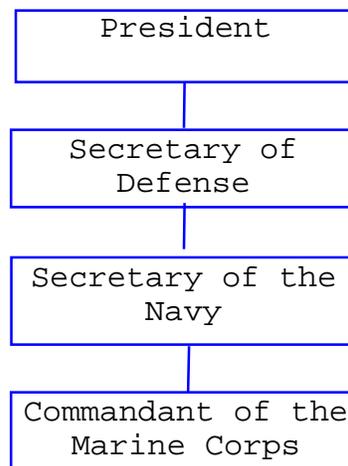


ANNEX A**MARINE CORPS FORCES****1. Introduction**

The U.S. Marine Corps, within the Department of the Navy, is organized as a general purpose "force in readiness" to support national needs. Whether responding to natural disasters or to the specter of regional aggression, Navy and Marine forces provide self-contained and self-sustained air, land, and sea strike forces, operating from a protected sea base, that can be tailored to meet any contingency. This annex will provide an overview of these Marine Forces, focusing on their functions, capabilities and composition.

2. Organization and Chain of Command

Two parallel chains of command—Service and operational—exist within the Marine Corps. The Service chain begins with the President, through the Secretary of Defense, and continues through the Secretary of the Navy and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.



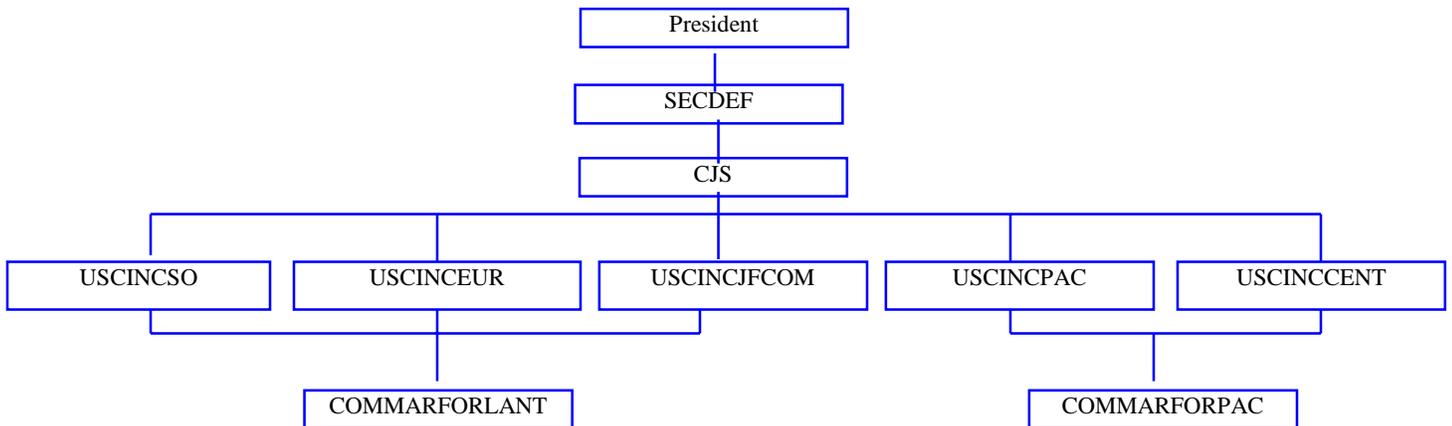
Operationally, Marine Forces are organized, trained, and equipped under a total force concept to conduct a wide range of expeditionary operations. The Marine Corps total force consists of three components—the operating forces, the Reserves and the supporting establishment. The operating forces are an expeditionary "force-in-readiness," providing forward presence, crisis response, and rapid power projection capabilities to warfighting commanders in chief (CINCs). The Marine Corps Reserve is an integral

part of the total force team, is continuously training and operating with the active forces, and is fully prepared to augment or reinforce in times of crisis. The supporting establishment is responsible for recruiting, training, equipping, and sustaining the force—Active and Reserve.

3. Operating Forces

The two major components of the operating forces are the Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic (MARFORLANT), and Marine Corps Forces, Pacific (MARFORPAC). These two forces constitute the expeditionary combat power of the Marine Corps. The other two elements of the operating forces are the Marine Corps Security Forces at naval installations and the Marine Security Guard Battalion with detachments at embassies and consulates. Consistent with the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act and Joint Pub 0-2, each combatant CINC is assigned a Marine Service component for planning and execution of various operational plans. MARFORLANT, headquartered in Norfolk, VA, is assigned as the Marine Service component for the U.S. Joint Forces Command, the U.S. Southern Command, and the U.S. European Command. MARFORPAC, headquartered at Camp Smith, HI is assigned as the Marine Service component for the U.S. Pacific Command, the U.S. Central Command, and the CINC United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command.

The operational chain runs from the President, through the Secretary of Defense, directly to commanders of combatant commands for missions and forces assigned to their commands. Marine Corps component commanders provide operational forces to commanders of combatant commands and other operational commanders as required.



4. **Marine Corps Forces (MARFOR) and Marine Expeditionary Forces (MEF)**

Marine Corps forces (MARFOR) is the designation given all Marine Component commands. A Marine component command is a command consisting of all MARFOR assigned to a joint force. There are two levels of Marine components. A Marine Service component is assigned to a combatant commander or a subordinate unified commander. The Marine component commander commands, trains, equips, and sustains all Marine forces. When designated by the joint commander, a Marine component commander (at either the Service or JTF level) may also serve as a functional component commander. A functional component commander is a command that is normally composed of forces of two or more Military Departments and that may be established to perform particular operational missions. MARFOR commanders may also provide forces to the Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Commanders of the Navy for duty as Fleet Marine Forces. Operating forces are normally employed as Marine air-ground task forces (MAGTFs) which are combined arms warfighting organizations tailored to accomplish specific missions. MAGTFs may be provided as amphibious forces, maritime prepositioning forces and air contingency forces. They may be as large as a MEF or as small as a Special Purpose MAGTF (SPMAGTF). MAGTF organization and capability will be discussed in more detail in paragraph 7 of this annex.

5. **Fleet Marine Forces Missions**

When assigned to the Navy as landing forces, Marines may become Fleet Marine Forces. Up until 1992, when the MARFORs came into existence as service component headquarters, this was the most common way of employing operating forces. The nine specific missions of a Fleet Marine Force are to:

- Serve with the fleet in the seizure and defense of advanced naval bases and in the conduct of such land operations as may be essential to the prosecution of a naval campaign.
- Participate, as directed by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, in the development of doctrine, tactics, techniques and equipment used by Fleet Marine Forces.

- Train and equip Fleet Marine Forces for amphibious operations, air movement/prepositioned deployment, naval political reinforcement operations and land operations associated with naval warfare and naval support of continental warfare.
- Maintain forces in readiness for operational commitments commensurate with the strategic situation, the unified commander's requirements and the training time required to ensure tactical success when committed.
- Advise higher joint and combined commanders of the proper employment of Fleet Marine Forces, to participate in associated planning, and to accomplish such operational missions as may be assigned by competent authority.
- Provide command and command support of the tactical employment of Fleet Marine Forces.
- Provide for service administration, discipline, intelligence and logistic functions for assigned forces.
- Perform such other duties as may be directed.
- MARFOR headquarters accomplish these missions whether or not the operating forces are assigned to the Navy for duty as FMFs.

6. **U.S. Marine Corps Forces Atlantic and Pacific Organization**

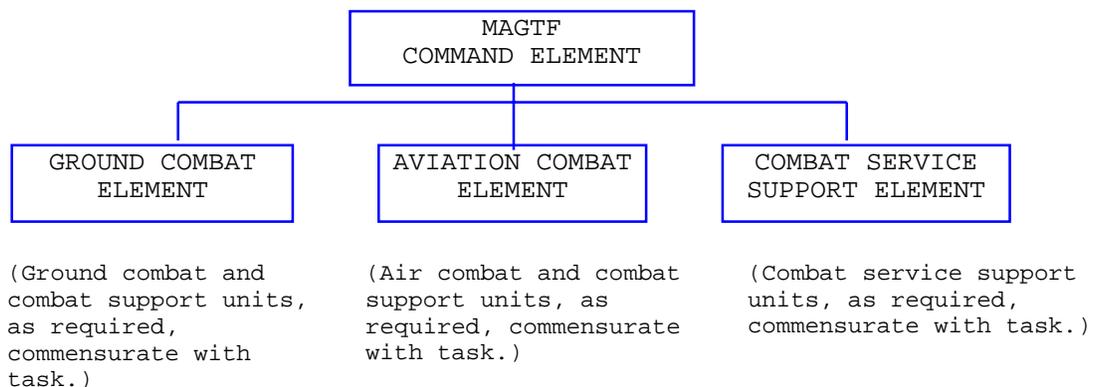
- MARFORLANT and MARFORPAC are similarly organized. Both contain at least one MEF. Both "wear multiple hats" as designees for duty with various unified commanders. Both provide reservoirs of balanced, combined air and ground arms trained forces, organized and equipped for expeditionary operations.
- The MEFs within the MARFORs are similarly organized as well. A MEF will consist of a headquarters, one or more Marine divisions, one or more Marine aircraft wings (MAWs), one or more force service support groups (FSSGs) and may include one or more Marine expeditionary units (MEUs). MEF organization will be discussed in more detail in paragraph 8 of this annex.

- MARFORLANT is headquartered in Norfolk, VA, and includes forces of II MEF. MARFORLANT is the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Europe (MARFOREUR) and the U.S. Marine Corps Forces South (MARFORSOUTH) designee.

- MARFORPAC is headquartered at Camp Smith, HI and includes forces of I and III MEF. MARFORPAC is the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command (MARCENT) and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Korea/Combined Marine Forces Korea (MARFORK/CFC) designee.

7. MAGTF Organization and Capabilities

As mentioned previously, Marine operating forces organize and deploy for combat as MAGTFs, not as divisions, regiments or battalions. MAGTFs are a readily available, self-sustaining, combined arms combat force. They are organized, equipped and trained to conduct the following operations: amphibious operations and defense of advanced naval bases in support of a naval campaign, expeditionary operations across the full spectrum of conflict--including forcible entry by amphibious assault, and noncombatant operations ranging from noncombatant evacuations to disaster relief. The MAGTF is also capable of sustained operations ashore in support of a land campaign. MAGTFs are task organized from Marine combat, combat support, and combat service support organizations, under the command of a single commander. Because MAGTFs are task-organized based on a particular mission, they differ in organization. However, all MAGTFs, regardless of size, share four organizational elements which vary in size and composition according to the mission.



This structure is carefully designed to provide operational flexibility and coordinated execution, thus maximizing the contribution of each element to the overall mission.

a. Command Element (CE). The CE is the MAGTF HQ. It is task-organized to provide the command and control capability necessary for effective planning and execution of operations. In addition to the HQ staff, it includes units and detachments that provide communications, information systems, and intelligence support for the MAGTF.

b. Ground Combat Element (GCE). The GCE is task-organized to conduct ground operations to support the MAGTF mission. It is formed around an infantry organization reinforced with artillery, reconnaissance, armor, engineer, and other forces as needed. The GCE can vary in size and composition from a reinforced infantry battalion to one or more Marine divisions. During amphibious operations, it projects ground combat power ashore by using transport helicopters from the ACE, organic assault amphibious vehicles, and Navy landing craft.

c. Aviation Combat Element (ACE). The ACE is task-organized to perform all or part of the six functions of Marine aviation in support of MAGTF operations. During amphibious operations, it can vary in size and composition, from a reinforced aviation squadron or detachment, with appropriate air command and control and combat service support (CSS), to one or more Marine aircraft wings (MAWs).

d. Combat Service Support Element (CSSE). The CSSE is task-organized to provide the full range of CSS capabilities necessary to support and sustain MAGTF operations. During amphibious operations, it may vary in size and composition from a task-organized CSS detachment to one or more force service support groups (FSSGs).

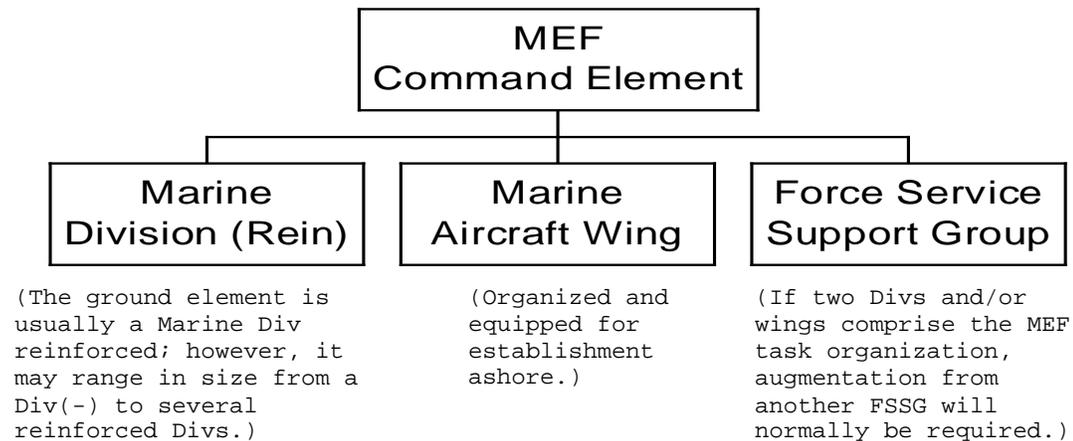
However, MAGTFs are much more than a simple combination of organizational elements. They are organized, trained, and equipped to conduct combined arms warfare across three dimensions: air, land, and sea. Moreover, through a combination of strategic basing and prepositioning of equipment, global forward operations, and an ability to rapidly deploy by air and/or sea, MAGTFs embody both a cost-effective, building-block approach to deploying Marine combat power, and a proven battle-winning capability.

8. **Types of MAGTFs**

All MAGTFs are "expeditionary" forces that are task-organized for a specific mission. An expeditionary force is a *capability*, rather than a structure. MAGTFs vary greatly in size and composition according to the assigned mission. However, to provide a frame of reference, Marine Corps doctrine categorizes MAGTFs in the following four types:

- Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF)
- Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB)
- Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU)
- Special Purpose MAGTF (SPMAGTF)

a. Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF)



Most of the Marine Corps operating forces are assigned to the three standing MEFs:

MARFORPAC

- I MEF: Based in California
- III MEF: Forward based in Okinawa, mainland Japan, and Hawaii

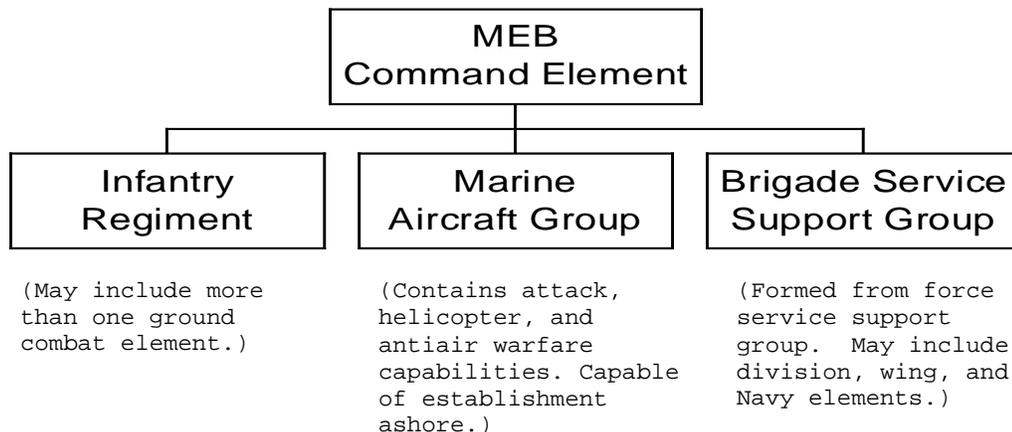
MARFORLANT

- II MEF: Based in North and South Carolina

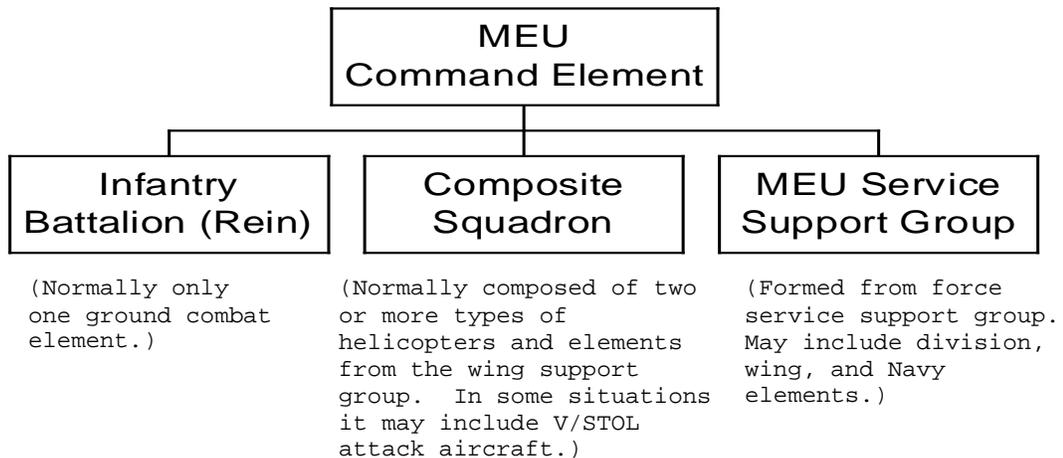
These standing MEFs can deploy as a MEF (normally in echelon) or can deploy subordinate units (task-organized for assigned missions). All three MEFs provide MEUs for service afloat. The MEF is the principal Marine Corps warfighting organization, particularly for larger crises or contingencies. Normally commanded by lieutenant general or major general, it is capable of operations across the full spectrum of conflict, including amphibious assault and sustained combat operations ashore. A MEF can range in

size from less than one to multiple divisions and aircraft wings, together with one or more FSSGs. As described above, there are three standing MEFs. Each of these MEFs consists of a permanent CE and one Marine division, MAW, and FSSG. Each MEF forward deploys MEUs on a continuous basis. The size and composition of a deployed MEF can vary greatly depending on the mission, from elements consisting of less than a full division, wing, or service support group to elements consisting of more than one. A MEF can deploy with forces attached from the other standing MEFs as well as from the Reserves. With accompanying supplies for 60 days, MEFs are capable of both amphibious operations and sustained operations ashore. With appropriate augmentation, especially in the area of C2 capability, the CE is capable of performing the mission of a JTF HQ, and the MEF can serve as the nucleus of the JTF.

b. Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB)



Normally commanded by a brigadier general, this forward-deployed element of the MEF is a task organization normally built around a regimental landing team, a Marine aircraft group, and a logistics support group. It is capable of conducting amphibious assault operations. During potential crisis situations, a MEB may be forward deployed afloat for an extended period to provide an immediate combat response. The command element of this particular MAGTF is not a "standing" element. It comes from within the MEF command element. A MEB will deploy with 30 days of sustainment as accompanying supplies. The deployment of the MEB does not automatically trigger the deployment of the MEF. This would occur only if the crisis is large enough to require the entire MEF.

c. Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU)

A MEU is normally composed of a reinforced infantry battalion, a reinforced helicopter squadron (which may include vertical/short takeoff and landing (V/STOL) attack aircraft), a MEU service support group, and a CE. The MEU is commanded a colonel and deploys with 15 days' worth of accompanying supplies. MARFORLANT and MARFORPAC routinely forward deploy MEUs aboard amphibious shipping in the Mediterranean Sea, Indian Ocean, Persian Gulf, and Western Pacific. Deployed as part of an amphibious ready group, the MEU provides a combatant or operational commander with a sea-based rapid-reaction force with a wide variety of missions. MEU(SOC) capabilities are classified in four broad categories.

- Amphibious Operations
- Direct Action
- Military Operations Other Than War
- Supporting Operations

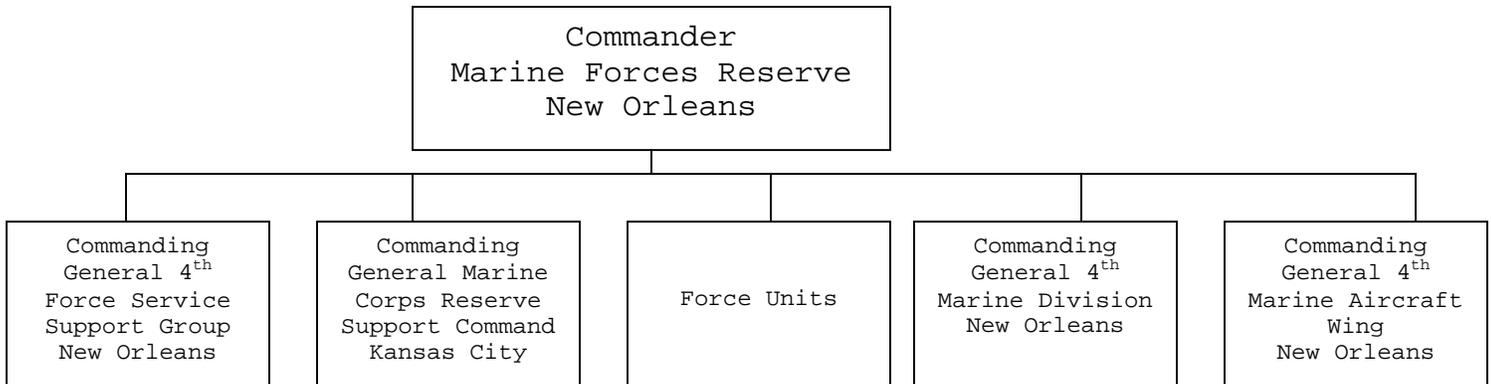
The MEU has a limited forcible entry capability and can facilitate the employment of follow-on forces, including joint and combined forces as well as a MEF. Before deployment, the MEU undergoes a 6-month training program focusing on selected maritime special operations and culminating in the designation of the unit as "special operations capable" (MEU(SOC)). Within each maritime pre-positioning squadron, a single ship is configured with stand-alone capability to support a MEU with equipment and supplies for operations in excess of 15 days. The addition

of any single maritime pre-positioning ship to a MEU(SOC) adds significant sustainment and the ability to rapidly expand the force.

d. Special Purpose MAGTF (SPMAGTF). A SPMAGTF is a small MAGTF configured to accomplish specific missions that are limited in scope and focus and often in duration. A SPMAGTF may be any size, but normally it is a relatively small force—the size of a Marine expeditionary unit or smaller—with narrowly focused capabilities chosen to accomplish a limited mission. It can be deployed by amphibious or commercial ships, tactical or strategic airlift, or by organic Marine Corps assets. Common missions assigned to a SPMAGTF include raids, peacekeeping, noncombatant evacuation, disaster relief, and humanitarian assistance. SPMAGTFs are designated as a SPMAGTF with location; e.g., SPMAGTF (Liberia) or SPMAGTF (Philippines). As with the MEU, the SPMAGTF may be the forward element of a larger MAGTF.

9. **Marine Corps Forces Reserve (MARFORRES)**

Rapid force expansion is possible through the activation of the Marine Corps Forces Reserve (MARFORRES). The Reserve, like the active forces, consists of a balanced combined-arms team with ground, aviation and CSS units. Organized under the Commander, Marine Corps Forces Reserve, units are located at 191 training centers in 46 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. The Marine Corps Forces Reserve is closely integrated with the active component under the Marine Corps total force concept. The reserves provide individuals and specific units to augment and reinforce active capabilities.



10. The Supporting Establishment

The supporting establishment consists of 16 major bases, training activities, formal schools, the Marine Corps Recruiting Command, the Marine Corps Combat Development Command, the Marine Corps Systems Command, and Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. The supporting establishment's contributions are vital to the overall combat readiness of the Marine Corps.

11. In summary, MAGTFs define a unique form of naval expeditionary operations that allow the regional commanders in chief to employ Marine forces independently. They will be able to do so whether in a crisis-response role, as a sustainable first-on-the-scene enabling force for follow-on joint operations, or in support of a larger naval or joint warfighting campaign.

**Question 1. All active duty Marines assigned to the Operating Forces are designated as Fleet Marine Forces.
True / False**

Question 2. What two major Marine components constitute the expeditionary combat power of the Marine Corps?