

National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC)



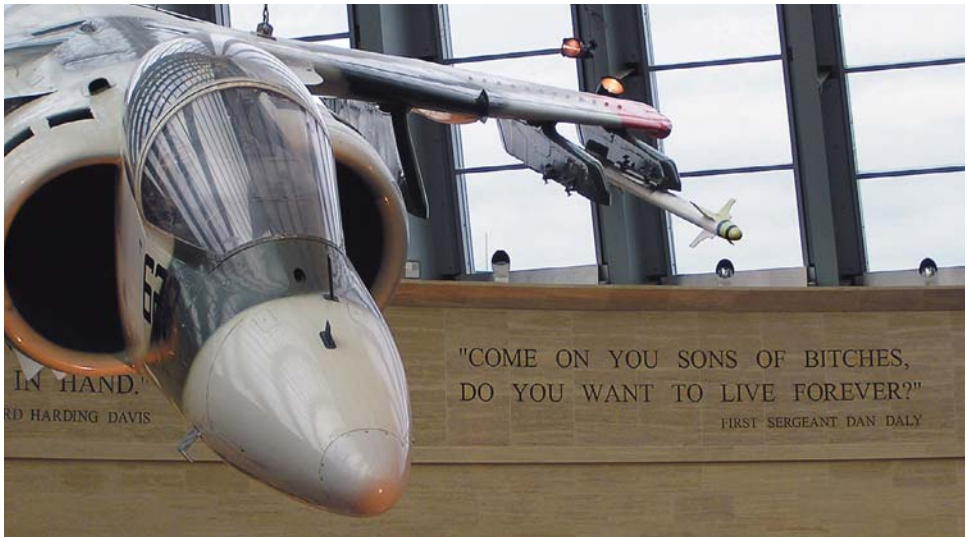
The President of the United States dedicated the National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC) on 10 November 2006. Located in Quantico, VA and with an average annual visitor attendance of more than 500,000 during each of its first three years, the NMMC is one of the most popular cultural attractions in Virginia. Its exhibitions recreate environments and immerse visitors into Marine Corps action. The Marine Corps Museum's mission includes:

- Collecting and preserving objects that reflect the history of the Corps;
- Interpreting Marine Corps history;
- Educating students and families;
- Conducting collections-based research; and
- Supporting the recruitment, education, and retention of Marines.

The National Museum is being constructed in phases, the first of which includes approximately 120,000 square feet. It opened with permanent galleries dedicated to “Making Marines,” World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. In 2010, three additional galleries will open to tell the story of the Marine Corps from 1775 through World War I. In immersive exhibits, visitors take their places alongside Marines in battle. Aircraft, tanks, and other vehicles are prominently displayed, and period uniforms, weapons, medals, flags, and other artifacts help visitors trace the history of the Corps. Future phases will add a giant-screen theater, classrooms, an art gallery, visible storage, and more exhibition space to the flagship building. A chapel that overlooks the Museum and Semper Fidelis Memorial Park opened in October 2009. Also planned as part of the 135-acre “Marine Corps Heritage Center” are a hotel/conference center, artifact storage and restoration building, hiking trails, and additions to Semper Fidelis Memorial Park.

The NMMC reports to Marine Corps University and is federally funded and staffed by Marine Corps civilian employees and uniformed Marines. However, its construction and expansion would not be possible without the assistance of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. This strong public-private partnership, approved by Congress in 2001, allowed for the construction of an iconic building and the delivery of the highest-quality programs.

The strength of any history museum rests with its collections. NMMC's key-stone objects that represent how Marines



have waged war since 1775 — weapons, tanks, vehicles, aircraft — were transferred to the museum by the Marine Corps. But pride in being a Marine has prompted many generations of leathernecks to donate their personal items to the permanent collection. Because the museum is charged with caring for its collections — some 30,000 objects — in perpetuity, curators add to the collection very selectively, consulting a formal collections rationale for guidance. Stewardship responsibilities are divided among five broad categories: ordnance; uniforms and heraldry; aviation; art; and general collections. Curators and collections managers work together to fully account for the collection.

As is often the case with museums, less than ten percent of NMMC's objects are on exhibition at any one time. Most of them are in storage at Marine Corps Base Quantico, while some objects are on loan

to other museums around the country. A team dedicated to the preservation of aircraft, vehicles, artillery pieces, and other large artifacts completes the detailed restoration of several artifacts each year.

An in-house exhibitions team, working with curators and historians, designs and oversees permanent and temporary installations, including the Commandant's Corridor at the Pentagon. Museum educators use these exhibits to craft formal education programs that meet the needs of classroom teachers and are linked to specific standards of learning.

Education at the museum can definitely be fun, especially for ("Little Marines"), with puppet shows, hands-on activities, story telling, trains, and gallery hunts. During the museum's second year of operation, it served more than 29,000 students in formal programs. Popular family day programs are offered on the second Saturday of each month. Marines

attending formal schools also make good use of the museum as part of their professional military education.

Since World War II, the Corps has been instructing a small number of Marines to “go to war and do art!” Continuing in that tradition, in 2009 the Museum deployed two artists to Iraq, Afghanistan, and training sites in the United States to capture what today’s warriors are accomplishing. More than 60 works from the combat art collection were featured in a multi-service show in Newport News, VA, in 2009.

In 2009, the museum received the Themed Entertainment Association’s award for Best New Museum, and the

Secretary of the Navy recognized the museum with the Award of Merit for Group Achievement. The museum stands as a proud acknowledgement of the courage and commitment to duty delivered by all Marines, in support of today’s Marine Corps families, and as an inspiration to the next generation of Americans.

In addition to the NMMC, command specific museums are located at Camp Pendleton, CA; Recruit Depots San Diego, CA and Parris Island, SC; and at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, CA. These museums reflect the unique interests and objectives of those facilities. For additional information, see www.usmcmuseum.org.

Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

Established in 1801, Marine Barracks Washington D.C. is the “Oldest Post of the Corps” and has been the residence of every Commandant of the Marine Corps since 1806. The selection of the site for the barracks was a matter of personal interest to President Thomas Jefferson, who rode through Washington with Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Burrows in search of a suitable location. They chose the current site due to its location near the Washington Navy Yard and its easy marching distance of the Capitol.

Marine Barracks has also been home of the United States Marine Band since 1801. Shortly after its formation in 1798, the band played for President John Adams at the Executive Mansion. This engagement began a tradition that has become so established that today the names “Marine Band” and “The President’s Own” are synonymous. John Philip Sousa, the most famous director of “The President’s Own,” wrote many of his immortal marches — such as “The Stars and Stripes Forever” and “Semper Fidelis” — while stationed here.

Today, Barracks Marines perform many tasks in support of the Marine Corps’ diverse missions. These include infantry training, ceremonies, and presidential support duty to include a company of “8th and I” Marines that fulfill a security mission for the First Family at Camp David, MD.

The barracks is also home to the Marine Corps Institute (MCI). Founded in 1920 by the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General John A. Lejeune,

MCI is the Corps’ distance training center, which is responsible for all nonresident military education programs.



EVENING PARADE

An 85-minute performance of music and precision marching, the Evening Parade features “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band, “The Commandant’s Own” United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, and the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. The Evening Parade is held Friday evenings from 7 May through 27 August 2010. The ceremony starts with an 8:45 p.m. concert by “The President’s Own.”

HOW TO MAKE PARADE RESERVATIONS

Seating for the Evening Parade requires a reservation. Guests with reservations are admitted beginning at 7 p.m. and should arrive no later than 8 p.m. Reservations may be made in writing, facsimile, or, for groups of six or less, online

at www.mbw.usmc.mil. Mail reservation requests should be addressed to:

**Protocol Officer, Marine Barracks
8th and I Streets, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20390-5000**

They should be mailed at least 30 days prior to a desired parade date. Requests via facsimile should be faxed to the Protocol Officer at (202) 433-4076. The request should include the name of the party (either group or individual), the number of guests in the party, a complete return address, and a point of contact with a telephone number. An alternate parade date should be included in the request in case the primary date requested is unavailable. Confirmations and gate assignments for reservation requests will be made by return mail. At approximately 8:10 p.m., guests without reservations, who are waiting outside the main gate of the Marine Barracks, are offered unclaimed seats.

There are no designated public parking spaces in the immediate vicinity of the Marine Barracks. Guests can park at Maritime Plaza, located at 1201 M Street, S.E., for free shuttle service to and from the barracks. The first shuttle departs Maritime Plaza at 7 p.m. and the last shuttle departs the barracks at 11 p.m. Additional information is available at the parade information line: (202) 433-6060, or at the Marine Barracks Washington website.



SUNSET PARADE

A one-hour performance, the Sunset Parade features the music of “The Commandant’s Own” United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and a precision drill exhibition by the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. The Sunset Parade is conducted Tuesday evenings from 1 June through 10 August 2010, beginning at 7 p.m. except for the final two parades which begin at 6:30pm. The Sunset Parade, held at the Marine Corps War Memorial, is open to the public at no charge. Reservations are not necessary. Spacious lawns provide ample room for guests to bring lawn chairs and blankets for informal viewing. There are no public parking spaces available at the memorial grounds on parade evenings. Guests may park at the Arlington National Cemetery Visitors’ Center for a nominal fee. A free shuttle service is provided from the Visitors’ Center to the War Memorial from 5 to 7 p.m. before the parade and from 8 to 9 p.m. following the parade.

International Affairs Officer Program (IAOP)

In a rapidly changing and frequently chaotic world, well-trained and experienced international specialists are increasingly important for operational and strategic success in political-military affairs. The goal of the IAOP is to identify, select, and train a corps of officers for future assignments to Marine Corps, joint, or combined staffs in operations, planning, or intelligence billets, and for duty with the defense attaché system.

The IAOP is an umbrella program that governs two separate but related occupational fields: the Foreign Area Officer and The Regional Affairs Officer. Through assignment of free military occupational specialties (FMOS), the IAOP manages a system that trains, tracks, and assigns officers specializing in international affairs and who continue to maintain proficiency in their primary MOS (PMOS) through a dual-track career path. The IAOP monitors an officer's progression from basic level CONUS-based education and in-country training (ICT), to an experienced international specialist possessing a master's degree in regional expertise; and in the case of FAOs, proficiency in a foreign language.

FOREIGN AREA OFFICERS (FAO)

FAOs are at the pinnacle of the international affairs, political-military officer hierarchy. Carefully managed and assigned, FAOs provide the Marine Corps with the assets it needs to meet the demands of the current and future strategic environment. By virtue of their exten-

sive academic training, linguistic skills, and regional experience, FAOs are qualified to serve in the most demanding billets within the Marine Corps operating forces, as well as service and component (MARFOR) headquarters, unified commands, Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) offices, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD).

Officers selected to train as FAOs begin with a 12-month assignment to the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey, CA. After completing graduate-level study in international and regional affairs they proceed to the Defense Language Institute (DLI), where they undergo eight to 15 months of basic language instruction. Their training culminates in a one-year immersion period in a country within their regional/linguistic area of expertise, in which they are expected to hone their language skills and regional knowledge.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICERS (RAO)

The primary purpose of the RAO track is to train and identify international affairs officers who will serve in billets that require specialized regional knowledge but do not require foreign language ability. Officers selected to train as RAOs report to NPS for 18 months of graduate-level study in international and regional affairs. Upon graduation they immediately apply that education in high-level political-military billets within the Marine Corps as well as in joint and other Department of Defense (DoD) agencies.

As the strategic environment grows more complex, emerging requirements for regionally focused and culturally adept officers will increase. Identification, training, and placement of FAOs and RAOs in critical billets will enable commanders and staffs to leverage the expertise garnered by international affairs officers and will ultimately set the conditions for success both on and off the battlefield.

INDEX

A

Acoustic hailing devices, 240

Acquisition, 58-59, 160

- categories, 58
- milestones, 59
- phases, 59
- non-development item (NDI), 59

Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS), 93, 113, 128, 129, 196

Advanced Gunnery Training System (AGTS), 193

Advanced Tactical Airborne Reconnaissance System (ATARS), 109, 134

Advise, train, and assist (ATA), 4, 48, 52

Africa Partnership Station, 257

After action review (AAR), 10-11, 192, 197, 198, 201, 202, 204, 205

Air defense (AD), 138, 152, 153, 154

- Ground-based Air Defense Transformation (GBAD-T), 152

Air Naval Gun Fire Liaison Company (ANGLICO), 34, 38, 41, 42, 128, 254

Air tasking order (ATO), 80

Aircraft, 8, 283

- crash fire rescue, P-19, 155
- fixed wing, 145, 189
- modernization, 8, 131, 132-135
- rotary wing, 131, 135, 145, 152, 176, 189
- unmanned, 8, 102, 109, 131, 140, 148-149, 152

Almanac, Marine Corps, iii, 264-283

Ammunition, 9, 76, 122, 124, 136, 159, 167, 177

Amphibious, 12, 19, 26, 114, 140, 175, 186, 191, 194, 216

- Amphibious Operations in the 21st Century*, 17
- Ready Group (ARG), 25, 172,
- warships, 25, 172, 173

Approved acquisition objective (AAO), 68, 83, 85, 86, 94, 108, 119, 120, 128, 129, 153, 228, 241, 243, 244, 247

Area of responsibility (AOR), 54, 152

Assault Amphibious Vehicle (AAV), 7, 93, 114, 193, 196, 282

- turret trainer, 193
- upgrades, 93

Assault echelon (AE), 172

Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps (ACMC), 29

Asymmetric Warfare, 208

Aviation, 8, 11, 12, 57, 113, 131, 132, 140, 143, 146, 153, 172, 188, 191, 225

- Combat Element (ACE), 7, 22, 23, 80, 82, 108, 131, 132, 136, 165, 172, 186

Ground Support (AGS), 131, 136

Marine Aviation Logistics (MALS), 151

B

Battle site zero (BZO), 76

Biometric Automated Toolset (BAT), 246

Blue Force Tracker (BFT), 87

Blunt impact munitions, 240

C

Camp Fuji, Combined Arms Training Center, 37

Camp Mujuk, 37

Capability Development Document (CDD), 120, 244

Casualty evacuation (CASEVAC), 115

Center for Advanced Operational Culture and Learning (CAOCL), 5, 52-53

Center for Irregular Warfare (CIW), 31

Civil Affairs Group (CAG), 41, 42, 52, 251, 252

Civil Military Operations (CMO), 52, 55

- Concept for Unified Action through Civil-Military Integration*, 18

Civilian, Marines, 91, 226, 228, 233

- American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), 227
- civilian police recruitment initiative, 227
- civilian workforce development application, 226
- communities of interest (COI), 226
- labor relations, 226-227
- senior executive service (SES), 226

Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF), 33, 34, 48-49

Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN), 23, 48, 239

- Assessment and Consequence Management (ACM), 241

College of Continuing Education (CCE), 215

Combat Logistics Regiment (CLR), 24, 35, 39, 40, 161

Combat convoy simulator, 195

Combat operations center (COC), AN/TSQ-239(V), 85, 86

Combat Vehicle Training System (CVTS), 193

Combatant Commanders (COCOM), 25, 27, 32, 48, 150, 171, 176, 177

- unified, 27
- geographic, 25, 48

Combined Arms Command and Control Training Upgrade System (CACCTUS), 192

Combined Arms Military Operations in Urban Terrain (CAMOUT), 199

Combined Arms Staff Training (CAST), 192
 Command and control (C2), 7, 9, 69, 72, 78-95, 202
 Command and Control Personal Computer (C2PC), 86, 93
 Command Element (CE), 9, 22, 23, 107, 108, 111, 152, 165, 186
 Command, control, communication, computer, and intelligence (C4I), 23, 49, 84, 192, 194
 Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC), ii-iii, 5, 29, 62, 63, 143, 171, 210, 214, 220, 230, 231, 234, 240, 290
 Commercial of the shelf (COTS), 109, 110, 202, 246
 Common Aviation Command and Control System (CAC2S), 10, 58, 82, 153
 Common operational picture (COP), 10, 83, 85, 86, 101, 103, 128
 Communication Electronics Equipment Maintenance Complex (CEEMC), 168
 Composite Tracking Network (CTN), 84, 153, 154
 Computer network defense (CND), 91, 92
 Continental United States (CONUS), 28, 54, 81, 137, 150, 210, 212, 229
 Continuous Process Improvement (CPI), 151, 235
 Core Competencies, Marine Corps, 3-4, 185, 221
 Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC), 84, 153, 154
Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower, 3, 15, 171, 178
 Counter Radio-controlled Improvised Explosive Device (RCIED) Electronic Warfare (CREW), 247
 Vehicle receiver/jammer (CVRJ), 247
 Joint CREW (JCREW), 247
 Counterintelligence (CI), 98, 101, 111
 Equipment Program (CIHEP), 103-104
 Counterterrorism (CT), 45, 49
 Cyberspace, 18
 USMC Cyberspace Concept, 18-19

D

Data Distribution System (DDS), 90
 Dazzling Laser, 240
 Defense Language Institute (DLI), 209, 292
 Defense Policy Review Initiative (DPRI), 13
 Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO), 54
 Department of Defense (DOD), 19, 58, 65, 92, 100, 128, 159, 187, 221, 232, 233, 240, 292
 Department of State (DOS), 284
 Deployable Instrumented Training System (DITS), 202

Deployable Virtual Training Environment (DVTE), 196
 Deployment, 2, 11, 63, 72, 111, 141, 143, 180, 189, 194, 199, 206, 210
 ratio to dwell, 2, 224
 Deputy Commandant (DC), 29
 Aviation (AVN), 29
 Combat Development and Integration (CD&I), 29, 31
 Installations and Logistics (I&L), 29, 53
 Manpower and Reserve Affairs (M&RA), 29, 30, 62
 Plans, Policy and Operations (PP&O), 29
 Programs and Resources (P&R), 29
 Direct Action (DA), 26, 44, 46
 Director, 29
 Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (C4), 29
 Expeditionary Energy, 29
 Health Services, 29
 Intelligence, 29
 Marine Corps Staff (DMCS), 29
 Public Affairs, 29
 Safety, 29
 Doctrine, organization, training, material, logistics, personnel, facilities (DOTMLPF), 31, 52
 DOTMLPF Change Request (DCR), 49
 Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS), 98, 100, 102, 107
 Dual Vehicle Adapter (DVA), 69-70

E

Electronic countermeasure (ECM), 247
 Electronic warfare (EW), 8, 54, 108, 110, 135, 138, 140, 149, 198, 204, 247, 261
 Eleventh Marine Expeditionary Unit (11th MEU), 37, 38, 262
 Energy, ii, 165, 230-232, 233, 234
 Enhanced company operations (ECO), 17, 72, 191
 Environmental control equipment, 165
 Environmental management, 233
 Escalation of force (EOF), 240, 242, 245
 mission module (EOF-MM), 245
 Evening Parade, 290
 dates and times, 290
 parking, 290
 reservations, 290-291
 Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), 63
 Expeditionary Airfield (EAF), 137
 Expeditionary Energy Office, ii
 Expeditionary Field Kitchen (EFK), 163

Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle (EFV), 7, 58, 93, 114, 141, 167

Expeditionary Fire Support System (EFSS), 7, 113, 124, 167

Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), 7, 49, 115, 180, 181, 224

F

Family of systems (FoS), 6, 7, 69, 87, 100, 103, 107, 123, 148

Fifteenth Marine Expeditionary Unit (15th MEU), 37, 38, 250, 254

Fire support, 6, 7, 113, 117, 125, 128, 192, 196
naval surface fire support (NSFS), 178-179, 213

First Marine Air Wing (1st MAW), 37, 40, 259

First Marine Division (1st MARDIV), 37

First Marine Expeditionary Brigade (1st MEB), 37, 38

First Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF), 24, 32, 37, 38-39, 168, 191, 192, 194, 196, 212

First Marine Logistics Group (1st MLG), 37, 39

Fixed wing, 8, 145, 189

AV-8 Harrier, 8, 128, 133, 134, 138, 140

C-9 Skytrain, 150

C-20 Gulfstream, 150

E/A-6 Prowler, 8, 134, 135, 138, 139, 140, 149, 283

F/A-18 Hornet, 8, 109, 128, 134, 138, 140, 283

F-35 Lightning, Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), 8, 131, 137, 138-139, 140, 172, 190

KC-130 Hercules, 8, 131, 145, 153, 283

UC-35 Citation, 150

Flame Resistant Organizational Gear (FROG), 73, 74

Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team (FAST), 49-50, 250, 251, 253, 254, 258, 261

Fleet Marine Forces (FMEF), 36

Food service, 163

Force protection (FP), 85, 116, 133, 136, 146, 149, 239, 242, 246, 247
capability sets, 245

Foreign Area Officer (FAO), 292

Foreign Internal Defense (FID), 26, 44-45, 46

Fortitudine, 286

Forward-in-store (FIS), 54

Fourth Marine Air Wing (4th MAW), 256, 41, 42-43

Fourth Marine Division (4th MARDIV), 41, 42

Fourth Marine Logistics Group (4th MLG), 41, 43, 255, 256, 257

Full operational capability (FOC), 5, 10, 47, 54, 67, 70, 93, 104, 110, 125, 128, 152, 155, 247

Full Spectrum Battle Equipment (FSBE), 73

Future Initiatives Transformation Team (FITT), 66

G

Garrison mobile equipment (GME), 230, 232

Geospatial Information Systems (GIS), 231

Global Combat Support System (GCSS), 9, 81

Global Command and Control System (GCCS), 80

Integrated Imagery and Intelligence (I3), 101

Global Information Grid (GIG), 47, 91, 101

Global Positioning System (GPS), 202

Integrated GPS Radio System (IGRS), 202

Global Response Forces (GRF), 27

Global Status of Resources and Training System (GSORTS), 80

Green Beam Laser Systems, 242

Designator III (GBD), 242

Ground Aviation Task Oriented Radar (G/ATOR), 84, 153

Ground Combat Element (GCE), 6, 22, 51, 64, 108, 117, 118, 129, 135, 153, 165, 186

Ground Position Location Information (G-PLI), 202

Guam, 13, 24, 30, 137, 229

H

Hailing and warning laser systems, 242

Green Beam, 242

Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (HQMC), 29-31, 160, 228

organization, 31

High frequency (HF), 7, 95, 105

High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV), 7, 105, 110, 115, 120, 137, 147, 230, 243, 244, 282

Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT), 210-211

Expanded capacity vehicle (ECV), 119

High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), 7, 38, 42, 113, 124, 125, 282

History Division, 286

Home Station Training Lanes (HSTL), 200

Housing, 5, 229, 234

bachelor enlisted housing (BEQ), 234

family housing, 234

Howitzer, lightweight, 155mm, (LW155), M777A2, 7, 113, 126-127, 282

Human Electro-muscular Incapacitation (HEMI), 240

Human Intelligence (HUMINT), 98, 103, 104
exploitation team (HET), 103

- I**
- Identity Dominance System (IDS), 246
 - Illumination systems, 75, 76
 - advanced target pointer illumination aiming light (ATPIAL), AN/PEQ-15, 76
 - mini integrated pointer illuminator module (MIPIM), AN/PEG-16A, 76
 - Improvised explosive device (IED), 115, 182, 200, 204, 242, 247
 - defeat, 208
 - Joint IED Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), 205
 - Incident Response Force (IRF), 49
 - Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer (ISMT), 212
 - Infantry, 34, 38, 40, 42, 67, 69, 71, 72, 73, 93, 109, 114, 117, 118, 166, 189, 191, 196, 201, 212, 225, 244
 - Infantry Automatic Rifle (IAR), 6, 67
 - Infantry Combat Equipment (ICE), 73-74
 - Infantry Immersive Trainer (IIT), 10-11, 191, 201
 - Infantry Squad Trainer-Enhanced (IST-E), 212
 - Information Operations (IO), 5, 19, 45, 54-55
 - Information Technology (IT), 9, 47, 81, 88, 91, 92, 107, 158, 215, 223, 228
 - Initial Capabilities Document (ICD), 79, 100, 120, 148, 152, 178, 240
 - Initial operational capability (IOC), 5, 10, 47, 54, 67, 84, 86, 93, 104, 118, 122, 124, 125, 135, 139, 144, 145, 149, 155, 182, 192, 247
 - Instrumented Tactical Engagement System (I-TESS), 202-203
 - Intelligence, 9, 10, 85, 97, 99, 129, 134, 137, 224
 - analysis system (IAS), 100, 101, 103, 107
 - expeditionary support, 111
 - operations workstation (IOW), 107
 - signals (SIGINT), 97, 108, 110
 - surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), 10, 86, 97, 98, 100, 138, 148
 - Interim Fast Attack Vehicle (IFAV), 118
 - Internally Transportable Vehicle (ITV), 118
 - International Affairs Officer Program (IAOP), 292-293
 - Foreign Area Officer (FAO), 292
 - Regional Affairs Officer (RAO), 292
 - Intra/Inter Squad Radio (IISR), AN/PRC-153, 69, 70
- J**
- Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), 80, 171
 - Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation (JCATS), 194
 - Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV), 141, 174
 - Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), 205
 - Joint Intergovernmental and Multinational Training (JIM), 187
 - Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV), 7, 120
 - Joint non-lethal weapons program (JNLWP), 240
 - Joint Operations Planning and Execution System (JOPES), 80
 - Joint personnel adjudication system (JPAS), 223
 - Joint Requirement Oversight Council (JROC), 82, 100
 - Joint Special Operations Task Force (JSOTF), 45
 - Afghanistan, 261
 - Philippines, 258
 - Trans-Sahara, 256
 - Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), 8, 131, 135, 138-139
 - transition plan, 8, 140
 - Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS), 101, 102
 - Joint Tactical Common Operational Picture Workstation (JTCW), 10, 86
 - Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS), 70
 - Joint task force (JTF), 22, 24, 25, 147
 - JTF-Global Network Operations (GNO), 47
 - JTF-Guantanamo (GITMO), 251
 - JTF-Horn of Africa (HOA), 256
 - JTF-North, 250
 - Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC), 128, 213
- K**
- Key Performance Parameters (KPP), 230
- L**
- Land Management, 233
 - Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC), 141, 173, 175
 - Language Learning Resource Center (LLRC), 5, 53, 209
 - Laser targeting, 76
 - grenade launcher day/night sight mount (GLDNSM), AN/PSQ-18A, 76
 - high power laser pointer (HPLP), AN/PEQ-18, 76
 - laser bore sight (LBS), AN/PEM-1, 76
 - Learning Resource Center (LRC), 209, 215
 - deployable, 215
 - Light Armored Vehicle (LAV), 168, 193, 282
 - Line of sight (LOS), 7, 69, 93, 94
 - Logistics, 12, 81, 85, 122, 137, 150, 151, 157-169
 - chain management (LCM), 81, 158
 - Combat Element (LCE), 8, 22, 24, 137, 164, 165, 186
 - distribution, 9, 158, 161
 - modernization (LOGMOD), 9, 14, 136, 157, 158

naval logistics integration (NLI), 160
sense and respond, 9, 159

Logistics Vehicle System Replacement (LVSR), 9, 122, 282

Long War: Send in the Marines, The, 15

M

Man-portable air defense system (MANPADS), 152

Manpower, 11, 131, 149, 265-279

accessions, officer, 266, enlisted, 271
distribution, age, 266, 271, 276, 278
distribution, gender, 269, 270, 274, 275
distribution, grade, 267, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278
families, 269, 274
occupational fields, officer, 268, 277 enlisted, 273, 279
recruiting and retention, 30, 220-222, 224-225

Marine Air Command and Control System (MACCS), 82

Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF), 1, 11, 17, 19, 22-27, 54, 55, 64, 79, 113, 131, 249

capabilities, 3, 16, 22-23
composition, 3, 4, 6, 23-24
distribution, 9
Enhanced MAGTF Operations (EMO), 15, 97
Evolving the MAGTF for the 21st Century, 17
types of MAGTFs, 24-27
Secondary Imagery Dissemination System (MSIDS), 109
sustainability, 6, 27
training, 11, 186

MAGTF Tactical Warfare Simulation (MWTS), 191, 192, 194

Marine Air Group (MAG), 24, 34-35, 38-39, 40, 42-43

Marine Air Wing (MAW), 24, 34-35, 38-39, 40, 42-43, 106, 136

Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron (MAWTS), 187

Marine Band, *The President's Own*, 290

Marine Barracks, Washington, 8th&I, 29, 290-291
evening parade, 290
sunset parade, 291

Marine Corps Air Facility (MCAF), 33
MCAF Quantico, 33

Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC), 31, 37, 38-39, 51, 188, 189

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), 137

MCAS Beaufort, 33, 35
MCAS Camp Pendleton, 37, 39, 144
MCAS Cherry Point, 33, 34-35, 144, 209
MCAS Futenma, 37, 40

MCAS Iwakuni, 37, 40

MCAS Miramar, 37, 38-39, 233, 288

MCAS New River, 33, 34-35, 142, 144

MCAS Yuma, 37, 38-39, 190

Marine Corps Almanac, iii, 264-283

fiscal year 2011 data, 280-282

enlisted manpower, 271-275, 278-279

officer manpower, 266-270, 276-277

Marine Corps Base (MCB), 51, 198, 215, 229

MCB Camp Butler, 37, 40, 209

MCB Camp Lejeune, 33, 34-35, 44, 166, 234

MCB Camp Pendleton, 37, 38-39, 44, 205, 234, 288

MCB Hawaii, 37, 40, 209

MCB Quantico, 30, 31, 51, 54, 240, 284

Marine Corps Bases, Atlantic, 33

Marine Corps Bases, Japan, 37

Marine Corps Bases Korea, 37

Marine Corps Bases, Pacific, 37

Marine Corps Combat Development Command

(MCCDC), 29, 31, 71, 74, 245

organization, 31

Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS), 30, 62, 63

Marine Corps concepts, 14-19

Marine Corps Distance Learning (MCDL), 215

Marine Corps Embassy Security Group (MCESG), 284-285

Marine Corps Enterprise Information Technology System (MCEITS), 88-89

Marine Corps Enterprise Network (MCEN), 47, 91-92

Marine Corps Exchange (MCX), 62

Marine Corps Family Team Building (MCFTB), 63

Marine Corps Forces Component Command

(MARFOR), 48, 52, 160

Marine Corps Forces Africa (MARFORAF), 256-257

Marine Corps Forces Central (MARFORCENT), 260-261

Marine Corps Forces Command

(MARFORCOM), 24, 27, 32

organization, 33

units, 34-35

Marine Corps Forces Cyber (MARFORCYBER), 5, 47

Marine Corps Forces Europe (MARFOREUR), 253-255

Marine Corps Forces Korea, 258-259

Marine Corps Force North (MARFORNORTH), 250-251

Marine Corps Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC), 24, 27, 32, 36, 258-260,

- organization, 37
 - units, 38-40
- Marine Corps Forces Reserves (MARFORRES), 41-43, 250
 - organization, 41
 - units, 42-43
- Marine Corps Forces South (MARFORSOUTH), 251-253
- Marine Corps Forces Special Operations (MARFORSOC), 32, 44-46, 104, 109, 128
 - capabilities, 44-45
 - organization, 46
 - units, 46
- Marine Corps Forces Strategic (MARFORSTRAT), 31
- Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, 287
- Marine Corps Information Operations Center (MCIOC), 5, 54-55
 - capabilities, 54
- Marine Corps Installations (MCI), 51, 190, 219, 227, 229-230, 232
 - MCI-East, 33, 51
 - MCI-West, 37, 51
- Marine Corps Institute (MCI), 290
- Marine Corps Instrumentation Training System (MC-ITS), 204
- Marine Corps Intelligence Activity (MCIA), 111, 254, 257
- Marine Corps Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Enterprise (MCISR-E), 10, 97, 98-99
- Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB), 233
 - MCLB Albany, 33, 53
 - MCLB Barstow, 37, 53, 233
- Marine Corps Logistics Command (MCLC), 51, 53-54, 81
- Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP), 214
- Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, 37, 187, 189, 227
- Marine Corps Network Operations and Security Center (MCNOSC), 47, 91
- Marine Corps Operating Concepts for a Changing Security Environment*, 15, 159, 160
 - Enhanced MAGTF Operations (EMO)*, 15, 97
 - crisis response, 16
 - engagement, 16
 - power projection, 17
- Marine Corps Prepositioning Program – Norway (MCPN-N), 28, 176
- Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD), 30, 31, 288
- Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC), 29, 30, 220-221
 - organization, 30
- Marine Corps Recruiting Information Support System-Recruiting Station (MCRISS-RS), 223
 - MCRISS-Office Selection System (OSS), 223
- Marine Corps Security Force Regiment, 33, 34, 49-50, 254, 255, 256
- Marine Corps Service Campaign Plan (MCSCP), 5, 11, 159, 160
- Marine Corps Support Facility, Blount Island, 33, 53
- Marine Corps Systems Command (MARCORSYS-COM), 58, 71, 72, 74, 198
- Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group (MC-TOG), 51, 187
- Marine Corps Training and Advisory Group (MCTAG), 5, 33, 47-48, 252, 253, 256, 257
- Marine Corps University (MCU), 216-217, 286
 - journal, 286
 - press, 286
- Marine Corps Warfighting Lab (MCWL), 31
- Marine Division, 24, 34, 38, 40, 42, 106
- Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB), 2, 7, 12, 22, 24-25, 28, 33, 37, 172, 176, 185, 186, 190, 192, 199
 - Afghanistan, 1, 261
- Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), 2, 11, 13, 22, 24, 97, 99, 101, 102, 104, 107, 186, 188
- Marine Expeditionary Rifle Squad (MERS), 71-72
- Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), 22, 24, 25-26, 33, 37, 73, 107, 132, 152, 160, 173, 241, 262
 - MEU Augmentation Program (MAP), 54
- Marine Logistics Group (MLG), 24, 35, 39, 40, 54, 158
- Marine Personnel Carrier (MPC), 7, 72, 117, 123
- Marine Requirements Oversight Council (MROC), 117, 123, 152, 240
- Marine Security Guard (MSG), 284
 - headquarters, 284
 - locations, 284-285
 - mission, 284
- Marine Special Operations Battalion (MSOB), 44, 45-46
- Marine Special Operations Company (MSOC), 2, 44, 46, 258, 261
- Marine Special Operations Regiment (MSOR), 44, 46
- Marine Special Operations School (MSOS), 44, 46
- Marine Special Operations Support Group (MSOSG), 44, 46
- Marine Special Operations Team (MSOT), 44, 253, 260, 261
- Maritime, 28, 160, 171, 216
 - Prepositioning Force (MPF), 28, 136, 141, 172, 176

Prepositioning Ships (MPS), 28, 121
 MPS Squadrons (MPSRON), 28, 176
 Martial arts, Marine Corps (MCMAF), 214
 Material Handling Equipment (MHE), 164
 Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement (MTVR), 9, 58, 121, 282
 Military construction (MILCON), 229, 234
 Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), 52, 106, 186, 215, 292
 Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT), 199, 200, 201, 202, 242
 Military Sealift Command (MSC), 28, 176
 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP), 7, 95, 115-116
 All terrain vehicle (M-ATV), 115
 Cougar, 116
 egress trainer (MET), 211
 Mission Payload Module Nonlethal Weapons System (MPM-NLWS), 244
 Mobile training team (MTT), 53
 Mobilization Command (MOBCOM), 41
 Modeling and Simulation (M&S), 10-11, 191, 194
 MAGTF Training Simulations Division (MTSD), 191
 Modular Sleep System (MSS), 74
 Modular Tactical Vest (MTV), 73
 Modular Weapon System (MWS), 68
 Mountain Cold Weather Layering System (MCWLS), 73-74
 Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC), 37, 187, 189, 227
 Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES), 202
 Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS), 7, 125

N

National Capital Region (NCR), 29, 31
 National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC), 287-289
 Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), 292
 Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS), 178-179, 213
 Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI), 91
 Next Generation Enterprise Network (NGEN), 91
 Noncommissioned officer (NCO), 216, 220
 Non-lethal weapons, 239, 240, 244
 dazzling laser, 240
 Green Beam, 242
 VENOM, 243

Non-secure Internet Protocol Routing Network (NIPRNET), 91

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), 49

O

Office of Personnel Management (OPM), 223
 Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), 187
 Officer Candidate School (OCS), 223
 Operating forces, 32-50, 57, 93, 107, 117, 139, 160, 188, 209, 217, 219, 221, 225, 228, 229, 239
 Operational Language and Culture Training System (OLCTS), 206
 Operational Stress Control and Readiness (OSCAR), 64
 Operational Support Airlift (OSA), 150
 Operations, 248
 current, 250-262
 Enduring Freedom (OEF), 1, 85, 148, 158, 185, 210, 249, 261
 Iraqi Freedom (OIF), 1, 85, 148, 158, 185, 210, 249, 260-261
 Optical warning and distraction, 240
 Optics, 68, 75
 machine gun day optic (MDO), 75
 rifle combat optic (RCO), 75
 squad day optic (SDO), 75
 Outer Tactical Vest (OTV), 73
 Overseas contingency operation (OCO), 129, 132, 134, 154, 209, 230, 236

P

Patient affairs team (PAT), 66
 Pre-deployment training program (PTP), 48, 52, 186, 187, 188-189, 201, 209
 Exercise Mojave Viper, 150, 186, 188-189, 195, 199, 208, 250
 Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX), 187, 188, 189, 194
 Exercise Mountain Warrior, 189
 Prepositioning, 7, 12, 28, 136, 141, 172, 176-177
 President's Own, The, 290
 Principal end item (PEI), 54
 Professional Military Education (PME), 214, 215, 216
 Program Manager Training Systems Command (PM TRASYS), 208

Q

Quality of Life (QOL), 6, 62, 63, 229, 234, 235

R

Radar, 84, 101, 102, 129, 134, 138, 139, 142, 173, 178, 181, 235

- air surveillance, AN/TPS-59, 154
- Family of Target Acquisition Systems (FTAS), 129
- Ground/Air Task Oriented Radar (G/ATOR), 84, 153

Radio Battalion (RadBn), 34, 38, 40, 104, 106, 108, 110, 135

Radio Frequency (RF), 161, 202

Radios, 7

- High frequency (HFR), AN/PRC-150, AN/PRC-104, 7, 95, 105
- Intra/Inter squad radio (IISR), AN/PRC-153, 69-70
- Multi-band (MBR), AN/PRC-117F, AN/PRC-119, 7, 94
- Tactical Handheld Radio (THHR), AN/PRC-148, 6, 69-70

Range and Training Areas (RTA), 190

Ranges, 10

- modernization and transformation (RM/T), 10, 197-198
- multi-capable, 190

Recruiting, 30, 220-222

- enlisted, 220-221
- Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC), 30, 220-222
- officer, 221-222

Rifle, 6, 67, 68, 75, 202

- M16A2, 68
- M16A4, 68, 75
- M4, 68, 75

Regional Network Operations and Security Center (RNOSC), 91

Research and Development (R&D), 19, 58, 72, 102, 208, 230, 240

Rotary wing, 8, 131, 135, 145, 152, 176, 189

- AH-1 Cobra/Viper, 8, 131, 143-144, 196, 283
- CH-46 Sea Knight, 8, 132, 141, 173, 283
- CH-53 Super Stallion, 8, 118, 124, 127, 131, 132, 133, 146-147, 173, 176, 283
- MV-22 Osprey, 8, 118, 124, 127, 131, 141-142, 172, 173, 283
- UH-1 Huey/Venom, 8, 131, 143-144, 283

Route Reconnaissance and Clearance (R2C), 7, 123

S

Safety Control Module (SCM), 242

Satellite Communications (SATCOM), 93, 94, 103, 105, 152

Scalable Plate Carrier (SPC), 73

Seabasing, 11-12, 141, 172, 174

- Seabasing for the Range of Military Operations*, 18

Second Marine Division (2d MARDIV), 33, 34

Second Marine Air Wing (2d MAW), 33, 34-35

Second Marine Expeditionary Force (II MEF), 24, 32, 33, 34-35, 48, 49, 192, 194, 196, 212, 260

Second Marine Expeditionary Brigade (2d MEB), 33, 261

Second Marine Logistics Group (2d MLG), 33, 35

Secure Internet Protocol Routing Network (SIPRNET), 91

Security cooperation (SC), 2, 3, 5, 12, 16, 51-52, 187, 207

- Theater Security Cooperation (TSC), 26, 250-262

Security Cooperation Education and Training Center (SCETC), 51-52, 255, 257

Security Cooperation Marine Air Ground Task Force (SCMAGTF), 26

Security Force Assistance (SFA), 47-48, 171

Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB), 224

Service life extension program (SLEP), 175

Shelters, 85

- Communications Electronic Equipment Maintenance Complex (CEEMC), 168
- Family of Tactical Soft Shelter (FTSS), 169

Ship to Shore Connector (SSC), 12, 175, 177

Shipbuilding, 11, 12

Short take-off vertical landing (STOVL), 8, 131, 138, 140

Signals intelligence (SIGINT), 97, 108, 110

Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINGARS), 69, 94

Single Vehicle Adapter (SVA), 69

Southern Partnership Station, 252

Special Intelligence (SI), 105

- communications, 105
- Trojan SPIRIT, AN/TSQ-226, 105-106

Special Operations, 2, 26, 44, 100, 128, 148

- forces (SOF), 25, 44
- Marine Corps Special Operations Command, 25, 44-46, 104, 106, 109, 116

Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force (SPMAGTF), 22, 26

Special Reconnaissance (SR), 26, 44, 46
 Squad automatic weapon (SAW), M249, 6, 67, 202, 212
 Squad Immersive Training Environment (SITE), 191, 201
 Staff noncommissioned officer (SNCO), 216, 220, 285
 Strategic Communications, 19
 Subject matter expert (SME), 52-53, 55
 Sunset parade, 291
 dates and times, 291
 location, 291
 parking, 291
 Supporting Arms Virtual Trainers (SAVT), 213

T

Tables of Organization and Equipment (TO&E), 228
 change request (TOECR), 228
 Tactical Air Command Center (TACC), 80
 Tactical Combat Operations (TCO), 9, 83, 86
 Tactical Data Network (TDN), 90, 93
 Tactical Data Systems (TDS), 85, 90
 Tactical Hand-held Radio (THHR), AN/PRC-148, 6, 69-70
 Tactical operations center (TOC), 87
 Tactical Video Capture System (TVCS), 201, 204
 Targeting, 75, 76, 127, 133, 134, 135, 139, 143, 145, 149
 Family of Target Acquisition Systems (FTAS), 129
 Target Location Designation and Hand-off System (TLDHS), 128
 Team Portable Communications System-Multi Platform Capable (TPCS-MPC), 110
 Technical Control and Analysis Center (TCAC), 101, 108
 Theater Battle Management Core Systems (TBMCS), 80
 Third Marine Air Wing (3d MAW), 37, 38
 Third Marine Division (3d MARDIV), 40, 258
 Third Marine Expeditionary Brigade (3d MEB), 37, 40
 Third Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF), 13, 24, 32, 37, 40, 149, 192, 194, 196, 212, 259
 Third Marine Logistics Group (3d MLG), 37, 40, 258, 259
 Thirteenth Marine Expeditionary Unit (13th MEU), 37, 38, 143
 Thirty-first Marine Expeditionary Unit (31st MEU), 37, 40, 258, 262
 Three-block war, 199
 Total Force Structure Management System (TFSMS), 228

Training and Education Command (TECOM), 31, 51-52, 185, 186, 187, 188, 190, 191
 Training and Readiness (T&R) Manual, 52, 196
 Transition Assistance Management Program (TAMP), 64
 Twenty-second Marine Expeditionary Unit (22d MEU), 33, 34, 141, 262
 Twenty-fourth Marine Expeditionary Unit 24th MEU), 33, 34
 Twenty-sixth Marine Expeditionary Unit (26th MEU), 33, 34, 262

U

Ultra-high frequency (UHF), 7, 90, 93, 94, 103
 Unconventional Warfare (UW), 45
 United States Marine Band, 290
 Universal Needs Statement (UNS), Urgent, 87, 121
 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), 8, 102, 109, 131, 140, 148-149, 152

V

Vehicle borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), 242
 Vehicles, 6, 94, 102, 137, 145, 155, 193, 202, 232, 242, 288
 combat, 6, 7, 114,
 tactical, 7, 8-9, 113, 115-116, 118, 120, 121, 123
 VENOM Non-lethal Tube Launched Munitions System (NL/TLMS), 243
 Very high frequency (VHF), 7, 95
 Virtual Cultural Awareness Trainer (VCAT), 207
Vision and Strategy 2025, Marine Corps, iii, 3, 5, 14-15, 151, 159, 160, 178, 185

W

Warfighter Network Services – Tactical (WFNS-T), 90
 Water Purification System, lightweight (LWPS), 166
 Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), 1, 241
 combating, 19
 Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD), 19
 Wounded, ill, and injured (WII), 65-66
 Wounded Warrior Regiment (WWR), 65-66

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