



Division of Public Affairs Current News Playbook

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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.

POINT OF CONTACT/SOURCING

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

Current As of: Wednesday, August 08, 2012



MARINE CORPS 101

QUOTE

“The Marine Corps is America’s Expeditionary Force in Readiness – a balanced air-ground-logistics team. We are forward deployed and forward engaged: shaping, training, deterring and responding to all manner of crises and contingencies. We create options and decision space for our Nation’s leaders. Alert and ready, we respond to today’s crisis with today’s force.....TODAY.” – **Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps**

TALKING POINTS

- The Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) is the Marine Corps’ principal organization for conducting missions across the range of military operations. MAGTFs provide combatant commanders with scalable, versatile expeditionary forces.
- Marine Expeditionary Units (MEU) operate continuously across the globe and provide the President and the unified combatant commanders with a forward-deployed, flexible sea-based MAGTF. MEUs are capable of conducting amphibious operations, crisis response and limited contingency operations.
- There are approximately 196,200 active-duty Marines, with 26,800 Marines deployed across the globe (~15,600 in Afghanistan).
- For 8.2% of the FY12 DoD Budget, the Marine Corps provides the Nation with:
 - 15% of Active Ground Maneuver Brigades
 - 11% of the Fighter/Attack Aircraft
 - 18% of the Attack Helicopters
 - Seven flexible and scalable MEUs
- Approximately 37% of Marines are lance corporals and below – our most junior ranks in the Marine Corps.
- Approximately 61% of Marines are 25-years-old or younger.
- Approximately 6% of our Marines are female.
- Fewer than one out of every nine Marines is an officer.
- View the latest Marine Corps 101 Presentation:
<http://www.marines.mil/Documents/MarineCorps101.pdf>
- Watch the CMC speak at the Naval War College on the state of Corps:
<http://www.pentagonchannel.mil/?pid=q4QHf7TEJYA2SWqBjv0n94gCBOXDKHH&player=Go vDelivery>

POINT OF CONTACT/SOURCING

- HQMC DivPA, 703-614-4309, ontherecord@usmc.mil
- Sourced via Marine Corps Concepts & Programs 2011 and [CMC statement](#) on the release of the defense budget

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ACTIVE DENIAL SYSTEM

QUOTE

"As the Executive Agent of the Department of Defense's Non-Lethal Weapons Program, I am encouraged by the progress that the directorate, U.S. Air Force and our partners in industry have made in the development of the Active Denial System (ADS). In today's complex operating environments, we must provide commanders a greater range of escalation-of-force options to accomplish the mission and reduce civilian casualties and collateral damage. I remain committed to ensuring that the Department of Defense's leadership is aware of the state-of-the-art technology that is available to the joint force today and am bullish about the role of systems such as ADS and how they may play in future operations." – **Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps**

BACKGROUND

The Active Denial System (ADS) was developed to assist our operating forces in minimizing civilian casualties and collateral damage. More than 15 years of research and 11,800 exposures from volunteers demonstrate effectiveness and minimal risk of injury. To date, the DoD has built two systems, ADS1 and ADS2, as part of an Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration (ACTD). The purpose of the ACTD was to rapidly configure the technology and allow user assessments. The DoD continues to evolve the technology, looking to reduce size and weight while retaining operational effectiveness.

There continues to be interest in operationally using the capability world-wide. ADS2 is maintained in a ready-state to support user requests. The ADS will support a full spectrum of operations ranging from non-lethal methods of crowd dispersal, checkpoint security, perimeter security, area denial, and port and infrastructure protection.

TALKING POINTS

- The CMC is the Executive Agent of the DoD Non-Lethal Weapons Program.
- The ADS may assist our operating forces in minimizing casualties and collateral damage.
- The Active Denial System is an advanced, long-range non-lethal, directed energy, counter-personnel capability that projects a man-sized (1.5 m) beam of millimeter waves (not microwaves) at a range up to 1,000 meters.
- The ADS induces a temporary and reversible heating sensation to the skin to repel individuals with minimal risk of injury.
- Potential applications of the Active Denial System include static defense, area denial, suppression of vehicle and vessel operators or occupants, critical asset protection, and crowd control.

Q&A

Q1: Where is the Active Denial System (ADS) now?

A1: The ADS is currently at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., and is receiving scheduled maintenance and continuous testing and evaluation.

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ACTIVE DENIAL SYSTEM (CONT'D)

Q2: What is in its future? Can you comment if it is going to Afghanistan?

A2: The current system is maintained in a ready state and is available to U.S. operating forces world-wide. There is no formal request to deploy it to Afghanistan at this time.

Q3: Wasn't the ADS deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan?

A3: The ADS was never deployed to Iraq. ADS was deployed to, but not employed in Afghanistan in 2010. Based on a commander's decision at the time, the capability was not needed at that time. The commander on the ground is best suited to decide whether the capability is needed or not.

Q4: Any plans to deploy it any time soon?

A4: There continues to be interest in operationally using the capability world-wide. ADS2 is maintained in a ready state to support user requests.

Q5: How much money has the DoD spent on developing the ADS?

A5: Approximately \$120 million. To purchase another ADS1 or ADS2 in a low quantity would cost approximately \$10 million. It is important to note that it is a bottomless magazine, as long as you have fuel, you project the directed energy. We are investing in saving lives.

Q6: Does this system work like a microwave oven?

A6: No. The ADS, a non-lethal directed-energy weapon, projects a very short duration (on the order of a few seconds) focused beam of millimeter waves at a frequency of 95 gigahertz (GHz). A microwave oven operates at 2.45 GHz. At the much higher frequency of 95 GHz, the associated directed energy wavelength is very short and only physically capable of reaching a skin depth of about 1/64 of an inch. A microwave oven operating at 2.45 GHz has a much longer associated wave length, on the order of several inches, which allows for greater penetration of material and efficiency in heating food. The ADS provides a quick and reversible skin surface heating sensation that does not penetrate into the target.

Q7: Is the Active Denial System legal?

A7: Yes. The technology has undergone a full legal and treaty review and has been found to be compliant with the international legal obligations of the United States. These legal obligations include the law of war treaties and arms control agreements to which the United States is a party, customary international law, domestic law and U.S. policy. These reviews have determined there are no legal prohibitions to the development and use of this technology when it is employed properly and in accordance with appropriate tactics, techniques and procedures.

WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://jnlwp.defense.gov>

POINT OF CONTACT

Ms. Kelley Hughes, DoD Non-Lethal Weapons Program, Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate, 703-432-0905, kelley.hughes@usmc.mil

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AFGHANISTAN

QUOTES

“Without any doubt, as a result of the joint cooperation and operations of the Afghan national security forces, and the coalition forces and the international forces in Afghanistan, the situation in Helmand has been improved a lot in the last few years. In 2008, the capital city of Helmand province, Lashkar Gah, was surrounded by enemies. The districts of Khanashin, Washir, Nawzad and Reg were under control of the enemy. In the rest of districts, we have very limited presence of the governments, the district centers just by the checkpoints. The members of these forces was very unprofessional. There were a lot of drug addicted members in the police forces, and we only had one brigade of the Afghan Army at that time. The development of the Helmand province coalition forces and establishment of the 215 Corps of the Afghan National Army, day by day, the security forces of Helmand province improved. Very important and useful joint operations were conducted in Marjah and Nad Ali, which broke the backbone of the enemy.” – **Governor Mohammad Gulab Mangal, Helmand Province**

“Our mission's evolving. We're moving – we're moving out of the lead for the counterinsurgency and moving more and more into a security force assistance role, whereby we're providing partnerships where necessary, we're providing advisers and mentors to the Afghan army and to the Afghan police, as well, and as well as taking care of any of the enablers that they just haven't had the opportunity to develop at this point in time. We're on track with executing our portion of the phase two surge recovery, and we're reshaping our presence to be in a position to support the Afghans as they move into the lead across the province. We also continue to work very closely with the regional platform out of the State Department and also out of the Helmand provincial reconstruction team, as they continue to work to build better governance, and also to build sustainable development.” – **MajGen Charles M. Gurganus, Commanding General of I MEF (FWD) & ISAF's Regional Command Southwest**

“One thing that I would ask you to remember is, as I told you earlier, we have a – we have a very competent Afghan National Army Corps out here. We've only had that Corps out here since about 2009. As I told you, it was a brigade at that point in time. It has come a long way in the three years that we've had it. And a lot of people say – a lot of people seem to think that we only have two-and-a-half years left until the end of 2014. We look at that as, we still got two-and-a-half years. And we know we can accomplish a lot in further development of capabilities. And so I'm pretty positive about this, as well. There's just a lot of things going in the right direction. Again, not always fast. Sometimes there's a step forward; sometimes there's a step backwards. But it's always – we always seem at the end of the day to make forward progress with everything we're doing.” – **MajGen Charles M. Gurganus, Commanding General of I MEF (FWD) & ISAF's Regional Command Southwest**

“As a result [of the signing of the Strategic Partnership Agreement], many Taliban are rethinking their long-held 'narrative,' which is that they can just wait the conflict out and then move into 'a very quiet battle space' in a few years. If your narrative is 'just wait us out,' [and] you're going to have to wait now for decades ... you're going to start to lose some enthusiasm.” – **Gen John Allen, Commander, International Security Assistance Force - Afghanistan; and Commander, United States Forces - Afghanistan**



AFGHANISTAN (CONT'D)

TALKING POINTS

- The current U.S. plan calls for a drawdown of 23,000 American troops by the end of September and a complete withdrawal by December 2014, when Afghan forces are to take charge of the country's security.
- On Oct. 1, 2012, we will have approximately 68,000 U.S. forces remaining, somewhere around 40,000 ISAF forces, and by then over 330,000 ANSF. Following the recovery of the surge forces, Gen Allen will examine the insurgency, examine the progress that's been made in the development of the ANSF, see the posture of the battle space as it develops through the fighting season in 2012, and then make a recommendation to the chain of command to the chairman and the secretary of defense.
- We have a clear direction on drawdown, but no clear numbers at this time. The numbers the President put out there need to be met. We will have the total forces on the ground we need for the mission.
- Shifting from partnered operations to an advisory role because we are overseeing a drawdown; transitioning away from counter-insurgency operations to Security Assistance. Partnering operations will be conducted on an 'as needed' basis.
- As we enter the 10th year of this struggle, our enemies have told the Afghan people that we are about to quit, that we do not have the will to win – but our deeds will speak louder than their words.
- Embedded trainers will have the ability to call in capabilities the Afghans have not fully developed (air, artillery, etc.).
- As Marines transition away from conducting offensive operations, they will be motivated by their accomplishments as trainers of the Afghan Army, i.e. how good they can make their part of the Afghan Army.
- We are continuing training programs to professionalize all elements of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), and we have placed a particular emphasis on NCOs, Intelligence, CSS and staff planning for junior/mid-grade officers.
- Transition is a process, *not* an event. As the population gains confidence in the government and the government continues to provide security, we will see measurable gains in the ANSF.
- To succeed, we must serve the people of Afghanistan, win their support for Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) and isolate the insurgents. We are in support of GIROA – their plans are paramount.
- Harassing attacks by insurgents do not alter operational planning or have an adverse impact upon the transition process.

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AFGHANISTAN (CONT'D)

- The transition process begins well before ceremonies take place and continues through the following 12-18 months, depending on progress in the province or district.
- The process of transition will continue to be informed by local assessment of military commanders, mentors of key Afghan government institutions at the local level and joint GIRoA/ANSF and ISAF teams.
- Although it remains too early for coalition forces or presence to completely withdraw from all areas that have begun transition, we are seeing that across the board – the ANSF, local governments and, most importantly, the citizens in those areas have welcomed the responsibility and are taking it upon themselves to contribute to the process.
- We will serve the people by protecting them; we will win their support by helping local government build its capacity to address the people's grievances; and we will isolate the insurgents by enabling the legitimacy of the government.
- Our focus now is on the professionalization of the Afghan Police Force and as part of that, there is a renewed emphasis on the recruiting process that requires two village elders to nominate someone who then goes before their Town Hall of village elders. The local elders of a village select men who they feel would represent a good Policing force for the village. These men must have a 'Tashkiera' card which is a government issued identification card that coincides with their birth certificate. After the village completes its nomination process, it goes to the district officials for validation (District Governor, Deputy Chief of Police, and the National Directorate of Security Chief).
- Ultimately, the ability of the government to deliver goods, services and security is what will win the people over and give legitimacy to the whole government.

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- RC-Southwest: <http://www.isaf.nato.int/subordinate-commands/rc-southwest/index.php>
- DVIDS Site for all RC-SW PA content : <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/RC-SW>

POINT OF CONTACT

RC-SW PAO, 9-1-760-846-3019, RCSWPAO@afg.usmc.mil

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AFGHANISTAN URINATION VIDEO INVESTIGATION

BACKGROUND

On or about Jan. 11, an amateur video appeared on the social media site YouTube allegedly depicting four (4) U.S. service members urinating on three dead bodies. Captions included in the video identified the four service members as U.S. Marines and the bodies as deceased Taliban.

A number of senior leaders, to include the Secretary of Defense, Commander of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the Commandant of the Marine Corps issued condemnations of the act portrayed in the video.

LtGen Richard Mills, CG, MCCDC, has been designated the Consolidated Disposition Authority.

STATEMENT

“To date, two investigations into the urination video have been conducted. One was by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, to determine whether any criminal activity had taken place. The other was a command investigation to determine the facts and circumstances surrounding the video and the factors that may have contributed to the incident.

Based on information that came to light during the command investigation, the Commanding General of Marine Corps Combat Development Command determined that further inquiry into possible misconduct by members of the unit involved in the incident depicted in the video was required. This was necessary to have as complete of an understanding as possible of what actions took place. The investigation was conducted by a post-combat command Marine Corps colonel and was completed in June 2012.”

POINT OF CONTACT

Col Sean Gibson, MCCDC PAO, 703-432-8420, Sean.d.gibson@usmc.mil

**** Any queries regarding the Afghanistan Urination Video Investigation should be directed to the point of contact at MCCDC. If pressed, please limit your answer to the statement above and refer the reporter to MCCDC.****

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ALTERNATIVE FUELS

QUOTE

“Simply put, we as a military rely too much on fossil fuels. That dependence creates strategic, operational and tactical vulnerabilities for our forces and makes them susceptible to price and supply shocks caused by either political unrest in the volatile areas of the world where most fossil fuels are produced.” – **Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy, in a 2011 speech to the Clean Energy Summit**

BACKGROUND

The Department of the Navy (DoN) has always valued energy as a strategic resource fundamental to our mission. In 2009, the Secretary of the Navy (SecNav) outlined five energy goals to increase warfighting capability, decrease our dependence on foreign sources of oil, and increase energy security, both strategically and tactically.

One part of that effort includes seeking out alternative fuel sources. Our dependence on foreign oil leaves the DoN vulnerable to price and supply shocks to the oil market. In 2012, the DoN is facing an additional \$939 million shortfall as a result of rising fuel prices. During a 2012 Congressional hearing on Navy Readiness, Navy Vice Admiral William Burke and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics Vice Admiral Kevin McCoy testified that rising fuel prices force the Navy to redirect money from operating accounts that are under executing, which means our Sailors and Marines typically are forced to steam less, fly less and train less.

The United States can and should continue to explore ways to increase domestic oil production, but drilling more oil at home will not protect us from the price shocks of a global market.

TALKING POINTS

- The DoN is testing advanced biofuel to serve as ‘drop-in’ replacements that can be used in existing engines and infrastructure without imposing any costs to modify our entire fleet of ships, aircraft or tactical vehicles.
- Investments in advanced biofuel will produce a competitively priced – and domestically produced – alternative to petroleum and participating in that investment helps the DoN and the nation become less dependent on foreign oil, and as a consequence, less subject to volatility in oil prices that directly affects our readiness.
- By diversifying our fuel supply and moving to a more secure and stable energy supply, we can afford to operate the ships and planes we have today and to build new ones.
- The DoN has completed testing of all its aircraft on a 50/50 blend of biofuel and aviation gas, and the DoN is currently testing all ships. The Navy, through the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), recently purchased 450,000 gallons of biofuel to be used in a demonstration this summer at the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise.

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ALTERNATIVE FUELS (CONT'D)

- During the exercise, alternative fuel blends will be used in operational activities such as underway replenishments (UNREPs) and refueling of aircraft on the deck of our carrier.
- The RIMPAC exercise is an important step toward achieving the SecNav's goal to deploy the Great Green Fleet by 2016.

WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://greenfleet.dodlive.mil/energy/>

POINT OF CONTACT

LT Richlyn Neal, ODASN – Energy, 571-256-7878, richlyn.neal@navy.mil

RELATED BRIEFING CARDS: [Expeditionary Energy](#) and [RIMPAC](#)

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CAMP LEJEUNE HISTORIC DRINKING WATER

BACKGROUND

In the 1980s, certain chemicals, which were unregulated at the time, were detected in wells of two of Camp Lejeune's drinking water distribution systems. The Marine Corps promptly removed these wells from service. The Department of the Navy (DoN) has been working with the state of North Carolina and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since the 1980s to identify and cleanup sites at the base. Independent investigations found no violations of federal law. DoN has worked diligently to identify and notify individuals who may 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.

The President signed the "Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012" into law. The law uses existing administrative mechanisms within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide 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.

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 tragic health issues they believe are associated with the water they used at Camp Lejeune. We are concerned about these individuals, and we are working with leading scientific organizations to seek science-based answers to the health questions that have been raised. We continue our commitment to find and notify those who used the water during the time period in question, and keep them informed regarding the latest scientific and medical information.

FILM "SEMPER FI: ALWAYS FAITHFUL"

Statement by MajGen James A. Kessler, Commander, Marine Corps Installation Command:

The Marine Corps takes very seriously the welfare of all of our Marines, family members, and employees. "Semper Fi: Always Faithful" does not fully address all of the complexities associated with the Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water issues. The Marine Corps was not a part of the production of this movie, but our priority remains working diligently and faithfully to resolve these important issues for our Marine Corps family, which includes those depicted in the film. We are committed to finding a responsible solution to this challenging and complex situation.

The Marine Corps continues to work with leading scientific organizations in an effort to provide comprehensive science-based answers to these health questions. We also continue our commitment to find and notify those who lived or worked aboard Camp Lejeune and we will continue to provide them information regarding the latest reliable scientific and medical findings.

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CAMP LEJEUNE HISTORIC DRINKING WATER (CONT'D)

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. I would encourage those with questions about the current state of the science to contact ATSDR (www.atsdr.cdc.gov) and NRC (www.nationalacademies.org).

The Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water issue is a very important concern for our entire Marine Corps family and a deeply personal matter for me and the Commandant.

The trailer can be viewed online at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Szik8TKE_Hw.

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 180,000 individuals and mailed more than 200,000 direct notifications.
- The Marine Corps relies on the scientific expertise of outside health agencies such as ATSDR and the National Academy of Sciences National Research Council 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 past exposure to the drinking water at Camp Lejeune before 1986.
- This registry summary page had included duplicate registrations in state and regional totals since the page was reactivated on March 28. This page has been updated to reconcile the counting of duplicate registrations from people who have registered more than once. No registrant data or records have been altered or removed from the database, and there has been no impact on the ability of individuals to register.

WEBSITE AND RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [Official Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Website](#)
- [Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Booklet](#) (2012)

POINT OF CONTACT

Capt Kendra Motz, HQMC DivPA, 703-614-4309, kendra.motz@usmc.mil

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DISABILITY EVALUATION SYSTEM PROCESS

QUOTE

“We expect and demand extraordinary loyalty from our Marines — a loyalty to Country, family, and Corps. Our Nation has been at war for a decade, placing unprecedented burdens on Marines, Sailors, families, Wounded Warriors, and the families of the fallen. They have all made tremendous sacrifices in the face of danger. We owe them all a reciprocal level of loyalty. Our approach to caring for their needs is based on the same unwavering faithfulness they have demonstrated to the Marine Corps.” – **Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, 2011 Posture Statement**

BACKGROUND

Consistent with statutory requirements, Department of Defense policy, and the Commandant’s commitment to keep faith with our wounded, ill, and injured (WII), the Marine Corps has been providing legal counsel to Marines and Sailors undergoing the Physical Disability Evaluation System (PDES) process. Providing legal representation when service members are first referred to a Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) ensures their rights are protected, that each receives a fair assessment of his or her medical condition, and that the condition is accurately documented during the MEB process.

TALKING POINTS

- Trained and certified Disability Evaluation System (DES) counsel are uniformed Marine Corps judge advocates who work cooperatively with co-located Navy civilian DES counsel at Camp Lejeune, Camp Pendleton, San Diego, Quantico and Bethesda.
- The Marine Corps DES Counsel Program is centrally managed by the Judge Advocate Division (JAL), Headquarters Marine Corps.
- Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officers (PEBLOs) at Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) inform Marines and Sailors of the availability of counsel and how to contact them.

WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

http://www.marines.mil/unit/judgeadvocate/Pages/DES_Outreach_Counsel_Program.aspx

POINTS OF CONTACT

- HQMC DivPA, Media Team, 703-614-4309, ontherecord@usmc.mil
- Maj Bill Collins, Judge Advocate Division (JAL), 703-614-1266, william.collins@usmc.mil

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DIVERSITY

QUOTE

"We're changing our entire approach. And you might ask, 'Are you going to change your standards?' The answer is 'Hell no.'" – **Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps**

BACKGROUND

Diversity is the aggregate of the varied cultures, backgrounds, talents, skills and abilities among Marines that (1) ensures our connectedness and special relationship with the American public, (2) leverages America's varied pool of skills and abilities, and (3) maximizes individual differences as a force multiplier.¹ Our 35th Commandant states clearly in his Planning Guidance, we will "improve diversity representation throughout our Corps."

To that end, Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC) has an integral role at the accession point. During FY12, MCRC is engaging potential officer applicants, centers of influence and members of society at large in order to create awareness of opportunities within Marine Corps Officer and Enlisted programs and to remain connected with the American public.

These engagement events build lasting relationships among diverse communities, dispel common misconceptions about the Marine Corps and increase overall diversity accessions.² Our survival, status and reputation depend on our special relationship with the American people. Diversity broadens the base of support with the most stakeholders and demonstrates inclusiveness in an ever changing demographic.³ The strategic end-state of the Marines Corps' Diversity Program is to strengthen our connectedness with the American people.⁴

TALKING POINTS

- The effort to improve diversity is rooted in our core values of honor, courage and commitment. These same values that compel Marines to respect others, act with moral, mental and physical bravery while embracing a spirit of determination and dedication also guide our efforts to improve diversity.
- Success in diversity related endeavors will ensure our ability to maximize the total capabilities of the Marine Corps by leveraging the unique strengths of all Marines.
- Rapidly changing demographics will continue to propel diversity forward as a strategic issue. Support from leaders at every level is key, as it is the catalyst required to ensure the Marine Corps continues to be ready, relevant and representative of the nation it serves.

¹ Gen James F. Amos, CMC, "GOS Diversity Update," Remarks at the General Officer Symposium (PowerPoint extract), 13 Oct 2011.

² BGen Joseph L. Osterman, Commanding General Marine Corps Recruiting Command, "Fiscal Year 2012 Total Force Recruiting Operations Plan; Enclosure 13, FY12 Diversity," MCRC, Quantico, VA, email dtd 8 Nov 2011.

³ Gen James F. Amos, CMC, "GOS Diversity Update," Remarks at the General Officer Symposium (PowerPoint extract), 13 Oct 2011.

⁴ Gen James F. Amos, CMC, *Remarks to Marine Corps Recruiting Command's National Commanders' Conference*, San Diego, Calif., 18 Oct. 2011



DIVERSITY (CONT'D)

- Five broad goals illustrate the direction in which the Marine Corps will move in order to confront challenges with diversity. The Marine Corps will:
 - Institutionalize diversity and inclusive policies and practices across the Marine Corps.
 - Maximize the positive effects of the total Marine Corps command climate.
 - Communicate the Marine Corps diversity mission through expanded community engagement, outreach and marketing.
 - Ensure each Marine is provided equitable opportunities for professional development and career progression.
 - Develop training and education packages to increase the Marine Corps' knowledge and understanding of diversity.
- The CMC intends for the Corps to remain true to its forward-looking mindset by setting the expeditionary example for raising mission capability through diversity. The Corps will make a cultural change through policies of inclusion, increasing its institutional knowledge of diversity and, where practical, adopting best practices from other leading organizations.
- The strategic end-state of the Marine Corps' Diversity Program is to strengthen our connectedness with the American people.
- The Marine Corps is committed to making concerted efforts to attract, mentor and retain the most talented men and women who bring a diversity of background, culture and skill in service to our nation.
- The Marine Corps has reinforced its high priority on minority officer recruiting and candidate mentoring in our recruiting efforts.
- The Marine Corps' diversity campaign plan is now in the staffing process. The plan will help the Corps focus its diversity effort in areas where improvement is most needed. Its purpose is to map out a coordinated approach to diversity that will sustain the successes realized throughout the enlisted ranks while laying the foundation to address shortfalls in the officer corps.

POINTS OF CONTACT

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DPRI/PACIFIC REALIGNMENT

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 before 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 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.
- Approximately 9,000 Marines will be relocated from Okinawa, of which approximately 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 (approximately \$3.1 billion in FY12 dollars, due to inflation) towards 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.

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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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- Capt Greg Wolf, HQMC DivPA, 703-614-4309, gregory.wolf@usmc.mil

RELATED BRIEFING CARDS: [Australia Deployment](#), [MV-22 Basing on Okinawa](#) and [UDP Resumption](#)

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DSTRESS LINE CORPS-WIDE EXPANSION

BACKGROUND

The Marine Corps DSTRESS Line provides 24/7, anonymous phone and chat counseling and referral service with a 'Marine-to-Marine' approach. The call center is staffed with veteran Marines and Fleet Marine Force (FMF) Navy Corpsmen who were previously attached to the Marine Corps, Marine spouses and other family members, and licensed behavioral health counselors with specific training in Marine Corps culture. The target audience is Marines, attached Sailors and families.

DSTRESS Line's goal is to help callers improve total fitness and develop the necessary skills required to cope with the widely-varying challenges of life in the Corps.

The DSTRESS Line was tested with a pilot program that began in the Western U.S. on Aug. 15, 2010. The Marine Corps leadership approved the results and the DSTRESS Line expanded to a Corps-wide capability on March 23, 2012.

The phone number and website for chat access remain the same: 1-877-476-7734 and www.dstressline.com. The actual call center contracted through TriWest Healthcare Alliance in Phoenix will remain the same.

Two foundational concepts that distinguish DSTRESS Line from other counseling services:

- Anonymity: Personal identification not required. Callers advised that counselors have a duty to contact appropriate authorities when someone is a danger to themselves or others. Counselors will attempt to gain that information if they perceive a threat.
- 'Marine-to-Marine' counseling: Callers speak with a veteran Marine, veteran FMF Corpsman, Marine family member, or a licensed counselor specifically trained in Marine Corps culture.

STATISTICS (as of 31 May):

- Most calls and chats average 10-20 minutes.
- More than 4,300 calls from August 2010 – February 2012.
- More than 2,200 online chats from February 2011 – February 2012.
- Most common behavioral health reason for contacting the DSTRESS Line: relationship stress. Other common reasons: anxiety, post-traumatic stress, substance abuse and depression leading to suicidal thoughts and actions.
- 29% of calls from active duty personnel have "First Call Resolution."
- 35% of calls are referred to USMC resources (unit leadership, chaplain, Marine Corps Community Services). Other common referrals: Navy Medicine, TRICARE network.

TALKING POINTS

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

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USMC DSTRESS LINE CORPS-WIDE EXPANSION (CONT'D)

- 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.

WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.dstressline.com

POINTS OF CONTACT

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- Col Grant Olbrich, Program Manager, Marine and Family Programs Division, 703-432-9435, grant.olbrich@usmc.mil

RELATED BRIEFING CARDS: [Suicide Prevention](#) and [SAPR](#)

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eMARINE

BACKGROUND

Manpower and Reserve Affairs (M&RA) and the Marine and Family Programs Division have partnered to create eMarine, a more robust and user friendly Marine Corps Enterprise solution for Commanders and their Family Readiness Officers (FROs) to effectively communicate family readiness information and notifications to assigned Marines, their families and extended family members . This organizational communication solution has the capability to replace other social networking applications used by units (e.g. Facebook) to communicate outside their organizations.

TALKING POINTS

- The eMarine website is a more secure site, created to give family members and Marines a safe way to communicate in a trusted environment where they can access documents, view photos and videos, participate in forums, and get important information about their Marines' unit from anywhere in the world, 24/7.
- eMarine provides all of the functionality of a FRO in an ad-hoc and online setting to meet the needs of geographically dispersed units and families across all components of the Marine Corps. eMarine is a Commander's tool that allows them to communicate directly to Marines and their family members.
- eMarine was the easiest communication tool to implement, at the lowest cost, with the highest adoption rate, all the while maintaining security.
- eMarine provides a standardized look for all unit pages, provides information and support to all unit members, email, announcements, calendar events, documents, photos, polls and reports.
- Marine Online (MOL) Mass Communication Tool will remain available indefinitely for use by all units as an alternative email only solution.
- The eMarine website currently has more than 177, 150 subscribers.

WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.emarine.org/skins/eMarine/home.aspx?mode=user>

POINTS OF CONTACT

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EXPEDITIONARY ENERGY

QUOTE

“For Marines, the term “expeditionary” is a mindset that determines how we man, train and equip our force. We know that resource efficiency aids in combat effectiveness, and that our investments in reset and modernization will provide a force that operates lighter, faster and at reduced risk. Likewise, our force will be more energy efficient to support the type of operations expected of us in the future. To do this, we are changing the way we think about, and use energy.” – **Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, 2012 Posture Statement to the HASC**

BACKGROUND

In March 2011, CMC issued the “Marine Corps Expeditionary Energy Strategy and Implementation Plan” to change the way we use energy. This is a “bases-to-battlefield” strategy, which means all Marines will be trained to understand the relationship between resource efficiency and combat effectiveness. Throughout the last decade of combat operations, we have become more lethal, yet we have become critically dependent on fuel and batteries, putting our expeditionary capabilities and Marines at risk. By 2025, the Expeditionary Energy Strategy specifically directs the Marine Corps to create a MAGTF capable of maneuvering from the sea while only requiring liquid fuel for mobility systems once ashore. This means that our C4I and life support systems will be powered by alternative and renewable energy and that our ground vehicles will be used to power our larger ground systems when required.

TALKING POINTS

- Energy efficiency is critical to today’s fight and fundamental to the “middle weight force” of tomorrow. By changing the way we use energy, we will create a lighter, more capable force that will go farther, stay longer, at less risk.
- Expeditionary energy is a pillar of modernization for the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps is investing in innovative ways to integrate energy efficiency and performance in how we man, train and equip the force.
 - Over the FYDP, the Marine Corps has directed \$350 million to Expeditionary Energy initiatives. 58% of this investment is directed towards procuring renewable and energy efficient equipment.
 - We expect this investment to improve the energy efficiency of our Marine Expeditionary Brigades (MEBs) 9%. The MEB of 2017 will be able to operate one month longer on the same amount of fuel that we plan to use today, and it will need 208 fewer fuel trucks, thereby saving seven million gallons of fuel per year. As such, we will enable ourselves to sustain longer and go farther, incurring less risk.
- Marines trained to value resources, energy-efficient equipment and renewable energy sources provide our commanders with a lighter, more capable force that will go farther, stay longer, at less risk.

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EXPEDITIONARY ENERGY (CONT'D)

- For the commander, resource efficiency is a force multiplier when it comes to time, money and lives:
 - Time – more time to focus on the mission, less on sustainment.
 - Money – more money to training, less to rising energy costs.
 - Lives – more Marines in the fight, fewer hauling fuel and water.
- This is “bases-to-battlefield” strategy. Our Marines live, train and fight as an expeditionary force so it is essential to foster energy efficient habits on our bases that Marines can take to the battlefield.

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Marine Corps Expeditionary Energy Office:
<http://www.marines.mil/community/Pages/ExpeditionaryEnergy.aspx>
- Marine Corps Expeditionary Energy Strategy and Implementation Plan:
<http://www.marines.mil/community/Documents/USMC%20Expeditionary%20Energy%20Strategy%20%20Implementation%20Planning%20Guidance.pdf>
- Marine Corps Expeditionary Energy, Water and Waste Initial Capabilities Document:
<http://www.marines.mil/community/Documents/InitialCapabilities.pdf>

POINT OF CONTACT

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RELATED BRIEFING CARD: [Alternative Fuels](#)

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F-35B LIGHTNING II - JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER

BACKGROUND

The F-35 will replace the Marine Corps' aging legacy tactical 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 common tactical fixed-wing aircraft. The integration of the F-35B/C strike fighters will provide the dominant, multi-role, fifth-generation capabilities needed across the full spectrum of combat operations to deter potential adversaries and enable future naval aviation power projection.

TALKING POINTS

- 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 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-35B represents the Marine Corps' ongoing effort to modernize our aging fleet of aircraft and to take advantage of 5th generation technology that will greatly enhance our capabilities as America's expeditionary crisis response force.
- From Operation Desert Storm to today's present conflict in Afghanistan, STOVL technology has enabled tactical fixed-wing aviation to operate from expeditionary locations ashore and afloat in close proximity to ground forces. The responsive and persistent intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and strike capabilities have saved lives and provided operational commanders with a tremendous tactical advantage
- The F-35B program has been a success story throughout the past year. Due to the performance of F-35B prototypes in 2011, the program was recently removed 12 months early from a fixed period of scrutiny. The F-35B completed all planned test points, made a total of 260 vertical landings (versus 10 total in 2010) and successfully completed initial ship trials on USS *Wasp*.
- The strategic value of the F-35B can't be underscored enough. With a fully-fielded fleet of F-35Bs and Cs, the Nation will maintain 22 capital ships – 11 carrier and 11 amphibious assault – with strike assets capable of projecting influence and conducting strike operations.

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

- Once fully fielded, the F-35B will replace three legacy aircraft – F/A-18, EA-6B and AV-8B – saving the DoD approximately \$1 billion in legacy operations and maintenance costs.

TEST PROGRESS

- The STOVL fleet has conducted more than 500 short take offs (STOs) and more than 300 vertical landings (VLs).
- BF-1, BF-2, BF-3, BF-4 have each achieved more than 100 successful flights.
- Capitalizing on an already demonstrated usable envelope from land and sea testing, the STOVL test jets continue to expand both the conventional and STOVL capabilities.
- STOVL jets are now carrying internal and external munitions equipment as well AIM-9X, AMRAAM, JDAM and GBU-12 inert weapons as well as captive environmental characterization weapons; loaded and captive carried the External Gun Pod.
- The F-35B made its first flight May 22 at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Test Aircraft Flight Hours (as of April 3):

- BF-1: 184 Total Flights/172.6 Total Flight Hours
- BF-2: 169 Total Flights/232.5 Total Flight Hours
- BF-3: 188 Total Flights/270.9 Total Flight Hours
- BF-4: 105 Total Flights/141.7 Total Flight Hours
- BF-5: 32 Total Flights / 47.4 Total Flight Hours
- Total: 678 Total Flights/865.1 Total Flight Hours

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FOREIGN AREA SNCO/REGIONAL AREA SNCO PROGRAM

QUOTE

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

TALKING POINTS

- The Foreign Area SNCO (FAS) / Regional Area SNCO (RAS) Program seeks to place Marines with the right cultural skills in the right place at the right time, systematically, as opposed to on an ad-hoc basis.
- The FAS/RAS Program provides a venue to identify the talent that already exists in the force. A large number of Marines from across the PMOS spectrum have many of the desired skill sets and are looking for opportunities to engage their expertise. FAS/RAS identifies resident talents, and complements existing knowledge with education, language or immersion experience.
- FAS and RAS skills are force multipliers for commanders at the tactical level. They allow Marines with regionally-focused education, language, and culture expertise to influence and guide the planning and execution of Marine operations overseas. Cultural expertise will enable the Marine Corps to function smarter vs. harder when responding to contingencies and providing regional stability, security cooperation and disaster relief.
- MAGTF commanders will benefit greatly with culturally-attuned subject matter experts on the staff at the SNCO level. 90% of the force is enlisted and look to SNCOs daily for guidance and mentoring. Future missions will likely be accomplished by smaller units, with fewer officers, operating more independently and addressing challenges presented by complex cultural environments, irregular and hybrid threats.
- As we continue to offer a strategically mobile, forward deployed and rapid crisis response force, FAS and RAS trained Marines will enhance Marine Corps capabilities to achieve strategic ends with tactical means.
- FAS and RAS skills and education enhance primary skill sets, and make Marines better prepared to operate effectively in foreign environments. Employment with tactical units will improve coalition interoperability and partnerships during peacetime, phase zero through phase four engagement, and everything in between.
- FAS's and RAS's are dual-tracked to maintain PMOS credibility and positive career management.

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FAS/RAS PROGRAM (CONT'D)

- Marines who volunteer for FAS and RAS are committed to a successful Marine Corps career.

BACKGROUND

- The FAS program is being developed to provide MAGTF commanders enhanced language, regional expertise and culture (LREC) capability at the tactical level to effectively navigate increasingly complex cultural terrain where tomorrow's mission will occur.
- The RAS program provides MAGTF commanders enhanced regional knowledge at the tactical level with experienced Marines who do not speak foreign languages. This includes Marines with Personnel Exchange Program (PEP), Military Training Team (MTT), Black Sea Rotational Force (BSRF), Civil Affairs, Foreign born Marines, and Embassy Security Guard (ESG) experience.
- MARADMIN 496/11 was released Aug. 30, 2011, announcing the FAS/RAS Beta Test, and soliciting volunteers to be selected on a competitive board.
- MARADMIN 724/11 was released Dec. 14, 2011, announcing the results of the Beta Test selection board. The Beta Test began Jan. 9, 2012.

WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.marines.mil/unit/hqmc/planspolicies/PL/PLU/Pages/welcome.aspx>

POINTS OF CONTACT

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GROUND EQUIPMENT RESET STRATEGY

QUOTE

“The Marine Corps is a middleweight force; this title entails a high state of readiness and the ability to operate on our arrival. As such, we must swiftly repair and remodernize our equipment while also divesting ourselves of what is obsolete. Placing the right equipment, in the proper condition at the right cost, into the hands of the warfighter is vital to this effort” – **Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Operation Enduring Freedom Ground Equipment Reset Strategy**

BACKGROUND

The Marine Corps' first priority is to provide the best equipped and best trained force to meet combatant commander requirements around the world. In the past decade, we've achieved this by maintaining high readiness rates in forward-deployed units at the expense of our non-deploying units at home stations. Supply readiness of units at home stations has hovered at around 65% as a result. Additionally, to support the President's decision to surge forces into Afghanistan in late 2009, almost half of the required equipment required to meet that demand was shipped directly from Iraq. The immediate capability increase in Afghanistan was paid by a deferring the reset of our Iraq equipment. After a decade of combat operations, our equipment is stressed and has experienced increased wear and tear due to the harsh environment, high operational tempo and the additional weight from the state-of-the-art armor required to protect our Marines.

TALKING POINTS

- The CMC signed the “Marine Corps OEF Ground Equipment Reset Strategy” on Jan. 1. The Reset Strategy helps to identify what equipment we will reset and what we will divest. It prioritizes investment and modernization decisions in accordance with the capabilities of our middleweight force construct, defining unit-level mission essential tasks and equipment requirements to support the range of military operations, and equips to core capabilities for immediate crisis response deployment and building strategic depth.
- An “Operation Enduring Freedom Ground Equipment Reset Playbook” provides individual equipment item details to guide the disposition of the equipment, forecast transportation requirements, and direct the proper care, packaging and segregation of each item to ensure maximum effectiveness of resources.
- The Reset Strategy leverages all assets available to fix as far forward as possible using organic and joint capabilities and to properly assess that equipment in theater to ensure it reaches its optimal repair location without incurring redundant transportation costs.
- Reset is made up of strategic and operational components; for our near term, operational reset, the Marine Corps requested \$1.3 billion in our Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) FY13 President's Budget submission. Strategic reset costs will not be finalized until Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) operations have ceased, but our current estimate is \$3.2 billion over a two to three year period following the return of equipment from Afghanistan. This estimate continues to be refined based on our future 182,100 force

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GROUND EQUIPMENT RESET STRATEGY (CONT'D)

structure, the condition of gear returning from 10 years of war and modified acquisition objectives.

- The execution of strategic reset is underway. Our commanders have begun to retrograde the equipment, supplies, repair parts and ammunition currently not needed for combat. Marine Corps Logistics Command is executing the Strategy as the Executive Agent for tactical planning and execution.
- The Marine Corps philosophy of frugality permeates throughout our expeditionary culture. We optimize every dollar provided by Congress and continually seek to provide the most cost efficient and combat effective force.
- As frugal stewards of our nation's resources, we will maintain strict fiscal accountability, ensure accurate inventory accountability and in-transit visibility throughout the process. As part of the Reset Strategy, the Marine Corps will establish a comprehensive data collection plan to measure average rate of return, transportation costs, fiscal expenditures and other metrics to capture the auditability of the reset of the force.

POINT OF CONTACT

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GUIDANCE FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

BACKGROUND

As the 2012 elections approach and amid national discussion about topics such as Afghanistan and the budget, questions often arise about the degree and the extent to which active-duty military service members can publicly voice their views and participate in the political process.

All active-duty service members are subject to the restrictions of DoD Directive 1344.10 ([Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces](#)). This directive tells service members that they **may**:

- Vote
- Express personal opinions about political candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the U.S. military
- Join a political club and attend partisan and nonpartisan political meetings, debates, conventions or activities as a spectator, when not in uniform
- Sign a petition to place a candidate's name on an official election ballot
- Make monetary contributions to a political campaign or party
- Display a political bumper sticker on a personal vehicle
- Write a letter to the editor or post a blog, stating a personal opinion (the opinion must specify that the stated views are those of the individual and not of the Department, and may not solicit votes for or against a partisan candidate)
- Participate in nonpartisan activities that are not specifically identified with a political party, such as a referendum question or a municipal ordinance on for example, tax or environmental issues.

In general, active duty service members **may not**:

- Actively participate in partisan political activities, including fundraisers (mere attendance does not constitute participation)
- Serve as an officer of a political club
- Speak at a partisan gathering or participate in any radio or television programs (including organized blog debates or discussions) that advocate for or against a political party, candidate or cause
- Seek nomination or candidacy for civil office
- Display a large political sign, banner or poster (as distinguished from a bumper sticker) on a personal vehicle
- Display a political sign, poster, banner or other campaign material visible to the public at one's residence on a military installation (including homes located in privatized housing)
- Attend political events as an official representative of the Armed Forces unless authorized by the Service Secretary concerned.

Commands should carefully evaluate requests and events relating to military personnel or installations that involve political activity by local, state or national candidates. Public affairs officers should become familiar with this guidance and advise the chain of command as required.

In April 2012, the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps began working a request to include guidance on the use of social media as part of DoD Directive 1344.10.

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GUIDANCE FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES (CONT'D)

TALKING POINTS

- Marines are encouraged to participate in the political process and to voice their views; however, they must be aware of the rules and regulations related to political activity that govern the conduct of all service members.
- Service members are allowed to attend political rallies, debates and activities, but must do so in their personal capacity.
- When it comes to political activities, there is a difference between merely attending and fully participating, which can be perceived as an endorsement or sponsorship. Service members must be careful of how their actions can be perceived.
- The CMC expects Marines to follow all orders on the issue of political participation starting with DoD Directive 1344.10 and the UCMJ, as well as their Oath of Enlistment. Marines and civilian employees should also reference CMC Memorandum dated Jan. 20, 2012 entitled "Guidance on Political Activities" and MARADMIN 414/11.
- Regarding the request for an update to DoD Directive 1344.10, the request is in response to the changing communication environment. We feel we owe it to our Marines to provide the best possible guidance and it's obvious that social media plays a large role across all aspects of society today, so it only makes sense to update the guidance accordingly.
- Under DoD regulations, Marines are not authorized to publish partisan political articles that solicit votes for or against a political party, candidate or cause; serve in any official capacity with or be listed as a sponsor of a political club; speak before a political gathering; or participate in any radio, television or other program or group discussion as an advocate for or against a political party, candidate or cause.

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDANCE

- The use of social networking sites has greatly increased throughout the years. Due to their popularity, sites such as Facebook and Twitter are specifically mentioned below; however, the guidance provided applies equally to all other social media platforms, such as Tumblr, MySpace, LinkedIn, etc.
- A service member may generally express his or her own personal views on public issues or political candidates via social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter or personal blogs, much the same as they would be permitted to write a letter to the editor of a newspaper.
- If a social media site/post identifies the member as on active duty (or if the member is otherwise reasonably identifiable as an active duty member), then the entry will clearly and prominently state that the views expressed are those of the individual only and not those of the Department of Defense.

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GUIDANCE FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES (CONT'D)

- An active-duty military member may not post or make direct links to a political party, partisan political candidate, campaign, group or cause, since such activity is the equivalent of distributing literature on behalf of those entities or individuals
- An active-duty military member may not post or comment on the Facebook pages or “tweet” at the Twitter accounts of a political party, or partisan political candidate, campaign, group or cause, as such activity would be engaging in partisan political activity through a medium sponsored or controlled by said entities.
- An active-duty military member may become a “friend” of, or “like,” the Facebook page, or “follow” the Twitter account of a political party or partisan candidate, campaign, group or cause.
- Active-duty military member members will refrain from engaging in activities with respect to those entities’ social media accounts that would constitute political activity. This would include, for example, suggesting that others “like,” “friend,” or “follow” the political party, partisan political candidate, campaign, group, or cause, or forwarding an invitation or solicitation from said entities to others.
- Active-duty military members may be subject to additional restrictions based on the Joint Ethics Regulation, the UCMJ and service-specific rules, to include rules governing the use of government resources and governmental communications systems, such as email and internet usage.
- Members of the Armed Forces not on active duty are not subject to the social media restrictions, so long as the member does not act in a manner that could reasonable create the perception or appearance of official sponsorship, approval or endorsement by the DoD.

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMAITON

- DoD Directive 1344.10 regarding Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces: <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/134410p.pdf>
- CMC Memorandum, Guidance on Political Activities: <http://marines.mil/community/Documents/CMC%20Memo%20-%20Guidance%20on%20Political%20Activities.pdf>

POINTS OF CONTACT

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RELATED BRIEFING CARD: [Social Media Conduct](#)

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HAZING

QUOTE

"I want to be clear to all Marines that hazing has no place in a disciplined and professional military force...It does not promote loyalty, does not build esprit de corps and does not prepare Marines for combat." – **Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, ALMAR 005/12**

TALKING POINTS

- The most common example involves initiation or congratulatory acts. Hazing also includes any conduct whereby a military member or members, regardless of service or rank, without proper authority causes another military member or members, regardless of service or rank, to suffer or be exposed to any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning or harmful. Regardless of the form it takes, hazing is always unacceptable.
- The Marine Corps continues to foster an environment where enforcement of all appropriate policies and regulations against hazing remains a readily-accessible tool for ensuring discipline in the force.
- The Corps is committed both to preventing hazing and to holding offenders accountable for their actions so that Marines and Sailors are afforded an opportunity to excel and to leverage their diverse talents for the benefit of our Service.
- On Feb. 1, the Marine Corps updated the Marine Corps Order on Hazing. The CMC did this to reemphasize our commitment to ensure that all Marines are treated with dignity and respect.
- On Feb. 2, the CMC issued an ALMAR 005/12 "Hazing," in which he issued a stern message to commanders to ensure that all Marines are treated with dignity, care and respect, and for Marines to be ever vigilant for signs of hazing within our ranks.

Training

- All Marines, officer and enlisted, receive rank and experience appropriate Values-Based Training on the Marine Corps' policy prohibiting hazing. This continuum of instruction—all told some 10 or more instances during an average Marine's career—creates a comprehensive approach that ensures that hazing and all other Values-Based Training subjects will be addressed with maximum frequency throughout a Marine's career.
 - At boot camp, recruits receive more than 31 hours.
 - At Officer Candidates School, candidates receive more than 48 hours, including instruction on the policy prohibiting hazing.
 - Enlisted Marines continue their training at follow-on schools in the Infantry Training Battalion with an additional 12 hours of instruction.
 - Officers receive an additional 16 hours of instruction at The Basic School.
 - Then, when Marines join the Operating Forces, they continue to receive instruction on the policy prohibiting hazing through an annual training requirement outlined in Marine Corps Bulletin 1500.

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HAZING (CONT'D)

- Additionally, Marines attending professional military education courses receive rank-appropriate training on hazing with a focus on leadership and enforcement of policy.

Q&A

Q1: Does the Marine Corps have a problem with hazing?

A1: The Marine Corps takes the issue of hazing very seriously. Through training and engaged leadership, we are actively taking steps to prevent hazing from occurring. Leaders are also charged with appropriately holding Marines accountable for violating the Marine Corps policy prohibiting hazing.

ALMAR 005/12

1. I REVISED OUR MARINE CORPS ORDER ON HAZING TO REEMPHASIZE OUR COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THAT ALL MARINES ARE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT. FIDELITY IS AT THE HEART OF WHO WE ARE AS MARINES AND DEFINES HOW WE TREAT EACH OTHER.

2. THE REVISED ORDER THAT I SIGNED ON 1 FEBRUARY 2012 REITERATES THAT HAZING CAN TAKE MANY FORMS. THE MOST COMMON INVOLVES INITIATION OR CONGRATULATORY ACTS. HAZING ALSO INCLUDES ANY CONDUCT WHEREBY A MILITARY MEMBER OR MEMBERS, REGARDLESS OF SERVICE OR RANK, WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORITY CAUSES ANOTHER MILITARY MEMBER OR MEMBERS, REGARDLESS OF SERVICE OR RANK, TO SUFFER OR BE EXPOSED TO ANY ACTIVITY WHICH IS CRUEL, ABUSIVE, HUMILIATING, OPPRESSIVE, DEMEANING, OR HARMFUL. REGARDLESS OF THE FORM IT TAKES, HAZING IS ALWAYS UNACCEPTABLE.

3. OUR 31ST COMMANDANT, GENERAL KRULAK, ESTABLISHED THE CRUCIBLE AS THE SOLE RITE OF PASSAGE TO EARN THE TITLE "MARINE." THERE IS NO OTHER! WHEN HE PUBLISHED OUR HAZING POLICY IN 1997, HE CLOSED THE DOOR ON OTHER "RITES OF PASSAGE." I WANT TO BE CLEAR TO ALL MARINES THAT HAZING HAS NO PLACE IN A DISCIPLINED AND PROFESSIONAL MILITARY FORCE.

4. HAZING IS A LEADERSHIP ISSUE. I CHARGE ALL LEADERS IN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND, FROM FIRE TEAM LEADER TO COMMANDING GENERAL, TO ENSURE THAT ALL MARINES ARE TREATED WITH DIGNITY, CARE, AND RESPECT AND TO BE EVER VIGILANT FOR SIGNS OF HAZING WITHIN OUR RANKS.

5. HAZING IS ALSO A WARFIGHTING ISSUE. IT DESTROYS OUR MARINES' CONFIDENCE AND TRUST IN THEIR FELLOW MARINES AND IN UNIT LEADERSHIP, THUS UNDERMINING UNIT COHESION AND COMBAT READINESS. IT DOES NOT PROMOTE LOYALTY, DOES NOT BUILD ESPIRIT DE CORPS, AND DOES NOT PREPARE MARINES FOR COMBAT. HAZING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORM IN OUR CORPS.

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HAZING (CONT'D)

6. THE STRENGTH OF OUR CORPS WILL ALWAYS BE BASED ON THE MUTUAL RESPECT AND DIGNITY WITH WHICH THOSE OF US WHO CLAIM THE TITLE "MARINE" TREAT EACH OTHER. IT IS THAT ENDURING FAITHFULNESS THAT HAS CARRIED THE U.S. MARINE CORPS TO SUCCESS FOR OVER 236 YEARS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO, LONG INTO THE FUTURE.

7. SEMPER FIDELIS, JAMES F. AMOS, GENERAL, U.S. MARINE CORPS, COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS.

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Hazing ALMAR issued Feb. 2 (also included above):
<http://www.marines.mil/news/messages/Pages/ALMAR005-12.aspx/>
- Updated Marine Corps Order (MCO) 1700.28A:
http://www.marines.mil/news/publications/Documents/MCO%201700_28A.pdf

POINTS OF CONTACT

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- LtCol Curtis Hill, MARFORPAC PAO, 808-477-8308, curtis.l.hill@usmc.mil

RELATED BRIEFING CARD: [Military Justice System](#)

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HERITAGE BRIEF

QUOTE

"I am concerned with the public image of the Marine Corps. We're called to a higher standard."
– **Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps**

BACKGROUND

As the world's premier fighting force, we have exceptionally high expectations for leadership and conduct. Several recent incidents involving Marines have compelled the Commandant (CMC) and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps (SMMC) to take an introspective look into the spiritual health of the Corps after more than a decade of combat. They are traveling around the Corps to reinforce their expectations for leadership and conduct with officers and SNCOs. As follow-on to the CMC and SMMC briefings, the CMC directed Marine Corps University to develop a period of instruction to be delivered to the force as a part of a larger Marine Corps-wide ethics stand-down. MCU personnel will deliver this POI, "Developing Ethical Leaders," to all O-6 and O-5 Commanders and their senior enlisted advisors. Commanders are then directed to conduct a one-day unit stand-down to address ethical behavior with their Marines.

TALKING POINTS

- The Heritage Briefs are an opportunity for the CMC and SMMC to talk eyeball-to-eyeball with the leadership of the Marine Corps and reinforce with each of them that they are personally responsible for keeping the Marine Corps' honor clean and preserving our rich legacy of valor.
- We simply cannot allow the actions of an irresponsible few outshine the accomplishments and sacrifices of thousands of Marines, many of whom have bled and some whom have died, on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.
- The Commandant has directed his leaders to focus on the following areas: personal accountability, sexual assault, standards of conduct, and hazing. He recognizes that the Corps can improve in these areas, and both the CMC and SMMC are concerned and are personally involved to ensure that the Corps is focused on improving in these areas.

WEBSITE FOR RELATED INFORMATION

<http://www.marines.mil/news/messages/Pages/MARADMIN258-12.aspx/>

POINTS OF CONTACT

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JOINT CENTER FOR GROUND VEHICLES

QUOTES

“The Marine Corps is guided by a very stringent off-road mission profile that will also drive technology solutions benefiting both USMC and Army systems. We look forward to meeting the challenge of collaboration and the ultimate innovation that will result and benefit the warfighter.”
– **Mr. William Taylor, Program Executive Officer, PEO Land Systems**

“The key to making the Joint Center for Ground Vehicles work will be how it’s governed. We must bring the stakeholders and decision makers together to make more-informed decisions at the enterprise level, maximizing available resources and knowledge.” – **Mr. Daniel Pierson, Deputy Program Executive Officer, PEO Land Systems**

BACKGROUND

The Joint Center for Ground Vehicles (JCGV) is a joint service construct between the Army and the Marine Corps formed from existing organizations and infrastructure to address current and future technical and resource challenges.

Its key tenants are to increase efficiency, reduce costs, and synchronize technology development; ultimately improving the effectiveness of the ground vehicle system development and acquisition domain across both the Army and the Marine Corps. This is accomplished through collaborative governance, integrated planning and portfolio management, systems integration, technical expertise, resource and data sharing.

Major initiatives for the JCGV include:

- Establishing C4I commonality
- Common standards for modeling and simulation tool sets
- Systems engineering best practices
- Mobility requirements across the services
- Survivability testing and standards
- Operational energy evaluation as well as metrics definition.

The JCGV does not exist in a physical building and does not change any existing authorities or responsibilities for the services. Rather, it exists throughout its founding organizations and infrastructure with a center-of-mass at the Detroit Arsenal.

The JCGV is governed by PEO GCS, PEOCS&CSS, PEO I, PEO LS, TARDEC, MARCORSYSCOM, ONR Code 30 and TACOM LCMC. The leaders from each of these organizations form the JCGV Governance Board. The JCGV is funded by the participants as part of their normal course of doing business, and efficiencies are gained through close collaboration.

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JOINT CENTER FOR GROUND VEHICLES (CONT'D)

TALKING POINTS

- The JCGV has been operational since August of 2010 and is continuing to mature with more deliberate dialog and outreach of external stakeholders from across the services, OSD and Congress to reach the next level of decision making.
- S&T efforts between the Army and Marine Corps are more closely aligned and synergistic than ever before with joint planning built into the process.
- The JCGV will improve effectiveness in taking ground vehicle development and acquisition to a whole new level.
 - This will be done through: ensuring the member organizations function as an enterprise, looking at commonality across platforms and services, and developing shared analytical services in systems engineering processes that result in more efficient and effective acquisitions of vehicle programs.
- JCGV Governance Board brings the acquisition leadership and the technical leadership together to make more informed decisions.
 - Better aligns technical efforts from across the joint community to programs of record.
 - Puts deliberate focus on cross cutting issues that in the past were handled in stove pipes.
 - Provides checks and balances impacting investment decisions taken from the joint portfolio view.
- Capitalize on the investment in state-of-the-art facilities and tools within the Detroit Arsenal.
 - This includes establishing a Systems Integration Lab (SIL) in Warren, Mich., that will examine commonality issues across our platforms with similar efforts within the Army.
- JCGV Governance Board provides a single authoritative voice in the ground vehicle community that can benefit DoD and its industry partners.
- The JCGV was initiated as a grassroots effort from lead organizations responsible for managing the development, acquisition and sustainment of the ground vehicle fleet.

POINT OF CONTACT

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KEEPING FAITH

QUOTE

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

TALKING POINTS

- The Marine Corps' greatest asset is our Marines.
 - The bedrock of the United States Marine Corps is our Marines. We value the men and women who have answered the call to serve as a Marine.
 - Our mission is to create quality Marines thus returning better citizens back to communities across our Nation.
 - The Marines who have faithfully served throughout the past 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.
 - It is our goal 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.

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KEEPING FAITH (CONT'D)

- We believe that focused leadership at all levels is the key to having an effective drawdown process.
- 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

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MANPOWER DRAWDOWN

QUOTE

"We will draw down our force from 202,100 Marines beginning in FY13. As we reduce end strength, we will manage the rate carefully – approximately 5,000 Marines per year – so we reduce the force responsibly. The resulting 182,100 Marine active duty force, retains the capacity and capability to support current and crisis response operations through rotational deployments, and to rapidly surge in support of major contingency operations." – **Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps**

BACKGROUND

On Jan. 26, the SecDef announced the reduction of the force to an end-strength of 182.1K (from 202K) over the course of four years. Since this announcement, force structure reviews and manpower planning have continued, along with senior leader engagements and Congressional testimony.

CMC has approved a multi-year plan to drawdown the Corps from our current end strength of 202,100 in FY12 to 182,100 by the end of FY16. We will begin reducing our active component end strength in FY13 by approximately 5,000 Marines per year.

TALKING POINTS

- These reductions will be made in a measured and responsible way to maintain a healthy force.
- We will avoid excessive accession cuts while ensuring we have the right number of Marines in every grade with the right skills and experience.
- We will remain faithful to our Marines and families by maximizing voluntary force shaping tools.
- Competition for promotion, retention and accession will be tougher, but Marines will be allowed to complete their current contracts. Marines will need to bring their "A Game" each and every day.
- We will provide adequate transition time, effective transition assistance and family support.
- The resulting force of 182,100 active duty Marines will retain the capacity and capability to support current and crisis response operations through rotational deployments.
- We will continue to provide our Nation with the most ready, capable and cost-effective force.
- A Corps-wide road show is wrapping up in May, but the detailed Power Point presentation from that brief is available to all Marines online via the drawdown information portal.

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MANPOWER DRAWDOWN (CONT'D)

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M_RA_HOME/MP/MPP/Z_Drawdown%20Information
- <http://www.marines.mil/news/messages/Pages/MARADMIN179-12.aspx/>

POINT OF CONTACT

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RELATED BRIEFING CARDS: [Keeping Faith](#) and [Transition Assistance](#)

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MARINE FORCES RESERVE

QUOTE

“Although reshaping the Marine Corps from 202,100 Marines to a force of approximately 182,100 Marines entails some risk to our ability to simultaneously respond to multiple large contingencies, it is manageable. We intend to leverage the diverse depth and range of our Reserve component both to mitigate risk and maximize opportunities where available.” – Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, 2012 Report to Congress

TALKING POINTS

- Marine Forces Reserve is well positioned to be the Force of Choice for augmentation to the active component, reinforcement for service priorities and sustainment as a relevant force now and for the future. Aligned with the middle weight force of America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness, Marine Forces Reserve provides options to active component leaders and Combatant Commanders from support of disaster relief to providing strategic depth through sustained augmentation for major contingency operations.
- Marine Forces Reserve is proactively aligned and seamlessly integrated with the active component and is composed of well-equipped, highly trained, and competent professionals. Dependable, flexible, and capable across the range of military operations, Marine Forces Reserve is the essential shock absorber for the active component in the ambiguous global environment that we face in the future.
- Marine Forces Reserve is composed of the Force Headquarters Group, 4th Marine Division, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing and the 4th Marine Logistics Group, which are located aboard Marine Corps Support Facility New Orleans.
- The Selected Marine Corps Reserve authorized end strength is 39,600 and there are an additional 56,662 Marines in the Individual Ready Reserve (as of July 18, 2012).
- More than 80,000 Reservists have been activated or mobilized since Sept. 11, 2001. This operational tempo has built a momentum among our war fighters and a depth of experience throughout our ranks that is unprecedented in generations of Marine Corps Reservists.
- Marine Forces Reserve provided the command element for the Marine Week program. Marine Forces Reserve is well-positioned to continue in this capacity due to its national footprint, deep connection with local communities, and integration of active and reserve component personnel at our Reserve centers across this great Nation.
- Marine Forces Reserve's continued engagement in theater security cooperation missions is a key enabler for the active component's focus on overseas contingency operations as Marine Forces Reserve participates in more than 20 large-scale theater security cooperation exercises annually.

POINT OF CONTACT

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MARINE ROTATIONAL FORCE - DARWIN

QUOTE

“These rotations, which are going to be taking place on Australian bases, will bring our militaries even closer and make them even more effective. We’ll enhance our ability to train, exercise, and operate with allies and partners across the region, and that, in turn, will allow us to work with these nations to respond even faster to a wide range of challenges, including humanitarian crises and disaster relief, as well as promoting security cooperation across the region.” – **President Barack Obama, in a November 2011 press conference**

BACKGROUND

Marines from Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, deployed to Darwin during the first week of April. The company has approximately 200 Marines and Sailors. They will be housed at Robertson Barracks and will train and exercise at existing Australian Defence Force facilities in northern Australia. During the deployment, Company F will further deploy throughout the region to participate in exercises in other nations and then return to Darwin for further bilateral and unilateral training.

U.S. Marines will deploy to Darwin and northern Australia for approximately six months at a time, and they will conduct exercises and training on a rotational basis with the Australian Defence Forces. This initial deployment will consist of a small liaison element and a company of 200 U.S. Marines. The intent in the coming years is to establish a rotational deployment of up to a 2,500-person Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF).

TALKING POINTS

- In November 2011, two force posture initiatives were announced that will significantly enhance defense cooperation between Australia and the United States. These initiatives strengthen an already robust partnership that has been an anchor of stability and peace in the Asia-Pacific region. They reflect the enduring and visible U.S. commitment to the region.
- The rotational deployment of our Marines will afford an unprecedented combined training opportunity with our Australian allies and will maximize interoperability between our forces.
- The rotational deployment in Darwin will also enable Marines to more effectively train, exercise and operate with partners across the Southeast Asian region, enhancing regional security and building capacity to respond more rapidly to natural disasters and crises throughout that region.
- The U.S. Marines comprise a competent expeditionary fighting force – technically competent and culturally educated, we are an effective response force to any crisis or contingency in any operational environment.
- The U.S. Marines are dedicated professionals who train rigorously to deter or defeat any adversary in any environment.

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MARINE ROTATIONAL FORCE - DARWIN (CONT'D)

- U.S. Marines are good neighbors who are engaged with and contribute to host communities. Marines are engaged in the local culture, friends with their hosts, and contribute socially and economically to host communities.

Q&A

Q1: Is this initiative in response to Chinese military growth?

A1: No. Our deployment to Darwin is intended to further strengthen regional security. It is not aimed at any particular entity. We anticipate our deployment to Darwin and our strong alliance with Australia will lead to further cooperation with a variety of nations. From a wider perspective, Australia and the United States see many shared regional challenges in the Asia-Pacific, including responding to natural disasters, countering extremism, ensuring freedom of navigation and enhancing regional stability.

Q2: Will these forces be coming from Japan?

A2: The rotational U.S. forces (Marine and Air Force) conducting training and engagement will be globally sourced. These forces do not affect the U.S. commitment to the Realignment Roadmap with Japan. The deployment of Marines to Darwin is not linked to the realignment of Marines in Okinawa and Guam. Rather, it complements our realignment efforts in northeast Asia. Together, the two demonstrate our enduring and visible commitment to the Asia-Pacific region. The U.S. will maintain its commitments in northeast Asia, while anticipating future challenges in southeast Asia. Commitments to allies such as Japan and the Republic of Korea will not be affected by this initiative.

Q3: Where will these Marines be staying and training?

A3: The Marines will be staying at existing facilities offered by the Australian Defence Force in the Darwin area. We will not be building any U.S. bases in Australia. U.S. forces will rotate in and out of Darwin, and will be co-located with Australian forces on existing military bases.

Q4: Given that the Marine Corps deployment to Darwin will gradually increase from the low hundreds to eventually 2,500 troops in the years ahead, where will these Marine forces actually come from? And, what Marine Corps assets and equipment will there be based in Darwin?

A4: The short answer on where the Marines will come from is they will be globally sourced. That means they could come from anywhere across the Marine Corps. Equipment sets will be necessary to achieve the potential of the training areas, but those matters are still in the planning process.

Q5: How much is this going to cost?

A5: Exact costs have yet to be determined.

POINTS OF CONTACT

- 1stLt Jeremy Croft, III MEF (Darwin) PAO, jeremy.croft1@defence.gov.au / jeremy.croft@usmc.mil
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RELATED BRIEFING CARDS: [DPR](#) and [UDP Resumption](#)

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MEMORIALS ON MARINE INSTALLATIONS

BACKGROUND

On Nov. 11, 2011, a memorial was erected on a hill at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton (MCBCP) by a small group of former service members and family members of fallen Marines. This memorial was intended to replace the original memorial, erected in 2003 to honor fallen Marines of the 1st Marine Regiment, which was destroyed in a 2007 fire. In November 2011, the *L.A. Times* published an article featuring the individuals replacing the original cross. April 12, Fox News broadcast a segment that focused on the pending lawsuit from an atheist group and claimed that a decision was expected "any day." It also included interviews with the former CO of MCBCP and the widow of one of the Marines who placed the original cross.

TALKING POINT

- The Marine Corps is thoroughly and deliberately evaluating the issues raised by the existence of the informal memorial at Camp Pendleton in order to assess the impact on the installation, tenant operational units and our Marine family. A Marine Corps position on the existence of this memorial will be released in the near future.

Q&A

Q1: Should the memorial at Camp Pendleton be allowed to remain?

A1: That question is currently under review by the Marine Corps as we balance legal, operational and other concerns associated with this memorial garden and memorial gardens generally.

POINTS OF CONTACT

- Capt Kendra Motz, HQMC DivPA, 703-614-4309, kendra.motz@usmc.mil
- Maj Amy Punzel, MCIWEST PAO, 760-763-7492, amy.punzel@usmc.mil

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MEU TRACKER

11th MEU

- ***Returned to home station June 21 after seven months in the Western Pacific, Middle East and Horn of Africa regions. Deployed from San Diego in November 2011, embarking the Navy's newest amphibious assault ship, USS Makin Island, as well as USS New Orleans and USS Pearl Harbor. As part of the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group, participated in 14 exercises with regional host nations in both U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Central Command where the MEU served as a reserve force supporting contingency operations.***
- Commanding Officer: Col Michael R. Hudson
- Units: BLT 3/1, HMM-268 (REIN), CLB-11
- Deployment Dates: Nov. 2011 – June 2012
- Aboard: USS Makin Island (LHD-8), USS New Orleans (LPD-18), USS Pearl Harbor (LSD-52)
- PAO: Capt Roger Hollenbeck, roger.hollenbeck@makin-island.usmc.mil
- Web: <http://www.11thmeu.usmc.mil>
- Photos/Video: <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/11MEU>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/11thmeu>

24th MEU

- ***Currently the CENTCOM theater reserve and conducting sustainment training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Participated in Exercises African Lion in Morocco and Eager Lion in Jordan.***
- Commanding Officer: Col Frank Donovan
- Units: BLT 1/2, VMM-261 (REIN), CLB-24
- Deployment Dates: Mar. 2012 – Nov. 2012
- PAO: Capt Robert Shuford, Robert.shuford@iwo-jima.usmc.mil
- Web: <http://www.marines.mil/unit/24thmeu>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/24thmeu>
- Photos/Video: <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/24meu>
- Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/24thmeu>

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MEU TRACKER (CONT'D)

31st MEU

- ***At home station in Okinawa. Recently participated in Exercise Hamel 2012, a month-long multi-national exercise at the Australian Defense Force's Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Rockhampton, Australia.***
- Commanding Officer: Col John Merna
- Units: BLT 2/1, HMM-262 (REIN), VMA-542, CLB-31
- The 31st MEU is the only *continually forward-deployed* MEU and remains the United States force-in-readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.
- PAO: Capt Garron Garn, garron.garn@usmc.mil
- Web: <http://www.marines.mil/unit/31stmeu>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/31stMEU>
- Photos/Video: <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/31MEU>
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/the31stmeu

BACKGROUND

Since World War II, in nearly every crisis, the United States 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 is comprised of about 2,200 Marines and Sailors. The MEU's 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 is comprised of 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.

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MEU TRACKER (CONT'D)

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, CH-53E Super Stallion heavy lift helicopters, AH-1 Super Cobra helicopter gunships, UH-1 Huey utility helicopters and AV-8B Harrier jump jets. With a force strength of approximately 500, the ACE includes air traffic control, aircraft maintenance/support and aviation logistics/supply capabilities.

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

TALKING POINTS

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

POINT OF CONTACT

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MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM

BACKGROUND

- The military justice system is a command-driven system. The commander is the ultimate decision-maker on how to handle misconduct.
- Commanders hold Marines accountable every day. Maintaining good order and discipline and accountability are primary duties of a commander.
- Crimes are never as black-and-white as they are sometimes portrayed. The commander must weigh the evidence or lack thereof, any aggravating factors, any extenuating or mitigating factors, and the effect that the commander's action or inaction will have on good order and discipline within the unit.
- Unlike the civilian system, our military justice system is commander-driven; the role of the district attorney is replaced with a convening authority, the commanding officer. The commander is best positioned to ensure that every tenet of military law is realized, i.e. to:
 - Promote justice;
 - Maintain good order and discipline;
 - Promote efficiency and effectiveness in the military; and
 - Strengthen national security.

TALKING POINTS

- You do not lose your constitutional right to due process by joining the military.
- Facts and admissible evidence determine outcomes. The burden is on the government to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the accused committed the offense. The Military Rules of Evidence, which mirror the Federal Rules of Evidence, limit the type of evidence that may legally be considered in court.
- Marine judge advocates are highly-trained law school graduates, certified to practice law by state bars across the country and certified by the Judge Advocate General of the Navy to act as prosecutors and defense counsel at courts-martial.
- Members in courts-martial are professionals who are instructed, per military order, to apply the "beyond a reasonable doubt" standard to all charges at court-martial. When convening a court-martial, the convening authority must select members that are best qualified for the duty by reason of age, education, training, experience, length of service, and judicial temperament.

POINTS OF CONTACT

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MONTFORD POINT MARINES

QUOTE

"I would like to congratulate the Montford Point Marines on the Congressional Gold Medal minted in their honor. This recognition is long-overdue and richly deserved. By breaking the color-barrier in 1942, the Montford Point Marines became part of the rich legacy of our Corps. They answered our nation's call despite our society being deeply divided along racial lines. As such, their contributions went largely unrecognized and many times they were not given the respect and recognition they deserved as Marines, as Americans, and as patriots. To me, they were heroic for two reasons: they fought against the enemy during World War II while they also fought for their civil rights and the respect of their fellow Americans. It is fitting that we, as Americans, honor their selfless service and sacrifice with the Congressional Gold Medal and fully embrace their storied contributions to the history of our nation at war." – **Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps**

BACKGROUND

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established a presidential directive allowing African Americans to be recruited in the Marine Corps. African American recruits were not trained at Parris Island or San Diego, but were segregated and received basic training at Montford Point, a facility at Camp Lejeune, N.C. From 1942-1949, approximately 20,000 African American recruits received training at Montford Point during World War II. The original intent was to discharge these Marines after the war, but they proved themselves just as capable as all other Marines, regardless of race, color or creed. In July 1948, President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981 negating segregation, and in September 1949, Montford Point was deactivated ending seven years of segregation. The camp was renamed Camp Johnson after Sgt. Maj. Gilbert "Hashmark" Johnson, one of the first African Americans to join the Marine Corps.

In 2011, Gen Amos pressed for the surviving members to receive the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM), the nation's highest civilian award. The vote passed in the House and the Senate in time for the 236th Marine Corps Birthday, and the bill was signed by the President before Thanksgiving. The award ceremony was June 27 at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, D.C. At the ceremony, one CGM was accepted by Montford Point Marine, William McDowell, on behalf of all Montford Point Marines. At a second ceremony on June 28 at Marine Barracks Washington, the Montford Point Marines present each received a bronze replica of the CGM. The Marine Corps Association and the Tawani Foundation combined efforts to fully fund the bronze replica medals for each of the Montford Point Marines.

TALKING POINTS

- The Marines who served at Montford Point are a part of the rich legacy of our Corps.
- All Marines, past and present, should honor their selfless service and sacrifice and embrace their storied contribution to the history of our Corps.
- The Corps is making sure that the story of the Montford Point Marines is told at all its schools and training facilities.

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MONTFORD POINT MARINES (CONT'D)

- The Commandant has ordered institutional changes to training and education to recognize the service of the Montford Point Marines, anchor their legacy in the rich history of the Marine Corps and highlight their contribution to the warfighting readiness and ethos of the Corps.
- The Congressional Gold Medal recently awarded to the Montford Point Marines will be delivered to the National Museum of the Marine Corps for exhibition in the near future. Senior officials requested that it remain in the Nation's Capital for possible ceremonial use as the Marine Corps and the Nation recognize the accomplishments of these World War II Marines.

Q&A

Q1: How do I document my relative's service?

A1: In order to be historically documented as an OMPM (whether living or deceased), one must provide the DD214 verifying training at the Montford Point Camp from 1942-1949. Please specify whether the Montford Point Marine is living or deceased, and include current contact information (name, address, phone number, email, etc.) for the Montford Point Marine or the next of kin in the case of deceased member. Documentation must be provided to:

MPMA, Inc., National Legislative Officer
Mr. Joseph H. Geeter III
27 Red Tail Court Limerick, PA 19468
Phone: 610 495 3619
Email: geeterj@yahoo.com

Q2: What does the CGM look like?

A2: The medal was designed and approved by the Montford Point Marine Association, the Marine Corps and the U.S. Mint. Bronze replica medals are available for purchase on the U.S. mint webpage. The [U.S. Mint](#) will sell the 3-inch medal to the public for approximately \$40, and there will also be 1½-inch medal sold for approximately \$7.

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Recent and historical imagery and video footage may be found at: <http://www.dvidshub.net/feature/MontfordPointMarines>
- Institutionalizing the Legacy of the Montford Point Marines in Marine Corps History: <http://www.marines.mil/news/messages/Pages/MARADMIN525-11.aspx/>
- Montford Point Marine Association (MPMA) Website: <http://www.montfordpointmarines.com/>

POINTS OF CONTACT

- Capt Kendra Motz, HQMC DivPA, 703-614-4309, kendra.motz@usmc.mil
- For questions regarding Montford Point Marine Association chapters, contact Mr. Joe Geeter at 610-495-3619 or geeterj@yahoo.com.

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MV-22 OSPREY

BACKGROUND

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

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

TALKING POINTS

- The MV-22 has been supporting the Marine Corps continuously since October 2007, in extreme environmental conditions during 11 combined deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and aboard amphibious shipping. It has expanded the operational reach of Marine forces by 340NM (60%) compared to other rotary wing assets.
- The MV-22 is exceptionally survivable. Aircraft engaged in the close in, kinetic fight in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) have taken small arms, rocket-propelled grenade and heavy machine gun fire on several occasions and in every instance were able to continue flight to safety with no harm to passengers and crew.
- The MV-22 is a very safe aircraft to fly in and far safer now than it ever has been. Through material solutions, bi-annual software updates and enhanced pilot training, we have improved the safety of the MV-22 making it one of the safest aircraft in the Marine Corps.
- At this time, the MV-22 is well below the average mishap rate for the Marine Corps and all DoD tactical rotary wing aircraft.
- Concerns about maneuverability in combat were addressed with further flight testing and aircraft modifications that have resulted in a better understanding of the aircraft's flight characteristics, updated flight control laws that refine the performance of the aircraft, and a redesign of critical components to enhance their reliability.
- As is true with all aircraft, pilot training that is thorough and consistent is the best way to ensure an aircraft is safe and we maintain this standard without compromise.

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MV-22 OSPREY (CONT'D)

- In addition to being a reliable and safe aircraft, the MV-22 has proven itself remarkably in combat for the past five years with three squadrons serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and the sixth squadron now serving in support of OEF.
- Concurrently, five MEUs have deployed with Ospreys highlighted by the rescue of a downed U.S. Air Force pilot during Operation Odyssey Dawn. Throughout these deployments and more than 28,000 flight hours, the Marine Corps has not experienced a single Class A Flight Mishap during combat operations. However, pilots are only human and so mistakes will be made. This is true for any aircraft.
- The MV-22 is the Marine Corps' only medium lift asset through the surge and continues to be the platform of choice for all missions from tactical troop inserts to planned and emergency resupply.
- As is the case in all mishaps, the accident investigation will be thoroughly reviewed throughout every level of the Marine Corps and Naval Aviation. Any required changes to procedures or training will be incorporated. We will also review the aircraft systems and determine if there are any material or software changes that are warranted and develop and implement those changes. These reviews highlight any changes that may need to be made and increase the safety of our operations.
- As with any accident, once the cause is determined, it will be briefed to all of the pilots in the community. The excellent quality of the MV-22 simulators allows reconstruction of the conditions that the pilots experienced during the accident. This allows instructors to demonstrate conditions in which the pilot may find himself and to provide instruction in how to handle the situation before they ever fly the aircraft.
- During developmental testing the aircraft was flown in ways that were necessary to understand the aircraft's characteristics and limits, but that is not consistent with how Marine Corps pilots fly the aircraft on a daily basis. However, those developmental test flights provided invaluable recorded data that informs training and operating procedures manuals for our pilots to practice and study.
- We absolutely believe that the MV-22 is a safe aircraft. The MV-22 continues to have a mishap rate below the Marine Corps average. In the last 10 years, we have flown more than 120,000 flight hours. These flights have occurred in and around our Naval and Marine Corps Air Stations. If we were not confident in the safety of the aircraft to fly over our homes and bases, the aircraft would not have been approved for full rate production and subsequent fielding to our operating forces.
- The likelihood of a dual engine failure is extremely remote. Even so, pilots are trained to respond to a dual engine failure in both airplane mode and conversion (helicopter) mode flight.
 - In airplane mode, the pilot simply reduces power and flies the airplane like a glider. This is the same as any airplane that conducts a landing when it has lost power to its engines.
 - In helicopter mode, the Osprey will autorotate. Despite recent claims by some experts that it cannot, the MV-22 can indeed autorotate while in helicopter mode.

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MV-22 OSPREY (CONT'D)

- If a pilot experienced a dual engine failure while in conversion (helicopter) mode flight, the pilot would rotate the nacelles full aft and conduct an autorotation similar to any other large multi-engine helicopter. The V-22 will have slightly more forward airspeed and a higher descent rate which will be used to “flare” and cushion the impact upon touchdown. This is a controlled procedure.
 - Both of these procedures are initially taught at the Fleet Replacement Squadron and reinforced during quarterly emergency procedures review events and the pilot is examined annually on his or her NATOPS check.
-
- The interconnecting drive shaft is a key component to the single engine capability of the MV-22. Every tandem rotor aircraft, helicopter or tiltrotor, has an interconnecting drive shaft that maintains rotor synchronization during both powered flight and autorotation.
 - The composite materials in the MV-22 have been designed to meet both reliability and survivability requirements and have passed every test, including ballistic live fire.
 - Wake turbulence is an aerodynamic characteristic that affects every airplane when operating in the vicinity of other airplanes. In a commercial airliner, for example, there are times when takeoff is delayed for several minutes in order to clear the wake turbulence of the aircraft taking off in front. This is not a new phenomenon. All aircraft that fly in tight formations, which is typical of military tactical flying, have to be cognizant of their relative position. Due to the phenomenal resources behind the V-22 program, we have been able to simulate, model and study this to a great degree and have incorporated those lessons into our flight manuals and our pilot training.
 - The MV-22 responds the same as any other aircraft of comparable weight when experiencing turbulence, whether at altitude or low in mountainous terrain. The fly-by-wire flight control system provides outstanding handling characteristics and allows for reduced workload by the pilot under these conditions.
 - The MV-22 currently has a 1.94 mishap rate per 100,000 flight hours. This increased from 1.12 with a single mishap in April 2012, but it is still below the Marine Corps average. Even with an outstanding safety record, the MV-22 community and all of Marine Corps aviation continues to aggressively document even the most minor incident in order to learn lessons and develop material and procedural solutions to prevent any further occurrence.
 - The MV-22 is an extremely maneuverable aircraft with a large and versatile operating flight envelope which far outstrips that of the legacy helicopter it replaces. That envelope, and the procedures which govern the safe operation of the aircraft, are effective in both combat and peacetime operations. There are no separate aircraft operating limitations for either environment.
 - The side by side rotor configuration of the MV-22 is not only a key to the aircraft’s exceptional maneuverability, but enhances its safety and survivability. Separating the engines and other key drivetrain components make them less susceptible to being damaged by instances of hostile fire.

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MV-22 OSPREY (CONT'D)

- The notion that the MV-22 is more susceptible than conventional helicopters to vortex ring state (VRS) has no basis in fact. Extensive low speed/high rate of descent testing conducted to explore this phenomenon unequivocally established that the MV-22 provides increased sink rate margin for avoiding VRS when compared to conventional helicopters.
- We would like to stress that there is no limitation in combat that is not applicable to daily flight operations. We believe the aircraft is safe in any operational environment and we would like to emphasize that the Marine Corps does not fly tactical mission profiles over populated areas.
- Finally, a tiltrotor aircraft, by design, is a merging of helicopter and airplane design. The blending of these design characteristics results in a tremendously capable machine that continues to perform exceptionally well across a wide range of military operations.

TRANSITION

- East Coast transition is complete – Six VMMs, all have deployed.
- West Coast is underway – One VMM complete, three in transition (delivering approximately three aircraft per month to west coast).
- Okinawa will have first squadron beginning of FY13.

WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.marines.mil/unit/aviation/Documents/FY11%20%20Marine%20Aviation%20Plan.pdf>
(pdf page 161)

POINTS OF CONTACT

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MV-22 BASING ON OKINAWA

BACKGROUND

The DoD, in close coordination with the Government of Japan, is moving forward with the introduction of the MV-22 aircraft to III Marine Expeditionary Force in Japan. On June 29, the DoD provided host nation notification to the Government of Japan in Tokyo that it will make a fleet modernization to replace CH-46 helicopters with MV-22 Osprey aircraft. The aircraft will arrive at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni for unloading in late July.

The Marine Corps is in the process of replacing CH-46 helicopters worldwide with MV-22 Osprey aircraft. The MV-22 is a highly-capable aircraft with an excellent operational safety record. The aircraft combines the vertical capability of a helicopter with the speed and range of a fixed-wing aircraft. With its proprotors in vertical position, it can take-off, land and hover like a helicopter. Once airborne, its proprotors can be rotated to transition the aircraft to a turboprop airplane capable of high-speed, high-altitude flight. Its capabilities would significantly strengthen III MEF's ability to provide for the defense of Japan, perform humanitarian assistance and disaster response, and fulfill other Alliance roles.

TALKING POINTS

- The most important thing to note is that the Marine Corps is not going to put the Okinawan population at risk by conducting tactical mission profiles near populated areas. For the last decade, we have operated the MV-22 near our Marine Corps Air Stations in the United States. Every day, we fly over critical base infrastructure and the homes of civilians and our fellow Marines.
- In late June, the DoD provided host nation notification to the Government of Japan in Tokyo that it will make a fleet modernization to replace CH-46 helicopters with MV-22 Osprey aircraft. The aircraft will arrive at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni for unloading in late July.
- The Marine Corps will modernize its fleet with MV-22 tiltrotor aircraft and remove CH-46 helicopters from service on a one-to-one basis. We anticipate up to 27 MV-22 aircraft to be assigned to MAG-36 at MCAS Futenma. This total accounts for aircraft taken out of flying status for reoccurring depot-level maintenance.
- The MV-22 was chosen to replace the CH-46 to introduce a revolutionary change in capabilities absent in helicopters – a leap forward in speed, payload and range. When compared to a CH-46, the MV-22 is roughly twice as fast, can carry nearly three times the payload and has approximately four times the combat radius. Additionally, the MV-22 has the ability to operate at much higher altitudes and refuel while airborne.
- MV-22s have successfully assisted in humanitarian assistance/disaster relief operations in Haiti, participated in the recovery of a downed U.S. pilot in Libya, supported combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and conducted multiple Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) deployments.

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MV-22 BASING ON OKINAWA (CONT'D)

- According to Naval Safety Center records, since the Marine Corps resumed flight operations in October 2003 through September 2011, the MV-22B has demonstrated a safety record that is consistently better than USMC averages while conducting military training, humanitarian assistance missions and combat operations in very challenging environments.
- Based on existing MV-22B noise study data and differences in performance capabilities, and training and post-maintenance requirements, the MV-22B provides for generally quieter operations, overall.
- The MV-22 is a highly-capable aircraft with an excellent operational safety record. The Osprey combines the vertical capability of a helicopter with the speed and range of a fixed-wing aircraft. Its capabilities would significantly strengthen III MEF's ability to provide for the defense of Japan, perform humanitarian assistance and disaster response and fulfill other Alliance roles.

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- <http://www.marines.mil/unit/mcbjapan/pages/Around/mv22b.aspx>
- <http://www.defense.gov/Releases/Release.aspx?ReleaseID=15415>

POINTS OF CONTACT

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- MAJ Cathy Wilkinson, OSD PA, 703-695-0168, catherine.wilkinson@osd.mil

RELATED BRIEFING CARDS: [DPR](#) and [MV-22](#)

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POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS

QUOTE

"I encourage all Marines who are suffering from PTS or are having difficulties coping to seek assistance through their chain of command and understand that "it's OK to not be OK" as long as they are seeking help. All Marines have a responsibility to look out for one another and assist a fellow Marine who might be struggling." – **Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, *Leatherneck Magazine*, October 2011**

TALKING POINTS

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

Combat and Operation Stress Control

- Stress is part of military life. Not all stress is negative. Stress can result in post-traumatic growth.

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POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS (CONT'D)

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

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Combat and Operational Stress Control: <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/cosc/>
- Leader's Guide to Managing Marines in Stress: <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/LeadersGuide/Deployments/CombatOpsStress/generalinfo.cfm>
- Semper Fi Fund resources page: <http://semperfifund.org/resources/>
- DCoE's Real Warriors Campaign: www.realwarriors.net

POINTS OF CONTACT

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

RELATED BRIEFING CARDS: [Traumatic Brain Injury](#) and [Wounded Warriors](#)

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RECRUITING & RETENTION

CURRENT INITIATIVES

New Global Campaign

- On March 10, the Marine Corps launched a new recruitment advertising campaign “Toward the Sounds of Chaos,” which seeks to broaden the scope of understanding related to the capabilities and relevance of our nation’s premier crisis response force – the United States Marine Corps. It presents an opportunity to provide the American public with an authentic picture of the broad spectrum of missions Marines are commanding on a daily basis.
- Research is conducted on a recurring basis to ensure we are authentically connecting with the American public. Recently, it showed us that youth interests in “helping others wherever they may be” aligns with the Marine Corps’ legacy of service and its continued strategic role as an expeditionary force operating in the world’s most chaotic and challenging environments. The goal of the campaign is to authentically depict the challenge and service that have always been integral parts of being a Marine, highlighting the convergence between the values of the millennial generation with ours.
- This campaign shifts from a focus on metaphors, to portraying the reality of Marine Corps operations. As a part of this campaign, the new [Marines.com](#) features several videos shot by active duty Marines.
- Messages for the new campaign includes:
 - For hundreds of years, the U.S. Marine Corps has served as our nation’s elite warriors, nobly facing down the greatest threats of our time — fighting instability, injustice and tyranny — during periods of war and peace worldwide.
 - Our survival, status and reputation depend on our special relationship with the American people. Diversity broadens the base of support.
 - Marines are more than elite warriors — they are smart, courageous, compassionate citizens.

Re-launch of Marines.com

- On Feb. 29, the USMC announced the re-launch of its website, [Marines.com](#), designed to more dynamically illustrate the history, impact and journey of America’s elite warriors.
- The Marines Corps is dedicated to providing information and tools that potential recruits can leverage as they set off on an unwavering and relentless process that tests mind, body and character.
- The new website offers enhanced layout and aesthetics, innovative tools, an interactive interface and more than 150 videos to better tell the story of the Marine Corps and offer a never-before-seen glimpse into Marine life.
- New content on Marines.com includes:
 - Personalized account management that provides answers to questions and is aligned with user interests.
 - A “Career Tool” that allows users to answer questions to gain a better understanding of the many career opportunities available in the Marine Corps.

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RECRUITING & RETENTION (CONT'D)

- An enhanced video library that allows users to save a queue of videos to see and better understand the few who wear the Marine Corps uniform as they complete their missions.
- The “Becoming a Marine” section that walks users through the intensive 12-week recruit training with videos that allow users to visualize key milestones, such as overcoming the 11 unique challenges of the Confidence Course and earning the Marine Corps Emblem.
- Comprehensive social media integration that allows for almost every feature on the new website to be shared through properties such as Facebook and Twitter.

TALKING POINTS

- 99% of current recruits are traditional high school graduates, and 75% score in the highest tier of the Armed Forces Qualification Test. 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. That saves the Marine Corps and American tax payer money.
- The Marine Corps accessed its most diverse group of young officers in a decade during FY11.
- 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.
- 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 strategic philosophies needed to meet the operational requirements of the Marine Corps.⁵
- 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.
- Retention of First Term and Career Marines are being held to a higher standard than previous years. Some examples:
 - The average GT score of FY12 First Term Marines retained is 107, which is 27 points higher than the reenlistment prerequisite of 80.
 - The average Proficiency /Conduct marks are 4.4/4.4 for Marines retained. The reenlistment prerequisite is 4.0/4.0.

⁵ BGen Joseph L. Osterman, Commanding General Marine Corps Recruiting Command, “Fiscal Year 2012 Total Force Recruiting Operations Plan; Enclosure 13, FY12 Diversity,” MCRC, Quantico, VA, email dtd 8 Nov 2011.



RECRUITING & RETENTION (CONT'D)

- To qualify for reenlistment the required scores for the PFT/CFT are 135/190. Currently the average PFT/CFT score for Marines being retained is 254/284.

BACKGROUND

- **QUALITY:** The quality accessions delivered to today's Marine Corps are the dividends of investments made to recruiting 4-5 years ago. Quality enables today's Marines to win today's battles, today.
- **DIVERSITY:** The 35th Commandant stated clearly in his Planning Guidance that we will improve diversity representation throughout our Corps. Marines deserve to be led by a diverse and representative officer corps.⁶
- **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 a higher steady-state annual accession mission, which is in line with 30-year historical averages (i.e. approximately 38,500 NPS enlisted).⁷
 - 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.
- **RETENTION.** The focus of retention remains on keeping the most qualified Marine while meeting manpower requirements. Quality Reenlistment Boards (QRB) are held to ensure that the Marine Corps is equipped with the best Marines available. Marines being retained are well qualified and exceed the basic reenlistment prerequisites.
 - The Tier recommendation system was created in order to provide an unbiased analysis of the Marine's performance. The Tier recommendation system is displayed to commanders in the FTAP quality report. Commanders are now providing quantifiable comments to assist in the reenlistment decision. This is evident in the Marines that are approved with jeopardy on contract but who have received strong command endorsements. 80% of Marines retained have been recommended Tier I and Tier II by their Commanders. Currently 8% of the reenlistment approvals have jeopardy on contract.

POINTS OF CONTACT

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- Maj Shawn Haney, M&RA PAO, 703-784-9047, shawn.d.haney@usmc.mil

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⁶ Gen James F. Amos, 35th CMC, Remarks to Marine Corps Recruiting Command's National Commanders' Conference, San Diego, Calif., 18 Oct. 2011.

⁷ Quester, "Marine Corps Recruits," dated 2010.



RESIDENT ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

The Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP) is a SecDef-directed initiative for the payment of utilities in Public Private Venture (PPV) housing that encourages energy efficiency in privatized housing units. RECP also increases energy conservation, reduces electric costs and saves funds for sustainment and improvements to homes, playgrounds, community centers and overall quality of life of our Marines, Sailors and their families.

RECP transfers responsibility for electricity consumption from the PPV partner to the resident. The program is designed to set a reasonable range for average electricity consumption in housing units. The program requires residents to pay for electricity consumption that is more than 10% above the average usage for a group of similar homes. Residents who conserve more than 10% below the average monthly usage will receive a credit or rebate. Residents within 10% buffer above or below the average usage will neither pay nor receive a credit. Average usage is set on an ongoing perpetual basis to account for variations due to seasonality and uncommon weather.

RECP was first piloted in Beaufort and Parris Island, S.C., and at Marine Corps Base Hawaii in August 2010, and it included the following phases: Initial Communications, Mock Billing, Live Billing and Pilot Program Evaluation. The Pilot Program Evaluation was completed in January 2012.

TALKING POINTS

- RECP is good for Marines and their families.
- The RECP will directly benefit Marine Corps family housing residents because savings will be re-invested back into the community to improve homes, playgrounds, community centers and other amenities that improve quality of life for our Marines, Sailors and their families.
- Energy conservation is important for the nation and the Marine Corps.
- The Marine Corps energy strategy, "*Bases to Battlefield*," begins at home.
- The RECP is designed to encourage and provide incentives for energy conservation.
- Residents using less energy will be rewarded with a cash refund. Yet, residents using more than the average range will be billed for only the excess use.
- Separate averages are calculated each month for each type and size of home.
- Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) is expected to cover normal utilities use only, not excess.
- The RECP Pilot Program has demonstrated success, but we can do even better.

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RESIDENT ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (CONT'D)

- We are committed to assisting our residents as they make the transition to the RECP by keeping them informed through our website, news articles, social media, town hall meetings and direct mailings.

Q&A

Q1: How do Marines and their families benefit from the RECP?

A1: Dollars saved through conservation will be put right back into the PPV project in the form of capital investments such as new housing, renovations, community centers and other amenities that improve quality of life for our Marines, Sailors and their families.

Q2: How is the average utility usage determined for a home?

A2: "Like-type" groups of homes within each neighborhood will be established based on each home's size and number of bedrooms. Each month, the average amount of electricity used by homes will be calculated with the top and bottom 5% of utility consumers within like-type groups removed. There is also a 10% plus and minus buffer around the average to allow for variances in homes, family size and demographics. The result is a "normal usage band" where most resident consumption should occur.

Q3: Isn't a utility allowance already part of Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)?

A3: Yes, an allowance for average utility usage is part of the BAH. The RECP is intended to encourage residents to keep their utility usage in this average range and to reward them for conservation beyond normal usage band expectations. If utility use is within the 10% buffer above and below the average, residents will not have any out-of-pocket utility expense.

Q4: What does the Marine Corps recommend to residents to help them conserve energy?

A4: We recommend that residents check their homes for inefficiencies, such as windows that do not close properly and let air escape. We also recommend that they talk to their family members about how they can help to save energy by doing little things like unplugging unused electronics and chargers. For additional energy saving tips, we encourage residents to contact their Family Housing Office.

POINTS OF CONTACT

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RIMPAC 2012

BACKGROUND

Twenty-two nations, 42 ships, six submarines, more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel will participate in the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise scheduled for June 29-Aug. 3 in and around the Hawaiian Islands. The world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity that helps participants foster and sustain the cooperative relationships that are critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans. RIMPAC 2012 is the 23rd exercise in the series that began in 1971.

Hosted by U.S. Pacific Fleet, and led by VADM Gerald Beaman, commander of the U.S. Third Fleet (C3F), RIMPAC 2012 marks the first time non-U.S. officers will command components of the combined task force during the exercise. Commodore Stuart Mayer of the Royal Australian Navy will command the Maritime Component and Brig. Gen. Michael Hood of the Royal Canadian Air Force will command the Air Component. Other key leaders of the multinational force include Royal Canadian Navy Rear Adm. Ron Lloyd, deputy commander of the Combined Task Force (CTF), and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Rear Adm. Fumiyuki Kitagawa, vice commander of the CTF.

TALKING POINTS

- RIMPAC is the world's largest international maritime exercise and is held every two years. The exercise provides a unique training opportunity that strengthens international maritime partnerships, enhances interoperability and improves the readiness of participating forces for a wide range of potential operations.
- The theme of RIMPAC 2012 is "Capable, Adaptive, Partners." The participating nations and forces will exercise a wide range of capabilities and demonstrate the inherent flexibility of maritime forces. These capabilities range from disaster relief and maritime security operations to sea control and complex warfighting.
- Roughly 70% of the world is water, 80% of the world's population lives on or near a coast and 90% of international commerce moves by sea. Capable maritime forces help ensure stability and prosperity around the world, and RIMPAC helps participating nations improve that capability.
- Credible, ready maritime forces help to preserve peace and prevent conflict. RIMPAC participants have the opportunity to further enhance their capability and proficiency to respond to crises as part of a joint or combined effort.
- RIMPAC 2012 will feature the first demonstration of a U.S. Navy "Great Green Fleet," during which U.S. surface combatants and carrier-based aircraft will test, evaluate and demonstrate the cross-platform utility and functionality of biofuels. This demonstration will also incorporate prototype energy efficiency initiatives, such as solid state lighting, on-line gas turbine waterwash, and energy management tools. The Great Green Fleet represents a major milestone in attaining the Department of Navy's energy goals and brings us one step closer to achieving energy security and enhancing combat capability of the warfighter.

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RIMPAC 2012 (CONT'D)

Q&A

Q1: Is this exercise a response to current world events?

A1: No. RIMPAC is a biennial exercise, and the planning for the current exercise has been ongoing for more than a year. The exercise is focused on enduring maritime force capabilities and has no connection to any recent or ongoing world events. RIMPAC provides realistic, relevant training that increases participants' abilities to plan, communicate and conduct complex maritime operations.

Q2: Does this exercise reflect contingency planning for some future operation?

A2: No. RIMPAC trains and improves leadership at all levels, including individual proficiency, and sharpens command and control skills while challenging participants to adapt to changing conditions as part of a joint or combined force.

Q3: Describe the exercise scenario.

A3: To ensure that training is executed smoothly and to allow meaningful interaction between participating units, an exercise scenario has been developed. Details of the exercise structure or scenario will not be released in order to preserve a degree of realism for the participants. The scenario has no relationship to any particular area of the world and has no connection with existing or perceived political or geographical situations.

WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.cpf.navy.mil/rimpac>

POINT OF CONTACT

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SEQUESTRATION

QUOTES

"We can't yet say precisely how bad the damage would be, but it is clear that sequestration would risk hollowing out our force and reducing its military options available to the nation. We would go from being unquestionably powerful everywhere to being less visibly globally and presenting less of an overmatch to our adversaries, and that would translate into a different deterrent calculus and potentially, therefore, increase the likelihood of conflict." – **Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta, June 2012 testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee**

"Sequestration is a near impossible situation for us. I will tell you that the impact of sequestration, we'll have a reduced forward presence; it will be a refined strategy as we know it today. And I think it's certainly going to stagnate reset in the Marine Corps." – **Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, February 2012 testimony before the House Armed Services Committee**

"We have a tendency to view sequestration as a budget issue, but it's really not a budget issue. It's a re-ordering of our national priorities - it's what we won't be able to do." – **Gen Joseph F. Dunford, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, May 2012 testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee**

BACKGROUND

Cuts of \$1.2 trillion over 10 years will start next year unless Congress and the President agree to an alternate deficit-reduction plan. About \$110 billion in fiscal year 2013 reductions, half from defense and half from non-defense, will take effect Jan. 2. The Department of Defense will absorb a fiscal year 2013 cut of about \$52 billion.

On July 31, the president exercised his authority in law to exempt military personnel funding. This is considered to be in the national interest to safeguard the resources necessary to compensate the troops and maintain force levels.

TALKING POINT

- Sequestration is alarming due to both the magnitude and the mechanism, because the law calls for across-the-board cuts. We have not yet fully assessed the impact of how sequestration may affect specific Marine Corps programs or departments. The Office of Management and Budget and the DOD are working closely to understand the law and assess its impacts.

POINT OF CONTACT

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SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

QUOTE

“Sexual assault is an ugly mark on our proud reputation; it goes against everything we claim to be as United States Marines.” – **Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, White Letter 2-12**

BACKGROUND

Sexual assault is a crime completely incompatible with our core values that directly undermines mission readiness, unit cohesion and morale. Throughout the past few years, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) has taken a holistic approach—increasing transparency and improving program consistency. In April, the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) built on this effort and convened an Operational Planning Team (OPT) composed of senior officers and enlisted Marines. The Marine Corps is now poised to launch a comprehensive, three-phase campaign plan focused on achieving zero tolerance, empowered reporting, engaged leadership and an evolved culture.

TALKING POINTS

- The Campaign Plan, signed June 20, aims to reduce, with a goal to eliminate, sexual assault via enhanced training, increased emphasis on comprehensive response protocols and the identification of risk factors.
- The first phase of the campaign plan launched May 3, with the release of a CMC White Letter; and a two-day General Officers SAPR Symposium was held in July. Initiatives for Fiscal Year 2012 include: a Sergeants Major Symposium in August; All Hands SAPR training to be completed by 9 November; and a Corps-wide census to provide comprehensive data on sexual assault and the current command climate.
- The FY11 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) requires all victim advocates to be credentialed according to national professional standards. New Marine Corps advocacy training has been approved by the National Advocate Credentialing Program (NACP). Training and certification will begin June, with a target completion date of December 2013 for all Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and Victim Advocates (VAs).
- Our greatest weapon against the crime of sexual assault is engaged and concerned leadership. Commanders must establish a command climate that shows no tolerance for sexual violence and promotes safety and confidence in reporting when a sexual assault does occur.
- Sexual assault incidents will be investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted. The Marine Corps is committed to an effective SAPR program, consistent across the Corps, with the goals of preventing sexual assault, encouraging reporting and caring for victims.

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SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (CONT'D)

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- A video message from the director of Marine and Family Services Division:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbRs7IjFkLU&feature=plcp&context=C41d2342VDvjVQa1PpcFOoTbY7RiVz40BEyRFVPMJNfXXUVZ03sAw>
- SAPR Website: <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/sapro/index.cfm?sid=ml&smid=1>

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SOCIAL MEDIA CONDUCT

BACKGROUND

The Marine Corps encourages Marines to explore and engage in social media communities at a level they feel comfortable with. The best advice is to approach online communication in the same way we communicate in person – by 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).

In April, the Marine Corps SJA began working a request to include guidance on the use of social media in Department of Defense Direct 1344.10, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces."

TALKING POINTS

- All Marines, from officers to enlisted, must adhere to DoD policy, SecNav Instructions, and Marine Corps Orders related to online media in every public setting.
- The Marines make up the Marine Corps. As a Marine, it is important that official posts convey the same journalistic excellence the Marine Corps instills in all of its communicators and public affairs professionals.
- Security of operations, personnel, equipment, information and facilities must be anticipated and evaluated before information is communicated to the public, such as: preventing the premature disclosure of dates, time and location of deployments or deployed locations, and homecoming to and from the continental United States or ports of call.
- Never share photographs of Marines in a deployed, operational location. A better way to connect with others to Marine Corps photos is to link to images on official Marine Corps or DoD sites.
- Privacy settings should always be configured on social networking sites so only people you deem appropriate can view your personal information and photos
- When expressing personal opinions, be clear that the opinions are your own and you are not speaking on behalf of the Marine Corps.
- Social communication creates a permanent record of what it's said – if you wouldn't say it in front of a formation, don't say it online.
- When using social tools and platforms, everything that it is said or done is more visible and taken more seriously. As such, everyone should have greater responsibility to speak respectfully and intelligently about issues.

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SOCIAL MEDIA CONDUCT (CONT'D)

- Any content about the Marine Corps or related to the Marine Corps that is individually posted on any Internet site is considered an “unofficial internet post.”
 - Considerations for what is posted include, but are not limited to personal comments, photographs, video and graphics.
 - The Eagle, Globe and Anchor and other symbols may be used in unofficial posts so long as the symbols are used in a manner that does not bring discredit upon the Corps, does not result in personal financial gain, or does not give the impression of official or implied endorsement.
 - If your complete thought, along with its context, cannot be squeezed into a character-restricted space (such as Twitter), then provide a link to an online location where you can express it completely and accurately.

- Guidelines for posting content by family members:
 - Pride and support for service, units, specialties and service members.
 - Generalizations about service or duty.
 - General status of the location of a unit (“operation in southern Afghanistan” as opposed to “operation in the village of Hajano Kali in Arghandab district in southern Afghanistan”).
 - Any other information already in the public domain.

WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://marines.dodlive.mil/files/2011/08/Marines-Social-Media-Handbook.pdf>

POINT OF CONTACT

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SPMAGTF-12

BACKGROUND

Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force 12 (SPMAGTF-12) began operating from Naval Air Station Sigonella on Oct. 1, 2011. SPMAGTF-12 supports theater security cooperation throughout Africa in support of Marine Forces Africa and U.S. Africa Command. SPMAGTF-12 provides Marine Forces Africa a limited crisis response capability and small teams to conduct theater security cooperation. SPMAGTF-12 is currently manned by Reservists from 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company and individual augments from across the United States. The training teams are able to provide partner nations training in logistics, counter terrorism, long-range communications, non-lethal weapons training, maritime security force assistance, military planning, small unit leadership, and vehicle maintenance.

TALKING POINTS

- We are committed to delivering and sustaining effective security cooperation programs that add to the security and stability of our African partners.
- Improving the capacity of our African partners will better enable them to prevent conflict and improve security – not only from a military standpoint, but also in terms of law enforcement, border security, customs, etc.
- We are working with our African partners to identify their security challenges and find the best way to address those challenges together.
- We are conducting training missions in response to requests from the leadership of our African partners, and we will train them in operational skills, such as casualty evacuation, long-range communications and convoy procedures.
- We will continue to work with our African partners to build an environment in which hope and opportunity flourish and support for violent extremism erodes.

Q&A

Q1: It seems like the United States is trying to gain a military foothold in Africa. Is this the case with your unit conducting training here?

A1: No, the U.S. conducts theater security cooperation all over the world through military and state department coordination. Theater Security Cooperation is a low cost, high impact way for Marines to work with African Military forces to improve interoperability in support of peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance and disaster response mission requirements.

Q2: How does this the Special-Purpose MAGTF improve U.S. Africa command's crisis response capabilities?

A2: The Special-Purpose MAGTF provides the commander of U.S. Africa Command a forward deployed unit that actively engages Africa building partner nation capacity on a day-to-day basis. During a crisis the time needed to redirect training teams currently operating in Africa is much shorter than deploying a unit from the U.S

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SPMAGTF-12 (CONT'D)

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SUICIDE PREVENTION

BACKGROUND

Suicide is preventable. The thoughts and feelings leading to suicide are usually temporary. Knowing a Marine and knowing how to respond immediately and effectively to warning signs is key. Suicide is a complex problem that requires an 'all-hands' comprehensive strategy. All Marines are taught annually to recognize suicide warning signs, ask one another about suicide, care for one another through listening and support and escort fellow Marines to help. Leaders are taught to encourage Marines to seek help early when problems are most manageable.

Studies are ongoing, by partnering with multiple organizations, including the American Association of Suicidology and Penn State University, to further our understanding of Marine suicide and how suicide affects the family members of the Marine. We also are in the process of beginning several in-house studies to evaluate our prevention efforts.

TALKING POINTS

- Suicide is an irreversible reaction to a temporary problem.
- Suicide is complex. Many interacting factors are at play (e.g., relationships, finances, substance use and psychiatric symptoms).
- The culture of the Marine Corps is to 'Never Leave a Marine Behind.' We won't leave a Marine behind on the battlefield and we won't leave a Marine behind here at home.
- Navy Medicine trains Marine Corps helping professionals to assess and manage suicide risk.
- Leaders teach that knowing when to seek help for stress is a trait of a strong, committed Marine.
- Restricting access to firearms is a proven strategy in reducing deaths by suicide.
- The majority of suicides are not impulsive acts. There are usually warning signs that precede the suicide. It's important that everyone who surrounds a Marine knows the warning signs of suicide.
- Help is available to Marines and their families. Nobody is alone with the issues they face. Everyone goes through hard times.
- Every Marine is trained annually to recognize the warning signs of suicide, and how to get a fellow Marine to help.
- We will keep faith with our Marines, our Sailors and our families. We will ensure that Marines, Sailors and their families have availability and access to quality facilities and support programs.

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SUICIDE PREVENTION (CONT'D)

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/suicideprevent/index.cfm?sid=ml>
- http://www.usmc-mccs.org/suicideprevent/stats_faqs.cfm?sid=ml&smid=3

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TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

BACKGROUND

There are three things the Marine Corps does for our nation: (1) make Marines, (2) win our nation's battles, and (3) return quality citizens. The Marine Corps has revised and improved the Transition Assistance Management Program (TAMP) to better meet the needs of our transitioning Marines in support of improving their quality of life. TAMP was revitalized from a mass training event and information overload into an individualized and practical learning experience with specific transition readiness standards which are effective and beneficial to Marines to provide excellent instruction and training tailored to meet their needs as they transition. TAMP was replaced with the Transition Readiness Seminar (TRS), which is part of the Personal and Professional Development Program and is integrated and mapped into the lifecycle of Marine from recruitment, through separation or retirement, and beyond as veteran Marines.

TALKING POINTS

- Commandant Planning Guidance directed assessment of the Transition Assistance Management Program (TAMP) and action to revolutionize our approach to better meet the needs of departing and retiring Marines.
- Assessments found that Marines needed support with online tools and wanted to start the transition process earlier because they needed help with benefits processing, academic degree planning and finding jobs.
- Transition Assistance's initial focus is to improve the support to Marines most at risk, those within 180 days pre- or post-separation and mandates all Marines to complete this event within 12 months of separation or within 24 months of retirement, but no later than 90 days prior to separation or retirement.
- The first phase of this new program is our Transition Readiness Seminar.
 - This Seminar, requiring five days, includes a two day mandatory standardized core curriculum to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the seminar with four well defined military-civilian pathways: (1) Employment Workshop; (2) Career/Technical Training Workshop; (3) College/University Education Workshop; and (4) Entrepreneurship Workshop.
 - These workshops require student prep-work. The pathways begin on the Wednesday of each week for which TRS is conducted. TRS is covered over a five day period (typically Monday-Friday) and the pathways begin on day three of the week.
 - The new curriculum rolled out at all Marine Corps installations March 26.
- Marine For Life is a Marine Corps organization that provides nationwide assistance to Marines who are returning to civilian life, Marine reservists and all Marine veterans throughout their lives. Marine For Life also assists Sailors who have served with Marine Corps units.
- In August 2011, President Obama called for the creation of a joint task force led by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs with additional members from the White

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TRANSITION ASSISTANCE (CONT'D)

House economic and domestic policy teams, the Department of Labor (DOL), the Department of Education, the Office of Personnel Management and other Federal agencies. This Task Force has developed proposals that maximize the career readiness of all Service members and numerous Federal Agency Partners are now working on implementation of these programs.

- Section 551 of the FY12 National Defense Authorization Act authorizes job and employment skills training (including apprenticeships) under DoD regulation to help prepare the members for employment in the civilian sector. We await DoD regulation before implementing.
- The recently-signed VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 (the VOW Act) has mandated further improvements in the way the Federal Government prepares Service members for their transition to civilian careers.

“BOOTS TO BUSINESS” INITIATIVE

- While creating the Transition Readiness Seminar Entrepreneurship Workshop, the Marine Corps recognized the need to partner with the government’s lead agency in that area, the Small Business Administration (SBA).
- Beginning in July, the Marine Corps began working with the SBA’s Office of Veterans Business Development to design and deliver a standardized, top quality program of instruction for Marines interested in starting and running a small business or a not-for-profit organization.
- The SBA created the “Boots to Business” initiative in response to the needs of transition Service members. This will serve to bring a common entrepreneurship curriculum to all Marine Corps installations.
- The “Boots to Business” pilot program consists of three phases of instruction:
 - An introductory video that will be seen by all transitioning Marines;
 - A 90-minute face-to-face class delivered to interested Marines during the TRS;
 - An 8-week online course for those who want to pursue additional training.
- Marines who complete the training are further supported in their entrepreneurial pursuits through connection to the SBA’s large network of resource partners across the country.

POINTS OF CONTACT

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RELATED BRIEFING CARDS: [Keeping Faith](#) and [Manpower Drawdown](#)

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TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

TALKING POINTS

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

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TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (CONT'D)

- We will ensure that Marines, Sailors and their families have availability and access to quality facilities and support programs, as well as resources and benefits that provide a quality standard of living.
- Our approach to caring for Marines, families and relatives of our fallen Marines is based on our unwavering loyalty.

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

POINTS OF CONTACT

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

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TWENTYNINE PALMS LAND EXPANSION

BACKGROUND

In 2006, the MROC adopted a requirement for large-scale Marine Air-Ground Task Force sustained combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver training on the MEB level at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) Twentynine Palms, Calif. MCAGCC currently does not provide sufficient live-fire and maneuver space to support this training. Existing training is restricted to multiple maneuver battalions operating simultaneously for up to 24-hours with unconstrained live-fire. Maneuver space is required to enable three infantry battalions to simultaneously conduct live-fire and maneuver for 48 to 72 hours. In a study conducted in 2004 by the Center for Naval Analyses, it analyzed MEB training requirements and suitable locations. The Combat Center was identified as best suited for MEB training, but still requires expansion.

TALKING POINTS

- After more than five years of intensive analysis, the Marine Corps will publicly distribute a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in July 2012. This will complete the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirement to analyze the effects of the USMC Proposed Action on the environment, including effects on natural and cultural resources and socio-economic impacts on surrounding communities.
- The FEIS analyzed the potential impacts of the project on lands to the west, south and east contiguous to the Combat Center. Analyses that led to the selection of the alternatives studied showed that lands to the north could not support MEB training. About 85% of the study area is federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management; the remainder is State or privately held.
- The preferred alternative seeks to avoid or minimize the impacts of this proposed action on the environment and the nearby communities, and to mitigate unavoidable impacts where appropriate.
- If the USMC preferred alternative moves forward, about 44% of today's Johnson Valley Off Highway Vehicle Area would remain open to the estimated 250,000 annual visitors who come to it for its recreational uses, including organized events such as the annual King of the Hammers race.
- Approximately 38,000 acres of the USMC acquired lands would be used for MEB training two months a year, and would be available 10 months for recreation uses. No dud-producing ordnance would be used in this area, and once the range is cleared for public access after MEB training, it would be available for public use.

POINT OF CONTACT

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UDP RESUMPTION

BACKGROUND

To reduce the number of unaccompanied tours and improve unit continuity, the CMC established the Unit Deployment Program (UDP) in October 1977 to provide for the deployment of units to Western Pacific (WESTPAC) for periods of approximately six months. The initial program was a six-phased evolution that sequenced infantry battalions and aircraft squadrons/detachments into WESTPAC deployments, thus eliminating the 12-month permanent change of station assignments for personnel assigned to these units. UDP was reduced in scale in 2003 due to increased personnel and equipment demands in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. With the recent reduction of those requirements, the Marine Corps intends to resume the normal UDP deployment cycle of units rotating from U.S. home stations.

TALKING POINTS

- The Marine Corps, as America's expeditionary force in readiness, constantly seeks opportunities to train and partner with allies and friends in the Pacific theater.
- The UDP has been a cost-effective way to expose U.S.-based Marine units to various training environments and maintain military partnerships throughout the region since 1977.
- After reducing UDP in 2003 due to increased personnel and equipment demands of fighting two wars, the Marine Corps will begin, incrementally, to return to the routine deployment cycle of units rotating to Japan from U.S. home stations.
- Approximately 800 Marines from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii will deploy in early summer to Okinawa as part of UDP resumption.
- Temporarily rotating Marines to Okinawa creates a cost-effective way to maintain deterrence without the costs associated with permanently based forces and their families.
- Increased forward presence improves the Marine Corps' ability to respond to contingencies throughout the region. These Marines will participate in theater security cooperation activities and partner with regional allies and friends. When called to respond, Marines can rapidly deploy with the equipment and training necessary.
- Marines under the UDP will rotate to Okinawa under the command of III Marine Expeditionary Force. Their rotation durations will ideally be six months at a time. This construct reduces their impact on the host nation as families will remain in the U.S. and the vast majority of Marines will be housed on military installations.
- The number and timing of additional deployments as part of the UDP have not been determined. The pace of UDP resumption is contingent upon the drawdown of Marines in Afghanistan. We're working through the details of fully resuming UDP and will provide more information as it becomes available.

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UDP RESUMPTION (CONT'D)

Q&A

Q1: Despite the recent announcement to transfer Marines off of Okinawa, it sounds as though you are increasing the Marine Corps presence there. Is this the case?

A1: No. The UDP has been in place since 1977 and has often varied in size and scope. Marine presence in Okinawa, as always, will continue to remain in accordance with the current U.S.-Japan security agreement.

Q2: The people of Okinawa have already expressed frustration with their disproportionate 'burden' of U.S. military basing. What are you doing to mitigate their impact on the population of Okinawa?

A2: Under the Unit Deployment Program, Marines will gradually return to Okinawa consistent with pre-2003 levels. The recent US-Japan Security Consultative Committee agreement of 27 April 2012 reaffirms the plan to relocate 9,000 Marines and their associated dependants to locations outside of Japan, enabling the consolidation of the remaining bases and significant land returns south of Kadena Airbase.

Q3: How does the UDP program affect the number of Marines on Okinawa, especially in light of negotiations to reduce the number of Marines there?

A3: Please contact OSD PA.

Q4: Where will the UDP Marines come from?

A4: Marines will be sourced from U.S.-based stations.

Q5: When and how many Marines will be coming to Okinawa?

A5: Approximately 800 Marines from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines will deploy in early summer.

Q6: Where will these Marines be staying and training?

A6: The Marine ground units under the UDP will be housed primarily at Camp Hansen and Camp Schwab. These installations have the existing barracks, messing, equipment and support facilities that have historically been used by UDP units.

Q7: If UDP has been suspended, was there risk to Japan? Were you able to fulfill your treaty obligations?

A7: I can assure you that the United States is committed to the security of Japan. The Marine Corps maintains a robust presence in Japan including a Marine Expeditionary Force and the permanent assignment of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Although the number of personnel present in Japan was scaled back due to other operational requirements, we maintained significant capabilities. As for specific contingency plans, I will refer you to U.S. Pacific Command.

Q8: Before 2003, the Marine Corps was rotating three infantry battalions to Okinawa. Will the Marine Corps again rotate three infantry battalions under UDP? If so, how soon?

A8: The number and timing of additional deployments as part of the UDP are to be determined. The pace of UDP resumption is contingent upon the drawdown of Marines in Afghanistan.

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UDP RESUMPTION (CONT'D)

Q9: How does UDP resumption impact the rotational deployment to Australia?

A9: At the invitation of the Australian government, we are also standing up a rotational deployment to Darwin, Australia. Initially the first UDP battalion to Okinawa will support this new deployment with a detached company of Marines, but ultimately the Australia rotational deployment is an additional presence in the region and separate from UDP resumption in Okinawa. A company-sized detachment from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines deployed from Hawaii to Darwin in early April.

POINTS OF CONTACT

- Capt Greg Wolf, HQMC DivPA, 703-614-4309, gregory.wolf@usmc.mil
- Maj Cathy Wilkinson, OSD PA, 703-695-0168, catherine.wilkinson@osd.mil

RELATED BRIEFING CARDS: [Australia Deployment](#) and [DPRI/Pacific Realignment](#)

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VALUE OF THE CORPS

QUOTE

“Marines account for only 8.2% of the total Department of Defense budget. With that, our Nation gains the ability to respond to unexpected crises, from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts to non combatant evacuation operations, to counter-piracy operations, to full-scale combat.” – **Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, 2012 Posture Statement to HASC**

TALKING POINTS

- For 8.2% of the FY12 DoD budget, the Marine Corps provides our nation 15% of its ground maneuver brigades, 11% of its fighter attack aircraft, 18% of its attack helicopters and seven Marine Expeditionary Units with the ability to respond to unexpected crises, from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts, to full scale combat.
- In the fall 2010, the Marine Corps initiated a Force Structure Review, whose mission was to re-shape the Marine Corps while responsibly meeting our national security challenges. Our goal in this effort was to provide the American people with the most ready, capable and cost-effective crisis response force our nation can afford.
- With a force structure of 182,100, our re-shaped Marine Corps is able to accomplish the missions of the new Defense Strategic Guidance while keeping faith with our Marines, Sailors and their families.
- The Marine Corps will only ask for what it needs to fulfill its role and missions in national defense.
- We are proud of our reputation for frugality and remain one of the best values for the defense dollar.
- In a period of budget austerity, we offer a strategically mobile force optimized for forward-presence and rapid crisis response all for well under 10% of the DoD budget.

Q&A

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

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

POINT OF CONTACT/SOURCING

- 1stLt Eric Flanagan, HQMC DivPA, 703-614-4309, eric.flanagan@usmc.mil
- Sourced via [CMC statement](#) on the release of the defense budget

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

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ASSIGNMENT OF WOMEN TO GROUND COMBAT UNITS

QUOTE

"I expect all leaders to be fully committed to providing every Marine the opportunity to compete and excel, while sustaining unit effectiveness, readiness and cohesion, and maintaining good order and discipline. I will consider the results and impact of the exception to the ground assignment policy, the quantitative research, and the total force survey as we make future recommendations regarding the potential assignment of women to ground combat element units." – **Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, All-Marine Message (ALMAR) 012-12**

BACKGROUND

The Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11) National Defense Authorization Act directed the Secretary of Defense and the Service Secretaries to review all laws, policies and regulations that may restrict the service of female members. The Marine Corps along with DoD and the other Services conducted a comprehensive review of these restrictions. The results of this review were delivered in a Report to Congress on Feb. 9, and included an exception to the current 1994 Direct Ground Combat exclusion policy and the removal of the collocation restriction, which prevented females from serving in units required to physically collocate and remain with direct ground combat units. The SecDef further directed the services report back to him in six months with an assessment of the newly opened positions under the exception to policy, identification of further positions that can be opened, and the services efforts to pursue gender-neutral physical standards. CMC directed a measured, responsible and deliberate approach to be conducted to provide him with information and data to make an informed recommendation to SecNav and SecDef on future changes to female assignment policies.

TALKING POINTS

- Congress, the SecDef and the SecNav have directed that the Marine Corps review its policies on the assignment of women to ground combat units and combat arms occupational specialties.
- The Marine Corps has initiated a measured, deliberate and responsible research effort in order to provide the CMC with meaningful data so that he can make fact-based recommendations to the senior leadership of DoD and Congress.
- The Marine Corps' research effort includes three major components:
 - Exception to Policy Assignments (June)
 - 371 USMC / 60 USN active component Ground Combat Element (GCE) positions opened
 - 45 Marines / 14 Sailors are slated to be assigned to 19 battalion (BN) staffs
 - Artillery, tank, amphibious assault vehicle (AAV), combat engineer, combat assault and low altitude air defense (LAAD) units
 - 22 Marine staff non-commissioned officers (SNCOs) and 4 Marine officers have reported as of June 20

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ASSIGNMENT OF WOMEN TO GROUND COMBAT UNITS (CONT'D)

- Quantitative Research (CY12)
 - GCE COMMON Physical Performance Standards (GCPPS) - infantry battalion and Entry-Level Training volunteers tested in heavy machine gun lift, casualty evacuation and march under load. Research commenced on May 25 with "B" Company. "B" Company has completed all three (3) events.
 - Infantry Officer Course (IOC) Plan - female graduates of Basic Officer Course can volunteer to attend, infantry primary MOS is still closed, only collecting performance data. No volunteers from "A" Company, may have volunteers from "B" and "C" Companies for Sept. 24 IOC class.
 - Future Infantry Training Battalion (ITB) Option - female enlisted Marines will be provided future opportunities to volunteer ISO research effort. Marine Corps analyzing conditions to commence this research option; potential early CY13 start.
 - Analysis of Closed MOSs - ensure all physically demanding tasks and graduation requirements are current and reflected in Programs of Instruction (POIs) at MOS-producing schools; to be completed by end of Sep 12 (FY12).
- Force Survey (June-July)
 - Online survey for Marines (active and reserve) for CMC to gather input regarding potential changes to current assignment policies related to female Marines. 33,261 (15%) Marines have submitted surveys as of June 20.
- The evaluation of female volunteers in the Infantry Officers Course is only one element of our comprehensive research plan to gather information that will assist in future recommendations regarding the assignment of female Marines. The infantry MOS is still closed to female Marines; we will only be collecting data during training.
- It is important that we learn the right lessons from recent military operations, but we must also consider the potential for the full spectrum of ground combat requirements. We must ensure that as we implement any changes, the Marine Corps maintains or improves its combat capabilities.
- We will provide the opportunity for all Marines to compete and excel, while sustaining unit effectiveness, mission readiness and cohesion, and maintaining good order and discipline.
- CMC and SMMC will be monitoring this comprehensive study during the coming year to help inform future recommendations.

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- DoD Report to Congress (Feb. 9): http://www.defense.gov/news/WISR_Report_to_Congress.pdf
- ALMAR 012/12 (Apr. 23): <http://www.marines.mil/news/messages/Pages/ALMAR012-12.aspx/>
- OSD PA Press Release (Apr. 26): <http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=15217>
- MARADMIN 288/12 (May 29): <http://www.marines.mil/news/messages/Pages/MARADMIN288-12.aspx/>
- Women in Combat Units Survey: <http://www.manpower.usmc.mil/application>

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ASSIGNMENT OF WOMEN TO GROUND COMBAT UNITS (CONT'D)

POINTS OF CONTACT

- Maj Shawn Haney, M&RA PAO, 703-784-9047, shawn.d.haney@usmc.mil
- LtCol Jessica Bradley, M&RA Policy Branch (MPO), 703-784-9351, jessica.bradley@usmc.mil

**** Any queries regarding Women in Combat Units, that are beyond the scope of this briefing card, should be directed to the point of contact at M&RA. If pressed, please limit your answer to the Talking Points above and refer the reporter to M&RA. ****

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WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT

BACKGROUND

The Marine Corps' greatest assets are our Marines; as such taking care of our wounded, ill and injured (WII) and their families is a responsibility the Corps takes seriously. The United States Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment provides and facilitates assistance to wounded, ill and injured Marines, and sailors attached to or in direct support of Marine units and their family members in order to assist them as they return to duty or transition to civilian life. The Regimental headquarters element, located in Quantico, Va., commands the operations of two Wounded Warrior Battalions located at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Camp Lejeune, N.C., and multiple detachments in locations around the globe.

TALKING POINTS

- The Regiment supports active, reserve and veteran Marines. This includes WII Marines or sailors who remain with their parent units. Examples of support for WII Marines who remain with their parent units include:
 - The Sergeant Merlin German Wounded Warrior Call Center - A 24/7 capability that allows the WWR to extend support to all WII Marines, 877-487-6299.
 - Recovery Care Coordinators - Non-medical resource subject matter experts to assist with developing and meeting recovery goals.
 - District Injured Support Coordinators - Mobilized Marine reservists located throughout the country to help Marines transition from activity duty or reserve to veteran status.
 - Medical Cell - Provides medical subject matter expertise, advocacy, and liaison to the medical community.
- The Commandant of the Marine Corps expressed intent that WII Marines should remain assigned to their parent units, so long as their medical conditions allow and their units can support them. However, in certain circumstances, assignment to the WWR is necessary to ensure the WII Marine's successful transition through the recovery phases. Find out how to refer a service member to the WWR by visiting [their website](#).

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

- <http://www.woundedwarriorregiment.org>
- http://www.woundedwarriorregiment.org/documents/pao/Referring_Marines_Guidance_Sheet.pdf

POINT OF CONTACT

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