 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.dvidshub.net/feature/OperationUnitedAssistance#.VDWAPb5NzTQ>

POINTS OF CONTACT

- HQMC Media Section, ontherecord@usmc.mil, 703-614-4309

END STRENGTH AND RETENTION OPTIMIZATION GROUP

BACKGROUND

In March 2014, Manpower and Reserve Affairs stood up the End Strength and Retention Optimization Group (ESROG) to address issues that emerged during a Retention Executive Review Period, which was executed via MARADMIN 026/14. The MARADMIN called for all FY14 reenlistment request submissions NLT 28 Feb 2014. The review showed a strong demand for continued service at a time when the Marine Corps is drawing down. As of 28 Feb, 4,228 requests for reenlistment were pending with fewer than 400 retention quotas (boat spaces) remaining.

The objective of the ESROG is to find at least 2,400 Marines who can be voluntarily or involuntarily separated before 30 September in order to allow those personnel spaces to be given to the most deserving of the 4,228 Marines who were pending reenlistment at the end of February. The ESROG is staffed by manpower retention officials and enlisted monitors who provide expertise and assistance to commanders to allow the most deserving FY14 re-enlistment applicants to re-enlist. The group has worked closely with commanders and senior enlisted leaders across the service to create the best possible result for Marines and units alike.

The ESROG is a supporting arm of the Reawakening campaign. The M&RA team has instituted an approved campaign plan with three lines of effort to maximize reenlistment opportunities, while strengthening our Corps and preventing further cuts to accessions. Each line of effort is designed to identify potential FY14 end strength savings, which will allow deserving to be granted re-enlistment.

- Line of Effort 1: Administrative Separations (AdSeps). Review efforts to process Marines for AdSeps in cases of non-compliance with the Body Composition Program, expired Temporary Limited Duty, or unsatisfactory performance, as outlined in the Separations Manual.
- Line of Effort 2: Fiscal year 2015 Cross Year Voluntary Enlisted Early Release Program (FY15 XFY VEERP). Support individual Marine requests for utilization of this program (described in MarAdmin 662/13).
- Line of Effort 3: Individual Marine Non-Compliance of Assigned Orders. This line of effort is pending final review but will be applied when Marines refuse to obligate service time to execute orders. In those cases, SNMs EAS will be accelerated by up to 365 days to the month they would have been required to report to their new duty station, putting the enlisted force under the same rule set applied to officers. This policy also will likely yield additional benefits in correcting inventory gaps such as the NCO shortage in III MEF.

Q&As

Q1. Is the ESROG trying to separate Marines under any circumstances possible?

A1. Not at all – in fact, there are many cases that the group recommends retention due to particular Marines' performance, qualification or command endorsements. Many Marines don't realize how many hundreds of Marines are in repeated violation of known standards of conduct like the Body Composition Program, or have repeated incidents of NJP convictions in the recent past. The ESROG aims to identify populations of Marines for commands to examine regarding their suitability for further service. In the end, commanders across the service decide what to do because the ESROG has not formal legal authority.

END STRENGTH AND RETENTION OPTIMIZATION GROUP (CONT'D)

Q2. Are all of the ESROG's recommendations regarding Marines who seem to merit consideration for administrative separation?

A2. No. In fact, through the end of April, most of the departure that units across the service and the ESROG had been able to coordinate was voluntary. About 80 percent of all unplanned (meaning FY15 and beyond) EAS departures this year have been accomplished through the VEERP, VSP and TERA programs.

Q3. Will the ESROG continue to exist in FY15?

A3. Although the ESROG probably won't exist as an independent working group, the subject matter that it has helped to bring to the forefront (end strength management through voluntary and involuntary departures) will endure. Since the ESROG Marines are all MMEA individuals who have been working in the ESROG as a collateral duty, the lessons learned and standard operating procedures developed during this initiative will be formalized into MMEA standard operating procedures to accomplish the same effect in FY15 and beyond.

Q4. How is the ESROG or MMEA getting the word out about what is going on, what commanders need to know, and what is coming next.

A4. Every Wednesday at 1300 EST, the OIC of the ESROG holds a military Skype (Defense Connect Online, or DCO) conference call with any commander or staff member who desires to attend. He covers about 20 minutes of prepared updated and then fields questions for usually the balance of 90 minutes. If a command desires a DCO call at another day and time, they can simply request one through their Career Planner and someone in the ESROG will oblige. Additionally, on 15 May, three M&RA officials (two ESROG members and the MMEA retention section head) held a live town hall meeting on Facebook that was seen by more than 200,000 Facebook users and "liked" or commented more than 4,000 times in the first 24 hours. Many Marines received one-to-one career counseling or order interpretation in a public forum, such that any other Marine with a similar profile could learn from as well.

POINT OF CONTACT

- M&RA PAO, manpower.pao@usmc.mil, 703-784-9047
- Lt. Col. Rory Quinn, OIC, End Strength and Retention Optimization Group, rory.quinn@usmc.mil, (703) 432-9369

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&vid_eopage=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

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, 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 (GCCs).
- Expeditionary Force 21 approach is across four intertwined lines of effort:

1) Refining Our Organization

- Expeditionary Force 21 focuses on three Marine Expeditionary Brigades (MEBs) 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 (SPMAGTFs) 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 A2/AD capabilities threaten freedom of action. This requires establishing advanced bases and austere expeditionary sites for employment of distributed 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, are necessary for 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 (GCCs) with task-organized Marine Expeditionary Brigades (MEBs) 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

- Active April, 7, 2014 <http://www.mccdc.marines.mil/>

POINT OF CONTACT

- Maj Anton Semelroth, MCCDC PAO, 703-432-8420, anton.semelroth@usmc.mil

FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM (FAP)

BACKGROUND

Domestic violence is a crime. It destroys families, impacts children, and negatively affects military readiness. The Marine Corps provides prevention, intervention and treatment of family violence through the Family Advocacy Program (FAP).

TALKING POINTS

TP1. October is domestic violence awareness month. The 2014 Department of Defense/Office of Secretary of Defense's Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign theme is: "Relationships Should Be Safe". The theme emphasizes that partners in a healthy relationship demonstrates respect, feel physically and emotionally safe, and take care to prevent any troubles when they occur. Relationships take effort but should add enjoyment to life. Military OneSource has developed a Domestic Violence Awareness month toolkit. The toolkit is called "How to Help Service-Connected Victims of Domestic Abuse" and is accessible at <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/abuse>

TP2. FAP elements include prevention and education, reviews of alleged abuse, clinical treatment for families involved in violence, home visits to support new parents, and 24-hour, 7-days a week, victim advocate services. Supporting FAP efforts is the Marine Corps Community Counseling Program (CCP) which offers non-medical, short term, solution focused counseling. Counseling focuses on issues such as family or work related conflicts, grief and loss, or parenting and marital issues.

TP3. The Marine Corps Community Services, FAP, CCP, 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

- <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/familyprograms>
- DSTRESS Line 877-476-7734, www.dstressline.com
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

POINT OF CONTACT

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

FEMALE DRESS BLUE UNIFORM

BACKGROUND

In 2013, Marine Barracks Washington conducted a multi-month wear test of a Woman's Dress Blue Coat similar to the Man's Dress Blue Coat. After that study, the Marine Corps Uniform Board President received a request from Marine Barracks Washington to update the Woman's Dress Blue Coat to a new style that more closely matches the style of the male Dress Blue Coat.

Under the suggestion, which has received initial review by the Uniform Board, the Woman's Dress Blue Coat will be redesigned to make it similar in appearance to the male Dress Blue Coat using the Drum and Bugle Corps' Woman's Red Dress Coat as the baseline. The design uses darts on the upper blouse with a skirted lower part, which allows the blouse to fit a large spectrum of female body sizes with minimal alterations. A traditional stand-up collar has been added, the upper pockets have been removed, and the coat will button in the same fashion as current female garments.

STATEMENT

(Effective May 19, 2014): The Marine Corps expands the field testing of a request to re-design the female officer and enlisted blue dress uniform to a style similar to the male blue dress coat with the traditional collar. The Marine Corps Uniform Board President is developing a prototype to support this initiative, which will establish service uniformity in appearance and function. The initial prototype is based on the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps' women's red dress coat with dress blue fabric rather than red. Female officer and enlisted Marines in select Marine Corps units will wear-test each uniform for at least six months, beginning in the October/November timeframe. The wear-test results and recommendations will be forwarded to the Marine Corps Uniform Board for consideration in late spring/summer of 2015.

Q&As

Q1. Why is the Marine Corps Uniform Board looking at changes to the Woman's Dress Blue Coat?

A1. In 2013, the Commanding Officer of Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., in an effort to achieve uniformity in the appearance of his ceremonial units and standard functionality as it relates to the conduct of sword manual, conducted a multi-month wear test of female dress blue uniform prototypes. Following that study, a request was forwarded to the MCUB from the Marine Barracks requesting a review to a permanent change to the Woman's Dress Blue Coat. After an initial review by the MCUB, the request was determined to have merit to continue consideration.

Q2. What is the next step?

A2. "The MCUB President will work through Marine Corps Systems Command to identify vendors to prepare a prototype which should be ready for a wear test in the fall. The wear test for the prototype will be bands, recruiters, and potentially Marine Barracks personnel again.

Q3. When will this be implemented for the entire Marine Corps?

A3. The process will involve development of a prototype, a wear test, and evaluation of the data received during the test. The results will then be presented to the MCUB which will consider the issue and provide a recommendation to the Commandant of the Marine Corps for final decision. Under the schedule as planned, the Commandant could make a decision on this issue during the summer 2015. If approved, it normally takes from 12 to 24 months to field a new uniform item.

FEMALE DRESS BLUE UNIFORM (CONT'D)

Q4. How does the research and development process work?

A4. In most cases, a suggestion/recommendation is forwarded to the Uniform Board from Marine Corps Systems Command, but we also receive suggestions from contractors/manufacturers, higher headquarters, major commands, and individual Marines.

If the request comes from a source other than MCLB Albany or MCSC and the Uniform Board establishes it as a viable suggestion, MCSC is tasked with developing a prototype. Once a prototype is developed, the Uniform Board will review the suggestion and prototype to determine its value and whether a wear-test is warranted. If deemed warranted, the MC Uniform Board forwards this recommendation to the Commandant. If the Commandant disapproves the wear test, the originator will be informed as much. If the Commandant approves a wear test, MCSC works with a contractor to develop enough prototypes for a wear test.

Once the prototypes are developed, they are distributed for wear tests. Wear test participants for the wear test are normally chosen based off their location and the item to be tested. The selected test group is provided with the uniform items and instructions on how they are to be worn (e.g., how long, for what occasions), and are required to complete a survey at the end of the test.

The results of the test are then forwarded to the Uniform Board for review. Using the prototypes and wear test results the Uniform Board forwards a recommendation to the Commandant whether to adopt the item or to not adopt the item.

Q5. How can an individual submit a uniform change request?

A5. Individuals can propose an improvement/change to an existing uniform, or propose a new item, by submitting the recommendation, via their chain of command, in naval letter format to; CMC (MCUB), 2200 Lester Street, Quantico, VA 22134. The recommendation should be submitted with relevant schematics/graphics developed for the item, as well as a detailed description. Any requests received without command endorsement will be returned without action (where appropriate).

POINT OF CONTACT

- OUSMCC (PA), 703-614-4309, onthererecord@usmc.mil

FOREIGN AREA SNCO/REGIONAL AREA SNCO PROGRAM

QUOTE

"The future security environment demands that Marines of every rank possess increased understanding of the cultures, history, geography, and demographics of the areas in which they will operate. Our Foreign Area Officers and Regional Affairs Officers provide commanders critical expertise that materially contributes to mission success. In the future, as we transition from current combat operations in Afghanistan and re-set the force, the need for FAOs and RAOs will be even more important in the future security environment. This critical program continues to have my full support."

– Gen James Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps

BACKGROUND

The FAS program is being developed to provide MAGTF commanders a corps of international affairs marines for future assignments on tactical, operational and strategic-level Marine Corps staffs, joint and combined staffs and for duty with interagency organizations. The contributions of these Marines will improve MAGTF plans, operations, and security assistance efforts, with language skills, regional expertise, and culture (LREC) capability to effectively navigate increasingly complex cultural terrain where tomorrow's mission will occur.

MARADMIN 156/14 released March 31, 2014, announcing the solicitation for volunteers for the USMC FAS program. HQMC expects the program and the creation of the MOS to be online by 2016. Once the program comes online, requests for volunteers will occur via MARADMIN on a yearly basis.

TALKING POINTS

- The Foreign Area SNCO (FAS) Program seeks to place Marines with the right cultural skills in the right place at the right time, systematically, as opposed to an ad-hoc basis.
- The FAS Program provides a venue to identify the talent that already exists in the force. A large number of Marines from across the PMOS spectrum have many of the desired skill sets and are looking for opportunities to engage their expertise. FAS identifies resident talents, and complements existing knowledge with education, language or immersion experience.
- FAS skills are force multipliers for commanders at the tactical level. They allow Marines with regionally-focused education, language, and culture expertise to influence and guide the planning and execution of Marine operations overseas. Cultural expertise will enable the Marine Corps to function smarter vs. harder when responding to contingencies, providing regional stability, security cooperation, and disaster relief.
- MAGTF commanders will benefit greatly with culturally-attuned subject matter experts on the staff at the SNCO level. A total of 90% of the force is enlisted, and look to SNCOs daily for guidance and mentoring. Future missions will likely be accomplished by smaller units, with fewer officers, operating more independently, and addressing challenges presented by complex cultural environments, irregular and hybrid threats.

FOREIGN AREA SNCO/REGIONAL AREA SNCO PROGRAM (CONT'D)

- As we continue to offer a strategically mobile, forward deployed and rapid crisis response force, FAS trained Marines will enhance Marine Corps capabilities to achieve strategic ends with tactical means.
- FAS skills and education enhance primary skill sets, and make Marines better prepared to operate effectively in foreign environments. Employment with tactical units will improve coalition interoperability and partnerships during peacetime, phase zero through phase four engagement, and everything in between.
- FAS participants are dual-tracked to maintain PMOS credibility and positive career management.

WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [https://hqmc.usmc.afpims.mil/ppo/Units/StrategyandPlansDivision\(PL\)/InternationalAffairsBranch\(PLU\)/InternationalAffairsPrograms.aspx](https://hqmc.usmc.afpims.mil/ppo/Units/StrategyandPlansDivision(PL)/InternationalAffairsBranch(PLU)/InternationalAffairsPrograms.aspx)

POINTS OF CONTACT

- Capt Eric Flanagan, HQMC DivPA, 703-614-4309, eric.flanagan@usmc.mil
- LtCol Alexandra Nielsen, PPU/PLU-8, International Affairs Programs Coordinator, 703-692-4365, Alexandra.nielsen1@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 is scheduled to start 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. The Supplemental Consent Form is available for PAOs upon request from the HQMC PA POC below. This will need to be signed by the volunteer if commands want to highlight Marines prior to reporting to the GCEITF. **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
- 1st Lt Philip Kulczewski, GCEITF PAO, 910-449-8463, philip.kulczewski@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, 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.

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

LARGE SCALE EXERCISE 2014

BACKGROUND: On order, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade plans and exercises command and control (C2) of composed MEF forces conducting steady-state activities, responding to crises or contingencies, and conducting forcible entry operations as required by combatant commanders. Large Scale Exercise 2014 (LSE14) is a bilateral training exercise between the U.S. and Canadian military that combines live, virtual and constructive training activities to expand the MEB's ability to conduct brigade-level operations alongside a partner nation within a hostile country. Consisting of more than 5,000 military personnel, LSE14 tests the MEB command elements ability to composite, deploy, and employ Marine Air Ground Task Forces in response to a conventional warfare threat.

The future vision for the MEB is that it will be organized and equipped to exercise C2 of joint and multi-national task forces, to enable the MEF for larger JTF operations, and to integrate into the Navy for the conduct of amphibious operations. One current characteristic of the MEB is its ability to composite forward and merge rapidly deploying Marine Corps forces into a cohesive, agile force scaled to the mission. This makes the MEB the centerpiece of an expeditionary force in readiness prepared for immediate, effective employment in any kind of crisis or conflict.

I MEF has a global response focus and is oriented to PACOM and U.S. Central Command. 1st MEB will orient on the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility and will support Global Response Force requirements. The development of the MEB, as articulated in the MEB concept of operations, will include light, medium and heavy options to provide a scalable and responsive force capable of executing operations across the range of military operations in support of geographic combatant commander requirements.

STATEMENT

CAMP PENDLETON, California – “Marines and Sailors of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade and forces from the 5 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group will participate in this year’s Large Scale Exercise, August 8-14, 2014. Training will focus on contingency operations that will test the ability of the MAGTF to conduct shaping, fires, and maneuver operations. The outcome of this training will result in 1st MEB staff enhancing their ability to conduct C2 operations. LSE-14 provides the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade with the opportunity to work with Canadian forces in a combined operations capacity.”

TALKING POINTS / Q&As:

TP1. The 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade is equipped to deploy forces in support of conventional combat operations and crisis response. LSE-14 provides the opportunity for 1st MEB to take an extensive look operating in a joint environment and in the time of crisis whenever and wherever needed throughout the world.

TP2. On a large and small scale, Marines and Sailors remain ready to respond to a broad spectrum of challenges in the world and threats to our homeland, our citizens, our interests and our allies.

Q1. What is the purpose of this exercise?

A1. Brigade-level tactical decision making and training is the focus of LSE-14, which tests the ability of 1st MEB staff and major subordinate units to adjust to challenging scenarios, while executing an array of missions.

LARGE SCALE EXERCISE 2014 (CONT)**Q2. Where will LSE-14 be conducted?**

A2. LSE-14 will be conducted at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. This exercise provides Marines from the 1st MEB headquarters element with an austere operational environment along with a chance to exercise command and control of a Marine Air Ground Task Force.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

- 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade: <http://www.imef.marines.mil/Units/1stMEB.aspx>
- Expeditionary Force 21: <http://www.mccdc.marines.mil/ef21>
- DVIDS Feature Page: <http://www.dvidshub.net/feature/LSE14>

POINT OF CONTACT:

Maj Staci Reidinger; 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade Public Affairs Officer; 760-763-7047

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, 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 188,300 active-duty Marines, 39,600 in the Selected Marine Corps Reserve, and 68,000 in the Individual Ready Reserve. Some 35,300 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, 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

*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 will extend the assignment of female Marines in these units to include non-commissioned officers and expand those assignments down to the company and battery level. *A MarAdmin is forthcoming to open up these opportunities and begin assigning female Marines to these units.*

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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 consists of approximately a 1,150 member Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF). The Ground Combat Element (GCE) consists of approximately 1,000 Marines from 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif. The Aviation Combat Element (ACE) and logistic enablers, approximately 150 personnel made up of Hawaii-based Marines.

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

- 1st Lt Jeremy Alexander, MRF-D PAO, COM: +61 (0) 8 8925 2323 , cell: 011 0428801039 , email: jeremy.alexander1@defence.gov.au
- MARFORPAC PA Deputy Director: Chuck Little, DSN 315-477-8309, cell (808) 673-8921, email: chuck.little@usmc.mil

MARINE SECURITY GUARD EXPANSION

BACKGROUND

The 2013 National Defense Authorization Act requires the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to develop a plan no later than October 1, 2013 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. Forward all queries without comment to PA.

TALKING POINTS

- The Marine Corps Embassy Security Group (MCESG) has more than 1,300 Marines stationed throughout the world at MSG detachments and regional headquarters. Detachments are in more than 135 countries.
- Under the direction of the President of the United States and in coordination with the Dept. of State, the Marine Corps is implementing a plan to accelerate the growth of the MSG program and the opening of new detachments ahead of the timelines laid out in 2013 NDAA.
- By assuming risk in its operating forces and supporting establishment, the Marine Corps is resourcing the MSG expansion from within and continues seeking a spread loading of the Department of Defense “corporate bill;” DOD will request additional appropriations in future appropriation bills
- 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 and establishing the MSG Security Augmentation Unit, all by the end of the current calendar year.
- 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 six weeks for watch standers and seven weeks for detachment commanders.

WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

- <http://www.mcesg.marines.mil/>

POINT OF CONTACT/SOURCING

- Capt Eric Flanagan, HQMC PA, 703-614-4309, 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. 7th Fleet area of responsibility while transitioning to 5th fleet. The MEU just completed MALUS AMPHEX (Malaysia-United States Amphibious Exercise 14)

- 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@usmc.mil
- Web: <http://www.11thmeu.marines.mil/>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/11thmeu>
- Photos/Video: <http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/11meu>

15th MEU

The 15th MEU formally composed on October 6, 2014 and is currently beginning their pre-deployment training. 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
- Web: www.15thmeu.marines.mil
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/15thMarineExpeditionaryUnit
- Photos/Video: www.dvidshub.net/unit/15MEUPA
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/15thMEUOfficial
- Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/15thmeu/
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/The15thMEU

22nd 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
- 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 composed May 27 and is currently conducting work-ups to deploy with the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group later this year. The 24th MEU's pre-deployment schedule includes ARG/MEU Ex in September, COMPTUEX in October, and Bold Alligator 14 in November. 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, 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
- Web: <http://www.26thmeu.marines.mil/>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/26meu>
- Photos/Video: <http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/26meu>

31st MEU

In September, elements of the 31st will embark upon the USS Peleliu and USS Germantown for Amphibious Integration Training prior to conducting the regularly scheduled Fall Patrol 14.2. During the Patrol, the 31st MEU will partner with Amphibious Squadron 11 to participate in theater security cooperation exercises and respond to any contingencies in the region.

- Commanding Officer: Col. Romin Dasmalchi

- Units: BLT 3/5, VMM-262 (REIN), VMA-542, CLB-31
- 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
- Web: www.31stmeu.marines.mil
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/31stMEU>
- Photos/Video: <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/31MEU>
- YouTube: 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

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

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

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. MROC DM 08-2014 directed the MCCS Board of Directors (BOD) 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 (BOC) to develop an institutional and appropriately balanced NAF budgeting and allocation process and implementation plan for MCCS BOD approval. The programs and support functions currently being reviewed include Auto Skills, Clubs, Golf, Finance, Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) Logistics, MCX Store Operations, and Procurement. The impacts of this transformation effort could include one or more of the following, or a combination: continue direct operation of programs (by USMC); partner with industry to provide programs and/or support functions; consolidate programs and/or support functions (which could be accomplished either regionally or centrally); and implement new fee structures and/or operating procedures. The goal of this effort is to improve and sustain valued MCCS 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 adapt and excel in an increasingly restrictive economic environment and enhance our overall capability.

TP2. Operating force and installation commanders will have a heavy influence and oversight responsibility of these transformation efforts. A transformation steering group, comprised of representatives from HQMC, operating forces, regions, and the installations has been established to oversee the transformation process and advance implementation plans and POA&Ms to senior Marine Corps leadership for approval.

TP3. The transition will enable the Marine Corps to provide consistent levels of NAF business programs and services across the Marine Corps. Many of the back-office efficiencies will be transparent to Marines and families.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

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

MR Transformation Talk Bulletins

POINT OF CONTACT: Mr. Bryan Driver, HQMC MR PAO, 703-432-2272, driverbr@usmc-mccs.org

1STMAR DIV COMMEMORATES 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION AL FAJR

"The heroics and tactical details of the battle of Fallujah will be the subject of many articles and books in the years to come."

- Lt. Gen. John F. Sattler, commanding general of 1st Marine Expeditionary Force during Operation AL FAJR

BACKGROUND: In November 2004, the 1st Marine Division, supported by the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and reinforcements from the U.S. Army and Coalition Forces, launched Operation AL FAJR in Fallujah, Iraq, successfully eliminating the insurgent sanctuary there and enabling Iraqi Security Forces and interim government to take back control of the city in December of that year. Initially designated Operation PHANTOM FURY, the name was later changed to Operation AL FAJR – Arabic for “New Dawn” – to more adequately reflect the partnership with Iraqi forces.

STATEMENT: MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – The Marines and Sailors of the 1st Marine Division will commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the Second Battle of Fallujah, Operation AL FAJR, by hosting a ceremony on Friday, Nov. 7 aboard Camp Pendleton. Retired Lt. Gen. Richard F. Natonski, who commanded the Division during the battle, will be present as the guest of honor. The 1st Marine Division commanding general Maj. Gen. Lawrence D. Nicholson invites those veterans who served with the Blue Diamond during the operation to join those currently with the division in paying homage to this historic battle.

TALKING POINTS:

- The 1st Marine Division, along with its supporting forces, fought against more than 3,000 insurgents fortified within the Iraqi city in what became the Marine Corps’ largest urban battle since the Vietnam Battle of Hue City in 1968.
- The accomplishments of the 1st Marine Division during the Second Battle of Fallujah – defeating thousands of insurgents, eliminating their sanctuaries and handing control of the city securely to Iraqi Security Forces and the interim government in a matter of weeks – showcased to the world what a Marine Division can achieve with support from the Marine Air Ground Task Force concept and Coalition forces.
- In commemorating Operation AL FAJR, the 1st Marine Division will pay tribute to those Blue Diamond Marines and sailors who made the ultimate sacrifice.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/134208/retired-lt-gen-speaks-about-second-battle-fallujah>

<http://www.dvidshub.net/search?q=%22al+fajr%22#.VCrvdUtNzTQ>

<http://www.dvidshub.net/search/?q=%22phantom+fury%22#.VCrwsktNzTQ>

POINT OF CONTACT: 1stLt. Spencer Kenyon, 1st Marine Division Public Affairs Officer, 760-725-6573, spencer.kenyon@usmc.mil

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.

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

POINT OF CONTACT: Capt Rob Martins, Marine Forces Europe and Africa, Public Affairs Officer, DSN 314-431-3598; roberto.martins@mfe.usmc.mil

PACIFIC HORIZON EXERCISE 2015 (PH15)

BACKGROUND: Pacific Horizon 2015 is a crisis response exercise designed to demonstrate the Navy and Marine Corps' capability to generate combat power and Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief (HA/DR) capacity ashore. Scheduled from Oct. 20-28, 2014 at sea and ashore at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, PH15 aims to improve 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade's (1st MEB) and Expeditionary Strike Group 3's (ESG-3) ability to conduct crisis response planning and execute combined C2 operations by executing Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) enabled HA/DR operations that employ sea-basing concepts. PH15 will serve as ESG-3's MPF certification and the new Mobile Landing Platform (MLP), USNS Montford Pointe, will participate in experimental MPF testing. Public affairs posture is active following the PH15 exercise media advisory on Oct. 6, 2014.

TALKING POINTS / Q&As:

TP1. *Pacific Horizon 2015 showcases the advantages of sea-basing. Sea-basing provides joint force commanders global command and control and extends integrated logistical support to other services. Afloat positioning of these capabilities strengthens force protection and frees airlift-capabilities to support missions ashore.*

TP2. *Pacific Horizon 2015 increases the ability of 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade and Expeditionary Strike Group 3 to plan, communicate and conduct complex sea and shore based operations in response to natural disasters.*

Q1. Why conduct this exercise?

A1. *The Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps continue their combined efforts to refine and strengthen fundamental MPF capabilities and reinforce the cross collaboration of the Navy-Marine Corps team.*

Q2: Which units are involved?

A2: *Participants include Expeditionary Strike Group 3 (ESG-3) CE, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade (1st MEB) CE and the following composited forces: Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 (MWSS-373), Combat Logistics Regiment 1 (CLR-1), 1st Battalion, 4th Marines (1/4), USNS MONTFORD POINT (MLP-1), USNS DAHL (LMSR), USNS WILLIAMS (T-AK), Naval Beach Group One (NBG-1), Amphibious Construction Battalion One (ACB-1), Beach Master Unit One (BMU-1), Assault Craft Unit One (ACU-1), and Assault Craft Unit Five (ACU-5).*

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

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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 tailororable 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, *Commandant of the Marine Corps, Leatherneck Magazine (October 2011)*

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
- 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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- Dr. Thomas Burke, HQMC Health Services, 703-604-4604, thomas.j.burke2@usmc.mil

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

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

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. A lower end-strength for the Corps doesn't equate to 'easier' times for recruiting.
- 99.7% 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.

DVIDS Unit Page

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

POINTS OF CONTACT

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RE-FLAGGING OF MARSOC AS MARINE RAIDERS

OFFICIAL QUOTE:

"United States Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command is proud and honored to adopt the name Marine Raider, carrying on the rich heritage passed along to us by the Raiders of World War II."
- MajGen J.L. Osterman, Commander of MARSOC

BACKGROUND:

The CMC announced in a recent proclamation that MARSOC will formally assume the title of "Marine Raiders" and that its subordinate commands will be re-flagged as Marine Raider Regiment, Group, Battalions, etc.

STATEMENT:

From the establishment of MARSOC Detachment one in 2003, Special Operations Marines have used the Raider insignia in their unit emblems and it has become both a linkage to Marine Corps identity and a source of unit pride. As with every Marine Corps unit, MARSOC desires a moniker that creates its own unique identity that is based on Marine Corps heritage, and enables Marines to trace the legacy of those Marines who served before them.

TALKING POINTS / Q&As:

TP1. This decision will enhance MARSOC's Esprit de Corps and anchor our identity and heritage with the Marine Corps.

TP2. Marine Raider ties together 'Marines' (who we are), with our historical heritage, and to the type of activities (special operations) that we do, ultimately relaying the message '*Marines are who we are, special operations is what we do.*'

TP3. The Marines Corps' participation in and with Special Operations is an essential element in our nation's defense.

Q1. Will U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command remain the official title for the command?

A1. MARSOC will remain the command's official title. However, MARSOC's Major Subordinate Elements will be re-flagged with the Raider name. For example: subordinate commands will be re-flagged as Marine Raider Regiment, Group, Battalions, etc.

Q2: What will be the time and cost involved with re-flagging all the various tenant units?

A2. A forthcoming All Marine Administrative Message (ALMAR) will be released identifying the specific time lines associated with renaming and re-flagging of MARSOC as Marine Raiders. The exact cost of re-flagging MARSOC has yet to be determined, but we expect it to be negligible.

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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

- Alan Hargis, Manpower and Reserve Affairs Policy Division, Military Compensation Coordinator, 703-784-9386, alan.hargis@usmc.mil
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SAN FRANCISCO FLEET WEEK 2014

"A massive natural disaster in such a densely populated area would pose significant challenges for local first responders and the military personnel tapped to assist them: impassable roads, destroyed utilities, overwhelmed communications networks. When such chaos erupts, the Corps wants to be prepared." -- Marine Corps Times report on San Francisco Fleet Week

BACKGROUND

From Oct. 6-13, Marines and Sailors from the I Marine Expeditionary Force will be in San Francisco to showcase the Corps' capabilities during Fleet Week. San Francisco and Fleet Week share a long and storied history beginning in 1908 with the arrival of the "Great White Fleet" to the Bay during its round-the-world 14-month-long voyage. Over the years, millions more San Franciscans have welcomed the Navy, the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard, making Fleet Week one of the city's treasured traditions. In 1981, the modern Fleet Week tradition began by honoring the dedicated men and women of the sea services.

San Francisco Fleet Week is now the venue for Bay Area first responders and the U.S. military to meet, train and share the latest lessons learned from recent Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response operations. These activities help raise awareness and to better equip the Bay Area to respond and recover from disasters.

TALKING POINTS / Q&As

TP1. Our focus during Fleet Week will be improving readiness for the Bay Area in the event of a natural disaster or national crisis. With our expeditionary, from the sea capability, combined with the Navy and Coast Guard, the Marine Corps offers a rapid response to humanitarian crisis.

TP2. For many Marines, Fleet Week is their first time to lay eyes on the Golden Gate Bridge, sample the local cuisine in Chinatown or ride on the cable cars. Some Marines are returning home to San Francisco; some after spending many years away in the line of duty. To have the opportunity to have citizens offer thanks and appreciation to our Marines and Sailors as they make their way through San Francisco is personally rewarding as a Marine (or Sailor) but also a citizen.

Q1. What is the purpose of San Francisco's Fleet Week?

A1. The San Francisco Fleet Week 2014 Association's mission is to focus on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response preparations as well as take the opportunity to host and thank the young men and women of the sea services for their selfless devotion to duty in safeguarding the country.

Q2. Why do you need to bring so many ships up to the Bay Area for this exercise?

A2. The only way a timely relief can be provided after an earthquake is if it comes from the sea. That's why naval services are vital in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief planning in the Bay Area. We put a force to sea anticipating it can do just about anything as a situation develops but working through these types of scenarios increases our ability to work through complex challenges and problems we could be tasked with in this area should a natural disaster or humanitarian crisis happen.

Q3. What is unique about training in San Francisco –or- what does training in this venue offer the Navy and Marine Corps?

SAN FRANCISCO FLEET WEEK 2014 (CONT'D)

A3. Marines have been mobilized to support civilian authorities under conditions of natural disasters in the past but San Francisco offers us an opportunity to interact with civilian authorities in ways we typically don't, but could in the event of a significant natural disaster.

Certainly, something bad happening in San Francisco would see a requirement to mobilize forces in support of a recovery and disaster relief up there, so we see this as an opportunity to do some training on things that do come across our way from time to time, but in particular in a mission that would be very challenging and one I suspect we would be tasked with in the event it were to occur.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

- San Francisco Fleet Week Association
- I Marine Expeditionary Force

DVIDS Feature Page

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

POINT OF CONTACT

- 2ndLt Gabriel Adibe, Media Officer, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, 760-763-7047, gabriel.adibe@usmc.mil

SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM 2014

BACKGROUND

A Security Cooperation (SC) Team comprising about 20 Marines in the Central American Region has been conducting partnered training since January to help build partner-nation capacity and promote stability throughout the region. The team is divided into three smaller units consisting of subject matter experts and distributed across three countries — Belize, Guatemala and Honduras. The Colombian Marine Corps has also participated in this training, serving as subject-matter-experts in riverine tactics. The SC Team has been working with their military partners within these countries, honing the skills that help build the capacity of our partners to tackle challenges of mutual interest, such as CTOC, CD and HA/DR. The SC Team was sourced from 17 different units throughout the Marine Corps providing a variety of military occupational skills.

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

HOME

INDEX

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/SFFP>

POINT OF CONTACT: Maj Stuart "Stu" Fugler, MCRC PAO 703-784-9454, mcrcpa@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 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

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

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (SAPR)

BACKGROUND

Launched in June 2012 and currently in Phase II implementation of a three-phased SAPR Campaign Plan an addendum approved in April 2014 extended and augmented Phase II. The addendum was approved in order to continue our momentum and strengthen SAPR capabilities related to victim care, offender accountability, and program assessment.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. In line with the Marine Corps' primary prevention strategy of peer-to-peer bystander intervention, SAPR's newest annual training program released in July 2014 emphasizes that Marines have an inherent duty to protect each other from the crime of sexual assault. This interactive curriculum, called "Step Up," is designed specifically for junior Marines (E1 to E3), our highest at-risk demographic for sexual assault.

TP2. As directed by Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act, Commanding Officers and Officers In Charge are currently reviewing the personnel records of all Marines assigned to their units for any convictions at court-martial, non-judicial punishments, and punitive administrative actions for sex-related offenses. To be completed by Dec. 1, 2014, this review enables the Marine Corps to identify service members with existing sex-related offenses, track them as they move from one command assignment to another, and monitor for any repeat offenders. After this initial review is completed, Commanders will continue to review the records of all new-join personnel as they check in to their units.

TP3. In an effort to maintain transparency and keep lines of communication open with the fleet, a "SAPR Monthly Snapshot" was developed to summarize programmatic updates and provide information about reported sexual assaults.

TP4. In September 2014, eight new video vignettes were released to help promote healthy discussion about sexual assault. Each video, called an Ethical Discussion Group (EDG), depicts incidents surrounding a sexual assault, allowing Marines to think about how they would act in similar situations. Ten of the 14 EDGs now available are designed for Commanders and SAPR personnel to show across the fleet. The remaining four will be incorporated into trainings targeting leaders at various levels. One of the new EDGs, "The Gunny," won a 2014 Telly Award for groundbreaking online video content.

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- SAPR Website: www.manpower.usmc.mil/familyprograms; DoD Website: www.sapr.mil

POINT OF CONTACT

- Maj Rob Dolan, Marine & Reserve Affairs Deputy Public Affairs Officer, 703-784-9047, thomas.dolan@usmc.mil

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS OFFICER 0370 PRIMARY- MOS

OFFICIAL QUOTE:

"Approval of the SOO PMOS allows the Marine Corps the ability to develop Marine Special Operations Officers (SOOs), over a course of a career, as both fully proficient special operations professionals and well-rounded Marine Corps Air-Ground Task Force officers."

- MajGen J.L. Osterman, Commander of MARSOC

BACKGROUND:

During the July Executive Off-Site, the CMC approved the implementation of a Special Operations Officer (SOO) Primary Military Occupational Specialty (PMOS) 0370.

STATEMENT:

The approval of 0370 as a PMOS allows SOOs to be managed with a development strategy that facilitates talent management of SOF skills, standardized training, retention, promotions, command, professional military education and career progression.

TALKING POINTS / Q&As:

TP1. Approval of this PMOS allows the Marine Corps the ability to develop SOOs, over the course of a career, as both fully proficient special operations professionals and well-rounded Marine Corps Air-Ground Task Force officers.

TP2. By developing a defined career path for SOOs, the Marine Corps will be better able to retain and sustain the operational experience and capability necessary to meet operational requirements and reinvest special operations talent and experience where it is needed most.

TP3. SOOs will predominantly fill billets within MARSOC, but will also serve in billets throughout the Marine Corps and across the Special Operations enterprise.

Q1. Do you think this new MOS will generate greater interest in joining MARSOC?

A2. All indications are that interests to join MARSOC will remain strong. A SOO PMOS will provide eligible Marine Officers from any MOS the opportunity to lateral move and become a SOO for the rest of their career.

A2: How do those Marines currently assigned as SOOs request to receive the PMOS of 0370?

A2. Per MARADMIN 491/14, current SOOs who wish to be awarded the PMOS of 0370 must communicate their desires to the SOO selection panel, and complete the SOO questionnaire NLT Oct. 27, 2014 in order to be eligible for screening. Interested officers must also contact their current PMOS monitor NLT Oct. 31, 2014 and express their desire to change their MOS to 0370.

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SPECIAL PURPOSE-MAGTF AFRICA 14.2

BACKGROUND:

Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa strengthens U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa and U.S. Africa Command's ability to assist partner nations in addressing their security challenges. Marines and sailors with SP-MAGTF Africa conduct theater security cooperation, military-to-military engagements and are trained to provide contingency support to crisis response.

SP-MAGTF Africa formed in October 2011, and is sourced by rotating forces. The current iteration is sourced from units across II MEF including: 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 8th Combat Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Battalion-6, 2nd Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Medical Battalion, 2nd Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Company 21, CLC-23, and Combat Logistics Regiment-27. It is primarily sourced from Combat Logistics Battalion- 2 out of Camp Lejeune, N.C. CLB-2 is the first logistics battalion to serve as a command element for SP-MAGTF Africa. Also supporting SP-MAGTF Africa is a detachment from the U.S. Coast Guard and U.K. Royal Marines.

STATEMENT:

NAS Sigonella, Italy – Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa continues to build relationships with the community while simultaneously strengthening U.S. Marine Corps Forces Africa and U.S. Africa Command's ability to assist partner nations in addressing security challenges in the region.

TALKING POINTS / Q&As:

TP1. “We are here conducting a theater security cooperation exercise with [NAME OF COUNTRY] in order to strengthen our nation’s ties and build enduring partnerships.”

TP2. “While in Africa, the theater security cooperation teams will be working alongside partner nation military forces conducting military-to-military engagements so that we are better prepared to address future security concerns together.”

TP3. “By doing these exercises together, we are able to learn from each other and continue to improve interoperability between our militaries.”

Q1. What is Special Purpose MAGTF Africa’s mission?

A1. We are here to support USAFRICOM and MARFOREUR/AF’s theater security cooperation requirements to strengthen the defense capabilities of African states and regional organizations, deter and defeat transnational threats and strengthen the ability to conduct good governance and development.

Q2: What does this have to do with the security of Americans in the United States? How is this helping national security?

A2: Combating terrorism is a national security priority for the United States, and we will continue to support common U.S. and African national objectives by engaging with military partners to promote a stable and safe African environment. By training and working with our African partners, we are better prepared to address future security concerns together.

DVIDS Feature Page

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

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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-CENT 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-CENT 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-CENT be located?

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

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-CENT be deployed?

A4. No timetable has been given for how long SPMAGTF-CR-CENTCOM 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 connectedness. Each tragic loss to suicide has far reaching impact on families, friends, and Marines left behind. At the unit level, suicide effects 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. Increased access to counseling and care management are offered through the Community Counseling Program and peer to peer through Combat and Operational Stress Control mentors.

TP4. 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. As of July 20, 2014, 685 cases of suicide ideation or attempt have been reported and assigned to the MIP and 289 (42.4 percent) have accepted MIP services.

TP5. The DSTRESS Line is available to Marines, attached Sailors and family members; which give any Marine, attached Sailor or family member, “one of their own” to speak with about everyday stress or their heaviest burdens in life. Providing anonymous 24/7 services, the hotline phone number and website for chat access is 1-877-476-7734 and 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

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

T-AKE 14-2

BACKGROUND Exercise T-AKE 14-2 will take place September 3 – November 18 throughout the PACOM area of operations. The exercise involves a maritime prepositioned force (MPF) enabled, multi-country theater security cooperation (TSC) event that deploys from Okinawa to conduct exercises. T-AKE 14-2 provides an operating platform for movement of equipment and personnel in support of TSC events and provides a contingency option for Humanitarian Assistance response.

TALKING POINTS:

TP1. *The MPF allows the U.S. to respond to regional crises and contingencies with the resources needed in an effective and efficient manner.*

TP2. *The positive relationships with international partners are further enhanced through continual engagement.*

TP3. *Cooperative partnerships with regional allies are paramount for security in the Asia-Pacific region.*

TP4. *The Navy-Marine Corps team remains committed to acting as a flexible and responsive force in readiness to preserve national and international interests.*

POINTS OF CONTACT:

- Capt Alex H. Lim, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Public Affairs, 808-477-5844,
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- 1stLt Clayton Groover, III Marine Expeditionary Force, PA Operations Officer, 315-623-1195,
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TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

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. Forty thousand Marines will transition in each of the next several years in order to accommodate the multi-year drawdown period. 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.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. Our approach to transition is tailored to meet the individual goals of each Marine as they transition to the next phase of their lives and transition to Veteran Marine status. 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 (TRS) 12-14 months before separation. At other touch points, such as promotion, reenlistments, deployment/redeployment or significant life event, we provide opportunities and resources for 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.

TP2. 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). COOL is a link to education resources, transition readiness, translating Marine Corps knowledge to civilian opportunities, and general career and professional development. The website for COOL is <https://www.cool.navy.mil/usmc/>.

TP3. The Marine For Life Cycle is the embodiment of our ethos: "Once a Marine, Always a Marine". Beginning with the recruiting process and extending into Veteran Marine status, it is different for each Marine consisting of touch points that include the arrival at the first Permanent Duty Station (PDS). The class at the first PDS provides basic information on personal financial management, creating an individual development plan, understanding Personal and Professional Development services.

TP4. A standardized Spouses Transition and Readiness Seminar (STARS) was created to orient spouses to the transition process. Spouses are encouraged to attend the TRS, however, due to the large time commitment to attend the 5-day TRS spouses often do not attend. Therefore, STARS has become an additional resource for spouses. STARS is administered as part of the Family Member Employment Assistance Program (FMEAP).

POINT OF CONTACT

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TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

BACKGROUND

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) has been at the forefront of many health and force protection initiatives since the onset of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. With 161,025 service members receiving TBI diagnoses between January 2000 and September 2009, TBI has had not only a profound impact on our fighting force and their families, but also represents a significant healthcare cost.

A TBI is defined as a disruption of brain function resulting from a blow or a jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury. In October 2007, the DoD established a formal definition of TBI as a “traumatically induced structural injury and/or physiologic disruption of brain function as a result of the external force.”

TBI is a significant health issue that affects service members and veterans during times of both peace and war. The high rate of TBI and blast-related concussion events resulting from current combat operations directly impacts the health and safety of individual service members and, subsequently, the level of unit readiness and troop retention. The impacts of TBI are found within each branch of service and throughout both the DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs health care systems.

The DoN and the Marine Corps are working to strategically develop TBI assets in high utilization areas.

TALKING POINTS

- TBI has been at the forefront of many health and force protection initiatives since the onset of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- TBI is a significant health issue which affects service members and veterans during times of both peace and war.
- Management of TBI within the DoD has made significant advances throughout the past several years. Clinic Practice Guidelines and clinical guidelines have emerged to standardize the systems approach to treatment by incorporating state-of-the-art science, technology and knowledge-based outcomes.
- Consistent with medical doctrine, prevention of the initial TBI injury is the most pragmatic and cost efficient course of action. Significant strides are being made to improve Personal Protective Equipment worn by our service members. For example, the Army and Marine Corps are aggressively working to improve today's helmet design.
- The DoN and the Marine Corps are working to strategically develop TBI assets in high utilization areas.
- We will ensure that Marines, 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.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (CONT'D)

- Our approach to caring for Marines, families and relatives of our fallen Marines is based on our unwavering loyalty.

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Defense Centers of Excellence website:
<http://www.dcoe.health.mil/ForHealthPros/TBIInformation.aspx>
- Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center website: <http://www.dvbic.org/about/tbi-military>

POINTS OF CONTACT

- Capt Maureen Krebs, HQMC PA, 703-614-4309, maureen.krebs@usmc.mil
- CDR David Tarantino, HQMC Health Services, 703-614-4477, david.a.tarantino@usmc.mil

RELATED BRIEFING CARDS: [Post-Traumatic Stress](#)

TOBACCO REVIEW

BACKGROUND

The Secretary of Defense has directed the development of a Comprehensive Tobacco Control Plan that focuses on making tobacco use reduction an organizational and cultural priority. In response to the Secretary of Defense's call to action, the Defense Advisory Committee on Tobacco (DACT) was formed. As the Foundational Meeting of the Defense Advisory Committee on Tobacco on June 5, 2014, the committee was charged to develop a range of options/recommendations. There are three main initiatives that are being evaluated by Senior Leaders.

The Marine Corps supports the call to action and will participate as members on the DACT to discuss the three main initiatives under consideration:

- Establishing and expanding tobacco-free zones within Department of Defense (DoD) installations.
- Limiting or stopping tobacco sales within DoD facilities.
- Limiting or prohibiting tobacco use while in uniform.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. Embedded in each initiative are a series of options. Each option continues to undergo significant analysis and debate. Senior Leaders who will be asked to vote yes or no to a variety of recommendations within each initiative. Approved recommendations will be presented to Senior DoD committees with final presentation to Secretary of Defense.

TP2. Tobacco-free zones within Department of Defense (DoD) installations would include restricted smoke-free areas. For example, around all playgrounds and athletic fields intended for use by children.

TP3. Tobacco sales on military installations would include eliminating discounted products.

TP4. Restrictions for tobacco use in uniform may apply to recruiters and instructor cadre while in the presence of recruits and students to include not tobacco use in uniform through completion of basic training. Other examples may include no smoking in uniform while officially representing the DoD at public events.

POINT OF CONTACT

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TUITION ASSISTANCE

BACKGROUND

Tuition Assistance (TA) is intended to support personal and professional goals of individual Marines.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. Per Department of Defense uniform TA policy, TA approval rates remain with a cap of \$250 per semester hour, and limited to \$4,500 per fiscal year for active duty Marines.

TP2. Department of Defense policy requires effectively on September 5, 2014 that TA users achieve a grade of C or above. Other changes include requiring services members to pay for all non-tuition fees, such as laboratory fees, book costs or other incidental expenses. The Marine Corps will implement new requirements on October 1, 2014.

TP3. TA is only authorized for institutions whose accrediting organizations are recognized by the Department of Education.

TP4. Marines are encouraged to participate in all appropriate personal and professional development programs including other education funding options such as the GI Bill, grants, scholarships and loans that can support a broader continuum of learning and educational goals.

TP5. Individual Marines with questions should consult their Education Service Officer (ESO). ESOs and the other academic advisors can provide individualized academic advisement. Marines will be informed of the full breadth of tuition funding sources and how they can advance their degree plans with appropriate courses.

TP6: Fiscal Year 2014 Eligibility Controls for Tuition Assistance include:

- First time TA applicants must have a minimum time in service of 24 months
- Marines must be eligible for promotion
- All first-time TA applicants must complete the Marine Corps Personal Financial Management MCI course
- All first time TA applicants will be approved for only one course, unless they have already completed an Associate Degree, or 60 academic credits with a minimum 2.5 grade point average
- Marines must have a degree plan in place to be authorized for TA
- TA will be authorized for only one course in succeeding academic term if (1) overall GPA falls below 2.5, (2) a "D" is received in any course during previous terms, or (3) a voluntary withdraw from any course during a previous course
- TA shall not be authorized for duplicate degrees or double majors

POINT OF CONTACT

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VALUE OF THE CORPS

QUOTE

"Marines account for only 8.2% of the total Department of Defense budget. With that, our Nation gains the ability to respond to unexpected crises, from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts to non-combatant evacuation operations, to counter-piracy operations, to full-scale combat."

– Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, 2012 Posture Statement to HASC

TALKING POINTS

- For 8.2% of the FY12 DoD budget, the Marine Corps provides our nation 15% of its ground maneuver brigades, 11% of its fighter attack aircraft, 18% of its attack helicopters and seven Marine Expeditionary Units with the ability to respond to unexpected crises, from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts, to full scale combat.
- With a post-Afghanistan, enduring force structure of 182,000, our re-shaped Marine Corps is able to accomplish the missions of the new Defense Strategic Guidance while keeping faith with our Marines, Sailors and their families. Barring unforeseen funding challenges, the final active-duty end strength of 182,000 will be reached by the end of FY16.
- This force structure includes 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, CENT, and SOUTH, Marine Rotational Force Darwin, enhanced Cyber capabilities, and increased embassy security personnel.
- The Marine Corps will only ask for what it needs to fulfill its role and missions in national defense.
- We are proud of our reputation for frugality and remain one of the best values for the defense dollar.
- In a period of budget austerity, we offer a strategically mobile force optimized for forward-presence and rapid crisis response all for well under 10% of the DoD budget.

Q&As

Q1. In an era of tightening purse strings, what does the Corps provide our Nation's leaders?

A1. We provide the nation a crisis response force. Around the clock, we are forward-deployed and forward-engaged: shaping, training, deterring and responding to all manner of crisis and contingencies. We create options and decision space for our Nation's leaders...and we do it for only 8.2% of the entire DoD budget.

POINT OF CONTACT

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RELATED BRIEFING CARD: [Marine Corps 101](#)

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))

POINTS OF CONTACT

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VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

The mission of the Voting Assistance Program is to ensure that every Marine, their eligible family members, and other personnel serving with a Marine Corps unit, and who are eligible to vote under the laws of their state, are provided voting information and assistance. The right to vote is one of the most important civil liberties. Moreover, voting is an obligation that accompanies and protects the freedoms we enjoy. Since the birth of our Nation, Americans have understood their obligation as citizens to vote. By meeting their obligation to express themselves with the ballot, Americans have preserved our democratic system.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. All Marines, Civilian Marines, and their family members are encouraged to exercise their right to vote.

TP2. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) FY2010 (H.R. 2647, Pub.L. 111-84, 123 Stat. 2190) implemented the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (or MOVE Act). One of the requirements of that Act was that military installations are required to have Installation Voting Assistance (IVA) Offices.

TP3. In Fiscal Year 2011, the Marine Corps in concurrence with the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) Office directed the establishment of IVA Offices to be a part of in-processing for pre- and post-deployment at every installation. Significant outreach efforts have been made by Marine and Family Programs Division, Headquarters to make voting even easier for citizens and increase awareness. Marines and their families can register to vote at www.fvap.gov. They can mail their ballot from any Fleet Post Office, Diplomatic Post Office, American Embassy, or Consulate. Contact your Unit Voting Assistance Officer if you need assistance.

TP4. Unit and Installation Voting Assistance Programs have trained personnel ready to assist our service members, their family members, and our Civilian Marines with regards to Voter Registration and Absentee Voting.

RESOURCES/WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/familyprograms>
- To register and vote in your home state, visit <http://www.fvap.gov/>

POINT OF CONTACT

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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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