

# MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION PLAYBOOK



## TOP ISSUES

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

## WHAT'S NEW

- 2015 DOD Warrior Games
- Nepal Earthquake Response – Operation Sahayogi Haat
- PACOM Amphibious Leaders Symposium
- Aviation Safety
- FY12 Audit Opinion Withdrawal

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Current as of: Wednesday, May 27, 2015

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

**Current as of: Wednesday, May 27, 2015**

## AMPHIBIOUS COMBAT VEHICLE

### SITUATION

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

### STATEMENT/VIDEO

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

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

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

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

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

### TALKING POINTS / Q&As

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A4. The concept of employment for ACV places a premium on using enablers like the mobile logistics platform (MLP) and surface connectors. Programmed efforts, like the ship-to-shore connectors (SSC) that succeed existing landing craft, air-cushioned (LCAC), are critical to our approach. Over the longer term, we will continue to exploit opportunities to innovate via other surface platforms and pursue non-traditional landing craft solutions such as the Joint High Speed Vessel. In much the same way the MV-22 has greatly expanded the amphibious forces littoral maneuver options, we must also innovate our surface connector fleet.

## **POINT OF CONTACT**

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## AVIATION SAFETY

### **BACKGROUND**

Recently, the Marine Corps suffered two Class A (a fatality or >\$2 million in damage) flight mishaps: on 11 May, a UH-1Y crashed while conducting humanitarian assistance in Nepal, killing eight and destroying the aircraft; and on 17 May, an MV-22 landing mishap occurred during the conduct of a long-range vertical strike, which resulted in two Marine fatalities, several injured and the destruction of the aircraft. The proximity of these mishaps, as well as the tragic loss of life, have raised the issue of Marine aviation safety in the public and caused the perception that these platforms are in some way unsafe. It is essential to note that, while the causes of the two recent mishaps are under investigation, historical data shows that Marine Corps aviation, both in terms of platforms and piloting, is safe – there is no evidence to suggest otherwise, period.

### **TALKING POINTS**

- The losses of life on 11 May and 17 May were tragic and deeply felt in the Marine Corps community, and we are currently conducting thorough investigations to determine what went wrong in both incidents and prevent them from happening again.
- In FY15, the Marine Corps had three flight mishaps resulting in a loss of life – one MV-22 crewmember lost at sea in October 2014, eight aboard the UH-1Y that crashed in Nepal on 11 May, and two following the MV-22 mishap on 17 May.
- In FY15, the Marine Corps had six Class A flight mishaps over approximately 164,160 flight hours; this is in keeping with the long-term average.
- Broken down by fiscal year, annual Marine Corps Class A mishap rates, per 100,000 flight hours, remain low: 1.83 in FY10, 4.18 in FY11, 2.54 in FY12, 3.66 in FY13, 2.30 in FY14, and 3.66 in FY15.
- Without exception, Marine Corps platforms perform safely and reliably in extreme conditions and while conducting hazardous missions: since FY10, per 100,000 flight hours the Class A mishap rates for Marine aircraft were:
  - KC-130: 0.00
  - F/A-18 (A-D): 1.89
  - AH-1 (W and Z): 2.25
  - CH-53E: 2.34
  - EA-6B: 2.70
  - CH-46: 2.98
  - MV-22: 3.20
  - AV-8B: 3.66
  - UH-1 (N and Y): 3.72
- By its very nature, there will always be inherent risk in combat aviation. That said, the Marine Corps utilizes highly reliable aircraft, extensively trains pilots and aircrew, conducts exhaustive maintenance and at every step puts in place safeguards and precautions to ensure a high degree of aviation safety.
- 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. For example, in the October 2014 MV-22 mishap that resulted in a crew member being lost at sea,

following the investigation multiple improvements were enacted, including changes to the aircraft's software, updates to reference publications, and a reevaluation of MV-22 pre-flight procedures.

- With all aircraft, thorough and consistent pilot training is the best way to ensure aviation safety, and the Marine Corps maintains that high standard without compromise.

### **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 253 of a planned 360 total operating around the globe today, but continues to transform the way the Marine Corps conducts assault support.
- Factually, the MV-22 is safe: it has a Class A mishap rate of 3.20 per 100,000 flight hours since FY10, on par with other Marine Corps aviation platforms. Moreover, the MV-22 had the lowest Class A flight mishap rate of all Marine rotorcraft through the first 200,000 flight hours. Thanks to material solutions, bi-annual software updates, enhanced pilot training and increased familiarization with the aircraft, the MV-22 has shed the early perception of it as a troubled airframe.
- 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 has already surpassed 223,000 flight hours conducting many types of missions.
- 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 and in every case were able to safely continue flight to friendly territory.
- 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 – over 60% greater range than 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.

### **UH-1Y-Specific Talking Points**

- UH-1s and AH-1s are the workhorses of the Marine Corps, supporting operations around the world with more than 196,000 combat flight hours since 2004. This is all the more remarkable since the fleet is undergoing a complete conversion to the Yankee and Zulu variants, done “in-stride” without any gapping of persistent operational requirements and commitments.
- Since FY10, the UH-1 has had a Class A mishap rate of 3.72 per 100,000 flight hours. 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.
- The Marine Corps certified the UH-1Y for initial operational capability in FY08 and will receive the last delivery in FY18, with 113 of 153 total aircraft currently on-hand. The UH-1Y, which was designed to have 85% component commonality with the AH-1Z to enhance deploy-ability and

maintainability, as well as reduce separate training requirements and logistics footprints, is a significant upgrade over the UH-1N, with increased survivability, 125% greater payload, increased cruise speed and 50% greater range.

## Q&As

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

A: 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 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.

Q: How many fatalities has the MV-22 caused? What about the UH-1?

A: 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 17 May; as well as two in flight-related mishaps: one fell from an MV-22 in North Carolina in 2014 and one in Afghanistan in 2011. Since FY10, there have been 20 fatalities resulting from UH-1 flight mishaps: two in Afghanistan in October 2009, one in California in 2011, five in 2012 and two in 2015, as well as two Australians in Afghanistan in 2012 and eight (six Marines and two Nepalese) in the 11 May incident.

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

A: The Marine Corps' Class A mishap rate remains roughly at average: 1.83 in FY10, 4.18 in FY11, 2.54 in FY12, 3.66 in FY13, 2.30 in FY14, and 3.66 in FY15.

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

A: 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 and upkeep.

Q: What is the investigation process for aviation mishaps?

A: For mishaps that involve loss of life or more than \$2 million in damage, an investigation board is composed, consisting of a lieutenant colonel (O5 grade officer) or higher, who has graduated from the Naval Safety Center's Aviation Safety Course and is 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.

## POINT OF CONTACT

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## **BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE 14**

### **BACKGROUND**

Black Sea Rotational Force began in 2010 with the purpose to form a Security Cooperation Marine Air-Ground Task Force. The forward postured troops' ability to conduct military-to-military engagements with partner nations in Eastern Europe while providing the capacity for rapid crisis response made it an essential year-round mission to U.S. European Command (EUCOM) and their partners in the Eastern European Theater. The biannual rotation of Marines and sailors with BSRF are postured in Mihail Kogălniceanu Airbase, Romania, which enables the continuation of promoting regional stability, increasing interoperability, and building and maintaining enduring partnerships with allied and partner nations.

**THEMES: Interoperability, partnerships, crisis response, collective security**

### **MESSAGES**

**Interoperability:** A rotational U.S. military presence in the region significantly increases the level of cooperation and capabilities between our allied and partner nations' militaries through bi-lateral and multinational engagements and exercises.

**Maintain Enduring Partnerships:** Partnerships formed from multinational exercises and military-to-military training engagements are crucial in dealing with regional issues and keeping peace in the Eastern European region.

**Crisis response:** BSRF is able to respond to a broad range of military operations in the EUCOM area of responsibility, including but not limited to: crisis and contingency response, U.S. Embassy reinforcement, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, and training with partner nations.

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

### **Q&As**

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

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

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

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

#### **Q3. What can you tell us about the purpose and objectives for BSRF-15?**

A3. The purpose of Black Sea Rotational Force 15 is to conduct targeted security cooperation activities with partner-nations in the Black Sea, Balkan and Caucasus regions in order to enhance our professional military capacity and increase interoperability. We are bolstering our relationships with partner nations so we can collectively address common security challenges in the region.

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



A4. Marines assigned to BSRF-15.1 began arriving in Romania in January and are expected to return to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune late summer 2015.

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

A5. The Black Sea Rotational Force is comprised of approximately 500 Marines and sailors from 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

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

A6. The equipment will consist of motor transport assets, small arms, and communications equipment to include: 7-ton trucks, High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicles, medium machine guns, and communications gear.

**Q7. Which countries are participating?**

A8. BSRF-15.1 is scheduled to engage with more than 20 countries to include: Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Slovenia, Azerbaijan, Macedonia, Serbia, Estonia, Kosovo, Georgia, Lithuania, Hungary, Armenia, Czech Republic, Poland, Moldova, Albania, Macedonia and Bosnia.

**DVIDS Feature Page**

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

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## CAMP LEJEUNE HISTORIC DRINKING WATER

### BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### KEY MESSAGE

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

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

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

### **TALKING POINTS**

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

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

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

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

- Capt Maureen Krebs, HQMC PA, 703-614-4309, [maureen.krebs@usmc.mil](mailto:maureen.krebs@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 15.1

### **BACKGROUND**

Since January 2015, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South (MARFORSOUTH) began its first persistent Belize Civil Affairs Team to support U.S. Southern Command. This US Marine Corps Civil Affairs team will build upon ongoing Civil Affairs Engagement Program objectives in the USSOUTHCOM Area of Responsibility and develop capacity to conduct civil military operations with the Host Nation Government, International and Non-governmental Organizations operating within the country of Belize. CAT Belize 15.1 is working in Belize to build upon the success of past Civil Affairs efforts and established relationships within the region. CAT Belize 15.1 is sourced from U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South and the 4th Civil Affairs Group be employed into the mid-summer timeframe. CAT Belize 15.1 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**

T1: 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
- Shared values, shared challenges, and shared responsibility form the cornerstone of the partnerships we forge throughout the Western Hemisphere.
- We are ready to address transnational security challenges through integrated and coordinated approaches with our partners.

T2: Engage 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&A's**

Q1. What is CAT Belize 15.1?

A1. CAT Belize 15.1 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 15.1 sent to Belize to make up for partner nation deficiencies?

A2. No. CAT Belize 15.1 is here to provide different avenues of training to the Belizean military forces that build upon areas they already have success, as well as improving their capability. 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. For how long will the CAT Belize 15.1 be deployed?

A3. CAT Belize 15.1 will be deployed for about six months.

Q4. What is this CAT Belize 15.1 comprised of?

A4. The CAT Belize 15.1 is comprised of a small detachment of Civil Affairs Marines possessing an array of civil-military specialties and experience. They are sourced from U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South and the 4th Civil Affairs Group.

Q5. Will they all be operating together at all times?

A5. Upon their arrival in Belize, the team will work with various facets of Belizean military forces, international and non-governmental organizations.

Q7. Will anyone from the CAT Belize 15.1 be involved in actual CTOC, CD or CIT operations?

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A7. Marines with the CAT Belize 15.1 will be involved in training only. Apprehension of suspects is the job of partner nation law enforcement agencies and other authorized forces.

Q8. In which specific towns will the CAT Belize 15.1 be operating?

A8. In order to protect Operational Security, I can't give specifics on where our forces will operate. I can say that the CAT will be working throughout the country of Belize on various projects with their Belizean counterparts.

**POINT OF CONTACT**

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## **CIVIL AFFAIRS TEAMS SUPPORTING CONTINUING PROMISE 2015**

### **BACKGROUND**

In April 2015 to approximately September 2015, U.S Marine Corps Forces, South (MARFORSOUTH) will support the USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20) deployment with Marine Corps CATs through the duration of the ships deployment to the U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) area of responsibility (AOR). The purpose of this deployment is to conduct civil-military operations including Humanitarian Civic Assistance (HCA), subject matter expert exchanges, medical, dental veterinary and engineering support and disaster response to partner nations and to show U.S. support and commitment to the Caribbean, Central and South America.

We assist our military partners in developing a strategy that builds their capacity to "fill in the gaps" where their patrols and operations might not always be able to cover. By assisting our partners in planning for community relations projects, integrating with NGO/International Organizations, and coordinating with other Ministries, together we ensure that the well-established relationships of the region are maintained and the sources of instability remain low.

### **THEMES AND MESSAGES**

T1: 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
- Shared values, shared challenges, and shared responsibility form the cornerstone of the partnerships we forge throughout the Western Hemisphere.
- We are ready to address transnational security challenges through integrated and coordinated approaches with our partners.

T2: Engage 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.

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

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## **COMMUNITY COUNSELING PROGRAM**

01MARCH2015

### **BACKGROUND**

The United States Marine Corps Community Counseling Program (CCP) is an expansion of our General Counseling program (GC), which was previously situated with the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) since the mid-1980s. The GC terminology was changed to the CCP as part of our restructuring of Behavioral Health. The new positioning of CCP and its new title more appropriately reflects our public/community mental health approach, which provides increased access to counseling and care management. Through prevention and treatment, the section more efficiently promotes Marine Total Fitness and addresses protective and risk factors across the stress continuum. Total fitness is a critical component of operational readiness.

### **TALKING POINTS**

**TP1.** CCP provides confidential care in a unit or installation setting located on installations worldwide to increase access to care and assist Marines and their families in navigating them through the many support resources available.

**TP2.** CCP helps Marines address the hard times or pain in their lives, helping individual Marines optimize their physical, psychological, social, and spiritual spheres and revitalize depleted areas especially during a times of transition.

**TP3.** CCP provides commanders with knowledge of prevention and counseling resources and the skills to leverage command climate to promote readiness.

**TP4.** Marines, Sailors, and their families may access help through any “door,” directly accessing the CCP, Family Advocacy Program, Substance Abuse Program, Chaplaincy, or Navy Medical assets. Counselors at the CCP actively provide care coordination, connecting Marines with additional resources and providing warm handoffs and referrals between programs and facilities.

**TP5.** CCP is staffed with professionals who provide services to include modernized evidence-based client screening tools and assessments, psycho-education groups for individuals and families, non-medical case management to improve coordination of referrals to medical treatment facilities and specialty care appointments by combining subject matter expertise of Suicide Prevention and Combat and Operational Stress Control programs. The focus is not on quantity, but rather on quality programs.

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

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## 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.
- 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.

### **AMPHIBIOUS SHIP REQUIREMENT**

- Requires the Navy and Marine Corps to maintain a fleet of more than 300 ships, including 11 aircraft carriers, 14 ballistic missile submarines and 33 amphibious ships.
- Connects MEFs, MEBs, and MEUs employed from various combinations of amphibious ships, maritime prepositioning and forward bases to conventional deterrence needs.
- Makes clear 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.

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## DIVERSITY

### MESSAGES and TALKING POINTS:

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

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Other: 5.29%

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

**3. FY14 enlisted and officer female accessions:**

Enlisted: 9.41%

Officer: 11.61%

**POINTS OF CONTACT**

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## **DEFENSE POLICY REVIEW INITIATIVE (DPRI)**

### **BACKGROUND**

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

### **TALKING POINTS**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **POINTS OF CONTACT**

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## ENERGY ETHOS

### BACKGROUND

In 2013, the Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM) Facility Energy (GF-1) issued the *Marine Corps Installations Energy Strategy* to guide how the Marine Corps procures, uses, and measures energy on installations. Unpredictable fuel costs and declining budgets are placing pressures on Base Operating Support (BOS) allocations, while battlefield conditions, natural disasters and enemies threaten our energy security. The Marine Corps has invested roughly \$1B on installation energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts since FY03, resulting in a 19.1% reduction in energy use intensity. Installations are now being charged to reduce utility demand by another 10% by 2020 through behavior change efforts.

### TALKING POINTS

#### Energy Ethos

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

#### Unit Energy Manager (UEM) Program

The Unit Energy Manager (UEM) Program was formally launched on 09 March 2015 with the issuance of the Energy Ethos Campaign and Unit Energy Manager (UEM) Program MARADMIN. The program establishes the foundation and leads the charge for the implementation and adoption of an Energy Ethos in the Marine Corps.

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

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

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

The UEM Program:

- Establishes a Marine in each unit as the energy point of contact for Battalion or Squadron Commanders.

- Provides Operational Commanders with greater visibility of energy resources.
- Creates a touch point with Installation Commanders and IEMs regarding energy use within tenant units.

**Cost**

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

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

The Marine Corps has invested nearly \$1B on installation energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts since FY2003, resulting in a 19.1% reduction in energy usage intensity (EUI).

**WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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

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## EXPEDITIONARY ENERGY

### BACKGROUND

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

### TALKING POINTS

- The Expeditionary Energy program is focused on increasing the combat capability and tactical effectiveness of the Marine Corps, creating a lighter, more efficient force that goes farther and stays longer on every gallon of fuel we use.
- We do not do 'green'. Expeditionary energy investments lighten the load and increase efficiency for Marines at the tip of the spear, furthest away from main operating bases where risk is highest on the battlefield.
- The Marine Corps calculates "Return on Investment" in terms of military capability gained (lethality, speed, the ability to extend our forces deep into enemy territory), not dollars or gallons of gas saved.
- The Marine Corps will host its annual Expeditionary Energy Concepts technology demonstration (formerly Experimental Forward Operating Base – or ExFOB), June 23-25 at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. E2C is the Marine Corps' innovative process to identify and evaluate energy efficient technologies that can increase the self-sufficiency of expeditionary forces. By providing industry with opportunities to demonstrate new capabilities, E2C can quickly move technologies from concept to combat. Through the E2C process, the Marine Corps has conducted seven demonstrations at bases across the country, reviewed over 300 technologies through the E2C Request for Information (RFI) process, assessed over 100 technologies at E2C demonstrations, evaluated 26 systems in lab and field following E2C, and transitioned five systems to Programs of Record.
- We've had great success with material solutions in recent years, but technology alone is not the answer. We can't buy or innovate our way out of this problem. We have a behavioral element to address. The Expeditionary Energy Readiness Program (E2RP), launched in 2013, arms battalion and squadron commanders with fuel and power data, enabling them to plan and make decisions that can increase training days or extend operational reach. As budgets decline, programs like E2RP will ensure that Marines extract the most readiness out of every gallon of fuel they use.
- The current and future security environment demands a forward-deployed crisis response force that is poised and flexible to respond to a host of threats at a moment's notice and able to sustain itself for significant periods, at a time and place of its choosing.



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### **EXPEDITIONARY ENERGY (CONT'D)**

- The strategic rebalance to the Pacific, and the tyranny of distance associated with operations therein, underscores the value of a fast, lethal, austere MEB that is lighter and more energy efficient than it is today.

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

<http://www.hqmc.marines.mil/e2o/E2OHome.aspx>  
<http://www.dvidshub.net/feature/ExpeditionaryEnergy>

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## 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.

## 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)

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## **F-35B LIGHTNING II—JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER**

### **BACKGROUND**

The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter will replace the Marine Corps' aging legacy tactical aircraft fleet. In addition to replacing the F/A-18A-D Hornet, the Marine Corps will replace the AV-8B Harrier and EA-6B Prowler, essentially necking down to one tactical fixed-wing aircraft. The integration of the F-35B/C will provide the Marine Corps with the most versatile and technologically-advanced aircraft in the skies today, enabling our Force to achieve dominance in the full spectrum of combat operations. This will ultimately deter potential adversaries and ensure future naval aviation power projection.

### **TALKING POINTS**

#### **General**

- As the Marine Corps supports the President's strategy to rebalance in the Pacific, we will bring the most advanced technologies and capabilities of our force to the region. These capabilities enable the Marine Corps to support our regional partners during crises by enabling our forces to perform a wide range of missions across multiple domains. As the future of Marine aviation, the F-35 will eventually replace all aircraft from three legacy Marine Corps platforms including the AV-8B Harriers, F/A-18 Hornets, and the EA-6B Prowlers.
- As we modernize Marine fixed-wing aviation assets for the future, the continued development and fielding of the short take-off and vertical landing (STOVL) F-35B Joint Strike Fighter remains the centerpiece of this effort.
- The F-35B supports our doctrinal form of maneuver warfare and our tactical and operational needs for close air support in austere conditions and locations where traditional fighters will potentially be unable to get access when our Marines and Sailors need them the most.
- The F-35B is scheduled to reach initial operating capability in July 2015. U.S. Marine Corps IOC for the F-35B includes the following requirements:
  - 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).
  - One F-35B squadron manned with trained and certified personnel capable of conducting autonomous operations (90% staffing).
  - Aircraft in Block 2B software configuration with the performance envelope, mission systems, sensors and weapon clearances.
  - Home base supporting infrastructure and facilities ready and capable of supporting and sustaining operations.
  - Qualifications, certifications and L Class ship alterations completed to enable F-35B operations for six aircraft.
  - Qualifications and certifications for deploying the F-35B to austere, expeditionary sites.
  - 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.

#### **Strategic Value**

- The F-35B represents the Marine Corps' ongoing effort to modernize our aging fleet of aircraft, and to take advantage of fifth-generation aircraft technology that will greatly enhance our capabilities as America's expeditionary crisis response force.

- The capability inherent in a STOVL jet allows the Marine Corps to operate in harsh conditions and from remote locations where few airfields are available for conventional aircraft. It is also specifically designed to operate from amphibious ships—a capability that no other tactical aircraft possesses.
- The F-35 is a true force multiplier; it is the asset that meets today's and tomorrow's threats at a level that is going to assure the Marine Corps' ability to access high-threat areas on a moment's notice. This single aircraft can accomplish what once required many different types of platforms. It will increase the speed at which we can respond, the accuracy with which we can engage targets, the detail with which we communicate critical combat information, and the effectiveness with which we can reduce the capability of an enemy's threat.
- The F-35 performance on the aircraft carrier is unprecedented. Both the B and C models had 100% boarding rates in recent tests, meaning they had successful arrested landings on the deck of a U.S. Navy ship. With the confidence and reliability of the F-35's landing capability, pilots can now dedicate a greater amount of focus to the tactical and operational portions of their sorties.
- The F-35B will have an unmatched expeditionary capability. The Marine Corps can operate it from an amphibious carrier and deploy it as part of the Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Air Combat Element. We can operate the F-35B from almost any type of airfield; from abandoned or primitive runways in the developing world to long stretches of highway. The aircraft can even operate from unimproved surfaces where we utilize our own expeditionary runway matting.
- 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.
- The F-35C model brings 25% more range and a bigger weapons bay. It also allows the Marine Corps to fly aboard the Navy CVN carriers, which continues our very effective and long standing TACAIR integration program.

### Status

- Initial sea trials aboard the USS Wasp, LHD-1, were completed in October 2011, proving the capabilities of the F-35B at sea in its expeditionary role supporting our MAGTF afloat on L Class amphibious ships. A total of 72 Vertical Landings and 72 Short Take-offs were completed.
- The second sea trial period aboard the USS Wasp was completed in August 2013 to expand the operating envelope of the aircraft for short take-offs and vertical landings, in addition to conducting the first night take-offs and landings in preparation for IOC in 2015. A total of 95 Vertical Landings and 94 Short Take-offs were accomplished.
- Initial sea trial for the F-35C aboard the USS Nimitz, CVN-68, was completed in November 2014.
- As of December 2014, the VMFAT-501 squadron at MCAS Beaufort, NC, trained more than 40 pilots and 300 maintenance personnel to assume autonomous organic level maintenance support for the F-35B.
- An F-35B operational test period is scheduled to take place aboard a U.S. Navy amphibious ship in May 2015.
- Full Operating Capability for the Marine Corps' F-35 program in acquisition terms is defined as the completion of System Design and Development (SDD). F-35 SDD is scheduled for 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2017, with completion of the installation of Block 3F software on all Marine Corps F-35 aircraft.

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**POINTS OF CONTACT**

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## **FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

01MARCH2015

### **BACKGROUND**

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

### **TALKING POINTS**

**TP1.** April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) theme for the year 2015 is “Children deserve to be protected. Know the warning signs. Help stop child abuse before it starts.” Everyone plays a role in keeping our children safe and healthy.

**TP2.** FAP will continue to implement standardized curricula aimed to reduce incidents of abuse.

Examples of these evidence-based practices include:

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

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

### **RESOURCES/WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

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

## **FY12 Audit Opinion Withdrawal**

### **Background**

On 23 March the DODIG withdrew its unqualified or “clean” audit opinion of the Marine Corps’ FY12 Statement of Budgetary Activity audit, which was issued 20 December 2013. This followed the recent identification by the Corps’ independent public accountant, Grant Thornton, of unresolved concerns over the manner in which DFAS accounts for funds in financial holding accounts during the course of preparing the FY14 SBA audit. Due to Grant Thornton’s ongoing work to understand these procedures and the potential impact they might have had on the FY12 audit, DODIG rescinded its opinion pending resolution of those concerns. The Marine Corps continues to work with DODIG and DFAS to support their efforts to resolve the issue.

The issue stems from financial transactions DFAS sometimes receives from other entities on behalf of the services and DOD (e.g. DOS) with insufficient information to identify the correct account said transactions belong to. When this occurs, the funds are placed in a suspense account until the transactions are further researched and supporting documentation is obtained to post the transaction to the right account. DODIG’s concern is that, due to the nature of the process, not all transactions may have been recorded on the right financial statements and therefore an analysis of all transactions in the suspense accounts is required.

### **PA Posture**

RTQ with the below statement only. TPs are provided for awareness but not currently for media consumption.

### **Statement**

The Marine Corps is working in full cooperation with the Department of Defense Inspector General and others to resolve the issue stated in the 23 March letter from the DOD Inspector General.

### **Talking Points**

- The DODIG’s withdrawal of its opinion, pending further information, does not indicate that transactions involving DFAS suspense accounts are bad payments but rather a reflection of the need for DODIG to better understand the DFAS suspense account processes and balances.
- This issue highlights the complexity and sheer size of DoD and Service business processes, world-wide missions, and the inter-dependencies across the DoD.
- Such issues must be seen as a natural part of both learning and adjusting to financial audits for both the services and independent auditors, rather than as undermining the tremendous progress of the Marine Corps and the DOD. They do show that we still have work to do to sustain and improve our efforts.

### **Point of Contact**

Capt Ty Balzer, OMCC Media Officer, (703) 614-4309 or [tyler.balzer@usmc.mil](mailto:tyler.balzer@usmc.mil)



## **FY16 DOD BUDGET REQUEST AND THE IMPACT OF SEQUESTRATION**

### **QUOTE**

*“What I can guarantee you, Senator, is whatever amount of money the Congress provides, the Marine Corps will build the very best Marine Corps we can. But even at the Budget Control Act levels without sequestration, we will reduce the capacity to the point where we’ll be challenged to meet the current strategy... BCA funding levels with sequester rules will preclude the Marine Corps from meeting the requirements of the Defense Strategic Guidance.”* – CMC Gen. Joseph Dunford’s Jan. 28, 2015 SASC testimony

### **BACKGROUND**

On Feb. 2, 2015 the FY16 DOD budget was submitted to Congress as part of the overall Presidential Budget. The DOD budget totals \$585.3 billion, of which \$534.3 billion is for baseline funding and \$50.9 billion is for Overseas Contingency Operations. Those amounts are an increase of \$38.2 billion in baseline funding and a decrease of \$13.3 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations – reflecting the end of the combat mission in Afghanistan – from enacted FY15 levels.

The FY16 DOD budget supports the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review’s three pillars: protect the homeland, build security globally, and project and win decisively; as well as reaffirms the QDR’s five key priorities identified: the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region, a strong commitment to security and stability in the Middle East, a global approach to countering violent extremists, key investments in technology, and strengthening alliances and partnerships around the world.

The Marine Corps’ FY16 total budget request is \$25.3 billion. Of that, \$24 billion is the baseline budget request and \$1.3 billion is for Overseas Contingency Operations. Of note, this total is 4.3% of the overall DOD total, and represents an increase of only \$400 million from the enacted FY15 levels.

Should sequestration return in FY16, the CMC has testified the Marine Corps would be unable to meet the requirements of the Defense Strategic Guidance.

### **PA POSTURE**

Media queries regarding the Marine Corps’ FY16 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**

#### Overall/DOD

- The President’s budget reverses the decline in national defense spending of the past five years to ensure the military can meet the defense needs of our nation in the near term and sets us on a better path to maintain our dominance in the future.
- The FY16 DOD budget represents the minimum resource level necessary to ensure we are a capable, ready and appropriately sized force able to meet existing global commitments and obligations. Yet even at the FY16 level, we continue to need the flexibility to reform and ensure we can get the most out of every dollar spent on defense.
- Reversing the devastating effects of sequestration (set to return in FY16) is the next and most immediate step to protect our nation’s military dominance.
- At full sequestration levels, by 2021 the military will be too small and too outdated to respond to the full range of potential national security threats.
- While some claim this is the DOD’s biggest budget ever, as a share of our economy and of total federal spending, the FY16 budget is at a near-historic low – representing about 3 percent of America’s GDP and 14.3 percent of total federal discretionary and non-discretionary spending. In historic terms, this is one quarter what it was during the Korean War, one third of what it was during the Vietnam War, and half what it was during the late 1970s/early 1980s defense buildup.

- Military readiness is expensive, but unpreparedness is a cost we cannot accept. Simply put, sending the joint force into a “fair fight” will result in longer conflicts and far more American casualties.

#### Marine Corps

- Over those past few years of budget cuts and fiscal uncertainty, the Marine Corps has prioritized the readiness of forward-deployed forces. This has, however, required the assumption of risk in the readiness of non-deployed forces, modernization, infrastructure and quality of life programs.
- 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. In a major conflict, those shortfalls will result in a delayed response and/or additional casualties.
- Sequestration would force the Marine Corps to reduce its end strength, resulting in fewer active duty battalions and squadrons than would be required for a single major contingency.
- The Marine Corps is investing in modernization at historically low levels. Over time, that will result in maintaining older or obsolete equipment at a higher cost and more operational risk.
- Finally, the impact of sequestration on Marines should not be underestimated. They should never have to face doubts about whether they will deploy without proper training and equipment. Sequestration would erode the trust that Marines have in their leadership and the Corps, and the cost of losing that trust is incalculable.

#### POINT OF CONTACT

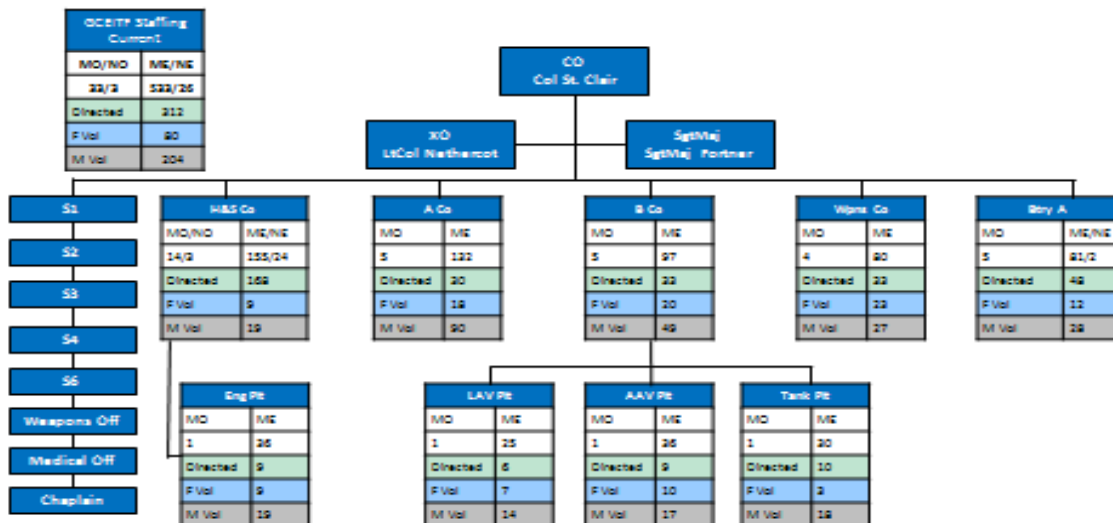
- Capt Ty Balzer, OUSMCC Media Officer, (703) 614-4309, [tyler.balzer@usmc.mil](mailto:tyler.balzer@usmc.mil)

## GROUND COMBAT ELEMENT INTEGRATED TASK FORCE

### BACKGROUND

We established the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force in order to better understand, and refine those gender-neutral skills required of an individual contributing to more advanced unit tasks (what tasks must the individual Marine, as a member of a team/crew/squad, be capable of performing to ensure collective task accomplishment). The task force is a purpose-built, gender-integrated, combined arms, ground combat arms unit that is manned, trained, and equipped for the sole purpose of supporting research. The task force currently has roughly 600 personnel – this includes volunteers from both the active and reserve components for the research and directly assigned Marines and Sailors to run the unit. Of the 300 volunteers, nearly one-third of them are women. The male volunteers are Marines who currently hold qualifications for the occupational specialty in which they serve, meaning, a basic rifleman would be serving as a rifleman within the task force. The women who volunteered for ground combat arms jobs are Marines who have completed the entry level training for the specific MOS for which they volunteered. Marines who volunteered to serve in the provisional infantry platoon did not go to entry level training and are serving in their current MOS, but are being trained to act as provisional infantrymen. The task force deployed as a unit in February to Marine bases in California to conduct the evaluation phase of the research in a simulated combat environment. The data collected will inform the Corps' development of occupation specific, operationally relevant, gender neutral standards required to do the job. These standards will be applied to any Marine, regardless of gender, who wants to compete for a specific ground combat arms specialty.

**GCEITF ORGANIZATION:** The GCEITF is a task-organized unit commanded by a post-MEU command Colonel. The task force includes Headquarters and Service Company (of which an engineer platoon will be evaluated), Company A (two rifle platoons and one provisional infantry platoon), Company B (mechanized to include LAVs, AAVs, and tank platoons), Weapons Company (medium and heavy machine guns with a provisional machinegun section, 60/81mm mortars and assault/anti-tank section) and an artillery battery.



**MISSION:** From Oct 2014 through July 2015, GCEITF conducts individual and collective level skills training in designated ground combat arms occupational specialties in order to facilitate the standards based assessment of the physical performance of Marines in a simulated operating environment performing specific ground combat arms tasks.

#### **Significant Events:**

Jun 2014	Screen and recruit volunteers
Jul – Aug 2014	Marines trained at Formal Learning Centers (entry level training)
Nov 2014	Unit level training at Camp Lejeune
Mar – Jun 2015	Operational Evaluation at MCAGCC, MWTC, and Camp Pendleton
Aug 2015	Research study report complete
Sept 2015	CMC Decisions / Recommendations

**NATURE OF HUMAN RESEARCH:** All volunteers for the GCEITF fall under a Human Research Protection Protocol (HRPP) guided by the Institutional Review Board. The Marine Corps is complying with the standards as outlined by the HRPP. Volunteers may drop at any time from the research process.

#### **TALKING POINTS**

**TP1.** The Marine Corps is taking the time afforded by the Secretary of Defense to make responsible decisions regarding how we are integrating women into combat arms jobs and units. No decision to ask, or not to ask for an exception to policy has been made. We must take a deliberate look at all of the research collected and not prejudge data before the research process is complete. In the end, whatever recommendation is made by the Commandant to the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of Defense will be based on scientific and rigorous data collected over the last two years.

**TP2.** The Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force is another data point in the overall deliberate, measured and responsible research process the Marine Corps is undertaking to determine how to best integrate women into ground combat arms units and MOSs.

**TP3.** This provides the Marine Corps with a unique opportunity to codify and quantify occupation specific, operationally relevant, gender neutral standards. What we are focused on are the last 20 most physically demanding occupational specialties and ensuring that at the end of the day, a Marine who meets the gender neutral standard required to do that job, has the opportunity to compete and be successful in that field.

#### **WEBSITES**

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

#### **POINTS OF CONTACT**

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

## '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 will be 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 will debut on 17 March 2015.

### TALKING POINTS:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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'.
- **'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'**.
- **'The Land We Love'** depicts a relatable America. **'Diverse people and communities; one common country'**.
- 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.
- 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. **Home of the Brave** is equally innovative, showing a uniquely modern, millennial-driven interpretation of America, patriotism, and service.
- **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.

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

Current as of: **Wednesday, May 27, 2015**

## KEEPING FAITH

### QUOTE

*“The term Marine is synonymous with young men and women who are disciplined, smart, physically and mentally tough, and who remain always faithful to each other and to our Corps.”– Gen Joseph F. Dunford, Commandant of the Marine Corps*

### TALKING POINTS

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

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

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

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

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

## MARINE CORPS 101

### QUOTE

*“The Marine Corps is the Nation’s expeditionary force in readiness. That fact reflects the intent of the 82nd Congress and shapes our culture, organization, training, equipment, and priorities. On a day-to-day basis, we are forward deployed, forward engaged, and prepared for crisis response. We are also ready to respond in the event of a major contingency. The American people have come to expect us to do what must be done “in any clime and place” and under any conditions. They expect us to respond quickly and to win.” – Gen Joseph F. Dunford, Commandant of the Marine Corps*

### TALKING POINTS

- The Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) is the Marine Corps’ principal organization for conducting missions across the range of military operations. MAGTFs provide combatant commanders with scalable, versatile expeditionary forces.
- Marine Expeditionary Units (MEU) operate continuously across the globe and provide the President and the unified combatant commanders with a forward-deployed, flexible sea-based MAGTF. MEUs are capable of conducting amphibious operations, crisis response and limited contingency operations.
- The Corps has about 184,600 active-duty Marines, 39,600 in the Selected Marine Corps Reserve, and 68,000 in the Individual Ready Reserve. Some 31,300 Marines are deployed across the globe. Barring unforeseen funding challenges, the Marine Corps will realize its final strength of 182,000 active-duty Marines by the end of FY17.
- The final force structure will include 24 infantry battalions, as well as the implementation of 18 MV-22 squadrons. It also allows for such enduring presences as seven MEUs, SPMAGTFs – Crisis Response AF, CENT, and SOUTH, Marine Rotational Force Darwin, enhanced Cyber capabilities, and increased embassy security personnel.
- For 6% of the FY15 DoD Budget, the Marine Corps provides America with:
  - 21% of the infantry battalions
  - 15% of the Fighter/Attack Aircraft
  - 11% of the Artillery Batteries
  - Seven flexible and scalable MEUs
- About 37% of Marines are lance corporals and below – our most junior ranks in the Marine Corps, and 61% of Marines are 25 years-old or younger. Fewer than one in nine is an officer.
- View the latest [Marine Corps 101 Presentation](#).

### POINT OF CONTACT/SOURCING

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



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

### **BACKGROUND**

In January 2013, the Secretary of Defense rescinded the 1994 Direct Ground Combat and Assignment Rule which restricted women from assignment to 'units whose primary mission is to engage in direct combat on the ground,' and directed each of the services to open all military occupational specialties and units to females by Jan. 1, 2016. The Marine Corps continues to take a deliberate, measured and responsible approach to assess the units, occupational fields and specific military occupational specialties that are closed to our female Marines. The output of each Line of Effort (LOE) and its associated studies will inform CMC decisions to open additional MOSs and units to female Marines or ask for exceptions to policy, should that be necessary. This information will also support the development and validation of occupation specific, operationally relevant, gender neutral standards, physical assessments, and assignment policies.

### **LINES OF EFFORT**

LOE 1: Since 2012, we have assigned female officers and staff non-commissioned officers in open MOSs to 20 of our non-infantry, combat arms battalions at the headquarters level. Based on the experiences of integrating female Marines in those battalions, we are extending the assignment of female Marines in these units to include non-commissioned officers and expanding assignments down to the company and battery level in logistics, communications, and administration positions. To date, 83 female NCOs have reported to 17 of the 20 artillery, tank, and assault amphibian ground combat units that have been opened under LOE 1. *MarAdmin 589/14 was released outlining the expansion of assignments:*

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

LOE 2: We expanded our entry-level training research effort that began at Infantry Officer Course and Infantry Training Battalion. Upon graduation from recruit training, female Marines were able to volunteer for infantry and non-infantry (AAV and Tank Crewman, and Artillery Cannoneer) combat arms-MOS training schools prior to attending their assigned MOS training school. Female Marine company grade officers from the operating forces and supporting establishment were also afforded the opportunity to volunteer for Infantry Officer Course. Due to research requirements, we are nearing the end of the data collection period, and these opportunities will close until decisions are announced by the Secretary of Defense in January 2016.

LOE 3: From Oct 2014 through July 2015, the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force will conduct individual and collective level skills training in designated ground combat arms occupational specialties in order to facilitate the standards based assessment of the physical performance of Marines in a simulated operating environment performing specific ground combat arms tasks. The GCEITF is designed to understand from a quantitative perspective the physical demands required to perform ground combat arms tasks in Operating Forces (OpFor) units. The purpose is twofold. The first is to build a data set that supports establishing gender neutral MOS-specific physical standards and assessments. The second is to determine the effects (if any) that gender integration has on ground combat arms small unit mission effectiveness.

LOE 4: The Marine Corps opened 11 MOSs in three Occupation Fields encompassing 2122 positions. Of the 335 total MOSs, 315 MOSs are currently open to female Marines (144,000 positions total). The NDAA-mandated congressional notification period began in May 2014, and was completed in July 2014.

Opened to Female Marines 16 July 2014	
0803	Targeting Acquisition Officer*
0842	Field Artillery Radar Operator*
0847	Field Artillery Sensor Support Marine*
2110	Ordnance Vehicle Maintenance Officer*
2131	Towed Artillery Repairman/Tech*
2141	Assault Amphibious Vehicle Repair*
2146	Main Battle Tank Repair*
2147	Light Armored Vehicle Repair/Tech*
2149	Ordnance Vehicle Maintenance Chief*
7204	Low Altitude Air Defense Officer
7212	Low Altitude Air Defense Gunner

Highlighted occupational fields will be assigned to females through generational growth.

\* Assignment restricted to non-GCE units.

## KEY THEMES AND MESSAGES

### Deliberate, Measured and Responsible

**Deliberate:** The Marine Corps is conducting a thoughtful, intentional, and careful process of planning, analysis, and assessment in order to maximize the potential of every Marine while increasing operational capability across the range of military operations.

**Measured:** The Marine Corps is taking the time afforded by the Secretary of Defense to make responsible decisions regarding how we are integrating women into combat arms jobs and units. We must take a deliberate look at all of the research collected and not prejudge data before the research process is complete. In the end, whatever recommendation is made to the Secretary of Defense will be based on scientific and rigorous data collected over the last two years.

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

### Maintaining Standards

We must maintain the highest standards for all Marines to enable them to excel in any mission across the range of military operations. This provides us with a unique opportunity to codify and quantify occupation specific, operationally relevant, gender neutral standards. What we are getting at is the last 20 most physically demanding occupations and ensuring that at the end of the day, a Marine who meets the gender neutral standard required to do that job, has the opportunity to compete.

## **Combat Readiness**

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

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

*If queried or preparing your commander for a speaking or media engagement, please contact HQMC Media Section POC below for lateral limits of communication engagements.*

## **POINT OF CONTACT/SOURCING**

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

## **MARINE ROTATIONAL FORCE-DARWIN**

### **BACKGROUND**

In November of 2011, U.S. President Barack Obama and former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced the deployment of U.S. Marines to Darwin and Northern Australia, for approximately six months at a time, where they will conduct exercises and training on a rotational basis with the Australian Defence Force. The first two deployments consisted of approximately 200 Marines each and occurred in 2012 and 2013. The deployment in 2014 consisted of approximately a 1,150 member Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF). Approximately 1,176 Marines will deploy to Darwin, Australia, in 2015 for Rotation II, Phase II of Marine Rotational Force-Darwin (MRF-D). These Marines are scheduled to arrive in April and remain for approximately six months as the fourth rotation of MRF-D. Most of the Marines will come from the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. The Aviation Combat Element (ACE) will include four CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 (HMH-463), based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

### **KEY MESSAGES**

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

### **TALKING POINTS**

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

### **DVIDS Unit Page**

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

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

- MARFORPAC AC/S MCC, Deputy Director for PA: Chuck Little, DSN 315-477-8309, cell (808) 673-8921, email: [chuck.little@usmc.mil](mailto:chuck.little@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 on Feb. 23, 2015.***

- Commanding Officer: Col Matthew G. Trollinger
- PAO: Capt. Joshua S. Diddams, [joshua.diddams@usmc.mil](mailto:joshua.diddams@usmc.mil)
- Web: <http://www.11thmeu.marines.mil/>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/11thmeu>
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/11thmeu>
- Photos/Video: <http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/11meu>

### 15th MEU

***The 15th MEU departed May 11 for a seven-month long deployment. Their first major event following departure was to participate in Exercise Culebra Koa 15, the Pacific Amphibious Leaders Symposium 15, and MEU sustainment training in Hawaii from 17-21 May. Culebra Koa 2015 is a U.S. Pacific Fleet-directed amphibious force and joint sea-basing exercise. PALS-15 brought together senior leaders of allied and partner Marine Corps, naval infantries and militaries with an interest in amphibious capability development. The 15th MEU is deployed aboard the Essex Amphibious Ready Group aboard the USS Essex (LHD 2), USS Anchorage (LPD 23), and USS Rushmore (LSD 47).***

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

### 22nd MEU

***After nearly nine eventful months at sea, including combat operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Marines and Sailors of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) with the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group (BATARG) wrapped up their deployment and returned home on Oct. 28, 2014. Since de-compositing on Dec. 1, 2014, the MEU Command Element began preparing for the unit's pre-deployment training program that begins in December 2015.***

- Commanding Officer: Col. William R. Dunn
- Deployment Dates: Feb. 8th, 2014- Oct. 28th 2014
- PAO: 1st Lt. Andrew T. Bolla, [Andrew.Bolla@USMC.mil](mailto:Andrew.Bolla@USMC.mil)
- Web: <http://www.22ndmeu.marines.mil>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/22ndMEU>
- Photos/Video: <http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/22meu>

## 24th MEU

***The 24th MEU deployed 13 December 2014 with the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group aboard the USS Iwo Jima, USS New York, and USS Fort McHenry. The 24th MEU entered the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in January and assumed responsibility as the crisis response force and theater mobile reserve. Marines on the USS Fort McHenry recently completed Exercise Eagle Resolve 2015 in Kuwait.***

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

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

***In March, the 31st MEU continued Spring Patrol 15.1 embarked aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), USS Green Bay (LPD 20) and USS Ashland (LSD 48), completing a Certification Exercise in and around Okinawa, Japan. In late March and early April, the 31st MEU joined with Marines from the Republic of Korea for Korean Marine Exchange Program '15 (KMEP '15) in and around Pohang, South Korea. During KMEP '15, an MV-22 Osprey made the first ever landing on a ROK amphibious ship, the Dokdo (LPH 6111), and the Marines conducted several bilateral training events that culminated in a combined amphibious assault exercise. Following KMEP '15, the 31st MEU is scheduled to return to Okinawa to prepare for a Bilateral Exercise (BILATEX) in April with a platoon of soldiers from the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force. Additionally, during April and May, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 (Reinforced) will replace VMM-262 as the aviation combat element and Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines will replace BLT 2/4 as the ground combat element.***

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

## BACKGROUND

Since World War II, in nearly every crisis, the Marine Corps has deployed projection forces, with the ability to move ashore with sufficient sustainability for prolonged operations. These forces have been organized into Marine Air Ground Task Forces (MAGTF), a combination of air, ground and support assets. MAGTFs are established for specific missions, or in anticipation of a wide range of possible missions. Combining air, ground and logistic assets maximizes the combat power of each of the war fighting elements. MAGTFs have long provided the United States with a broad spectrum of response options when U.S. and allied interests have been threatened and in non-combat situations that require

instant response to crisis. Selective, timely and credible commitment of air-ground units have, on many occasions, helped bring stability to a region and sent signals worldwide to aggressors that the United States is willing to defend its interests, and it is able to do so with a significantly powerful force on extremely short notice.

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

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

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

The ACE is a composite squadron that provides the MEU medium to heavy lift capability, assault support and close air support (CAS). Its assets include: MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft or CH-46 Sea Knight medium lift helicopters, CH-53E Super Stallion heavy lift helicopters, AH-1 Super Cobra helicopter gunships, UH-1 Huey utility helicopters and AV-8B Harrier jump jets. With a force strength of approximately 500, the ACE includes air traffic control, aircraft maintenance/support and aviation logistics/supply capabilities.

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

## TALKING POINTS

- MEUs operate continuously across the globe and provide the President and the unified combatant commanders with a forward-deployed, flexible sea-based MAGTF.
- The distinct ability of amphibious forces to gain access to critical areas anywhere in the world with ground, air and logistics forces enables the Navy-Marine Corps team to shape actions across the range of military operations to resolve conflict, conduct humanitarian assistance or combat the enemy in remote, austere environments that would otherwise be inaccessible.
- With the increasing concentration of the world's population close to a coastline, the ability to operate simultaneously on the sea, ashore, and in the air, and to move seamlessly between these three domains represents the unique value of amphibious forces.

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- “Expeditionary” is not a bumper sticker to us, or a concept, it is a “state of conditioning” that Marines work hard to maintain.
- We are the nation’s crisis response force of choice. We have a unique capability to respond to today’s crises, with today’s force – today.
- Always ready when the nation is least ready, Marines are either forward deployed or capable of deploying, often from the sea, on short notice to crises around the world.

#### **POINT OF CONTACT**

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



## **NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE – OPERATION SAHAYOGI HAAT**

26MAY2015

### **BACKGROUND**

A magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck central Nepal at midday local time on 25 April, causing fatalities, injuries, and significant structural damage. Many areas near the earthquake's epicenter—which may have experienced more substantial damages—were difficult to access.

A 7.3 magnitude aftershock struck Nepal 12 May, which coincided with the loss of Marine UH-1Y. The aircraft's wreckage was located 15 May. All six Marines and two Nepalese soldiers aboard died in the mishap.

Officials reported that more than 8000 deaths had resulted from the earthquake in central Nepal and another 7,000 people had sustained earthquake-related injuries. 39 of Nepal's 75 districts have been affected.

The U.S. military transported members of the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team and urban search and rescue teams to Nepal, and also sending a Joint Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team (HAST) of approximately 20 individuals to Nepal in support of the USAID/OFDA Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). The team landed in Nepal on April 30<sup>th</sup> and was led by Marine Brig. Gen. Paul Kennedy, commander of 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade. The HAST will help coordinate the response to requests from the Government of Nepal. Servicemembers from Okinawa worked to load the team's 20-plus members and gear into a U.S. Marine Corps C-130 Hercules for the departure.

On May 6, Navy Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, designated Marine Corps Lt. Gen. John Wissler, commanding general of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force, as the Joint Task Force 505 commander.

Joint Task Force 505's forward headquarters coordinated U.S. military relief efforts. The task force worked closely with senior representatives from the U.S. State Department, USAID and other U.S. agencies to ensure continued and timely response to requests from the Nepalese government.

The task force supported disaster relief operations with a U.S. Air Force contingency response group, three Marine Corps UH-1Y Huey helicopters, four Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft, four Air Force C-17 Globemaster III transports, four Marine Corps KC-130J Hercules aircraft, four C-130 Super Hercules, as well as various ground and aviation command and control capabilities.

The U.S. military earthquake relief effort was named "Operation Sahayogi Haat," which means "Helping Hand" in Nepali.

In total, JTF 505 in tandem with the U.S. Agency for International Development delivered approximately 120.2 tons of relief supplies, transported about 553 personnel and conducted more than 256 hours of flight time throughout affected areas of Nepal.

JTF 505 Forward consisted of approximately 300 U.S. military personnel on the ground in Nepal currently supporting the multinational relief efforts.

JTF 505 Main in Okinawa, Japan, and an Intermediate Staging Base in Thailand consist of approximately 590 U.S. military personnel.

The US military was tasked with providing assistance in the form of airlift; airfield assessment, management, and operations; and logistical support for the ongoing humanitarian assistance (HA) efforts in Nepal.

Nepal is a partner in the region with whom the Marine Corps has an enduring relationship and recurring military training exchanges, which allows us to respond quickly if asked. The Marine Corps has been training with Nepalese forces to respond to just such a disaster for years. Most recently, Marines from the 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade worked together with their Nepalese counterparts during two earthquake-focused training events in Nepal in 2013 and 2014.

Since the Osprey's arrival in Okinawa, it has established a solid track record as the Marine Corps' go-to aircraft for disaster relief, successfully contributing to the humanitarian efforts during Operation Damayan in 2013. During that mission, the MV-22Bs evacuated more than 1,200 people, saving lives and delivering more than 20 tons of supplies to remote areas where neither traditional airplanes nor helicopters could reach.

The MV-22B has the ability to quickly convert from a rotary to fixed wing configuration, which makes it notably faster than more traditional rotary wing assets. This means that we can get more relief aid and much needed supplies to more isolated areas in significantly less time.

## TALKING POINTS

- We were in Nepal at the request of their government to assist with disaster recovery efforts. We provided support as part of the overall U.S. government and international response in partnership with the Nepalese army.
- USPACOM was ready to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief support when the Government of Nepal and the USAID DART requested U.S. military-unique capabilities.
- 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.
- The Marine Corps is the 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.
- **Aviation mishap specific:** We mourn the tragic passing of our service members and of the Nepalese Army; however, we recognize that the Nepalese people have suffered a loss of thousands of their own citizens. We continue to stand with Nepal, while supporting the families and friends of our Marines who made the ultimate sacrifice in support of this mission and their nation's interests abroad.

## WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- <https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/NepalEarthquakeRelief>
- <http://www.usaid.gov/nepal-earthquake/fy15/fs01>
- [http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2015/0415\\_nepal-earthquake/](http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2015/0415_nepal-earthquake/)

## POINT OF CONTACT

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

## **OPERATION ATLANTIC RESOLVE**

### **BACKGROUND:**

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

### **THEMES AND MESSAGES:**

#### **PROVEN PARTNERS**

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

#### **STRATEGIC ACCESS**

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

#### **ECONOMIC SECURITY**

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

#### **COLLECTIVE SECURITY**

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

### **Q&As:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**DVIDS Feature Page**

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

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

## BACKGROUND

The Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific hosted the inaugural USPACOM Amphibious Leaders Symposium (PALS) in Hawaii May 17-21, 2015. This symposium brought together senior leaders of allied and partner Marine Corps, Naval Infantries, and militaries spanning the Indo-Asia-Pacific region with an interest in military amphibious capability development, with the objective of having a meaningful dialogue on key aspects of maritime/amphibious operations, capability development, and interoperability. The symposium consisted of group briefings and discussions, scenario-based exercises, as well as multi-national participant observation of an amphibious landing as part of Culebra Koa 15, a joint seabasing exercise that took place in Hawaii during the symposium. Engagements in the Indo-Asia Pacific such as PALS and other exercises result in better training and interoperability with our friends and partners throughout the region; they also pave the way for enhanced regional stability and economic ties beneficial to all.

**THEMES: Interoperability, partnerships, crisis response, collective security**

## MESSAGES

**Interoperability:** Engagements in the Indo-Asia Pacific such as PALS and other exercises result in better training and interoperability with our friends and partners throughout the region; they also pave the way for enhanced regional stability and economic ties beneficial to all.

**Maintain Enduring Partnerships:** Transparency in showcasing our capabilities helps strengthen our relationships with the countries in the region helping to foster greater stability and prosperity.

**Crisis response:** Amphibious forces, coming from the sea and into the littorals, can rapidly move to a position to influence potential crises without forcing escalation or aggravating sovereignty concerns.

**Collective security:** All countries in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region have experienced economic prosperity largely because of the security and stability that exists at sea. Freedom of movement in the maritime domain is essential to a healthy and prosperous region. Our economies, lives and mutual interest are more intertwined now than ever before.

## Q&As

### **Q1. How many people are attending PALS-15?**

A1. Invitations were sent to 26 allied and partner Marine Corps, Naval Infantries and militaries with an interest in amphibious capability development to send two participating representatives each to PALS-15; 23 of those nations are scheduled to participate.

### **Q2. How did you decide which nations to invite to PALS-15?**

A2. Invitations were based on a nation's presence or proximity to the Pacific region and their interest or potential interest in developing amphibious capabilities. Additionally, other nations with interests in the region and that same interest in or an existing amphibious capability were invited to participate.

### **Q3. The PALS-15 demonstrations appear to be about combat power. Is PALS-15 (or Culebra Koa) meant to send a warning or message to China (or the People's Liberation Army)?**

A3. What we are demonstrating and discussing at PALS-15 is the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps team's capabilities that are applicable to the entire range of military options. We are showing these capabilities to the PALS-15 audience to better uncover areas of shared common interest where we can train together with similar or complementary capabilities. Every nation is unique in their interests, and in what areas they are interested in training with us. We hope to learn from the PALS-15 participants what their areas of interest are, and how we can better train together.

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<https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/PALS>

**POINT OF CONTACT**

MARFORPAC PA: Mr. Chuck Little, comm: (808) 477-8309, email: [chuck.little@usmc.mil](mailto:chuck.little@usmc.mil).

## PACIFIC REORIENTATION

### QUOTE

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

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

### TALKING POINTS

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

## **PACIFIC REORIENTATION (CONT'D)**

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

### **DVIDS Feature Page**

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

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

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



## **POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS**

1JANUARY2015

### **BACKGROUND**

Behavioral Health integration efforts are based on the Institute of Medicine's Prevention as a Continuum of Care Model and focus on the common risk and protective factors framework. These efforts enhance the level of support behavioral health stakeholders, commanders, and other leaders can offer to Marines and their families by increasing access to care and use of programs, enhancing understanding of emerging and evolving trends in data, increasing clinical efficiency through technological solutions, and developing new universal training products based on evidence-based practices.

### **TALKING POINTS**

**TP1.** Seeking help for stress and other issues is a sign of strength. It takes courage to reach out for assistance during the stressful times of a Marine's life.

**TP2.** Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) may be diagnosed as a disorder (PTSD) if the symptoms become severe or persistent and negatively impact a Marine's ability to function in the military environment.

**TP3.** Although most Marines with PTS symptoms will not develop PTSD, the entire Marine Corps takes seriously the responsibility to help Marines and their loved ones handle stress regardless of cause. Stress may be a response to high operational tempo, deployments, and service in combat, or issues outside of the military from life prior to joining the Corps.

**TP4.** Operational Stress Control and Readiness (OSCAR) Team Training builds teams of Marine leaders, medical providers, mental health professionals, and religious ministry personnel within each battalion-sized unit. This training assists commanders in maintaining their warfighting capabilities by preventing, identifying, and mitigating combat and operational stress issues as early as possible. Enhanced resilience, achieved through training and improved physical and psychological fitness, can decrease PTS.

**TP5.** We are thoroughly screening all Sailors and Marines prior to expeditionary deployment, enhancing the delivery of care in theater, and working to identify and provide counseling for all at-risk individuals returning from deployment.

**TP6.** As Marine leaders, we have the responsibility to take care of all Marines and their families both on and off the battlefield. This responsibility includes helping Marines and their loved ones handle stress caused by today's high operational tempo, deployments, and service in combat.

**TP7.** Enhanced resilience, achieved through training and improved physical and psychological fitness, can decrease post-traumatic stress, decrease the incidence of undesirable and destructive behaviors, and lead to greater likelihood for good health, personal growth and life satisfaction

**TP8.** Most service members who receive psychological health support improve and remain on active duty.

### **WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- Marine and Family Programs Behavioral Health: [www.manpower.usmc.mil/familyprograms](http://www.manpower.usmc.mil/familyprograms)
- DCoE's Real Warriors Campaign: [www.realwarriors.net](http://www.realwarriors.net)
- The DSTRESS Line: [www.dstressline.com](http://www.dstressline.com) and chat access is 1-877-476-7734

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- Behavioral Health Information Network (BHIN) <http://bhin.usmc-mccs.org/>
- Veterans Crisis Line: [www.veteranscrisisline.net/](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/) and chat access is 1-800-273-8255

**POINT OF CONTACT**

- Ms. Heather J. Hagan, PAO, Marine and Family Programs Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, 703-432-1544, [heather.hagan@usmc.mil](mailto:heather.hagan@usmc.mil)
- Capt. Maureen Krebs, HQMC PA, (703) 614-4309, [maureen.krebs@usmc.mil](mailto:maureen.krebs@usmc.mil)

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

### **BACKGROUND**

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

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

### **TALKING POINTS**

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

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

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

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

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

## RECRUITING

### RECRUITING 101 BACKGROUND

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

### RECRUITING 101 TALKING POINTS

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

## **RECRUITING (CONT'D)**

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

### **DVIDS Unit Page**

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

### **POINTS OF CONTACT**

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## **RESTRUCTURED SPECIAL DUTY ASSIGNMENT PAY**

### **BACKGROUND**

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

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

### **STATEMENT**

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

### **TALKING POINTS**

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

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

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

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

- Alan Hargis, Manpower and Reserve Affairs Policy Division, Military Compensation Coordinator, 703-784-9386, [alan.hargis@usmc.mil](mailto:alan.hargis@usmc.mil)
- Yvonne Carlock, M&RA Deputy PAO, 703-784-9047, [yvonne.carlock@usmc.mil](mailto:yvonne.carlock@usmc.mil)

## **SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM 2015**

### **BACKGROUND**

Since January 2015, MARFORSOUTH began its fourth year of persistent security cooperation team support to U.S. Southern Command. Four Security Cooperation teams in the countries of Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, 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 15.1 is comprised of approximately 20 Marines and Sailors (Navy Corpsmen) who are working in the Central American Region. SC TEAM 15.1 is split up into four smaller detachments consisting of subject matter experts who will be distributed across four countries—Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. The detachments are conducting partnered training with designated military units within these countries. SC TEAM 15.1 is sourced from various units from throughout the Marine Corps, and bring a variety of military occupational skills that will be employed into the mid-summer timeframe. During this timeframe SC TEAM 15.1 will rotate with Special-Purpose Marine, Air, Ground Task Force-South that will continue to build upon established successes.

### **THEMES AND MESSAGES**

T1: 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
- Shared values, shared challenges, and shared responsibility form the cornerstone of the partnerships we forge throughout the Western Hemisphere.
- We are ready to address transnational security challenges through integrated and coordinated approaches with our partners.

T2: Engage 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&A's**

Q1. What is an SC Team?

A1. SC Team 15.1 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. Was the SC Team sent to Central America to make up for partner nation deficiencies?

A2. No. SC Team 15.1 is here to provide different avenues of training to (insert partner-nation military), but this is a two-way street. Our teams bring 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. For how long will the SC Team be deployed?

A3. SC Team 15.1 will be deployed for about six months where they will rotate with another team of trainers who will continue to build upon established successes.

Q4. What is this SC Team comprised of?

A4. The Team is comprised of approximately 20 Marines and Sailors possessing an array of military occupational specialties and sourced from various different units throughout the Marine Corps.

Q5. Will they all be operating together at all times?

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A5. 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.

Q6. What type of missions will they train for specifically?

A6. Each detachment will train each of our partner nations based on their specific need of those units.

Q7. Will anyone from the SC Team be involved in actual CTOC, CD or CIT operations?

A7. 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.

Q8. In which specific towns will the SC Teams be operating?

A8. In order to protect Operational Security, I can't give specifics on where our forces will operate.

**POINT OF CONTACT:** Capt. Armando A. Daviu, Armando.a.daviu.mil@mail.mil, COMM: 305-437-2554, DSN: 312-567-2554.



## **SEMPER FIT & RECREATION**

**01MARCH2015**

### **BACKGROUND**

More than 14 million patrons visit Semper Fit & Recreation facilities world-wide comprised of 83 total programs and 612 facilities and areas of recreation. Semper Fit & Recreation must adapt, evolve and innovate in order to be ready for tomorrow's battles and to continue to reflect what the nation expects from the Marine Corps. Semper Fit & Recreation promotes healthy lifestyles and active living by providing activities for Marines and families to connect to their community. Semper Fit ensures quality support for deployed Marines, combat readiness, and strengthen resiliency through unit driven programs and services such as aquatics, fitness, sports and outdoor recreation.

### **TALKING POINTS**

- Aquatics Maximum Power Intense Training (AMP-IT) is an in-water physical training program that consists of a variety of scientifically-proven, high-intensity exercises provided in an aquatic workout in rehabilitating and reconditioning injured military personnel.
- High Intensity Tactical Training (HITT) is focused on physical resiliency and combat readiness. There are 100 pre-designed workouts for any combat conditioning leader and fitness specialist. Phases of work out include pre-deployment, deployment, and post-deployment, or building your own workout templates, the Marine can fully develop and maintain their physical readiness and resiliency.
- The HITT program is available through a website and mobile application providing Marines with a virtual resource to implement the program and bring it to their fingertips. The website for HITT is [WWW.USMC-MCCS.ORG/HITT](http://WWW.USMC-MCCS.ORG/HITT) and the free mobile app can be downloaded to any mobile device by visiting iTunes or Google Play.
- The Operation Adrenaline Rush (OAR) program combines Combat and Operational Stress Control (COSC) principles to assist Marines re-integration by maintaining combat readiness, reinforcing unit cohesion with an Outdoor Recreation Adventure Activity to aid in mitigating boredom and high-risk behavior of recently deployed Marines.

### **WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

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

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

01JUNE2015

### **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), according to the 2014 RAND Military Workplace Study.
- 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 that are often associated with retaliation. Service-specific numbers regarding retaliation are not available.
- 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.
- Compared to other service members, Marine women were the most likely to experience sexual harassment violations and gender discrimination. Male and female Marines overall (not just sexual assault victims) regard sexual harassment and gender discrimination as more common than most other service members of the same gender; only in the Army was sexual harassment perceived as more common.
- 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.

### **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.

**TP2.** Despite these promising data trends, the Marine Corps is careful not to confuse progress with victory. We must continue to increase reporting and decrease prevalence. In addition, the Annual Report underscores that more efforts and improvement are needed in specific areas. Prevalence is still relatively high among female Marines; reporting is low among male Marines; perceived victim retaliation is a problem across the DOD; and issues such as sexual harassment appear to be more closely linked to sexual assault than highlighted in the past.

**TP3.** The number of sexual assaults in our ranks, while trending downward, is not acceptable and in direct opposition to our core values of honor, courage and commitment. Even one sexual assault is too many. We owe it to each Marine to provide world-class victim services, to hold offenders appropriately accountable, and most importantly, to enact programs that will lead to the prevention of this crime.

**TP4.** The Marine Corps takes allegations and acts of retaliation seriously. We recognize the detrimental impact retaliation has on our victims and on unit readiness. In order to protect our nation's interests anywhere in the world at a moment's notice, we must remain faithful to our fellow Marines.

Retaliatory behavior—whether on duty, on liberty, or online—negatively impacts unit cohesion and detracts from our combat readiness. It has no place in our Corps.

- While Marines of all ranks are responsible for preventing retaliation, our small unit leaders are ultimately the center of gravity. In our service-wide campaign to address retaliation we will continue to provide unit leaders with the tools needed—including policy, training, and guidance—to accomplish their mission.

**TP5.** 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.

- For example, a four-part series of public service announcements featuring a diverse group of well-regarded enlisted Marines was launched in April 2015 on Marine Corps social media sites. These videos address male victims of sexual assault, hazing-related sexual assaults, bystander intervention, and retaliation.

**TP6.** The FY14 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the military highlights several areas of concern besides sexual assault, including retaliation, sexual harassment, gender discrimination, and hazing. The Marine Corps is taking immediate and long-term steps to further address these issues, with the recognition that they do not occur in the context of one issue such as sexual assault and thus require a multidisciplinary approach.

**TP7.** The role of the commander is central to sexual assault prevention. Commanding officers are charged with setting and enforcing a command climate that is non-permissive to sexual assault and that upholds the spirit and intent of orders and regulations governing the conduct of our duties.

- There is no evidence that removing a commanders' convening and disposition authority would have a favorable impact on sexual assault prevention or accountability. In fact, because judge advocates outside the chain of command are not responsible for the unit, they may be less likely to refer a case if the likelihood of conviction is insufficient.

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

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

#### **POINT OF CONTACT**

- Maj Rob Dolan, Marine and Reserve Affairs PAO, 703-784-9047, [thomas.dolan@usmc.mil](mailto: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

- 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
- 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).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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>

### POINT OF CONTACT/SOURCING

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

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

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

### **KEY POINTS**

- SPMAGTF-CR-AF is a rotational contingent of approximately 800 Marines, sailors and support elements sourced from a variety of Marine Corps units to include II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. Its organic assets include 12 MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft, four KC-130J Hercules aerial refueling tankers, one UC-12, a logistics and sustainment element, and a reinforced company of infantry Marines. SPMAGTF-CR-AF is commanded by Col. Thomas B. Savage.
- SPMAGTF-CR-AF is a self-command and controlled, self-deploying, and highly mobile crisis response force allocated to U.S. Africa Command to respond to missions in permissive and uncertain environments to protect U.S. personnel, property, and interests in the AFRICOM area of responsibility.
- In addition to the forces positioned at Moron Air Base, an infantry company of Marines subordinate to SPMAGTF-CR-AF is positioned out of MK, Romania. The company is not attached to Black Sea Rotational Force, also at MK. This company is also allocated to USAFRICOM in order to provide additional rapid response forces to the African continent.
- SPMAGTF-CR-AF is postured to respond to a broad range of military operations in the AFRICOM region, including: U.S. Embassy reinforcement, fixed-site security, non-combatant evacuation operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel, theater security cooperation, and other missions as directed. Additionally, SPMAGTF-CR-AF can serve as the lead element, or the coordination node, for a larger joint/combined element.
- SPMAGTF-CR-AF also conducts military-to-military training exercises throughout 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.
- This unit is unique amongst other crisis response forces because it possesses an organic aviation capability that allows for SPMAGTF-CR-AF to self-deploy.
- The current Command Element is sourced from 2nd Marine Regiment, along with several augments from II Marine Expeditionary Force. The Air Combat Element is comprised of: VMM-266 from New River, N.C. and VMGR-252 from Cherry Point, N.C. The Ground Combat Element is comprised of four companies (Echo, Fox, Golf, and Weapons Co.) sourced from 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment. The LCE Detachment is comprised of Marines and Sailors from Marine Wing Support Squadron 272.

### **POINTS OF CONTACT:**

- 1stLt Danielle Dixon, SPMAGTF-CR-AF PAO DSN: 314-722-8229; [danielle.dixon.1@us.af.mil](mailto:danielle.dixon.1@us.af.mil)

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

### **BACKGROUND**

The Marines and sailors of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command 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 insertion and sustainment of the Advise and Assist and Build Partner Capacity missions aboard Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.

Aside from operations directly supporting OIR, SPMAGTF-CR-CC provides diplomatic security forces to U.S. embassies in multiple countries and worked 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: Cougar Voyager (Kuwait), Iron Magic (U.A.E.), Red Reef (Saudi Arabia) and Eager Resolve (Kuwait).

In its first iteration, the unit accomplished the following significant achievements: first Marine Corps aircraft to fly missions over Syria, first Marine Corps aircraft to conduct strikes in Iraq and Syria, first OIR personnel recovery force, and the creation, operation and sustainment of the first conventional Building Partner Capacity mission in Iraq.

### **THEMES AND MESSAGES**

#### **Theme:** 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.

#### **Theme:** 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 joint military training with regional partners strengthens our strategic relationships and enhances regional stability.

#### **Theme:** Engagement

- SPMAGTF-CR-CC continues to provide a crisis response force to the Marine component and Combatant Commander, ready to respond as contingencies occur.
- SPMAGTF-CR-CC's core mission set provides operational flexibility to the CENTCOM AOR, with forces actively training the Iraqi Security Forces in Iraq, providing TRAP and airstrike support to Operation Inherent Resolve, and supporting other TSC events concurrently.

#### **Unit Makeup**

- Command Element-7<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment Headquarters; Col Jay Barger, Commanding Officer
- Aviation Command Element- VMGR-352 (KC-130); VMM-165 (MV-22); VMA-232 (F/A-18)
- Ground Combat Element- 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment
- Logistics Combat Element- Combat Logistics Battalion 7

**Point of contact:** 1stLt Matthew Gregory, SPMAGTF-CR-CC PAO, [matthew.gregory@me.usmc.mil](mailto:matthew.gregory@me.usmc.mil)  
DSN: 302-324-9256

## **SPECIAL-PURPOSE MAGTF-SOUTHERN COMMAND**

**BACKGROUND:** June 2015 to approximately November 2015, U.S Marine Corps Forces, South will support the SPMAFTF-SC deployment of 280 Marines and sailors to the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility. The purpose of this deployment is to conduct Security Cooperation in order to support USSOUTHCOM and Country Team objectives, while being prepared to provide emergency response and other requirements as directed by the Combatant Commander.

SPMAGTF-SC is scheduled to work in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to build upon the success of security cooperation efforts and established relationships within the region. SPMAGTF-SC is sourced mainly II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. This deployment will enable our partners to improve the security of their populations and be able to provide humanitarian assistance/disaster relief in case of a major disaster.

### **THEMES AND MESSAGES**

#### **Small and temporary presence**

-The SPMAGTF-SC is a temporary deployment from June-November coordinated closely with our partners in the region, with their consent and close cooperation.

- SPMAGTF-SC is the first Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task force solely dedicated to the USSOUTHCOM area of responsibility on a temporary basis.

- SPMAGTF-SC is small in size, approximately 280 Marines and Sailors across the region, with capabilities that will support engineering assistance projects in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Belize; and will be available to support disaster relief and disaster preparedness if tasked to do so by the U.S. Government.

#### **Partnerships**

-The imperative of partnerships underscores everything we do.

-Our approach is based on partnerships — partnerships based on shared values, shared challenges, and shared responsibility

-Shared values, shared challenges, and shared responsibility form the cornerstone of the partnerships we forge throughout the Western Hemisphere.

-While we hone our expeditionary skills, our partners hone theirs.

- SPMAGTF-SC's air element will self-deploy four CH-53E helicopters and personnel to Soto Cano to provide integral and host nation air support.

- SPMAGTF-SC's ground element will operate from disparate locations throughout northern Central America; its integral Security Cooperation Team will conduct a seamless transition with the currently deployed SC Team, to maintain a persistent presence with the Brigadas de Infantería de Marina (BIM) in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, as well as with the Belize Defense Force/Belize Coast Guard.

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- SPMAGTF-SC will conduct military-to-military training /exercises throughout Central America, primarily focusing on building partner nation capacity. These partnerships are at the core of dealing with regional issues and overcoming shared challenges within the region.

-(**Honduras Only**) SPMAGTF-SC will participate in various community service events in Gracias a Dios and training exercises with their counterparts in the Honduran military, which will include building schools.

**POINT OF CONTACT**

Capt. Armando A. Daviu, U.S. Marine Corps Forces South Public Affairs;  
[Armando.a.daviu.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Armando.a.daviu.mil@mail.mil); (305) 437-2554



## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM**

**01MARCH2015**

### **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.** April is Alcohol Awareness Month. This year's theme is "For the Health of It: Early Education on Alcoholism and Addiction." Each April since 1987, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) selects a theme to increase public awareness of the devastating individual, family, and community consequences of alcohol abuse and to reduce stigma in seeking help.

**TP2.** 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.

**TP3.** 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.

**TP4.** Counseling services for Substance Use Disorders (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.

### **RESOURCES/WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- Marine and Family Programs Division website: [www.manpower.usmc.mil/familyprograms](http://www.manpower.usmc.mil/familyprograms)
- DSTRESS Line 877-476-7734, or website: [www.dstressline.com](http://www.dstressline.com)
- Military One Source website: [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil)

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

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

## **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 tenants 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 Eric Flanagan, Media Officer, (703) 614-4309, eric.flanagan@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. Engaged leaders are alert to those at risk for suicide and are ready to take action to help Marines address issues, foster hope and connectedness. Each tragic loss to suicide has far reaching impact on families, friends, and Marines left behind. At the unit level, suicide effects morale, unit cohesion, and ultimately unit effectiveness and readiness of Marines.

### **TALKING POINTS:**

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

- Appearing 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

**TP2.** A common misconception is that people consider suicide for a singular reason but there are common risk factors and triggers that should not be ignored such as 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.

**TP3.** 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.

**TP4.** The DSTRESS Line provides Marines, attached Sailors and family members “one of their own” to speak with about everyday stress or their heaviest burdens. DSTRESS 24/7 services are anonymous. The hotline phone number is 1-877-476-7734 and the website for chat access is [www.dstressline.com](http://www.dstressline.com). DSTRESS is also available through Skype.

**TP5.** Marine Corps behavioral health providers are formally required to use evidenced-based tools for suicide risk assessment and the abatement of risk. The Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS) is effective in identifying those at risk for suicide and can be used to inform the most appropriate initial response in getting help. The Veteran’s Affairs Safety Plan (VASP) is collaboratively developed with any person at risk, providing them a personalized plan for managing distress and suicidal thoughts. Use of the Virtual Hope Box (VHB) smartphone application has been integrated into VASP training as an excellent adjunct to a safety plan. The VHB contains simple tools to help with coping, relaxation, distraction, and positive thinking. All professionals interacting with a population at increased risk should have enhanced skills in suicide risk identification and response. As such, the Marine Corps offers C-SSRS and VASP training to Chaplains, Legal Officers, victim advocates, substance abuse counselors, family advocates, financial counselors, and other professionals.

**TP6.** Conquering Stress with Strength (CSWS): A 3.5 hour practical application workshop facilitated by partnership between Behavioral Health and Family Readiness. It is the first available Marine Corps family-focused training providing skills to effectively respond to high-stress situations; including suicide prevention. By recognizing the effects of their own stress reactions Marine Corps family members empower themselves to respond to high-stress situations effectively. CSWS responds to the "National

Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015" (NDAA FY15) and is currently the only workshop available that teaches families skills for identifying and responding to risk of suicide.

**TP7.** The summer months are the highest risk period for suicide in the Marine Corps. The HQMC 2015 Summer Suicide Prevention Campaign is designed to increase knowledge of available resources and support Commanders in caring for Marines. Transitions during the summer months can erode support networks, increasing risk and decreasing readiness for Marines and family members already managing stressors. Through dissemination of information and strategic communication, the campaign encourages help-seeking behaviors and dispels misconceptions about suicide. The campaign will equip leaders with actionable tools (i.e. smart sheets and others) to promote belongingness and other safety enhancements during the PCS season.

**WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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

**POINT OF CONTACT:**

- Ms. Heather J. Hagan, Marine and Family Programs Division, Headquarters, PAO, 703-784-9521, [heather.hagan@usmc.mil](mailto:heather.hagan@usmc.mil)

## **TRANSITION ASSISTANCE**

01MARCH2015

### **BACKGROUND**

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

### **TALKING POINTS**

**TP1.** Personal Readiness Seminar (PRS) is the newest four hour mandatory training on personal and professional development programs and services, as well as an introductory on finance topics. PRS highlights the modernized online portal called eBenefits that provides access to all Veterans Affairs benefits. Also, PRS offers credentialing opportunities, military skills translation, career and education, how to interpret a personal assessment, and the importance of developing an individual development plan to equip Marines for their future.

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

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

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

### **WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

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

## **FISCAL YEAR 2015 TUITION ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES** 1JANUARY2015

### **BACKGROUND**

The Marine Corps is actively engaged in providing Tuition Assistance (TA) to our Marines in accordance with Department of Defense guidance. TA is intended to encourage personnel to voluntarily attend courses delivered by accredited civilian educational institutions on campus, at resident centers, on military installations or through distance learning during their off-duty time.

### **TALKING POINTS**

**TP1.** Change 3 to Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1322.25 implemented on July 7, 2014, changed the Office of the Secretary of Defense's (OSD) policy on minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) and the requirement for schools receiving TA to sign new Memorandum of Understanding with OSD.

**TP2.** Fiscal Year 2015 clarified eligibility controls for TA include:

- Marines assigned to a Military Occupational School or residential Professional Military Education (i.e. Command and Staff College, Cpl Course, Sgt Course, Career Course, etc.) are not authorized receipt of TA until they return to their regular or permanent duty (Clarified language from FY14).
- Marines may not actively participate in more than two TA-funded classes simultaneously (Clarified language from FY14).
- Marines using TA must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher after completing 15 semester hours for undergraduate students; or GPA of 3.0 or higher after completing 6 semester hours for graduate students. If the GPA for TA-funded courses falls below minimum GPA limits, TA will not be authorized and Marines must seek alternative funding to enroll in additional classes to raise the GPA (New based on DODI requirements).
- TA funds will be recouped from Marines for "D" and "F" grades, unresolved incomplete "I" courses, and voluntary withdrawal "W" courses (Updated based on DODI requirements).
- TA is not authorized for graduate studies beyond the Master's degree level (New based on DODI requirements).
- TA is authorized only for tuition charges. Marines are responsible for non-tuition fees including, but not limited to, costs associated with room and board, distance learning fees, equipment, supplies, books/ materials, exams, insurance, parking, transportation, admissions, registration, or fines (New based on DODI requirements).

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

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## 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**

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Communications between victims and VLC are confidential.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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**

- Major J.C. Olson, USMC, Deputy OIC, VLCO, [jahn.olson@usmc.mil](mailto:jahn.olson@usmc.mil)

## **2015 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WARRIOR GAMES**

- The 2015 Department of Defense Warrior Games are a Paralympic-style sport competition for 240 wounded, ill, and injured (WII) service members and veterans. The 2015 DoD Warrior Games will take place June 19-28, 2015 at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia.
- The Warrior Games, founded in 2010, are designed to introduce wounded, ill, and injured service members and veterans to adaptive sports, encourage them to stay physically active when they return to their local communities, and inspire and promote opportunities for growth and achievement.
- The games are an opportunity for families and caregivers of wounded, ill and injured service members to share common experiences and celebrate the accomplishments of their service members and families overcoming adversity and thriving.
- The 2015 DoD Warrior Games feature eight adaptive sports: archery, cycling, field, shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming, track, and wheelchair basketball.
- The 2015 DoD Warrior Games include teams from the Army, Air Force, Navy/Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Special Operations Command, and British Allied Forces.
- Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded to first, second, and third place winners in their respective physical categories and team events. The Chairman's Cup is awarded to the best overall performances (based on total points accumulated) by a team.
- Wounded, ill, and injured service members and veterans qualify for the 2015 DoD Warrior Games by participating in structured camps, clinics, trials, and daily adaptive sports activities – executed nationwide with support from the Office of Warrior Care Policy Military Adaptive Sports Program (MASP).
- For more information the 2015 Department of Defense Warrior Games website is <http://www.defense.gov/warriorgames>

### **POINTS OF CONTACT**

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Victoria Long, Warrior Games Public Affairs; 703-784-3418 or [victoria.long@usmc.mil](mailto:victoria.long@usmc.mil)



## WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT

### TALKING POINTS

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

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

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

### **POINTS OF CONTACT**

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