

MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION PLAYBOOK



TOP ISSUES

- Marine Corps Force Integration Plan
- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR)
- Expeditionary Force 21
- F-35B Lightning II - Joint Strike Fighter

WHAT'S NEW

- Asian American Heritage Month
- FY 2017 President's Budget Request
- Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transsexual (LGBT) Pride Month
- Training Exercises

POINT OF CONTACT:

OUSMCC • Media Team • (703) 614-4309
ontherecord@usmc.mil

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

AMPHIBIOUS COMBAT VEHICLE

STATEMENT/VIDEO

The Marine Corps will, in the near term and through a phased and incremental modernization approach, field an ACV to provide protected mobility for our infantry units throughout the varied terrain mixes in the littorals.

The ACV will be an advanced generation eight-wheeled armored personnel carrier that can operate effectively in ground combat element-based maneuver task forces and will provide a balance of performance, protection and payload. The ACV will be amphibious. However, it will normally rely on surface connectors to conduct ship-to-shore movement.

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

In a longer term effort, in concert with the Navy, the Marine Corps will continue to explore capabilities that better enable high-speed, extended range surface littoral maneuver from ship-to-objective.

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

TALKING POINTS

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

TP2. As a bridge to the ACV, which could be introduced into the operating forces by the end of FY 20, the decision has been made to sustain and upgrade about a third of the AAV fleet.

TP3. The ACV program has moved into the next phase of the acquisition cycle as it achieved a successful Milestone B, which allows the program to procure prototypes from two vendors and begin the process of testing them. This first phase of developing ACV 1.1 will inform the requirements for ACV 1.2.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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

A1. No. However, the need to modernize the service-defining capability of transitioning from ship to shore and conducting forcible entry and surface assault is unquestioned. Initial indications are that ACV prototypes developed by industry have a swimming capability equal to an AAV. However, this will need to be tested by the Marine Corps. High water speed (HWS) remains an important capability. The Marine Corps, through the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab, is working closely with the Office of Naval Research to pursue technology that may enable this capability without unacceptable trade-offs.

ACV 2.0 serves as a conceptual placeholder (a planning construct) for a future HWS decision around 2025. At that time, with the knowledge gained from the fielding and deployment of ACV 1.1 and 1.2, the state of the naval connector strategy and research and development work in support of a HWS capability will aid in an informed decision regarding this desired capability.

Q2. What is the Amphibious Combat Vehicle Phase 1, Increment 1 (ACV 1.1)

A2. The ACV 1.1 program is an 8 x 8 wheeled, armored amphibious combat vehicle that will be the primary means of tactical mobility for the Marine rifle squad. ACV 1.1 will support expeditionary mobility

AMPHIBIOUS COMBAT VEHICLE (CONT'D)

capability and capacity with balanced levels of performance, protection and payload. It will be capable of utilizing water obstacles, including the sea within the littoral operating area, as maneuver space. This tactical level of water mobility will enable shore-to-shore maneuver and complement the operational (ship-to-shore) capability of the AAV7A1. ACV 1.1 will reach initial operational capability in 2020.

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

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

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

Q4. What is being procured?

A4. The ACV 1.1 contracts will procure 16 Engineering, Manufacturing and Development (EMD) Vehicles from two (2) prime Contractors. In addition to procurement of the vehicles, the contract includes all services associated with manufacturing, engineering, logistics and program support through FRP. If all options are exercised, the total contract period of performance will be approximately eight (8) years.

Q5. What will happen to the AAV?

A5. The AAV and ACV are complementary capabilities. We have begun a survivability upgrade program to 392 AAVs, a sufficient number to support our MEUs and to provide a bridge to a longer range solution. These upgrades will provide for performance, reliability, and survivability improvements, and will be delivered to the operating forces beginning in FY 19.

Q6. What impact will a wheeled ACV have on amphibious shipping and surface connectors?

A6. The concept of employment for ACV places a premium on using enablers like the mobile landing 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. Over the longer term, we will continue to exploit opportunities to innovate via other surface platforms and pursue non-traditional landing craft solutions. In much the same way the MV-22 has greatly expanded the amphibious forces littoral maneuver options, we must also innovate our surface connector fleet.

POINTS OF CONTACT

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

Mr. Manny Pacheco, PEO LS Public Affairs, 703-432-5169, manny.pacheco@usmc.mil

AMPHIBIOUS INTEROPERABILITY

BACKGROUND

[Not for release] A series of media reports recently highlighted the Marine Corps' exploratory efforts to create more maritime flexibility to offset a lack of amphibious shipping in the European theater. Specifically, the articles highlight the Marine Corps' work with allied nations to examine the possibility of embarking and deploying Marine Forces and equipment aboard allied ships. This type of interoperability training is not new to the Marine Corps – we have done interoperability training for decades to enable more seamless combined operations should a crisis occur. As this issue crosses both service and operational chains, the guidance in this document represents the official Marine Corps communication points regarding the Allied Maritime Basing Initiative, which may differ slightly from the perspective of a combatant commander.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. Allied ships will not supplant the freedom of action and flexibility offered by U.S. amphibious ships. Marine Forces Europe/Africa's ongoing training with NATO amphibious ships represents continued experimentation, security cooperation, and relationship building to make us better prepared for world events. The Navy and Marine Corps will continue to support this prudent planning to improve shared maritime capabilities and add options for the geographic combatant commanders. This type of innovation is aligned with the tenets of the recently signed U.S. maritime strategy, Cooperative Strategy 21.

TP2. Adapted from Cooperative Strategy 21: The amphibious capabilities provided by the Navy-Marine Corps team, especially those that are forward postured, have long played a key role in enabling overseas access for missions across the range of military operations. Because all nations share in the collective benefits of maritime security, it is a promising area for expanded cooperation with our allies and partners. Through multinational exercises and training, the ability to operate with partner nations improves, ensuring more seamless multi-national operations should a crisis arise. This function supports the Navy and Marine Corps' missions of defending the homeland, protecting maritime commons, and strengthening partnerships.

TP3. Based on our Force Structure Assessment, the current demand signal from combatant commanders would require 54 amphibious ships. To provide the appropriate amount of lift to support operational plans, the Marine Corps requires 38 amphibious ships. Currently, there are 30 amphibious ships in the fleet. With the current fiscal restraints the Navy and Marine Corps accept risk with a plan for 33 amphibious ships with a potential projection of 34.

TP4. For decades, the Marine Corps has conducted amphibious interoperability training with allies and partners to develop their organic capability and our ability to operate with them should a crisis occur. We currently conduct amphibious training with Japan, Australia, Republic of Korea, Thailand, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Italy, and Spain. While developing the capability to operate more seamlessly with our allies remains a priority, the Marine Corps is primarily seeking to maximize a variety of amphibious capabilities and options. To clarify: the Marine Corps must retain the capability to respond immediately to threats to our Nation's security. For the Marine Corps, this translates to investigating Allied Maritime Basing Initiatives while retaining the maritime flexibility offered by U.S. amphibious ships.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

Capt Rich Ulsh, MARFOREUR PAO, +49 (0)703-115-3598, richard.ulsh@usmc.mil

Capt Dominic Pitrone, OUSMCC Media Officer, 703-614-4309, dominic.pitrone@usmc.mil

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

BACKGROUND:

Diversity is the aggregate of the varied cultures, backgrounds, talents, skills, and abilities among Marines. Diversity for the Marine Corps means we Marines are connected in a special relationship with the American public; we are leveraging America's varied pool of skills and abilities; and we are maximizing individual differences as a force multiplier. Our core values compel Marines to respect others and act with moral, mental, and physical bravery while embracing a spirit of determination and dedication. (CMC Diversity Policy)

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Marine Corps is strengthened by the diversity of our people and reflects the nation we serve.
- Diversity of thought, experiences, background, and expertise enables the Marine Corps to operate successfully around the globe for a variety of missions.
- We celebrate the cultural traditions, ancestry, native languages, and unique experiences represented among more than 56 ethnic groups (speaking over 100 languages) from Asia and the Pacific Islands who live in the United States.

THEMES AND MESSAGES:

Since 1977, the month of May has been designated to recognize the achievements and contributions to the American story by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs). The 2016 AAPI Heritage Month theme is "Walk Together, Embrace Differences, Build Legacies."

The month of May denotes several events in AAPI history, including the immigration of the first Japanese people to the United States May 7, 1843. The completion of the Trans-continental railroad in 1869, considered the "greatest achievement of the American people in the 19th century," could not have been accomplished without, in part, "those who came to America in the thousands from China," according to renown author Stephen Ambrose.

Presently, 33 Asian American Pacific Islanders have been awarded the Medal of Honor: 1 during peacetime, 1 during the Philippine-American War, 24 during World War II, 4 during the Korean War, and 3 during the Vietnam War.

In an increasingly diverse nation, AAPIs stand as one of our most diverse communities. Generations of AAPIs have helped develop and defend the United States, often in the face of tremendous racial and cultural prejudice. Despite these difficulties, these men and women struggled, sacrificed, and persevered to build a better life for their children and all Americans.

This observance gives us the opportunity to honor, recognize, and celebrate the rich diversity, leadership, and enduring empowerment of all Asian American and Pacific Islanders, and their dedicated service and contributions to the betterment of our nation.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

Col Mark R. Hollahan, M&RA/MPE Branch Head, 703-784-9371, mark.hollahan@usmc.mil

Ms. Alfrita Jones, M&RA/MPE Branch Deputy, 703-784-9371, alfrita.jones@usmc.mil

AVIATION SAFETY

BACKGROUND

In FY16, the Marine Corps has flown more than 74,000 flight hours and suffered three Class A flight mishap.

i. Oct. 21, 2015, a F/A-18C Hornet from VMFA 232, 3rd MAW, crashed in the vicinity of Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, resulting in one death and destroying the aircraft.

ii. Dec. 9, 2015, an MV-22B Osprey had a landing mishap aboard the USS New Orleans. There were 22 passengers and four crew members aboard. All of the passengers, aircrew members and ship's crew are safe without injury.

iii. Jan. 14, 2016, two CH-53E Super Stallions from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, stationed aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, were involved in a mishap while conducting routine training approximately two miles off the Northern coast of Oahu. All 12 passengers were declared deceased.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. Our most valued asset is the individual Marine. The Marine Corps remains committed to ensuring the safety of our aircrews and the air worthiness of all our aircraft. Our governing safety directives encourage the identification of hazards and the correction of discrepancies to ensure operational readiness. By its very nature, there will always be inherent risk in military aviation. The Marine Corps utilizes highly reliable aircraft, extensively trains pilots, maintainers and aircrew, conducts exhaustive maintenance, and at every step puts in place safeguards and precautions to ensure a high degree of aviation safety.

TP2. In FY-15 the Marine Corps experienced seven Class A flight mishaps over approximately 247,160 flight hours. The Class A Flight Mishap rate was 2.83 per 100k flight hours.

TP3. Broken down by fiscal year, annual Marine Corps Class A aviation mishap rates, per 100,000 flight hours, remain low:

FY-11: 4.05

FY-12: 2.51

FY-13: 3.60

FY-14: 2.28

FY-15: 2.83

FY-16: 4.05

TP4. By Platform Class A Mishap rate per 100,000 flight hours since FY 10, recent as of 31 January 2016:

- KC-130: 0.00

- F/A-18 (A, C-D): 2.58

- AH-1 (W and Z): 2.04

- CH-53E: 3.33

- EA-6B: 2.34

- CH-46: 3.09

- MV-22B: 3.21

- AV-8B: 3.32

- UH-1 (N and Y): 3.31

Average across all platforms = 2.55; the average mishap rates remains roughly at the same throughout the past five years.

***Note: rates for FLIGHT mishaps only (intent for flight, and damage to the aircraft), do not account for flight-RELATED mishaps (MV-22 crew chief falling out of aircraft, for example), or aviation ground mishaps (damage/injury while on ground without intent for flight). This data is current as of end of January 2016.**

AVIATION SAFETY (CONT'D)

The data to calculate a Class A mishap rate per 100,000 flight hours is the number of Class A Flight mishaps as defined by the Naval Safety Center multiplied by 100,000, divided by the number of flight hours flown.

The mishap rate per 100,000 flight hours is constantly shifting as more flight hours are accumulated.

- The Marine Corps rigorously investigates all aviation mishaps to identify the causes, learn from them, and rectify the problems that occurred. As applicable, this includes aircraft software and hardware modifications, updated training, and revisions to publications and regulations.

MV-22-SPECIFIC TALKING POINTS

- Following its development as the world's first production tilt-rotor aircraft, the MV-22 has not only emerged as a safe and reliable aircraft, with 250 of a planned 360 total operating around the globe today, but continues to transform the way the Marine Corps conducts assault support.
- See MV-22 playbook card for more information.

UH-1Y-SPECIFIC TALKING POINTS

- One of the Marine Corps' most-utilized aviation assets, the UH-1 operates in a wide range of conditions, from the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan to the mountains of Nepal, as well as from amphibious shipping.
- UH-1s and AH-1s are undergoing a complete conversion to the Yankee and Zulu aircraft. The transition is being done "in-stride" without any gapping of persistent operational requirements and commitments.

CH-53-SPECIFIC TALKING POINTS

Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., a subsidiary of United Technologies Corp. announced the successful first flight of the U.S. Marine Corps' CH-53K King Stallion heavy lift helicopter prototype, known as Engineering Development Model-1 (EDM-1), Oct. 27, 2015. The 30-minute flight signaled the beginning of a 2,000-hour flight test program using four test aircraft. IOC continues to be on pace for aircraft with combat ready crews, logistically prepared to deploy.

- Until it is replaced, the CH-53E will continue to support the full spectrum of assigned Marine Corps combat operations and scheduled deployments. The Marine Corps will ensure a responsible transition from CH-53E to the CH-53K.

F-35 SPECIFIC TALKING POINTS

- The Marine Corps publicly declared Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 (VMFA-121) based in Yuma, Arizona IOC July 31, 2015, following a five-day Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) which concluded July 17, 2015.
- VMFA-121's transition will be followed by Marine Attack Squadron 211 (VMA-211), an AV-8B squadron, which is scheduled to transition to the F-35B in fiscal year 2016. In 2018, VMFA-122, an F-18 squadron in Beaufort, South Carolina, will conduct its transition to the F-35B. As the future of Marine Corps tactical aviation, the F-35 will eventually replace three legacy platforms: the AV-8B Harrier, the F/A-18 Hornet, and the EA-6B Prowler.
- See the F-35 Briefing Card for more information.

AVIATION SAFETY (CONT'D)

Landing Mishap Definitions

Crash landing: Any landing where the aircraft is under all or partial control, which results in significant damage to the aircraft, and/or results in serious injury or death to someone onboard or on the ground.

Ditch: To land an aircraft in water, usually intentionally and/or under full or partial control by the pilot.

Emergency landing: An unscheduled, expedient, controlled landing when the pilot deems there is an imminent and significant threat to onboard personnel. An emergency landing may or may not be conducted while the aircraft is under power. Examples include, but are not limited to engine failure, partial aircraft control systems failure, fuel starvation, fire, smoke, imminent or partial pilot incapacitation, collision damage and battle damage.

Hard landing: Any landing at a rate which exceeds airframe limitations, where the pilot has sufficient control to reduce the hazard to personnel onboard and on the ground.

Naval Aviation Mishap: An unplanned event or series of events, directly involving a defined naval aircraft that results in damage to Department of Defense property; occupational illness to DoD personnel; injury to on or off-duty DoD military personnel; injury to on-duty DoD civilian personnel; or damage to public or private property, or injury or illness to non-DoD personnel, caused by DoD activities." Exceptions to this definition follow in Para. 306, including sabotage and enemy action (See Para. 305 of OPNAVINST 3750.6S)

Precautionary landing: An unscheduled, fully-controlled landing for the purpose of assessing mechanical issues, physiological issues, fuel issues, weather issues or any other matter which the pilot decides is necessary to determine the feasibility of continued safe flight.

Mishap Classification

Mishaps are classified by severity classes based on damage (cost) or injury (3750.6S Para. 313).

Mishap subcategories are defined in Para. 314 as Flight Mishap (intent for flight existed when the damage/injury occurred), Flight-related mishap (intent for flight existed, but no damage to the aircraft itself, but damage or injury to someone/something else), and Aviation Ground Mishap (no intent for flight at the time of the mishap). Intent for flight is defined in Para. 307 of OPNAV 3750.

OPNAV 3750, Para. 315 categorizes Naval Aviation Mishaps by type for tracking purposes. For example, hard landings are classified under "Airfield Operations" mishaps. "CFIT (controlled flight into terrain)" category applies to any collision during flight prior to planned touchdown, if the aircraft was under control of the pilot.

Q&As

Q1: What are the types and classes of aviation mishaps?

A1: There are several types of aviation mishaps: flight mishaps, where there is an intent for flight, defined as power being at takeoff rating, with brakes released; flight-related mishaps, where there is damage to government property external to the airframe (i.e. something falls off an aircraft); and aviation ground mishaps, where there is no intent for flight but there is damage to an aircraft. Moreover, aviation mishaps are further categorized by class: Class A mishaps result in death or permanent disability to a service member, and/or more than \$2 million in damage to the aircraft; Class B mishaps result in between \$2 million and \$500,000 in damages or partial permanent disability to a service member; and Class C mishaps result in between \$500,000 and \$50,000 in damages or more than three lost work days due to injury.

AVIATION SAFETY (CONT'D)

Q2: How many fatalities has the MV-22 caused over the past five years? What about the UH-1? The CH-53E?

A2: Since FY10 there have been five fatalities resulting from MV-22 flight mishaps: two in Morocco in 2012, one lost at sea in the Persian Gulf in 2014, and two in the hard landing on May 17 in Hawaii; as well as two in flight-related mishaps: one Marine fell from an MV-22 in North Carolina in 2014 and one Marine fell from an MV-22 in Afghanistan in 2011. Since FY10, there have been 25 fatalities resulting from UH-1 flight mishaps: two in Afghanistan in October 2009, one in California in 2011, five in 2012 and eight Marines in 2015, as well as two Australians in Afghanistan in 2012 and two Nepalese soldiers and five Nepalese civilians in the May 11, 2015 crash. One fatality resulted from a CH-53E Super Stallion mishap in September 2015, and 12 Marines died as a result a mishap involving two CH-53E Super Stallions in January 2016.

Q3: Is the Marine Corps' mishap rate rising, falling or remaining the same?

A3: The Marine Corps' Class A mishap rate remains roughly at average.

Q4: How does the Marine Corps' aviation safety record compare to others?

A4: While it is not possible to compare Marine Corps mishap rates to civilian aviation or other services' aviation mishap rates due to the wide range of missions Marine aviation carries out and variety of aircraft types, the Marine Corps has a solid, safe record based on rigorous pilot and aircrew training and thorough aircraft maintenance.

Q5: What is the investigation process for aviation mishaps?

A5: For Class A mishaps, an investigation board is composed, consisting of an O5-or-above graduate of the Naval Safety Center's Aviation Safety Course, from outside the mishap unit, as the senior member, an investigator from the Naval Safety Center, operations and maintenance representatives from the mishap unit, a flight surgeon and other subject matter experts as required. The board has 30 days to submit its report, although extensions can be granted, and spends the time reviewing available information, conducting interviews, site surveys and engineering investigations as necessary, and compiling the report, to include recommendations for future use. The report is submitted for endorsement through the chain of command, recommendations are decided upon, and the investigation is ultimately closed out by the Naval Safety Center.

Q6: How does the process work when a pilot finds and reports a discrepancy?

A6: If a pilot finds a discrepancy prior to a flight, the pilot will initiate a maintenance action form. This is electronically entered into a maintenance discrepancy reporting system. If the discrepancy puts the aircraft in an unsafe-for-flight status, the aircraft then is out of flight status until the discrepancy is corrected.

Q7: What can you tell me about the F/A-18C Hornet crash in October 2015?

A7: A 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing pilot died when his F/A-18C Hornet crashed in the vicinity of Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, October 21, 2015. Maj. Taj Sareen, a pilot in Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 232, stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. died as a result of the crash. Sareen was deployed as part of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command 15.2 and was returning with his squadron after their six-month deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Q8: What can you tell me about the MV-22 mishap in December?

A8: On December 9, 2015 a MV-22B landed short while recovering to the ship. There were no injuries.

AVIATION SAFETY (CONT'D)

Q9: What happened in Hawaii in January?

A9: On January 14, 2016 at approximately 2340 Hawaiian Standard Time, two CH-53E Super Stallions from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, stationed aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, were involved in a mishap while conducting routine training approximately two miles off the Northern coast of Oahu. The Marine Corps rigorously investigates all aviation mishaps to identify the causes, learn from them, and rectify the problems that occurred. A detailed investigation by U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific into this incident is ongoing and more information will be available upon its conclusion. Until the Aviation Mishap Board concludes, we will not know for certain what caused the incident. Currently investigators and U.S. Navy teams are salvaging aircraft wreckage in order to determine what caused the mishap.

Q10: There have been several incidents with Marine Corps aircraft recently. What safeguards are in place to ensure this doesn't happen again?

A10: There will always be inherent risk in military aviation. The Marine Corps recognizes this risk and utilizes highly-reliable aircraft; extensively trains pilots and aircrew; conducts exhaustive maintenance; and ensures safeguards are in place as precautions to mitigate that risk as much as possible.

Q11: What would call for a safety stand down?

A11. The decision to hold aviation safety stand-downs are enacted at the discretion of the commanding officer as a result of the determination of cause and broader lessons learned from past experiences.

Q12: How does the number of Marines killed this year relate to previous years?

A12: The number of Marines who have lost their lives in aviation-related mishaps by year over the past five calendar years:

CY-11: 6

CY-12: 15

CY-13: 0

CY-14: 3

CY-15: 19

CY-16: 13

The devastating loss of life in our Marine Corps family is much higher this year due to 13 of the deaths being a result of two accidents.

POINTS OF CONTACT

Capt. Sarah Burns, OUSMCC Aviation Media Officer, 703-692-1443 sarah.burns@usmc.mil

Office of U.S. Marine Corps Communication Media Branch: ontherecord@usmc.mil, 703-614-4309

USMC Aviation Safety Officer, Maj. Graham "COTTO" Sloan, graham.sloan@usmc.mil, 703-604-4149

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.hqj.usmc.mil/clwater/Documents/Camp_Lejeune_Addendum_v12.pdf

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

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

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

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

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

KEY MESSAGE

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

CAMP LEJEUNE HISTORIC DRINKING WATER (CONT'D)

TALKING POINTS

TP1. The health and welfare of our Marines, Sailors, their families and our civilian workers are top priorities for the Marine Corps.

TP2. The current drinking water at Camp Lejeune meets all government drinking water standards and is tested more often than required.

TP3. 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.

TP4. 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.

TP5. 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.

TP6. 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

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

**** 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. ****

CIVIL AFFAIRS TEAM BELIZE

BACKGROUND

January 2015, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South (MARFORSOUTH) began its first persistent Belize Civil Affairs Team to support U.S. Southern Command. This U.S. Marine Corps Civil Affairs team builds upon ongoing Civil Affairs Engagement Program objectives in the USSOUTHCOM Area of Responsibility and develops capacity to conduct civil military operations with the host nation government, international and non-governmental organizations operating within the country of Belize. CAT Belize is working in Belize to build upon the success of past Civil Affairs efforts and established relationships within the region. CAT Belize is sourced from U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South and the 4th Civil Affairs Group. CAT Belize is enabling our partners, the Belize Defense Force and Belize Coast Guard, to conduct civil military operations that will maintain stability in the country of Belize.

THEMES AND MESSAGES

THE IMPERATIVE OF PARTNERSHIPS IS UNDERSCORED BY EVERYTHING WE DO

- Our approach is based on partnerships — partnerships based on shared values, shared challenges, and shared responsibility.
- We are ready to address transnational security challenges through integrated and coordinated approaches with our partners.

ENGAGED EVERYWHERE

- We are committed to reaching out to all countries in the hemisphere where possible to build strong Military-to-Military ties.
- Transnational security challenges require international cooperation.
- Continuous security cooperation activity with our partner nation Marines provides mutual benefit.
- While we hone our expeditionary skills, our partners hone theirs.

Q&As

Q1. What is CAT Belize?

A1. CAT Belize is a small group of Marines serving as subject matter experts who advise, mentor and train partner nation counterparts to improve our interoperability and to help build their capacity to plan for and conduct civil affairs missions in support of countering regional and transnational threats.

Q2. Was the CAT Belize sent to Belize to make up for partner nation deficiencies?

A2. No. CAT Belize is here to provide different avenues of training to the Belizean military forces that build upon areas in which they already have success. Our team brings a set of training packages to our partners, but these packages are tailored to each mission based on experience and knowledge. If our partner nations have a better way of conducting business, our teams learn just as much from that knowledge.

Q3. Will they all be operating together at all times?

A3. Upon their arrival in Belize, the team will work with various facets of Belizean military forces, international and non-governmental organizations.

Q4. Will anyone from the CAT Belize be involved in actual CTOC, CD or CIT operations?

A4. Marines with the CAT Belize will be involved in training only. Apprehension of suspects is the job of partner nation law enforcement agencies and other authorized forces.

POINT OF CONTACT

Maj. Armando A. Daviu, MARFORSOUTH PAO, 305-437-2554, DSN: 312-567-2554,
armando.a.daviu.mil@mail.mil

COOPERATIVE STRATEGY 21

“This necessary review has affirmed our focus on providing presence around the world in order to ensure stability, build on our relationships with allies and partners, prevent wars, and provide our Nation’s leaders with options in times of crisis.”

“A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower builds on the heritage and complementary capabilities of the Navy-Marine Corps-Coast Guard team to advance the prosperity and guarantee the security of our Nation.” – Ray Mabus, Secretary of The Navy

CORE MESSAGES

- Highlights importance of maritime domain (integrating air, land and sea and leveraging cyber and space domains).
- Introduces new essential function -- *all domain access* -- and aligns forces and capabilities against regional threats.
- Identifies a naval force as the enabler for access when and where we choose.
- States that our naval forces are stronger when we operate together with allies and partners. Merging our unique capabilities and capacity produces a combined naval effect greater than the sum of its individual parts.
- Defines naval forces as a value to the Nation and its security.
- Emphasizes readiness and offensive capability.
- Reaffirms that maritime forces enable the Nation to provide global security and rapidly respond to crisis throughout the world.

NAVAL INTEGRATION

- Highlights two national principles: 1) forward presence 2) integrated naval forces.
- Guides efforts to remain a capable and combat ready naval force by implementing principles with service-specific documents (i.e. Marine Corps’ Expeditionary Force 21 and Marine Expeditionary Brigade Concept of Operations) and classified supplements.

A2AD

- Introduces a fifth essential function -- all domain access. The Sea Services have historically organized, trained, and equipped to perform four essential functions: deterrence, sea control, power projection, and maritime security.
 - All domain access describes how we will organize, train, and equip to gain access to areas and operate freely to complete the mission.
 - All domain access describes the ability to project military force in contested areas with sufficient freedom of action to operate effectively.
 - All domain access describes the maritime /littoral environment as an integrated whole. The naval force can fight across an integrated domain of sea-air-land-cyber-space to shape the environment and lead the fight to gain access for the Joint Force Commander.
 - Identifies challenge to become more offensively capable to defeat the system rather than defensively countering individual weapons.

COMPOSITING

- Directs conducting sea control and power projection in a more distributed fashion in littoral environments. This includes employing forward deployed and surge expeditionary forces that are task-organized into a cohesive amphibious force in order to provide scalable options to defeat land-based threats, deny enemy use of key terrain, or establish expeditionary advance bases and oceanic outposts as described in CPG and Expeditionary Force 21.
- Serves an integral part of GCCs strategic reach and operational capability by emphasizing the ability to organize and equip and exercise command and control of joint and multinational task forces, ready to respond to crises or contingencies.

COOPERATIVE STRATEGY 21 (CONT'D)

AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS

- In January 2009, the Chief of Naval Operations and Commandant of the Marine Corps established a requirement for 38 amphibious warships to support the assault echelons of two Marine Expeditionary Brigades.
- The “Report to Congress on the Annual Long-Range Plan for Construction of Naval Vessels for Fiscal Year 2016,” dated March 2015, states that the Navy will maintain an active inventory of 34 amphibious ships.
- Makes clear that sequestration-level funding would force a decrease in forward presence and reduce surge-ready CSGs and ARGs to an insufficient level to meet planning and strategic requirements.

ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT OF NAVAL PLATFORMS

- Expands the practice of employing adaptive force packages, which tailor naval capabilities to specific regional environments, ensuring that our assets are located where they are most needed...so that more capable ARG/MEUs and CSGs are available for complex missions in other theaters.
- Emphasizes the use new multi-mission vessels such as the Littoral Combat Ship, Joint High Speed Vessel and Afloat Forward Staging Base (AFSB) to support security cooperation, counterterrorism, expeditionary operations, minesweeping and Special Operations Forces.

POINT OF CONTACT:

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

DEFENSE POLICY REVIEW INITIATIVE (DPRI)/PACIFIC REALIGNMENT

BACKGROUND

April 26, 2012, 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

TP1. The U.S.-Japan alliance is stronger than ever and is the cornerstone of regional security and prosperity.

TP2. The alliance is flexible to adapt to new U.S. initiatives and changing circumstances while maintaining deterrence.

TP3. 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.

TP4. 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.

TP5. Some 9,000 Marines will be relocated from Okinawa, of which some 5,000 will be relocated to Guam.

TP6. End-state Marine Corps presence remaining on Okinawa will be consistent with the level envisioned in the Realignment Roadmap.

TP7. 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.

TP8. 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.

TP9. The United States has returned some unused land to Japan and has specified other areas that can be returned after either Japan builds replacement facilities on Okinawa or Marine units have relocated from Okinawa.

TP10. 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.

TP11. 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>

POINT OF CONTACT

Capt Dominic Pitrone, OUSMCC Media Officer, 703-614-4309, dominic.pitrone@usmc.mil

ENERGY ETHOS

BACKGROUND

In 2013, the Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM) Facility Energy (GF-1) issued the *Marine Corps Installations Energy Strategy* to guide how the Marine Corps procures, uses, and measures energy on installations. Unpredictable energy costs and declining budgets are placing pressures on Base Operating Support (BOS) allocations, while battlefield conditions, natural disasters and enemies threaten our energy security. The Marine Corps has invested roughly \$1B on installation energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts since FY03, resulting in a 20.17% reduction in energy use intensity (EUI) – but none of these investments focused on the energy user. The Energy Ethos aims to create a culture in which energy and water efficient behavior is a regular part of daily operations, with the goal of driving down utility costs by 10% by 2020.

TALKING POINTS

Energy Ethos

TP1. Investments in technology have reduced overall energy consumption and advanced energy flexibility in the battlefield, but are not enough to drive the Marine Corps to meet energy goals. Behavior of Marines is an essential aspect. This requires that the Marine Corps adopt an 'Energy Ethos' – from bases to battlefield.

TP2. Energy Ethos is defined as “the shared vision that the efficient use of energy resources is a critical component of mission readiness.”

TP3. The Energy Ethos supports the mission by ensuring energy resiliency, reducing facility and fleet operating costs, and supporting mission readiness, effectiveness, and flexibility throughout the Marine Corps.

TP4. Marines that practice the Energy Ethos consider energy and water use in their daily activities and strive to make small habitual changes to reduce energy and water waste.

Unit Energy Manager (UEM) Program

TP5. The Unit Energy Manager (UEM) Program was formally launched on 09 March 2015 with the issuance of the “Energy Ethos Campaign and Unit Energy Manager (UEM) Program” MARADMIN 114/15. The program establishes the foundation for the implementation and adoption of the Energy Ethos by assigning a Marine in each unit to act as the official energy point of contact.

TP6. The UEM Program promotes end-user awareness and action in individual Marines by helping them understand their daily impact on the energy and water footprint and how they can reduce waste.

TP7. UEMs have a variety of duties, including receiving and sharing energy use data with Marines in the unit to show progress and challenges; conducting periodic walkthroughs of facilities to identify technical and behavioral areas of energy and water waste; identifying opportunities for energy projects or repairs; engaging unit shops and leaders; and providing educational materials to and answering questions from unit Marines.

TP8. Stakeholders across the Marine Corps, from the Commandant, to MCICOM to the Expeditionary Energy Office (E2O), recognize a need for the UEM Program.

Cost

TP9. Marine Corps installations spent \$244 million on energy in FY14. Utility use makes up

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ENERGY ETHOS (CONT'D)

approximately 19 percent of BOS funding.

TP10. The Marines Corps is re-entering a period with increased fiscal constraints on our base operating budgets. This requires that we address energy procurement and energy waste reduction through a smart combination of technological investment and culture change. These efforts can also aid energy use in the battlefield.

TP11. The Marine Corps has invested nearly \$1B on installation energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts since FY2003, resulting in a 20.17% reduction in energy usage intensity (EUI).

WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

POINT OF CONTACT

Rex Runyon, MCICOM PAO, 703-604-4464, rex.runyon@usmc.mil

EXPEDITIONARY FORCE 21

QUOTE

“What we do on a day-to-day basis is maintain a very high state of readiness for immediate successful crisis response “in any clime and place” and under any condition. Our naval, expeditionary, combined arms nature set in a forward deployed and engaged posture provides combatant commanders with capabilities that are increasingly in demand.” - Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., the 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Commandant’s Planning Guidance 2015

TOPLINE RECURRING THEME

“Forward and Ready: Now and in the Future”

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Expeditionary Force 21:

- Is a design for maintaining and refining a force to meet the combatant commanders’ needs and securing America’s national interests.
- Is driven by the demands of the operating environment, considers the limitations of fiscal realities, is informed by national security strategies, is nested within the maritime strategy and is guided by the Commandant’s Planning Guidance.
- Orients everything the Marine Corps does on combat readiness.

CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATION

- Revalidates Operational Maneuver From the Sea and Ship To Objective Maneuver concepts.
- Does not change what we do, but how we will do it. Our role is enduring.
- Focuses on supporting forward deployed forces and meeting the increasing requirements of the combatant commanders.
- Provides an understanding of how a joint capability can win today and in the future.
- Integrates air and surface capabilities at the seabase.
- Looks closely at crisis response operations in lethal and complex environments.
- Promotes integration of experimentation, combat development and acquisition processes to better deliver the right capabilities at the right time.
- Connects naval war games, table tops and exercises to readiness.
- Prepares the Marine Corps to fight with what the force has today, inform the development of future capabilities and improves support for greater naval, joint and command and control capabilities.

LINES OF EFFORT

1) Refining Our Organization.

- Provides framework for tailoring Marine component and regionally orienting operating forces to geographic and functional combatant command.
- Composites forward and rapidly deployable forces to meet crisis or contingency.
- More closely aligns SOF and expeditionary MAGTFs and further develops Marine Corps reconnaissance capability.
- Develops concepts for securing advanced expeditionary bases of operations as part of a naval campaign.

2) Adjusting Our Forward Posture.

- Promotes a forward and flexible force with greater proportion and variety over a wider area.
- Modifies traditional employment methods and augments amphibious warships by adapting other vessels for sea-based littoral operations and better supporting forward based land forces, e.g. operationalizing the MLP, LMSR, T-AKE and JHSV.
- Emphasizes crisis response and building partner capacity as critical to forward-deployed missions.

EXPEDITIONARY FORCE 21 (CONT'D)

3) Increasing Naval Integration.

- Intertwined in the maritime Cooperative Strategy 21, which describes how the Sea Services will design, organize, and employ naval forces in support of national security.
- Outlines assimilating operational staffs and compositing naval forces for crisis response.
- Develops and reinforces concepts for a naval approach to littoral operations in a contested environment.
- Sets conditions for a service and naval level Training Exercise and Employment Plan.

4) Enhancing Littoral Maneuver.

- Identifies how the Marine Corps will fight from the sea in the Anti-Access, Area Denial (A2AD) threat environment.
- Sets favorable conditions by reducing enemy capabilities and creating gaps and seams that allows force closure from multiple locations.
- Defines need to operate with reduced signature to multiple penetration points.
- Advocates the capability to maneuver throughout the littorals.
- Continues to prioritize the need for fielding a high-speed, long-range high-capacity system of connectors, amphibious vehicles, boats and ships.

WEBSITE

<http://www.mccdc.marines.mil/EF21.aspx> (Contains a video, supporting documents and briefs)

POINT OF CONTACT

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

F-35B LIGHTNING II—JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER

BACKGROUND

The Marine Corps publicly declared Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 (VMFA-121) based in Yuma, Arizona, IOC July 31, 2015 following a five-day Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) which concluded July 17.

VMFA-121's transition will be followed by Marine Attack Squadron 211 (VMA-211), an AV-8B squadron, which is scheduled to transition to the F-35B in Summer 2016. In 2018, VMFA-122, an F-18 squadron in Beaufort, South Carolina, will conduct its transition to the F-35B. As the future of Marine Corps tactical aviation, the F-35 will eventually replace three legacy platforms: the AV-8B Harrier, the F/A-18 Hornet, and the EA-6B Prowler.

TALKING POINTS

- The F-35 will wield an electronic attack capability, which represents a transformation in electronic warfare spectrum management. This is not possible on our MEU today. The aircraft brings all of the access and lethality capabilities of a fifth-generation fighter, a modern bomber, and an adverse-weather, all-threat environment air support platform.
- A 5th Generation fighter has advanced stealth, exceptional agility and maneuverability, sensor and information fusion, network-enabled operations and advanced sustainment. 5th Generation technology provides greater survivability, situational awareness, and effectiveness for pilots, as well as improved readiness and lower support costs. As a true 5th Generation fighter, the F-35 has stealth designed in as part of the aircraft from the beginning.
- The F-35 preserves U.S. national security and ensures optimum international security across the globe as integrated coalition operations enable the U.S., her NATO Allies and partner nations, as well as the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force to fight shoulder-to-shoulder with different variants of the F-35.
- Advanced avionics equip the pilot with real-time access to battle space information with spherical coverage. Likewise, commanders at sea, in the air or on the ground immediately receive data collected by the F-35's sensors — empowering them with an instant, high-fidelity view of ongoing operations, making the F-35 Lightning II a formidable force multiplier while enhancing coalition operations.
- The Marine Corps' F-35B flew more than 18,500 mishap-free hours as of April 2016. Reliability of equipment and safety of our personnel are among the Marine Corps' top priorities as we continue transitioning our legacy aircraft to the F-35B in the coming years.

Q&A

Q1: What does “initial operational capability” mean for the F-35B?

A1: The F-35B declared initial operational capability in July 2015. U.S. Marine Corps IOC for the F-35B includes the following requirements:

- a. One squadron of 10 F-35B aircraft with required spare parts, equipment, tools, technical publications, and a functional Automatic Logistic Information System (ALIS Version 2).
- b. One F-35B squadron manned with trained and certified personnel capable of conducting autonomous operations (90% staffing).
- c. Aircraft in Block 2B software configuration with the performance envelope, mission systems, sensors and weapon clearances.
- d. Home base supporting infrastructure and facilities ready and capable of supporting and sustaining operations.
- e. Qualifications, certifications and L Class ship alterations completed to enable F-35B operations for six aircraft.
- f. Qualifications and certifications for deploying the F-35B to austere, expeditionary sites.
- g. Ability to execute close air support; limited offensive and defensive counter air; air interdiction; assault support escort; armed reconnaissance; and limited suppression of enemy air defense missions in concert with Marine Air Ground Task Force resources and capabilities in accordance with paragraph (c) above.

F-35B LIGHTNING II—JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER (CONT'D)

Q2: Is the current version of Block 2B software ready for real-world operations?

A2: Yes. The Block 2B software and configuration with which the Marine Corps reached initial operational capability in July 2015 brings an immediate increase in combat capability compared to legacy aircraft. The vast majority of testing we have done verified expected capabilities: successful missile shots; successful steel-on-steel, air-to-ground deliveries; and three successful sea-trials. The F-35B is able to target in real time, talk to forward air controllers over the radio and data-link, and put weapons on target. The aircraft has the capability to deploy anywhere right now - including the Middle East. With that said the Marine Corps is maintaining a very deliberate timeline to ensure the F-35 introduction into the fleet is done safely and responsibly, thus unless absolutely necessary, the aircraft will not deploy until 2017

Q3: How is the F-35B different than the aircraft we have today? Is the cost worth the improvements in capability?

A3: The multi-service F-35 Lightning II represents a quantum leap in air dominance capability. It combines next-generation fighter characteristics of radar-evading stealth, supersonic speed, fighter agility and advanced logistical support with the most powerful and comprehensive integrated sensor package of any fighter aircraft in history to provide unprecedented lethality and survivability. The F-35B can provide close air support in threat environments where our current platforms would not survive, and the synthetic aperture radar gives us a through-the-weather targeting capability where the majority of our legacy targeting systems are simply ineffective. Furthermore, the F-35B carries more fuel than legacy CAS platforms, giving it more time over the target area. Lastly, the F-35B can carry more ordnance than any legacy aircraft which the Marine Corps employs today.

Q4: What version of ALIS is the Marine Corps currently using?

A4: Automatic Logistic Information System Standard (ALIS) SOU Version 2 was delivered to VMFA-121 in June 2015.

Q5: When is the F-35B first scheduled to deploy, and where is it scheduled to go?

A5: VMFA-121 is slated to relocate from Yuma, Arizona to Iwakuni, Japan in early 2017. The 31st MEU is scheduled to be the first to deploy with the F-35B in early 2018.

Q6: When will the F-35B reach full-rate production?

A6: The F-35B is scheduled to reach full-rate production in 2018, with 20 to 24 aircraft a year coming off the production line.

Q7: Has the Marine Corps fired live ammunition with the F-35B? If so, when and where?

A7: Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 121, also known as the "Green Knights," have been using live ordnance regularly since 22 June 2015. Pilots have employed live ordnance in multiple restricted areas in southeastern California. During the work up to IOC and during the IOC Operational Readiness Inspection F-35B's employed both inert and high-explosive munitions in over 30 live ordnance missions. The munitions employed during the exercises were the same as those dropped by legacy Marine Corps fixed-wing aircraft, but the targeting technology used to employ these weapons is significantly different. During the Readiness Inspection (ORI), the live ordnance deliveries were incorporated into five operational scenarios (Close Air Support, Air Interdiction, Armed Reconnaissance, Offensive Counter Air and Defensive Counter Air). Since IOC the squadron has continued to employ ordnance as part of their normal training cycle.

Q8: What does "full operational capability" mean?

A8: Marine Corps Full Operational Capability will be achieved when all USMC TACAIR active duty, reserve, training, and executive support squadrons have received their F-35B Primary Aircraft Authorized (PAA) with all required logistical, maintenance, and training support. USMC FOC is tracking to be achieved by FY 2032.

F-35B LIGHTNING II—JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER (CONT'D)

Q9: When will VARS be operational for use with the F-35B?

A9: The V-22 Aerial Refueling System (VARS) is scheduled to be operational on Marine Corps MV-22 Ospreys by FY-18. Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey with VARS will be able to refuel the F/A-18 Hornet and the F-35B Lightning II with about 4,000 pounds of fuel at initial operational capability. When VARS reaches full operational capability in 2019, it will be able to refuel the F-35B, F/A-18, MV-22, the AV-8B and the CH-53E/K with up to 10,000 pounds of fuel.

Q10: When is the AV-8B Harrier scheduled to be replaced with the F-35B?

A10: Harrier squadrons will gradually transition to F-35 squadrons over the next 11 years. The planned sundown for the AV-8B is in 2026. This is, however, subject to review, assessment and final decision in 2019. We intend to extract maximum value and service life out of our Harriers.

Q11: When is the Marine Corps' F/A-18 Hornet scheduled to be replaced with the F-35B?

A11: Marine Corps Hornet squadrons will gradually transition to F-35B squadrons over the next fifteen years. The planned sundown for the Marine Corps F/A-18 is in 2030. This is, however, subject to review. We intend to extract maximum value and service life out of our Hornets.

Q12: When is the Marine Corps' EA-6B Prowler scheduled to be replaced with the F-35B?

A12: The sundown of the EA-6B squadrons at Cherry Point will happen on the following schedule: 2016- one squadron; 2017- one squadron; 2018- one squadron; 2019- final squadron. The buildup of F-35 squadrons at Cherry Point is scheduled to begin in 2023. In fiscal year 2016, the Marine Corps' 7588 Naval Flight Officer / EA-6B Prowler Electronic Warfare Officer billets will begin to transition to 7315 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Officer billets.

Q13: How many F-35s will the Marine Corps buy?

A13: The program of record has not changed; Program of Record: 353 F-35B (STOVL), 67 F-35C. 43 operational F-35Bs and 5 F-35Cs delivered to date.

Q14: How much does it cost to build an F-35B/C?

A14: During the current Low-rate-initial-production phase of acquisition, the "flyaway," or sticker price cost of the F-35B in 2014 was \$134 million, and \$129 million for the F-35C. This cost will reduce as production increases. For more detailed questions, please contact the F-35 Joint Program Office.

POINTS OF CONTACT

- Capt. Sarah Burns, Office of U.S. Marine Corps Communication, O: 703-692-1443, sarah.burns@usmc.mil
- Mr. Gregory Vallhonrat, HQMC Aviation F-35 Program Manager, O: 703-693-2521 gregory.vallhonrat@usmc.mil
- LtCol Brett McGregor, F-35 Transition Task Force Lead, O: 703-693-7109, brett.mcgregor@usmc.mil
- Maj Scott Montgomery, F-35 Future Requirements Officer, O: 703-693-7157, scott.montgomery@usmc.mil
- Joe DellaVedova, JSF Joint Program Office (JPO) Public Affairs Director, O: 703-601-5486, Joe.DellaVedova@jsf.mil
- Ms. Maureen Schumann, Defense Press Office, Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), O: 703-697-4162, BB: 703-507-3862, maureen.a.schumann.civ@mail.mil
- CDR Thurraya Kent (Public Affairs for ASN(RDA)), thurraya.Kent@navy.mil, 703-695-0611

FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM (FAP)

BACKGROUND

Domestic violence and child abuse are crimes. Incidents of domestic violence and child abuse negatively impact families, children, and military readiness. The Marine Corps Family Advocacy Program (FAP) provides 24 hour reporting and response to abuse incidents, prevention education, assessment, clinical treatment for families involved in, or at-risk for violence, home visits for new parents, case management services, and victim advocacy services.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. FAP implements standardized services aimed to prevent and treat incidents of child abuse and domestic violence. Treatment and prevention programming includes:

- Period of PURPLE Crying: A prevention and education program for caregivers of infants two weeks to four months of age who display constant crying behaviors. Comforting strategies and stress management strategies are provided to caretakers.
- Nurturing Parenting Program: A parenting curriculum designed to increase parenting skills to include understanding age appropriate developmental expectations, promote bonding and attachment, and reduce child abuse.
- Positive Parenting Program (Triple P): A prevention program providing parenting seminars, tip sheets, and individual sessions focused on increasing parenting competency.
- Within My Reach: An evidence-based program that provides individuals with concrete relationship tools to improve their current relationship or make better choices when selecting relationship partners.
- Coping with Work and Family Stress: An evidence-based curriculum designed to teach participants effective coping strategies to address work and family stressors.
- Skills, Techniques, Options, and Plans (STOP): A clinical treatment program designed to reduce recidivism in male offenders of domestic violence.
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT): A clinical treatment modality for children and adolescents who are experiencing significant emotional and behavioral difficulties related to traumatic life events.
- Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT): A clinical treatment modality for adults diagnosed with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and related conditions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Marine and Family Programs website: www.usmc-mccs.org
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
- SAFE Helpline 1- 877-995-5247
- Military OneSource's Family Violence toolkit: <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/health-and-wellness/family-violence>

POINT OF CONTACT

Ms. Heather J. Hagan, Marine and Family Programs Division PAO, 703-784-9521,
heather.hagan@usmc-mccs.org

FY 2017 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST

“Threats to our Nation’s interests have evolved, and instability around the globe has steadily increased. This ... is further complicated by a constrained resource environment from which we must continue current operations, reset our equipment, and maintain our warfighting readiness, and at the same time, modernize the force. Therefore, it is imperative that we continually balance our available resources between current commitments and future readiness requirements. This will require pragmatic institutional choices and a clear-eyed vision of where we intend to be in 10-20 years.”

– Gen. Robert Neller, 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps, FRAGO 01/2016: Advance to Contact

BACKGROUND

On Feb. 9, 2016 the FY17 DOD budget was submitted to Congress as part of the overall President’s Budget. The DOD budget totals \$582.7 billion, of which \$523.9 billion is for baseline funding and \$58.8 billion is for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). The baseline amount represents an increase of \$2.2 billion over enacted FY16 levels, while the OCO request is nearly the same as FY16 enacted levels.

The Marine Corps’ FY17 total budget request is \$25 billion. Of that, \$23.4 billion is the baseline budget request and \$1.6 billion is for Overseas Contingency Operations. Of note, this total is 4.2% of the overall DOD total, and represents an increase of only \$400 million from enacted FY16 levels.

While the FY 2017 budget provides the Nation with a ready Marine Corps that is forward deployed today, it comes with risk. Modern warfare continues to evolve rapidly, with potential adversaries forging more advanced militaries. The FY 2017 budget fiscally stretches the Marine Corps to maintain current readiness and conduct the modernization required to keep pace with constantly evolving and increasingly capable adversaries.

PA POSTURE

Media queries regarding the Marine Corps’ FY17 budget should be directed to OUSMCC’s media section (POC listed below). The following talking points are intended to assist PAOs and leaders in discussing the overall budget with their audiences.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. The Marine Corps remains a forward-postured, ready force. However, as resources diminish, it will continue to protect the near-term readiness of its deployed and next-to-deploy units to meet current operational requirements. This has, however, required the assumption of risk in the readiness of non-deployed forces, modernization, infrastructure, and quality of life programs.

TP2. In last year’s FY 2015 budget we were compelled, due to fiscal pressures, to limit and reduce training for our operating forces. In this year’s FY 2016 budget our operation and maintenance funding was further reduced by 5.6%. Exclusive of inflation, the FY 2017 budget remains essentially flat, indicating still greater challenges ahead.

TP3. Approximately half of non-deployed units, which provide the Marine Corps’ Ready Force to respond to unexpected crises, are suffering personnel, equipment and training shortfalls. Fiscal uncertainty has forced the Marine Corps to prioritize deployed units at the expense of home-station units.

TP4. At an end strength of 182K, the Marine Corps will continue to meet forward posture and crisis response requirements around the globe, but will assume heightened risk of a delayed response. Additionally, at this end strength the Marine Corps must accept a deployment-to-dwell ratio of 1:2 for the active component, well below the goal of 1:3, placing added stress on Marines and their families.

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FY 2017 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST (CONT'D)

TP5. The Marine Corps is investing in modernization at historically low levels, accepting risk in our infrastructure and equipment investment accounts in order to protect near-term operational readiness. Over time, that will result in maintaining older or obsolete facilities and equipment at a higher cost and more operational risk.

POINT OF CONTACT

Capt Dominic Pitrone, OUSMCC Media Officer, (703) 614-4309, dominic.pitrone@usmc.mil

LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER (LGBT) PRIDE MONTH

BACKGROUND:

Diversity is the aggregate of the varied cultures, backgrounds, talents, skills, and abilities among Marines. Diversity for the Marine Corps means we Marines are connected in a special relationship with the American public; we are leveraging America's varied pool of skills and abilities; and we are maximizing individual differences as a force multiplier. Our core values compel Marines to respect others and act with moral, mental, and physical bravery while embracing a spirit of determination and dedication. (CMC Diversity Policy)

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Marine Corps is strengthened by the diversity of our people and reflects the nation we serve.
- Diversity of thought, experiences, background, and expertise enables the Marine Corps to operate successfully around the globe for a variety of missions.
- Diversity is one of our nation's greatest strengths. During Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride month, we celebrate our rich diversity and renew our enduring commitment to equality.

THEMES AND MESSAGES:

On June 2, 2000, President Clinton issued Proclamation No. 7316 for the first Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. "This June, recognizing the joys and sorrows that the gay and lesbian movement has witnessed and the work that remains to be done, we observe Gay and Lesbian Pride Month and celebrate the progress we have made in creating a society more inclusive and accepting of gays and lesbians." The 2016 LGBT Pride month theme is "Celebration."

The struggle for civil rights in the LGBT community actually began much earlier. Dr. Frank E. Kameny fought for gay rights more than a decade before the Stonewall riots. He served in World War II, and later as a civil service astronomer with the U.S. Army Map Service. According to the Library of Congress, Kameny was fired and banned from federal employment in 1957 because he was gay. On December 22, 2010, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) Repeal Act became law. Certification occurred in July 2011, and full implementation of the Act occurred in September 2011. Lesbian, gay, and bisexual military members can now serve openly, with honor and integrity.

Diversity and inclusion are readiness imperatives; we rely on our diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and expertise to enable us to address the complex challenges of the global security environment. Diversity is more than race, gender, and ethnicity - it is the parts that make up the whole - Marine Corps.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

Col Mark R. Hollahan, M&RA/MPE Branch Head, 703-784-9371, mark.hollahan@usmc.mil
Ms. Alfrita Jones, M&RA/MPE Branch Deputy, 703-784-9371, alfrita.jones@usmc.mil

MARINE CORPS 101

QUOTE

As the Nation's crisis response force and force in readiness, Marines remain forward deployed, ready to fight and win tonight. As Marines have always done, we will continue to seek new opportunities and develop solutions that maintain an overwhelming tactical advantage over any adversary.

- General Robert B. Neller, 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps

TALKING POINTS

TP1. 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.

TP2. 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.

TP3. The Corps has about 184,200 active-duty Marines, 39,600 in the Selected Marine Corps Reserve, and 68,000 in the Individual Ready Reserve. Some 30,100 Marines are deployed across the globe.

TP4. The final force structure will include 24 infantry battalions, as well as the implementation of 18 MV-22 squadrons. It also allows for such enduring presences as seven MEUs, SPMAGTFs – Crisis Response AF, CENT, and SOUTH, Marine Rotational Force Darwin, enhanced Cyber capabilities, and increased embassy security personnel.

TP5. For 7% of the DoD Budget, the Marine Corps provides America with:

- 21% of the infantry battalions
- 15% of the Fighter/Attack Aircraft
- 11% of the Artillery Batteries
- 7 flexible and scalable MEUs

TP6. 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.

MORE INFORMATION

View the latest Marine Corps 101 Presentation, attached, by clicking on the paperclip to the left of the Adobe screen.

POINT OF CONTACT/SOURCING

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

MARINE CORPS FORCE INTEGRATION PLAN (MCFIP)

REFERENCES

- (a) OSDPA-approved PAG for WISR Implementation, dtd 10 September 2015.
- (b) SECDEF Memo, "Implementation Guidance for the Full Integration of Women in the Armed Forces," dtd 3 December 2015.
- (c) Public Affairs Guidance for Force Integration in the Marine Corps, dtd 17 March 2015

BACKGROUND

In January 2013, the Secretary of Defense rescinded the 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition 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. Through the development and execution of the Marine Corps Force Integration Plan (MCFIP), the Marine Corps deliberately and responsibly assessed the impact of gender integration in ground combat arms military occupational specialties (MOS) and units that were previously restricted to female Marines. The results of various studies conducted as part of MCFIP informed the Commandant of the Marine Corps' (CMC) recommendations regarding ground combat arms MOSs and units.

On 3 December 2015, the Secretary of Defense announced his decision directing that all services act jointly to fully implement the opening of all MOSs and units to all service members. The Secretary of Defense directed the Secretaries of the Military Departments and Chiefs of the Military Services to provide their final, detailed plans to the AUSD(P&R) no later than January 1, 2016, detailing their timelines for integrating newly opened occupations and positions using their existing recruiting, accession, training, and assignment procedures.

We have built the Marine Corps' Implementation Plan with the insight gained by our previous detailed studies. Furthermore, we have created a 25 year longitudinal study able to assess all aspects and possible impacts throughout implementation.

PA POSTURE

The public affairs posture will be **ACTIVE**. Proper PA coordination both up to the Office of United States Marine Corps Communication (OUSMCC) and down to lower division and Recruiting District PAO's will be due prior to any media engagement or release. MSC's, MEF's and any USMC PA producing entity will coordinate closely with OUSMCC to synchronize communication efforts to fulfill integration measures and communication goals. After proper coordination with OUSMCC, release authority will be delegated to the aforementioned MSC's to provide technical expertise for their respective roles in the implementation of this policy. All effort must be made to push Public Affairs Guidance to the lowest level of PAO's. PAO's should not exclusively focus on "firsts" but also the "process" of making a Fleet trained Marine. This approach facilitates supporting local media interest to a national-policy issue through the perspectives of our Marines.

THEMES & MESSAGES

Warfighting Capability:

- As we move forward with full integration, we will continue to leverage every opportunity to maximize individual performance, talent and skills to maximize the warfighting capabilities of our MAGTFs in an increasingly complex operating environment.
- Integration is mostly about standards. Physical screening, classification, qualification and continuation standards for physically demanding MOS's, mitigate injuries and provide reasonable assurance of a Marine's ability to physically perform their assigned MOS.

MCFIP (CONT'D)

Combat Effectiveness:

- The Marine Corps remains committed to sustaining and improving our combat effectiveness through the systematic application of our standards.
- The Marine Corps will not lower standards and will continue its emphasis on combat readiness. We will continue to field America's crisis response force that is ready to fight and win for this nation.
- Clearly articulated and codified gender-neutral standards enhance our ability to match the best and most fully qualified Marines with the most suitable military occupations and increase the overall combat readiness of our force.

Health, Welfare, and Success of Every Marine:

- All Marines are committed to the mission and their fellow Marines. Opportunities continue to be based on individual merit and performance.
- We will implement integration systematically and thoughtfully, while always considering our mission and our resources.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q1. How will your GCEITF study now help the Corps fully integrate?

A1. The Marine Corps' comprehensive approach to collect and analyze data informed what we believe will be the most complete approach to integrating women into combat arms jobs and units. As a result of research, the Marine Corps has already implemented more clearly defined gender neutral individual performance standards that ensure Marines are assigned to jobs for which they are best qualified. Additionally, our research and study provided us insight into factors we must consider in the long-term, such as the health of each Marine over their career.

Q2. What is the timeline for implementation?

A2. We worked collaboratively across the services to fully implement the guidance of the Secretary of Defense. Implementation will occur systematically. The progress and success of this plan will be viewed through three primary lenses: (1) Combat Effectiveness, (2) Health and Welfare of Individual Marines, and (3) Talent Management. The continued success of the Corps as the Nation's expeditionary force in readiness is based on a simple tenet: placing the best and most fully qualified Marine where they can make the strongest contribution to the Corps' diverse missions – keeping mission accomplishment always on the forefront.

Q3. Why did you even need to do this painstaking review? Why can't you open up the MOSs immediately and let women succeed or fail on their own merit?

A3. The Marine Corps considers this research effort to be an important initiative that will help us determine how best to utilize our most important resource – the Marines who make up our Corps. Specifically, this research has already helped improve our service Training & Readiness standards for how the Marine Corps trains and prepares for combat. Our review allows collaboration with OSD and the Services to systematically implement this policy. Clearly articulated and codified gender-neutral standards will undoubtedly enhance our ability to place the best and most fully qualified Marines in the right occupations and increase the overall combat readiness of our force. Additionally, our research has enabled other opportunities to investigate the best physical training and nutrition to improve the performance of Marines –as tactical athletes.

Q4. Do you feel that the Marine Corps' combat effectiveness and readiness will be degraded as a result of integrating women into what were formerly male only jobs?

A4. The Marine Corps maintained an unwavering focus on combat effectiveness throughout its 240-year history and this research effort. The Marine Corps' ability to complete the missions of our country is directly related to the combat effectiveness. The process of reexamining standards has added value

MCFIP (CONT'D)

through coherently linking the performance of the team to the abilities of each individual. By using our research, we've been able to establish individual physical standards that will guide the matching of the best people with the right job, regardless of their gender. In this way, we maximize the potential for individuals to apply their strengths to their jobs and maximize their contribution to their team.

Q5. You've said that you will not lower standards. How are you ensuring that: 1) the standards are what they should be, and 2) that they will not be artificially lowered (or raised)?

A5. The Secretary of Defense has made it clear that we will not lower standards, and we endorse this position. The standards reflect the capabilities of the current force – a force that has been successful throughout the longest period of continuous combat in our Corps' history. Standards will continue to be validated against operational requirements, specific to a particular occupation, and the average expeditionary conditions in which Marines typically perform. This rigorous and analytical process is led by our Training & Education Command that regularly provides standards reviews on fixed-cycles to ensure continued relevancy. We feel this systematic examination and validation of our physical standards best ensure Marines are matched with the right jobs, regardless of gender.

Q6. The Marine Corps now has two different types of physical standards – the physical and combat fitness standards associated with annual tests and physical standards associated with specific jobs. With all jobs now opened to women, will physical fitness and combat fitness standards be the same for all Marines? If not, won't this disparity contribute to the breakdown of unit cohesion as women may be perceived as getting special treatment?

A6. Physical readiness and fitness are key individual performance requirements for all Marines and also are qualifying factors for specific jobs. General physical fitness assessment tools have existed for years, and will continue to assess the physical readiness of the force. In November 2015 the Commandant directed a comprehensive and holistic review of the Marine Corps physical fitness and body composition standards. The sole purpose of this review is to have a Marine Corps Physical Fitness Program that ensures the overall health and fitness of our Corps. PFT, CFT and BC standards must be relevant, challenging and incentivize healthy behaviors that enhance cardiovascular capacity, muscular strength, flexibility, agility and minimize injuries. TECOM is currently conducting a comprehensive review and will deliver an assessment to the Commandant this summer. The end state of this review will ensure our standards remain relevant, challenging and mutually supportive toward keeping Marines fit and ready for combat. As a crisis response force in readiness, it has to be this way

Q7. The Marine Corps is the only service to maintain gender-separated basic training. Are there any plans to combine basic training, especially in light of Secretary Mabus' recent memo to General Neller on entry-level training? If not, why?

A7. The Marine Corps routinely reviews its training and will conduct a holistic examination of the impact of the new policy, to include our entry-level basic training programs. We have participated in a number of studies and reviews in the past, and it has been previously determined that our current model for basic training provided the environment for instilling the high levels of confidence, team-building, physical fitness, and esprit de corps necessary for our recruits to be successful in earning the title Marine. Recruit training was consolidated under the Recruit Training Regiment in 1986, and since then recruit training for both men and women has been identical with considerable integrated training elements throughout. Male and female recruits complete the same 70 training days, follow the same training program of instruction, and must complete the same graduation requirements to earn the title United States Marine. Follow-on Marine Corps Entry Level Training has been integrated since 1997. An important distinction from the other services is that this training occurs after recruit training, at an important juncture in the Marine Corps' transformation process has instilled a strong, clear understanding of our core values of honor, courage, and commitment.

POINT OF CONTACT: Capt Philip Kulczewski, OUSMCC, Media Officer,
703-614-4309, philip.kulczewski@usmc.mil

MEU TRACKER

11th MEU

After a seven-month deployment marked with conducting some of the first strikes in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, humanitarian assistance in the northwestern Hawaiian islands, and theater security cooperation exercises in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia, the 11th MEU returned home in February, 2015. 11th MEU is currently conducting Exercise Iron Fist.

- Commanding Officer: Col Clay C. Tipton
- PAO: Maj. Craig W. Thomas, craig.thomas@usmc.mil
- Web: <http://www.11thmeu.marines.mil/>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/11thmeu>
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/11thmeu>
- Photos/Video: <http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/11meu>

13th MEU

The 13th MEU is currently deployed aboard the USS Boxer Amphibious Ready Group. The 13th MEU departed Naval Base San Diego on 12 Feb. While operating in the 3rd and 7th Fleet AORs, the 13th MEU conducted sustainment training in Hawaii and participated in Exercise SSANG YONG 16 in South Korea. The 13th MEU is currently enroute to the 5th Fleet AOR. 13th MEU components for the deployment include BLT 2/1, VMM-166 (REIN) and CLB-13.

- Commanding Officer: Col Anthony M. Henderson
- PAO: Capt. Brian S. Villiard, brian.villiard@usmc.mil
- Web: <http://www.13thmeu.marines.mil/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/13thMEUView>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Official13thMEU>
- Photos/Video: <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/13MEU>

15th MEU

The 15th MEU returned in December 2015 from a seven-month long deployment in the 5th, 6th, and 7th Fleet AORs. The 15th MEU deployed aboard the Essex Amphibious Ready Group aboard the USS Essex (LHD 2), USS Anchorage (LPD 23), and USS Rushmore (LSD 47). In July 2016 the MEU will be participating in the inaugural Southern California portion of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise. The MEU is scheduled to composite again in January and deploy aboard the USS America ARG in the summer of 2017.

- Commanding Officer: Col Vance L. Cryer
- PAO: Maj. 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 is currently preparing for its upcoming deployment aboard the USS Wasp (LHD 1), USS San Antonio (LPD 17) and USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41). 22nd MEU components include BLT 1/6, VMM-264 (REIN), and CLB-22.

- Commanding Officer: Col Todd P. Simmons
- PAO: Capt. Jean Durham, jean.durham@usmc.mil
- Web: <http://www.22ndmeu.marines.mil>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/22ndMEU>
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/22nd_meu
- Photos/Video: <http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/22meu>

MEU TRACKER (CONT'D)

24th MEU

Since de-compositing last year, the 24th MEU Command Element has begun preparing for the unit's pre-deployment training program.

- Commanding Officer: Col Ryan S. Rideout
- PAO: Capt. Jordan R. Cochran, jordan.cochran@usmc.mil
- Web: <http://www.24thmeu.marines.mil/>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/24thmeu>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/24thmeu>
- Photos/Video: <http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/24meu>

26th MEU

The 26th MEU is currently deployed. 26th MEU components include BLT 2/6, VMM-162 (REIN), VMA-223 and CLB-26.

- Commanding Officer: Col Robert C. Fulford
- PAO: Capt. Lindsay Pirek, lindsay.pirek@usmc.mil
- Web: <http://www.26thmeu.marines.mil/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/26MEU>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/26meu>
- Photos/Video: <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/26MEU>

31st MEU

The 31st MEU is currently preparing for its upcoming deployment aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), USS Ashland (LSD 48) and USS Germantown (LSD 42). 31st MEU components include BLT 1/5, VMM-265, VMA-214 (-), and CLB-31.

- Commanding Officer: Col Romin Dasmalchi
- PAO: Capt. Jennifer Giles, jennifer.giles@usmc.mil, jennifer.giles@bhr.usmc.mil
- Web: www.31stmeu.marines.mil
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/31stMEU>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.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).

MEU Tracker (CONT'D)

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

TP1. MEUs operate continuously across the globe and provide the President and the unified combatant commanders with a forward-deployed, flexible sea-based MAGTF.

TP2. 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.

TP3. 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.

TP4. "Expeditionary" is not a bumper sticker to us, or a concept, it is a "state of conditioning" that Marines work hard to maintain.

TP5. 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.

TP6. 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

Dominic Pitrone, OUSMCC Media Officer, 703-614-4309, dominic.pitrone@usmc.mil

MV-22 OSPREY

BACKGROUND:

The V-22 is the world's first production tiltrotor aircraft. 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 turbo-prop aircraft. 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 in legacy platforms. It is the ideal platform for joint and combined operations with our NATO Allies and partner nations.

The MV-22B Osprey is the U.S. Marine Corps' version of this aircraft. The incredible effectiveness and survivability of the Osprey continue to be utilized for Marine Operations in every clime and place be it land-based operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to sea-based operations in Haiti, Libya and the Philippines. 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.

The Marine Corps will be procuring 360 aircraft to support operations worldwide. More than 254 Marine Corps MV-22B aircraft are operating around the globe today, transforming the way the Marine Corps conducts assault support, humanitarian relief operations and the broad spectrum of MAGTF missions.

TALKING POINTS:

TP1. Following its development as the world's first production tilt-rotor aircraft, the MV-22B has not only emerged as a safe and reliable aircraft, with 254 operating around the globe today, but continues to transform the way the Marine Corps conducts assault support.

TP2. Since 2007, the MV-22 has continuously deployed in a wide range of extreme conditions, from the deserts of Iraq and Libya to the mountains of Afghanistan and Nepal, as well as aboard amphibious shipping. Thanks to its speed, maneuverability, and numerous capabilities, the MV-22 is in high demand among commanders worldwide, and it has already surpassed 261,660 flight hours conducting many types of missions (as of 5 April 2016).

TP3. The recent cross deck exercise with French Navy's BPC Dixmude in June 2015 is yet one more example of how the MV-22B Osprey provides commanders with unprecedented flexibility 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 MAGTF. This capability was expanded with the Trident Juncture 15 in November 2015 when the MV-22Bs from SPMAGTF-CR-AF conducted operations aboard the Spanish Amphibious Assault ship, the Juan Carlos, and the United Kingdom's HMS Ocean. Also, Royal Marines and U.S. Marines integrated by land, sea, and air with MV-22B Ospreys aboard the HMS Ocean during exercise Blue Raptor in late November 2015.

TP4. The MV-22 is extremely survivable: for example, aircraft engaged in the close-in, kinetic fight in Operation Enduring Freedom took small arms, rocket-propelled grenade and heavy machine gun fire on multiple occasions. In every case, they were able to safely continue flight to friendly territory.

TP5. The MV-22 is able to carry a significantly greater payload than the aircraft it is replacing, the CH-46, at twice the speed and range – more than 60% greater range than any other rotorcraft, and more with aerial refueling. In addition to assault support, additional mission sets being implemented for the MV-22 include aerial refueling of tactical, tiltrotor and rotary-wing aircraft, as well as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

TP6. The MV-22B is an extremely maneuverable aircraft with a large and versatile operating flight envelope which far outstrips that of the legacy CH-46 helicopter it replaced. 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.

MV-22 OSPREY (CONT'D)

TP7. The V-22 Aerial Refueling System (VARS) is scheduled to be operational on Marine Corps MV-22B Ospreys by FY 2018. Marine VARS enables refueling of Marine fixed wing tactical aviation platforms and other rotary wing platforms with about 4,000 pounds of fuel at VARS' initial operating capability. MV-22 VARS capacity will increase to 10,000 pounds of fuel by 2019. This will significantly enhance range, as well as the aircraft's ability to remain on target for a longer period, to include: the CH-53E/K; other MV-22s; the F/A-18; the AV-8B and ultimately the F-35. Overall, VARS will be a huge force multiplier for a sea-based MAGTF.

TP8. The Marine Corps is working with industry partners to source the revolutionary MV-22 digital interoperability (DI) assets. The number one advantage in utilizing this capability is increased situational awareness that translates into flexible, responsive options for the Marine Air Ground This DI package is currently being utilized by the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The 2015 Marine Corps Aviation Plan identifies the DI program of record and path forward with the Software Reprogrammable Payload (SRP) initial operating capability, scheduled for 2017. The MV-22 will be the first Marine Corps aviation platform to be equipped with SRP.

TP9. To take full advantage of the success of tiltrotor technology, we plan to field the next version of the MV-22 in the mid-2030s. This aircraft will take advantage of technologies spurred by the ongoing joint multi-role and future vertical lift efforts, and other emerging technology initiatives.

Q&As

Q1. Late in OEF, the final squadron of Ospreys in Afghanistan received an ECASEVAC mission for southern Afghanistan. What were the lessons learned and the findings regarding the squadron's success with that mission?

A1. The V-22 was ideally suited for this mission set. ECASEVAC doubled the distance from friendly positions which the ground combat element could safely operate while remaining within the, "golden hour." The golden hour refers to the target time that a CASEVAC helicopter can respond to a call, pick up the injured or wounded individual, and fly them to a Coalition medical facility. The key to the success of the unit was the squadron's aggressive refinement of the techniques and procedures for executing missions.

Q2. How many Marine Corps MV-22s are in Block C? Is there any plan for Block B aircraft to be converted to Block C?

A2. We currently have 121 Block C MV-22s in the inventory, and will ultimately have 205 when the program of record is complete. There is currently no plan to convert block B's into C's. We are currently modifying all Block A's to Block B's.

Q3. What is the difference between Block B and Block C software for the MV 22B?

A3. The enhancements for the Block C's over the Block B's are as follows:

- Environmental Control System "air conditioning")
- Inclusion of a weather radar
- A troop Commander Situation Awareness Station (a tethered display where commander can observe the moving map)
- Forward Firing Countermeasures
- Software upgrades that enhance the algorithms that affect hovering and fuel system logic
- An improved engine starter valve
- An enhanced Standby Flight instrument (now digital vice analog)

TRANSITION

- The VMM community transition is 70% complete
- East Coast transition is complete; six VMMs transitioned.

MV-22 OSPREY (CONT'D)

- MAG-16 transition is complete; six VMMs transitioned.
- MAG-39 transition is complete; two squadron transitioned
- Okinawa has two squadrons supporting MEU operations.
- One new squadron (VMM-362) to stand up at Miramar in FY-18.
- One new squadron (VMM-212) to stand up at New River in FY-19.
- Two VMM squadrons (268/363) from Miramar to move to Hawaii in FY-17/18.
- Reserve squadron (VMM-764) transitioning from CH-46 to MV-22, complete in FY-16.
- Reserve squadron (VMM-774) transitioned from CH-46 to MV-22. They began receiving MV-22s in 1st Q FY-16, IOC in 3rd Q FY-16; FOC in FY-18.

DVIDS Feature Page

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

POINTS OF CONTACT

Capt. Sarah Burns, OUSMCC Media Officer, 703-614-4309, sarah.burns@usmc.mil

Andrew Woodward, Communications Manager, Bell Helicopter Military Aircraft, 817-280-1297

Billy Ray "B.R." Brown, Public Affairs Officer, V-22 Osprey & H-1, Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, 301-995-7909

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

TP1. 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.

TP2. 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.

TP3. 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.

TP4. 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.

TP5. 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."

TP6. 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.

TP7. 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.

TP8. 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.

PACIFIC REORIENTATION (CONT'D)

TP9. 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.

TP10. 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.

TP11. 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.

TP12. U.S. Marines are organized, trained and equipped to operate from ships, from the air, and ashore. This integrated force, the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF), is the key to Marine operations and provides a balanced, combined-arms force which is expandable, adaptable, and tailorable to the mission.

TP13. 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

Capt Dominic Pitrone, OUSMCC Media Officer, 703-614-4309, dominic.pitrone@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

TP1. Recruiting has been and will continue to be the lifeblood of the United States Marine Corps, regardless of end-strength requirements. A lower end-strength for the Corps doesn't equate to 'easier' times for Marine Corps Recruiting. Our Recruiting Force is faced with many challenges and obstacles -- but the high caliber Marines we have serving in the trenches throughout the Nation continue to 'make mission' and meet the missions assigned by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

TP2. 99.8% of current recruits are high school graduates (DoD stand is 90%), and 74% score in the top three tiers of the Armed Forces Qualification Test (DoD standard is 60%).

TP3. 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.

TP4. 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.

TP5. 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.

TP6. 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.

TP7. 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.

RECRUITING (CONT'D)

TP8. The Marine Corps Recruiting Command has approximately 3,760 Marines currently serving as canvassing recruiters. These Marines are in every community of our Nation delivering our 'Tough, Smart, Elite Warrior' message of opportunity to young men and women, educators, coaches, influencers and parents. To accomplish the recruiting mission assigned by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, our recruiters must overcome myriad challenges -- but they continue to successfully meet assigned recruiting missions, while maintaining and exceeding Department of Defense quality standards.

DIVERSITY TALKING POINTS

TP1. During FY15, MCRC will continue to reinforce efforts to recruit a diverse officer corps, which remains a fundamental component of the officer accession mission and a priority of the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

TP2. In FY14, diversity officer accessions accounted for 21.99% of the total officer accessions, exceeding the Marine Corps Recruiting Command's (MCRC) five year average of 19.7%

TP3. The FY14 diversity officer accession success is a direct result of the hard work of our officer recruiting force and benefits from our office of diversity engagement initiatives.

TP4. 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.

TP5. The Marine Corps is devoted to educating the American public on Marine Corps values and presenting opportunities to those individuals who possess the aspiration and determination to join our ranks. These initiatives will help generate and sustain a force that has the cultural expertise, language skill sets and a variety of philosophies needed to meet the operational requirements of the Marine Corps.

TP6. The strategic end-state of the Marine Corps' Diversity Program is to strengthen our connectedness with the American people.

TP7. America's Marine Corps deserves to be led by a diverse and representative officer corps. MCRC is committed to improving diversity representation within our leadership ranks since we have integral role at the accession point. It is the recruiting command's aspiration to re-invigorate the Marine Corps' connectedness with the American people on whom the Marine Corps' success or failure ultimately depends.

TP8. Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC) has taken deliberate actions to increase diversity accessions and outreach, such as implementing an "All Community Approach" to planned engagement events, reprioritizing elements of our advertising program, new efforts to increase awareness of scholarship opportunities, and the continuous analysis of prospecting and processing activities.

1. The following is a breakdown of FY14 'diversity' enlisted accessions:

African-American: 11.77%

Asian: 3.01%

Other: 1.77%

Hispanic: 24.13% (*Hispanics are an ethnic group – not a race*)

2. The following is a breakdown of FY14 'diversity' officer accessions:

African-American: 4.71%

Asian: 4.11%

Other: 5.29%

Hispanic: 7.86% (*Hispanics are an ethnic group – not a race*)

RECRUITING (CONT'D)

3. FY14 enlisted and officer female accessions:

Enlisted: 9.41%

Officer: 11.61%

'HOME OF THE BRAVE' PROSPECT CAMPAIGN BACKGROUND

As the nation continues to look toward the Marine Corps as America's force in readiness, Marine Corps Recruiting Command stands ready to find the most qualified individuals to serve in the Marine Corps. Every few years, MCRC evaluates how to attract the next generation of men and women to serve as Marines. MCRC must remain positioned to continue telling the longer Marine Corps Story of Making Marines, Winning Our Nation's Battles, and Developing Quality Citizens. MCRC discovered through diligent research and testing that America's youth are increasingly more drawn toward helping people in their communities and around the globe. Expanding on messaging first introduced in *Toward the Sounds of Chaos*, MCRC is embarking on a new campaign known as *Home of the Brave*. In the campaign, two new commercials were released, *'Wall'* and *'The Land We Love'*. Both commercials assist in demonstrating the Corps' abilities to always be ready in any clime and place when the nation needs us most. Commercials debuted on 17 March 2015.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. Research tells us the Marine Corps has an opportunity to leverage an increased stake in the nation among a broader cross-section of youth and this is a historic point in time. *Home of the Brave* enables the Marine Corps to attract recruits of optimal quality and establishes the foundation for fully representing the American people when we embark upon missions.

TP2. The goal of *Home of the Brave* is to recruit a force representative of the nation it serves while maintaining the highest quality, historical standards and warfighting ethos; stressing the stake that all race and cultural groups have in our country and in its defense.

TP3. The greatest challenge facing the Corps is that young people do not perceive military service as aligning with their modern view of the nation or what they believe to be tenets of public service. *Home of the Brave* illustrates a more contemporary view of the nation and the breadth of Marine Corps missions as both a call to national service and service to our communities.

TP4. Two campaign commercials communicate the unique roles the Marine Corps plays for our citizens, our culture, our country and those who have served. In total, the communication strategy for the campaign was established as: 'Marines defend and reflect the ideals of a nation in which we all have a stake'.

TP5. *'Wall'* delivers the message: **'Marines defend a nation comprised of brave, determined people who take action against injustice. The Marines exemplify that spirit and are inspired by it'**.

TP6. *'The Land We Love'* depicts a relatable America. **'Diverse people and communities; one common country'**.

TP7. We want the campaign to appeal to the priorities and interests of the millennial generation, motivating them to consider service to their nation as a Marine. This campaign's modern approach should ensure people from diverse backgrounds understand that the Marine Corps recognizes them as equal partners in a nation where battles come in many forms.

TP8. Marine Corps advertising is bold and revolutionary; from iconic ads depicting the struggle and transformative power of becoming a Marine, such as *America's Few*, to the most recent campaign, *Toward the Sounds of Chaos*, vividly portraying the breadth and importance of Marine Corps' missions.

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RECRUITING (CONT'D)

Home of the Brave is equally innovative, showing a uniquely modern, millennial-driven interpretation of America, patriotism, and service.

TP9. ***Home of the Brave*** demonstrates the Marine Corps' deep understanding of the fact that Americans from all backgrounds and cultures are equal partners in this nation. Furthermore, it carries forward elements of *Towards the Sounds of Chaos* by continuing to demonstrate the diversity of Marine Corps missions and the importance of service.

DVIDS Unit Page

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

POINT OF CONTACT

Maj Garron Garn, MCRC PAO, 703-784-9454, mcr CPA@marines.usmc.mil

SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM 16

BACKGROUND

In January 2016, U.S Marine Corps Forces, South (MARFORSOUTH) will begin its fourth year of persistent security cooperation team support to the U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM). Security Cooperation Team 16.1 will focus on developing, building and sustaining partnerships, and increasing regional stability through tailor-made training to fit the unique needs of Partner Nation forces.

SC TEAM 16.1 is comprised of approximately 33 Marines and Sailors (Navy Corpsmen) who are scheduled to work in the Central American Region. Upon arrival, SC TEAM 16.1 will split into four smaller detachments consisting of subject matter experts who will be distributed across four countries—Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. The detachments will conduct partnered training with designated military units within these countries. SC TEAM 16.1 is sourced from various units from throughout the Marine Corps, and brings a variety of military occupational skills that will be employed into the mid-summer timeframe. During this period, SC TEAM 16.1 will rotate with Special-Purpose Marine, Air, Ground Task Force-Southern Command that will continue to build upon established successes.

THEMES AND MESSAGES

THE IMPERATIVE OF PARTNERSHIPS IS UNDERSCORED BY EVERYTHING WE DO

- Our approach is based on partnerships — partnerships based on shared values, shared challenges, and shared responsibility.
- We are ready to address transnational security challenges through integrated and coordinated approaches with our partners.

COMMITTED TO OUR FRIENDS

- We are committed to reaching out to our friends in the Western Hemisphere where possible to build strong Military-to-Military ties.
- Transnational security challenges require international cooperation.

Q&As:

Q1. What is an SC Team?

A1. A Security Cooperation Team is a small group of Marines serving as subject matter experts who advise, mentor and train partner nation counterparts to improve our interoperability and to help build their capacity to plan for and conduct missions in support of countering regional and transnational threats.

Q2. What is this SC Team comprised of?

A2. The Team is comprised of approximately 33 Marines and Sailors possessing an array of military occupational specialties and sourced from various different units throughout the Marine Corps.

Q3. Will they all be operating together at all times?

A3. Upon their arrival in Central America, the team will split into four small groups and will disperse to conduct partnered training in El Salvador, Belize, Honduras and Guatemala.

Q4. Will anyone from the SC Team be involved in actual CTOC, CD or CIT operations?

A4. Marines with the SC Team will be involved in training only. Apprehension of suspects is the job of partner nation law enforcement agencies and other authorized forces.

POINT OF CONTACT:

Maj. Armando A. Daviu, 305-437-2554, armando.a.daviu.mil@mail.mil

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (SAPR)

BACKGROUND

The Department of Defense (DOD) Fiscal Year (2014) Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military was released on 1 May 2015 and consists of four components: DOD Overview, DOD Statistical Analysis, Service-Specific Assessments, and the RAND Military Workplace Study. Key Marine Corps findings include the following:

- Approximately 1,000 (30%) fewer Marines experienced unwanted sexual contact in FY14 (~2,300) than in FY12 (~3,300).
- In that same two-year timeframe, official reports of sexual assault increased by 94% (453 in FY12 to 880 in FY14).
- Of the DOD women who reported a past-year unwanted sexual contact, 62% also indicated some kind of negative perceptions often associated with retaliation.
- Approximately half of the ~2,300 Marines who experienced unwanted sexual contact in FY14 are male, but only 22.1% of reports were filed by male victims.
- Our capacity to prefer and court-martial sexual assault cases continues to increase. The number of court-martial charges preferred for sex-related offenses increased from 113 in FY13 to 175 in FY14. The number of court-martials proceeding to trial increased from 90 in FY13 to 112 in FY14 for sex-related offenses.
- The percentage of victims declining to participate in the Marine Corps justice system has decreased from 16% in FY11 to 9% in FY14.

The Marine Corps is the youngest, most junior, and least married of the four military Services. Recent data indicate that 64% of Marines are 25 or younger, 38 percent are Lance Corporal or below, and 45 percent are married. In fact, 23% of Marines are not old enough to legally consume alcohol and 12% are teenagers. (*Source: The Marine Corps Demographics Update, June 2015.*)

SAPR initiatives reflect the uniqueness of our Corps through innovative training that grows with Marines' rank and responsibility, giving each Marine the appropriate tools to make effective decisions. The SAPR training continuum is constantly evolving to reach Marines at every stage of their career, including:

- For new junior Marines—our most at-risk demographic for sexual assault—"Step Up" training teaches practical peer-to-peer bystander intervention strategies using scenario-based video components. The curriculum clearly states that both males and females can be victims and outlines red flags that indicate a sexual assault may occur, including acts of hazing and intoxication.
- Our Noncommissioned Officers in the ranks of Corporal and Sergeant receive training called "Take A Stand," which teaches bystander intervention and appeals to their developing sense of leadership.
- Beyond annual training, the Marine Corps has developed a series of Ethical Discussion Group (EDG) videos, promoting healthy discussions about sexual assault and preparing Marines to respond appropriately in real-life situations.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. The Marine Corps is seeing positive indicators of SAPR progress, with a decrease in prevalence and an increase in reporting levels, suggesting that our efforts are working to both prevent this crime and increase confidence in our response system.

- The number of Marines experiencing unwanted sexual contact, while trending downward, is unacceptable and in direct opposition to our core values. One sexual assault is too many. We owe it to each Marine to provide world-class victim services, to hold offenders appropriately accountable, and to enact programs that will lead to the prevention of this crime.

TP2. Despite promising data trends, the Marine Corps does not confuse progress with victory. We must continue to increase reporting and decrease prevalence. Specifically, prevalence is still relatively high among female Marines; reporting is low among male Marines; perceived retaliation exists across the DOD; and sexual harassment is more closely linked to sexual assault than highlighted in the past.

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (CONT'D)

TP3. The Marine Corps takes allegations and acts of retaliation against victims very seriously. Retaliatory behavior—whether on duty, on liberty, or online—is detrimental to victims and to unit cohesion and readiness.

- While all Marines must do their part to stop retaliation, small unit leaders are the center of gravity. The Marine Corps already has procedures in place to address allegations of retaliation and other misconduct, providing unit leaders with the policy, training, and guidance tools necessary to accomplish their mission.

TP4. Recent Marine Corps SAPR initiatives have focused on male victim reporting, including a social media campaign designed to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and encourage male victims to come forward. Ongoing research will examine the factors that influence reporting decisions of male victims, including the perceived barriers and facilitators of reporting and the possible relationship between reporting and retaliation.

TP5. Marine Corps SAPR is on the cutting edge of communications strategy, using innovative techniques to spread knowledge about sexual assault. Since launching its social media campaign in October 2014, SAPR has reached over 3.1 million viewers with 16 different SAPR messages posted on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

TP6. Command is a central pillar of military culture. Success in combat is directly related to the Commander's ability to enforce his or her orders and standards. The Commander's authority to refer cases to court-martial is therefore essential.

- Removal of a Commander's convening and disposition authority will adversely affect good order, discipline, and combat readiness.
- Marines must know that their Commander sent a Marine to court-martial, not an unknown third-party prosecutor, who plays no daily role in developing and maintaining the bond of trust essential to combat effectiveness.

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

POINT OF CONTACT

Maj. Rob Dolan, Marine and Reserve Affairs PAO, 703-784-9047, thomas.dolan@usmc.mil

SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE GUIDANCE

BACKGROUND

In today's complex and decentralized information environment, the Marine Corps recognizes the value of Marines sharing their experience of service via social media. The Marine Corps encourages its personnel to engage in social media communities while remaining mindful of propriety, personal privacy and operational security considerations. The social media handbook, The Social Corps, outlines the Marine Corps' social media principles to empower Marines to participate with our social media community. The intent is to engage in greater discussion as even better communicators and improved representatives of our Corps. The handbook, combined with other references available on Marines.mil's social media page, helps guide and assist commanders' and Marines' activities relative to the social/online environ.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. The social media handbook does not restrict a Marine's right to freedom of speech, but rather advises Marines how their comments can be used by the media or others, making them de facto spokespersons for the Marine Corps

TP2. The Marine Corps encourages its personnel to engage in social media communities using sound judgment and common sense, adhering to the Marine Corps' core values of honor, courage and commitment, following established policy, and abiding by the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

TP3. The Marine Corps respects the rights of its Marines to use social media platforms as a form of ethical self-expression, and also as a means to further share our Marine Corps' story.

TP4. Consistent with personal privacy and operational security considerations, Marines should only discuss Marine Corps issues related to their own professional expertise, personal experience, or personal knowledge.

TP5. Commanders are responsible to educate their Marines, civilians, contractors, and family members on the benefit of routinely reviewing their online and social media presence and behavior.

TP6. Marines and civilian personnel must ensure their social media/online footprint and habits do not compromise their personal or operational security.

REFERENCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

MARADMIN 173/15: [Review of Online Personal Information and Habits](#)

USMC Social and Online Guidance: <http://www.marines.mil/News/SocialMedia.aspx>

POINTS OF CONTACT

OUSMCC Media Section, (703) 614-4309, ontherecord@usmc.mil

OUSMCC Digital Engagement Team, (703) 693-4911, devildog@gmail.com,

Mr. James Cain, PP&O PSS, (703) 695-7203, james.m.cain1@usmc.mil,

SPECIAL-PURPOSE MAGTF CRISIS RESPONSE

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Marine Corps is the Nation's Crisis Response Force forward deployed and poised to rapidly respond to crises within the arc of instability and within regions of anticipated future conflicts.

The three-ship Amphibious Ready Group (ARG)/Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) remains the most capable forward deployed MAGTF in providing crisis response, deterrence, and decision time across the range of military operations. SPMAGTF-CR's are not comparable to a dedicated ARG/MEU in the region but rather, complementary; they rely on host nation approvals for access, basing, overflight, launch, post-mission recovery, and sustainment training.

Since the Benghazi attack, Marines have deployed or re-positioned in response to regional unrest in the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) and U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) areas of responsibility. In a rapidly changing security environment, AFRICOM registered a requirement for a self-deployable, self-command and controlled crisis response force capable of protecting U.S. citizens, interests, and other designated missions within USAFRICOM Area of Responsibility (AOR).

In 2013, the Marine Corps responded with a SPMAGTF-CR to provide a regionally-based, maritime-capable, expeditionary construct capable of conducting crisis response and limited contingency operations. The SPMAGTF-CR is intended to fill the crisis response gap when ARG/MEUs are not allocated in support of USAFRICOM or USEUCOM requirements. In October 2014 a second SPMAGTF-CR was created in CENTCOM to oversee multiple requests for forces and provide an additional crisis response force.

Per Expeditionary Force-21, SPMAGTF-CRs are instrumental in providing the right force in the right place at the right time.

SPMAGTF-CRs conduct crisis response, contingency operations, theater security cooperation, enabling operations and all other missions as may be directed throughout the COCOM to support requirements in the "New Normal" environment.

They are characterized as:

- Land-based, Self-Supporting, Self-Sustaining
- Capable of command and control at multiple locations simultaneously
- Postured to respond to requirements across the full range of military operations, anywhere within their respective area of operations
- Enduring short-notice crisis response capability

POINTS OF CONTACT

Capt Dominic Pitrone, OUSMCC Media Officer, (703) 614-4309, dominic.pitrone@usmc.mil

SPECIAL-PURPOSE MARINE AIR-GROUND TASK FORCE CRISIS RESPONSE-AFRICA

"Our natural way of cooperating – side by side, with shared goals and mutual respect – does a lot to engender a positive view ... Gabon agreeing to serve as a Cooperative Security Location is just another example of our excellent military cooperation."

- Cynthia Akuetteh, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Gabon, July 2015

BACKGROUND

SPMAGTF-CR-AF is a rotational 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.

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.

Historically, the force has repositioned to respond to unrest and contingency operations seven times: May, September, October, and December 2013; July and October 2014; and finally in March 2015.

On June 17, 2015, the Deputy Secretary and Deputy Foreign Minister Ignacio Ybanez signed an amendment to the Agreement on Defense Cooperation (ADC) with the Spanish government to change the current deployment of the SPMAGTF to Morón from temporary to permanent and authorized an increase in U.S. personnel and aircraft (2,200 personnel and 36 aircraft maximums). The amendment must still be ratified by the Spanish Parliament before being finalized.

CAPABILITIES AND MISSIONS

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 the AFRICOM and the 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.

COMPOSITION

SPMAGTF-CR-AF is a rotational contingent of approximately 1,750 Marines, sailors and support elements sourced from subordinate units within II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. Its organic assets include (12) MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft, (4) KC-130J Hercules aerial refueling tankers, (1) UC-12, a logistics and sustainment element, and a reinforced company of infantry Marines.

The headquarters and crisis response force accounts for about 800 Marines and sailors and is located aboard Morón Air Base, Spain. SPMAGTF-CR-AF Detachment A is located aboard Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, with approximately 300 Marines and sailors focused on conducting theater security engagements throughout Africa. In addition to the forces positioned in Spain, an infantry company with enablers of about 250 Marines subordinate to SPMAGTF-CR-AF is positioned out of Mikhail Kogalniceanu, Romania. The company is collocated with the Black Sea Rotational Force, also at MK.

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SPMAGTF CRISIS RESPONSE-AFRICA (CONT'D)

This company is also allocated to USAFRICOM in order to provide additional rapid response forces to the African continent.

- Command Element: 8th Marine Regiment Headquarters; Col Martin Wetterauer. Commanding Officer
- Aviation Combat Element: VMGR-252 (KC-130J); VMM-263 (MV-22)
- Ground Combat Element: 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment (Bravo, Charlie, Alpha and Weapons Co.)
- Logistics Combat Element: Combat Logistics Battalion 6

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

<https://www.facebook.com/USMCFEA>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/USMCFE>

POINT OF CONTACT

1stLt John McCombs, SPMAGTF-CR-AF, Public Affairs Officer, > +34 (608) 210-742,
john.e.mccombs@usmc.mil

SPECIAL-PURPOSE MAGTF CRISIS RESPONSE-CENTCOM

BACKGROUND

In its fourth iteration, the Marines and sailors of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command continue to serve as the Marine Corps' land-based, expeditionary crisis and contingency force in U.S. Central Command. This forward unit has become an integral part of Operation Inherent Resolve, providing kinetic and non-kinetic strike capabilities, aviation logistics support to operations across Iraq, a dedicated Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel force, and the security forces aboard Al-Taqaddum Air Base and Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. Aside from operations directly supporting OIR, SPMAGTF-CR-CC works with the Jordanian Armed Forces to develop and professionalize a first-of-its-kind Quick Reaction Force. The command's partnership extends to other nations in the region through numerous Theater Security Cooperation Exercises that have included: Iron Magic (U.A.E) and Native Fury (Oman).

THEMES AND MESSAGES

CRISIS RESPONSE

- SPMAGTF-CR-CC is a fully capable crisis response force with the ability to project power over vast distances using organic air and ground combat assets.
- Being forward deployed and based in several locations with host nation concurrence allows the SPMAGTF-CR-CC to react to a variety of contingencies with little notice.

THEATER SECURITY COOPERATION

- By training, enabling, and increasing the capacity of our partner nation's security forces and militaries, SPMAGTF-CR-CC TSC events may lessen the need for large scale U.S. involvement in the region.
- Having SPMAGTF-CR-CC Marines in the CENTCOM AOR to conduct combined-joint military training with regional partners strengthens our strategic relationships and enhances regional stability.

PROJECTION OF COMBAT POWER

- The Marines and Sailors of SPMAGTF-CR-CC receive highly effective and realistic training prior to arriving in the USCENTCOM AOR. They are prepared for the mission at hand and ready to respond to crisis in the AOR.

COMPOSITION

SPMAGTF-CR-CC is a rotational contingent of approximately 2,300 Marines, sailors and support elements sourced from subordinate units within I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif. SPMAGTF-CR-CC is commanded by a colonel and is comprised of air, logistics, and ground combat elements. These elements will provide the crisis response force with organic lift, sustainment and support, and strike capabilities.

- Command Element: 5th Marine Regiment Headquarters; Col Kenneth Kassner, Commanding Officer
- Aviation Command Element: VMFA(AW)-533 (F/A-18); VMGR-352 (KC-130J); VMM-363 (MV-22) and MWSS-373
- Ground Combat Element: 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment (Echo, Fox, Golf and Weapons Co.)
- Logistics Combat Element: Combat Logistics Battalion 5 (Transportation Support, Engineer, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Maintenance, Medical, Services and Supply Detachments)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<https://www.facebook.com/SPMAGTFCRCC>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/5MEB>

POINT OF CONTACT

1stLt. Christopher Harrison, SPMAGTF-CR-CC, Public Affairs Officer, DSN 302-324-9256;
christopher.harrison@me.usmc.mil

INFANTRY SQUAD LEADER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

The Squad Leader Development Program (SLDP) was created to ensure small unit leaders are provided with the tools necessary to operate in more complex, distributed environments. The SLDP focuses on second-term enlisted infantry Marines and is scheduled for initial implementation in 2015. SLDP was designed to professionalize the squad leader billet by synchronizing the professional military education and advanced infantry training associated with a Marine Sergeant serving as an infantry squad leader.

The Squad Leader Development is the sole means of attaining the sergeant-only MOS of 0365. There exist two tracks through which the 0365 MOS is attained.

- Operating Forces Track: Marines selected for SLDP are sent to attend the Infantry Small Unit Leaders Course (ISULC) and the Sergeant's Course. Upon completion, they are sent to an infantry battalion as a squad leader.
- Combat Instructor Track: Marines selected for SLDP are sent to the Marine Combat Instructor School (MCIS) and conduct a shortened combat instructor tour. Subsequently, they are sent to ISULC and the Sergeant's Course and, upon completion of those courses, sent to an infantry battalion as a squad leader.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. The program supports the tenets of Commandant's Planning Guidance, EF 21, and underscores the importance of leader development and professional military education to the Marine Corps.

TP.2 The SLDP creates a process where the best qualified Marines are selected to become infantry squad leaders. Units will benefit by having SLDP Marines dispersed throughout the battalion structure, providing well-trained leaders versed in complex and distributed operations. Newly-trained 0365s will arrive at their battalions just prior to the unit's pre-deployment training program (PTP), thus maximizing unit cohesion by establishing steady leadership throughout workups and deployment.

TP3. Marines selected for SLDP will be receive pay bonuses, will have prioritized training and education through ISULC and the Sergeant's Course, and will have a guaranteed assignment to an infantry squad leader billet. Corporals selected for SLDP will be automatically promoted to sergeant.

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

[SLDP MARADMIN](#)

POINTS OF CONTACT

Capt Dominic Pitrone, OUSMCC Media Officer, (703) 614-4309, dominic.pitrone@usmc.mil

MGySgt Justin Aiken, PP&O Infantry Occupational Field Manager, (703) 697-4036,

justin.aiken@usmc.mil

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

BACKGROUND

Saving lives requires vigilance. 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. Behavioral Health's Community Counseling and Prevention launched a strategic communication initiative in advance of the Department of Defense September's National Suicide Prevention Month. Information was disseminated to promote help-seeking behaviors, decrease stigma, and reach Marines who rely heavily on social media. Elements of this initiative include marketing posters, flyers and social media communications.

TP2. Warning signs of suicide can be subtle, but recognizing these signs can prevent suicide:

- Appearing overwhelmed by recent stressors
- Experiencing a fall from glory, loss of honor, change in status within unit or relationship
- 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
- Talking about feeling trapped — like there is no way out of a situation
- Having a recent suicidal ideation
- Making comments that suggest thoughts or plan of suicide

TP3. Common risk factors and triggers that should not be ignored are legal or disciplinary problems, relationship problems, and financial problems. Substance abuse, behavioral health diagnosis, and Permanent Change of Station (PCS) problems appear to increase risk for suicide.

TP4. The Marine Intercept Program (MIP) establishes procedures to ensure standardized coordination of care and follow-up for all Marines and attached Sailors known to have had a suicidal ideation or attempt. MIP provides caring contacts, safety monitoring, and care coordination.

TP5. The DSTRESS Line provides Marines, attached Sailors and family members “one of their own” to speak with about everyday stress. DSTRESS Line is available 24 hours, 7 days a week by phone at 1-877-476-7734 and online www.dstressline.com. DSTRESS Line is also available through Skype.

TP6. Conquering Stress with Strength is the newest practical application workshop facilitated by partnership between Behavioral Health and Family Readiness. It is a family-focused training providing skills to effectively respond to high-stress situations that include suicide prevention.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Marine and Family Programs website: www.usmc-mccs.org

POINT OF CONTACT

Ms. Heather J. Hagan, Marine and Family Programs Division PAO, 703-784-9521, heather.hagan@usmc-mccs.org

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM (SAP)

BACKGROUND

The Substance Abuse Program (SAP) achieves its mission by providing a full spectrum of evidence-based programming including prevention and education initiatives, Substance Use Disorder (SUD) counseling, and cutting-edge drug and alcohol deterrent activities.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. Drinking too much alcohol increases risk of injuries, violence, sexual assault, liver disease, and some types of cancer. The goal of the SAP is to reduce the likelihood of substance misuse for Active and Reserve Marines and Sailors, as well as their families. SAP increases the operational readiness and health of the Marine Corps by providing timely, effective substance misuse deterrent measures, as well as unsurpassed prevention, intervention, and treatment services.

TP2. SAP collaborates with other programs such as the Community Counseling and Family Advocacy within the Marine and Family Programs Division, as well as the Navy Bureau of Medicine and various community partners to better facilitate integration and coordination of services across the Marine Corps. This goal is achieved through the utilization of an integrated prevention and care model, individualized planning, and warm hand-offs. Additionally, Marine and Family Programs Division is collaborating with both internal and external stakeholders to support Marine Corps commanders as they implement a multi-faceted, decentralized, initiative, "Protect What You've Earned."

TP3. Counseling services for SUDs address a wide range of issues: relationships, stress management, and emotional regulation, as well as specific substance misuse issues including alcohol, illicit drugs, and the misuse of prescription drugs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Marine and Family Programs website: www.usmc-mccs.org
- DSTRESS Line 877-476-7734, or website: www.dstressline.com
- Military One Source website: www.militaryonesource.mil

POINT OF CONTACT

Ms. Heather J. Hagan, Marine and Family Programs Division PAO, 703-784-9521,
heather.hagan@usmc-mccs.org

THE GREAT GREEN FLEET

BACKGROUND

In 2009, SECNAV established five energy goals to reduce the Department of the Navy's consumption of energy, decrease its reliance on fossil fuels, and significantly increase its use of alternative energy. One of the five energy goals is to deploy the "Great Green Fleet." The first half of the GGF goal was achieved during the Rim of the Pacific Exercise 2012, when the Navy successfully demonstrated a combined use of energy efficient systems and alternative fuels in an operational setting. Deployment of the GGF in 2016 will achieve the second half of the SECNAV goal and usher in a new era of energy independence and energy security for the DoN. The GGF effort will utilize multiple air and surface platforms in distributed maritime operations, working in concert with existing Fleet schedules, throughout calendar year 2016.

The Great Green Fleet will be an important demonstration of the Department of the Navy's commitment to advanced alternative fuels as a drop-in replacement for petroleum fuels. In tribute to President Theodore Roosevelt's Great White Fleet, which helped America's emergence as a global power at the beginning of the 20th century, we have named this effort the Great Green Fleet to help maintain America's military and economic leadership in the 21st century.

PURPOSE

We are transforming the Department of the Navy's energy use to make us better warfighters, deploying next-generation capabilities that boost combat effectiveness, maximize strategic options, and better protect our Sailors and Marines.

The Marine Corps will support the execution of the Great Green Fleet (GGF) deployment in 2016. The goal of GGF 2016 is to demonstrate the U.S. Department of the Navy as a global leader in the use of energy efficient systems and alternative energy in a deployment long, operational setting.

THEMES

COMBAT ADVANTAGE – Optimizing energy use is a force multiplier that can increase range, endurance, and payload.

STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE – Diversifying our energy sources arms us with operational flexibility and strengthens our ability to provide presence, turning the tables on those who would use energy as a weapon against us.

FORCE PROTECTION ADVANTAGE – Using energy efficiently takes fuel convoys off the road and reduces the amount of time our ships are tied to oilers at sea, reducing vulnerabilities to Sailors and Marines.

KEY MESSAGES

- The Marine Corps supports SECNAV's energy initiatives and the deployment of the Great Green Fleet in 2016, demonstrating global leadership operational energy.
- Energy expeditionary ethos = faster, lethal, austere, more effective fighting force.
- We do not do 'green' for sake of green. We are focused on energy because it increases Marine Corps readiness and improves the combat effectiveness.
- Expeditionary energy initiatives lighten the load and increase efficiency for Marines at the tip of the spear, farthest away from operating bases where the risk is highest on the battlefield.
- Marines need to treat fuel like the treat ammunition—make every gallon count. This will make our deployed forces more effective in training and in combat.
- Energy efficiency enables combat capability and mission accomplishment—increases operational reach, agility, and range.

THE GREAT GREEN FLEET (CONT'D)

- Using energy efficient technologies increases combat effectiveness. We proved this in Afghanistan and it will be more true on future battlefields.
- A more efficient force will:
 - Reduce tactical and strategic vulnerabilities.
 - Improve our combat capability.

EXAMPLES:

- Minimize fuel/battery resupply requirements.
- Reduce idle time and fuel use.
- Quieter operations.
- Limit the number/type/weight of batteries carried by dismounted troops (lighter loads).
- Extend operational reach.

Q&As:

Q1: How will GGF help our Marines in the field?

A1: It will help them in 3 key areas:

- Combat Advantage – Optimizing energy use is a force multiplier that can increase range, endurance, and payload.
- Strategic Advantage – Diversifying our energy sources arms us with operational flexibility and strengthens our ability to provide presence, turning the tables on those who would use energy as a weapon against us.
- Force Protection Advantage – Using energy efficiently takes fuel convoys off the road and reduces the amount of time our ships are tied to oilers at sea, reducing vulnerabilities to Sailors and Marines.

Q2: Can you give us a few examples?

A2: Of course, energy efficient technology facilitates a lighter and faster force whose self-reliance will foster combat effectiveness and minimize fuel/battery resupply requirements.

- Reduce idle time and fuel use.
- Quieter operations.
- Limit the number/type/weight of batteries carried by dismounted troops (lighter loads).
- Extend operational reach

Q3: So has the Marine Corps gone “green”?

A3: We do not do ‘green’. We are focused on energy efficiency because it increases Marine Corps readiness, extends operational reach, and improves the combat capability.

Q4: What is the return on investment of the Marine Corps’ operational energy initiatives?

A4: 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.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

<http://www.hqmc.marines.mil/e2o/>

POINT OF CONTACT:

Capt Philip Kulczewski, OUSMCC, Media Officer, 703-692-4309, philip.kulczewski@usmc.mil

TRANSGENDER POLICY

QUOTE

"We have transgender soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines — real, patriotic Americans — who I know are being hurt by an outdated, confusing, inconsistent approach that's contrary to our value of service and individual merit. The Defense Department's current regulations regarding transgender service members are outdated and are causing uncertainty that distracts commanders from our core missions."
– SECDEF Ashton Carter

BACKGROUND

On 13 July, SECDEF announced that he'd formed a working group to examine the current policy banning transgender service in the military.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. DoD will create a working group to study over the next six months the policy and readiness implications of welcoming transgender persons to serve openly

TP2. The working group will start with the presumption that transgender persons can serve openly without adverse impact on military effectiveness and readiness, unless and except where objective, practical impediments are identified.

TP3. By SecDef direction, decision authority in all administrative discharges for those diagnosed with gender dysphoria or who identify themselves as transgender be elevated to Under Secretary Carson, who will make determinations on all potential separations.

TP4. The purpose of the working group is to address the many questions of "how will you handle xxxx if transgender people are allowed to serve openly."

INTERVIEW REQUESTS

Per OSD guidance, the recommendation is to accommodate transgender service member interviews on installation in uniform if requested. However, the ultimate decision is up to the service member's command.

1. The service member must only speak to personal experience and not appear to be speaking for DoD policy.
2. PA staff must educate SM that the discharge policy has not changed, but decision authority in all administrative discharges was elevated from the services to Under Secretary Carson.
3. SM can give statement on personal reaction to the SecDef's transgender announcement, but must refer questions on future policy and specifics of what the working group will study to DoD.

POINTS OF CONTACT

OUSMCC Media Section, 703-614-4309, ontherecord@usmc.mil
OSD Public Affairs, Personnel & Readiness, 703-697-5131

TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

BACKGROUND

The transformation of the Marine Corps Transition Readiness Program (TRP) has emerged from a one-time training event into a self-guided approach that is delivered throughout a Marine's military career. The revised Marine For Life Cycle (M4LC) model has incorporated transition readiness action points across the Marine's service and allows the Marine to receive information and education that align with his/her future goals and aspirations.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. The Personal Readiness Seminar (PRS) is a mandatory, four-hour USMC workshop designed for Marines to attend after arrival at their first permanent duty station. Curriculum provides an overview of Personal and Professional Development services (Library Services, Family Member Employment, Voluntary Education, Personal Financial Management, Transition Readiness, and Information and Referral) and emphasizes financial topics such as banking and financial services, savings and investments, living expenses, understanding debt, and service members' rights.

TP2. The TRP has emerged from a one-time training event into a self-guided approach that is delivered throughout the Marine For Life Cycle (M4LC). The M4LC approach allows the Marine to meet required Career Readiness Standards prior to attendance at the Transition Readiness Seminar (TRS) and information and education aligned with their future goals and aspirations.

TP3. The M4LC is the embodiment of our ethos: "Once a Marine, Always a Marine." This philosophy, along with the nationwide network of Marine for Life representatives, is vital to this effort in reach-back and outreach support. Beginning with the recruiting process and extending into Veteran Marine status, every transitioning Marine will be able to connect to opportunities and resources to focus on readiness.

TP4. A standardized Spouses Transition and Readiness Seminar (STARS) is a seminar specifically designed for spouses to address the transitional challenges and to assist in preparations for and with their Marines into the civilian world. STARS has been embraced by Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) as a model for other Services to consider emulating.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Marine and Family Programs website: www.usmc-mccs.org
- Marine for Life website: www.marineforlife.org

POINT OF CONTACT

Ms. Heather J. Hagan, Marine and Family Programs Division PAO, 703-784-9521,
heather.hagan@usmc-mccs.org

TRAINING EXERCISES

EXERCISE COLD RESPONSE 2016

BACKGROUND

EXERCISE COLD RESPONSE 16 (CDR16) is a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS)-directed, U.S. European Command (EUCOM)-scheduled, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa (MARFOREUR/AF), joint and multilateral exercise led by Norway and the U.S. that will involve more than 14,000 troops from 13 countries: More than 3,000 U.S. service members; approximately 6,500 members of the Norwegian Armed Forces; and nearly 4,000 troops from 12 allied and partner nations including Great Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Poland, Denmark, Canada, Belgium, France, Latvia, and approximately 300 NATO personnel. The exercise involves maritime, land and air operations training and focuses on naval and amphibious operations transitioning to ground maneuver. The scenario concept will consist of a fictitious setting involving an international security crisis in which the UN Security Council has decided to deploy a multinational force as a military response. The training underscores NATO's ability to defend against any threat in any environment. The location in central Norway provides an extreme cold-weather environment for all forces involved to learn and develop procedures. CDR16 will be held 29 FEB-9 MAR 2016.

KEY POINTS

The exercise allows all countries involved to improve interoperability and cooperation between our forces while demonstrating the strong military bond that exists between the nations involved. It is designed to provide combined staff training for U.S. and Norwegian forces while simultaneously reinforcing lessons learned from past Cold Response exercises, and providing a foundation and structure for future military cooperation and engagements.

The majority of the equipment for the exercise will be pulled from the Marine Corps Prepositioning Program-Norway (MCPN) which is a Department of Defense (DoD) directed program for the storage, maintenance and prepositioning of equipment and supplies for a Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

This exercise emphasizes the strong military bond between U.S. and Norwegian Armed Forces and creates a foundation for future cooperation. COLD RESPONSE 16 also improves interoperability between the nations, enhancing access to a key strategic region within the EUCOM area-of-responsibility.

POINTS OF CONTACT

Capt. Richard Ulsh at DSN 314-431-3598, COMM 49-7031-153598, richard.ulsh@usmc.mil
Master Sgt. Chad McMeen at DSN 314-431-3598, COMM 49-7031-153598,
chad.e.mcmeen@mfe.usmc.mil

EXERCISE COBRA GOLD 2016

BACKGROUND

Cobra Gold 2016 (CG 16) is a Thailand /United States co-sponsored Combined Task Force (CTF) and joint theater security cooperation exercise, conducted 9-19 February in the Kingdom of Thailand, with up to 27 nations participating. U.S. military force participants include members of the U.S. Marine Corps, Army, Navy and Air Force. There are approximately 3,600 total U.S. forces participating in CG 16. For forces on the ground in Thailand, the U.S. Marine Corps is providing approximately 1,500 Marines; the U.S. Army is providing approximately 1,000 soldiers; the U.S. Navy is providing approximately 450 sailors; the U.S. Air Force is providing approximately 275 airmen; and several smaller commands/units are providing another approximately 300 personnel.

POSTURE

Public affairs posture is active only for opening and closing ceremonies, all HCA and community relations events, and internal Command Information products following the official announcement of the exercise by USEMB-Bangkok. PA posture will be RTQ for all other events.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. Cobra Gold 16, in its 35th iteration, is designed to advance regional security and ensure effective responses to regional crises by bringing together a robust combined task force from partner nations sharing common goals and security commitments in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

TP2. Cobra Gold 16 demonstrates the commitment of the Kingdom of Thailand and the United States to our long-standing alliance and regional partnership toward advancing prosperity and security in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

TP3. Cobra Gold 16 includes an increased focus on Humanitarian Civic Action (HCA), community engagement, and medical activities conducted during the exercise to support the needs and humanitarian interests of civilian populations around the region.

TP4. Thailand and the United States are committed to working together in support of peace and security in the region.

TP5. Our alliance with the Thai government will return to its fullest potential only after democracy is restored under a freely and fairly elected civilian government.

POINT OF CONTACT: CJIB Operations Officer: 1st Lt. Courtney R. Caimona, DSN: (315) 645-3841, Thai cell: +66 (0)92-915-6906, Email: Courtney.caimona@usmc.mil (pre-exercise) or crcaimona@gmail.com (during exercise.)

IRON FIST 2016

BACKGROUND

Exercise Iron Fist is a U.S. Pacific Command, Commander Marine Forces Pacific directed, I Marine Expeditionary Force executed bilateral amphibious training exercise, held in Southern California, between the USMC, U.S. Navy and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF).

The concept is threefold:

1. Improve JGSDF amphibious operations capability;
2. Exercise USMC amphibious operations core competencies;
3. Enhance JGSDF and USMC ability to plan, communicate and conduct amphibious operations at the platoon, company and battalion levels.

I MEF has conducted similar training annually with the JGSDF since 2006. This will be the 11th iteration. As the JGSDF develops their Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade by 2018, Japan wishes to continue combined amphibious training for their ground self-defense forces.

The exercise, scheduled from 22 Jan to 1 Mar 2016, will occur at sea aboard ships home ported at Naval Base San Diego, ashore aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and inland at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Participants include 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit; 1st Battalion, 4th Marines; Combat Logistics Battalion 11; 1st Battalion, 11th Marines; 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing; 3D Assault Amphibian Battalion; 1st Air Naval Gun Liaison Company (ANGLICO), 1st Force Reconnaissance Company, USS Somerset (LPD 25), Assault Craft Unit Five, Western Army Infantry Regiment, and additional units from the Western Army, JGSDF.

The Western Army Infantry Regiment (WAIR) is a battalion sized Japanese light infantry regiment that specializes in amphibious operations. Its main purpose is to defend remote islands in Japanese territorial waters, specifically to the Kyushu region, which includes the Okinawa prefecture. The regiment is based at Sasebo in Nagasaki prefecture. The WAIR is a part of the Western Army, which is one of five armies of the JGSDF.

Military officers from the British Royal Marines and French military will attend as observers.

THEMES

- The US-Japan Alliance is strong.
- Exercise Iron Fist provides realistic, relevant training necessary for effective combined military operations
- Amphibious operations are vital to effective crisis response support, regional security and deterrence.
- U.S. Navy Amphibious Ready Groups and Marine Expeditionary Units give the nation the ability to quickly deploy sea-based assaults or humanitarian aid anywhere in the world.

TALKING POINTS

- The alliance between the U.S. and Japan has been the foundation of peace and security in Northeast Asia and the cornerstone of U.S. engagement in the region.
- The U.S. Marine Corps and the Japan Ground Self Defense Force train together as partners in support of the Japan-U.S. security treaty Japan. We train together at multiple venues, in Japan, Guam, Hawaii and California.
- Iron Fist enhances Japan Ground Self Defense Force and the U.S. Marine Corps' ability to plan, communicate and conduct amphibious operations at the platoon, company and battalion levels.

IRON FIST 2016 (CONT'D)

- Military bilateral training, like Exercise Iron Fist, is vital for rapid expeditionary response expected of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps globally.
- Roughly 70 percent of the world is water, 80 percent of the world's population lives on or near a coast, and 90 percent of international commerce moves by sea. Capable maritime forces help ensure stability and prosperity around the world, and bilateral exercises, like Iron Fist, help partner nations improve their own maritime capability.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q1. What is Iron Fist?

A1: Exercise Iron Fist 2016 is an annual, bilateral amphibious training event between U.S. Marines and sailors and soldiers from the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force designed to improve our ability to plan, communicate and conduct combined amphibious operations at the battalion, company and platoon levels. This exercise is also a great opportunity to learn from each other and build camaraderie between Japanese and U.S. forces.

Q2. Why conduct this exercise?

A2: Japan and the U.S. have been treaty allies for more than 55 years, and that alliance has been the foundation of peace and security in Northeast Asia and a cornerstone of U.S. engagement in the region. Exercise Iron Fist has been conducted annually for more than a decade, and provides both the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and the U.S. Marine Corps opportunities to train together on amphibious operations core competencies. Credible, ready maritime forces help to preserve peace and prevent conflict.

Q3: Is this training in response to events occurring in the Pacific?

A3: No, Exercise Iron Fist is an annual training event that has occurred since 2006 and is not being conducted in response to any recent events in the Pacific.

Q4. Is Iron Fist 2016 intended to send a signal to anyone?

A4. No, bilateral and even multilateral cooperation and collaboration enhance security, stability and prosperity. We are training one of our core capabilities - amphibious operations - in a combined, joint environment.

Q5: Does this exercise have to do with any real-world examples of retaking islands?

A5: No, the focus of Iron Fist 2016 is developing amphibious capability across the range of military operations. The training is the result of months of planning that aims to prepare the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and U. S. Marine Corps to respond to a variety of missions throughout the Pacific region.

DEFENSE VISUAL IMAGERY BUCKET LOCATION

www.dvidshub.net/feature/ironFist

POINT OF CONTACT

Maj Craig Thomas, 11th MEU PAO, craig.thomas@usmc.mil, 760-846-6592 (office), 760-846-6592 (mobile).

VICTIMS' LEGAL COUNSEL ORGANIZATION (VLCO)

BACKGROUND

On 14 August 2013, the Secretary of Defense directed that each Service 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) was established on 1 November 2013 as announced by MARADMIN 583/13. On 10 February 2014, the Marine Corps Manual for Legal Administration (LEGADMINMAN), MCO P5800.16A, was published with a new Chapter 6 describing the organization, roles, and responsibilities of VLCO. VLCO legal services are provided under the statutory authority of 10 U.S.C. § 1044e, *Special Victims' Counsel for victims of sex-related offenses*. Today VLCO has four regional VLCO offices aligned with each of the four Legal Services Support Sections (LSSS) at Camp Pendleton, Camp Lejeune, MCB Quantico, and Camp Butler, Okinawa. Additional VLCO offices are located at MCRD Parris Island, MCAS Cherry Point, MCAGCC 29 Palms, MCAS Miramar, and MCB Kaneohe Bay.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. VLCO provides legal advice, counseling, and representation to military service members and their dependents who are victims of any crime under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), to include sexual assault, domestic violence, hazing, and other UCMJ offenses.

TP2. Victims of sexual assault "shall be informed of the availability of assistance" offered by Victims' Legal Counsel (VLC) as soon as they seek assistance from a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), Victim Advocate, a military criminal investigator, victim/witness liaison, or a trial counsel, per 10 U.S.C. § 1565b. Once informed of the availability of VLC, it is the victim's choice whether to use the services available from VLCO.

TP3. VLC are judge advocates who are highly qualified attorneys with military justice backgrounds that have completed specialized training and been certified to serve as VLC by the Judge Advocate General of the Navy.

TP4. Communications between victims and VLC are confidential.

TP5. VLC solely represent the interests of victims, even where those interests may be different than the Government's interest in prosecuting the accused in the case. VLCO is an autonomous organization with a chain-of-command that 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.

TP6. VLC ensure that victims who seek their assistance are fully informed of their rights in the investigative, judicial, and administrative processes. When detailed, VLC zealously represent and assert their clients' rights throughout the military justice process. Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1044e, the relationship between a detailed VLC and victim shall be the relationship between an attorney and client.

TP7. VLCO services supplement, not replace, other existing victim support services, including assistance provided by SAPR and FAP Victim Advocates, SARCs, and VWAP.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

POINT OF CONTACT

LtCol J.P. Harlow, USMC, Deputy OIC, VLCO, john.harlow@usmc.mil

MILITARY WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

BACKGROUND

Over the past few years, the issue of retaliation has become a central concern to Congressional and Military leadership. Retaliation against complainants who reported sexual assaults has been highlighted in a number of government commissioned studies and surveys. In an effort to protect all complainants who report fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and more seriously criminal activity, the 2014 NDAA enhanced 10 U.S.C. §1034 to better protect military whistleblowers. To implement the new law, Secretary of the Navy Instruction (SECNAVINST) 5370.7D, Military Whistleblower Protection, dated December 4, 2014, was published to strengthen whistleblower protections within the Department of the Navy. The SECNAVINST defines retaliation as the following actions taken against a member of the Armed Forces because that member reported, either formally or informally, a criminal offense:

- Reprisal. Taking or threatening to take an unfavorable or adverse personnel action or, withholding or threatening to withhold a favorable personnel action.
- Ostracism. The exclusion from social acceptance, privilege, or friendship with intent to discourage reporting of a criminal offense or otherwise discourage the due administration of justice.
- Maltreatment. Treatment by peers or by other persons, that when viewed objectively under all the circumstances is abusive or otherwise unwarranted, unjustified, and unnecessary for any lawful purpose, that is done with intent to discourage reporting of a criminal offense or otherwise discourage the due administration of justice, and that results in physical or mental harm or suffering. Maltreatment under this instruction does not require a senior-subordinate relationship as is required for maltreatment under Article 93, UCMJ.

TALKING POINTS

TP1. The ability of Service members to report problems to responsible officials is healthy and productive for any institution. Fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and criminal activity negatively impact the institution, undermine readiness and detracts from maintaining the needed trust and confidence of all members.

TP2. Service members are protected from retaliation when reporting to the proper authority those acts/omissions that they reasonably believe to be violations of law/regulation, fraud, waste, or mismanagement.

TP3. Pursuant to SECNAVINST 5370.7D, the Naval Inspector General (NAVINSGEN) and Inspector General of the Marine Corps (IGMC) are the only entities within DON designated/authorized to investigate matters relating to reprisal against uniformed personnel or retaliation complaints against senior officials.

POINT OF CONTACT

Capt Dominic Pitrone, OUSMCC Media Officer, 703-614-4309, dominic.pitrone@usmc.mil

WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT

TALKING POINTS

TP1. 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.

TP2. Founded in 2007, the Wounded Warrior Regiment (WWR) is the official U.S. Marine Corps command charged with providing leadership and facilitating the integration of non-medical and medical care to combat and non-combat Wounded, Ill, and Injured (WII) Marines, sailors attached to Marine units, and their family members in order to maximize their recovery as they return to duty or transition to civilian life.

TP3. 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.

TP4. The Marine Corps takes care of its own and the WWR is our Corps' testament to "Keeping Faith" with our WII Marines.

TP5. 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.

TP6. 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.

TP7. 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.

TP8. 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.

TP9. 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)

TP10. 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.

TP11. 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.

TP12. 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.

TP13. 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.

TP14. 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

Capt. Andrew Bolla, PAO, 703-784-3424, andrew.bolla@usmc.mil
Victoria Long, Deputy PAO, 703-784-3418, victoria.long@usmc.mil

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTORY

Office of United States Marine Corps
Communication:
ontherecord@usmc.mil
703-614-4309

Commandant's Office:
Lt. Col. Eric Dent
eric.dent@usmc.mil
703-614-2326

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps' Office:
Gunnery Sgt. Brian Griffin
brian.griffin@usmc.mil
703-614-8762

Marine Forces Command:
Col. Ricardo Player
ricardo.player@usmc.mil
757-836-1580

Marine Forces Pacific Command
Col. Brad Bartelt
brad.s.bartelt@usmc.mil
808-477-8308

Marine Forces Central Command
Maj Bradlee Avots
bradlee.avots@marcent.usmc.mil
813-827-7010

Marine Forces Europe Command
Captain Richard Ulsh
richard.ulsh@usmc.mil
DSN: 314-431-3598

Marine Forces Southern Command
Maj. Armando A. Daviu
armando.a.daviu.mil@mail.mil
305-437-2554
DSN: 312-567-2554

Marine Forces Reserve
Lt. Col. Tanya Murnock
tanya.murnock@usmc.mil
504-697-8190

Manpower and Reserve Affairs
Maj Rob Dolan
thomas.dolan@usmc.mil
703-784-9047

1st Marine Expeditionary Force
Lt.Col. Christopher Perrine
christopher.perrine@usmc.mil
760-763-7028

2nd Marine Expeditionary Force
Lt. Col Michael Armistead
michael.armistead@usmc.mil
910-451-5260

3rd Marine Expeditionary Force
Lt. Col Stuart Fugler
stuart.fugler@usmc.mil
DSN: 315-622-7746

Marine Corps Recruiting Command
Maj Garron Garn
mcr CPA@marines.usmc.mil
703-784-9454

Marine Corps Combat Development Command
Maj. Anton T. Semelroth
anton.semelroth@usmc.mil
703-432-8420

Marine Corps System Command
Barbara Hamby
barbara.hamby@usmc.mil
703-432-3253

Training Command
1st Lt. Matt Rojo
matthew.rojo@usmc.mil
703-432-8164