

Marine Air Control Group 28 Mission

Marine Air Control Group 28 (MACG 28) provides the Marine Air Command Control System (MACCS), Aviation Combat Element (ACE) communications, and Unmanned Aerial Systems capability in support of 2d MAW and II MEF during combat operations.

The MACG is an institutionally unique Marine organization that provides a synergistic force for aviation Command and Control (C2) under one commander. It provides one-stop shopping and responsibility for both the ACE and Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Commander, has traditional and habitual relationships within the ACE and MAGTF, and provides airspace coordination, air control, immediate air support, fires integration, air traffic control (ATC), radar surveillance, organic Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), ACE communications support, and an integrated ACE command post.

The MACCS generates combat power through the integration and control of all aviation assets towards the decisive point of engagement for the MAGTF commander - Rotary Wing, Fixed Wing, Tilt-Rotor, Tankers, UAVs - in concert with surface to surface fires. Integration is the focus of the MACCS as opposed to just the deconfliction of aviation assets. The MACCS is imbedded across the MAGTF battlespace; the Tactical Air Command Center (TACC), Tactical Air Operations Center (TAOC), Direct Air Support Center (DASC), Air Support Elements (ASEs), Air Support Liaison Teams (ASLTs), Marine Air Traffic Control Mobile Teams (MMTs), and organic UAVs, all with enabling communications.

The MACCS streamlines the fires process; the coordination and clearance for MAGTF surface and aviation fires is accomplishment by the collocation of the DASC with the senior Fire Support Coordination Center. The DASC also facilitates cross boundary fires and maneuver in support joint or combined operations. The MACCS operates in accordance with Joint and Service Doctrine; the TACC and TAOC integrate the MAGTF surveillance, data links and early warning capabilities with joint C2 agencies per doctrine, and our ATC facilities operate in accordance with civil and operational directives in addition to their combat ATC missions.

The airspace in both Iraq and Afghanistan is the most complex faced to date in military history. The MACCS was continually faced with integrating organic aviation and surface fires while simultaneously allowing joint, operational, and civil air traffic to utilize the same small and restricted airspace.

The successes of the MACG and MACCS results from the MACCS providing aviation command and control to the MAGTF under a single commander that is manned by a practiced, professional career force of both Officers and Enlisted experts. The extensive training and habitual relationships with other elements of the MAGTF ensure this group of Marines can plan and execute integrated aviation C2 regardless of the operational or tactical situation presented.

Marine Air Control Group 28 History

Marine Air Control Group-28 (MACG-28) was initially activated in January 1956 at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina. It was designated as Marine Wing Headquarters Group of the Second Marine Aircraft Wing. Its composition included Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron-2 and Marine Air Control Squadron 7 (MACS-7). In 1965 MACS-7 was directed to deploy to Okinawa and subsequently saw duty in the Republic of Vietnam.

In 1966 the Group was redesignated as Marine Air Control Group-2. It was in this year that Third Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion (3rd LAAM Bn) was assigned to the Group. In 1967, redesignation occurred again and the Group was assigned its present day title as Marine Air Control Group-28.

With its new designation came the additional organizations of Marine Air Support Squadron-1 and Marine Air Control Squadron-5. In 1971 the critical function of Wing communications was added to the Group's capabilities. This consolidation joined the organizational colors of Marine Wing Communications Squadron-28 with those of H&HS-28, 3rd LAAM Battalion, MASS-1, MACS-5, and MACS-6 under the banner of MACG-28.

In 1973, a Forward Area Air Defense (FAAD) platoon was activated and placed under 3rd LAAM Battalion. April 1976 introduced the consolidation of air traffic control assets within the 2D Marine Air Wing and a new squadron, Marine Air Traffic Control Squadron-28 joined MACG-28.

In October 1983 the Second Forward Area Air Defense (FAAD) Battery stood-up and took its place in the organizational structure of MACG-28. In 1986, FAAD was re-designated as the 2d Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion (2d LAAD Bn).

MACG-28 units played vital roles in OPERATION DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM in 1990 to 1991. MACG-28 supported both 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (4th MEB), and I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF). MACG-28 Detachment Alpha provided a Direct Air Support Center, Air Support Radar Team, Low Altitude Air Defense

Battery, Air Traffic Control Detachment, and aviation communications support to the amphibious deception operations conducted by 4th MEB. Augmenting 3rd Marine Aircraft Wings command and control, units from MACG-28 provided Tactical Air Command Center, Tactical Air Operations Center, Airborne DASC, LAAD Battalion, Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion, ATC Detachments, and aviation communications support in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and into Kuwait. As OPERATION DESERT STORM was successfully concluded, the forward deployed elements of MACG-28 maintained air command and control in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as 3rd MAW air control units retrograded home.

In 1996, MACS-5 was deactivated, and MACS-6 was re-designated as MACS-2. Throughout the post-DESERT STORM period, MACG-28 units participated in numerous training exercises, deployments, and testing and fielding of new equipment to keep pace with the rapid changes in the mobility and lethality of the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF). In August of 2000, Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 2 (VMU-2) joined MACG-28.

On Sept 11, 2001 MACG-28 Marines answered the Nation's call to avenge the terrorist attacks in Pennsylvania, Washington DC, and New York City. MACG-28 Marines were sent almost immediately to augment the Coalition Aerospace Operations Center (CAOC) at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia and were manning tactical positions on the CAOC floor when the first bombs fell in Afghanistan, beginning the returning shots in the Global War on Terror.

In the period after 9/11, MACG-28 Marines continued to serve in Marine Expeditionary Units which provided the first conventional Ground forces in Afghanistan. They also maintained their presence in the CAOC, assisting with the Command and Control of the Air Campaign, and providing support to the forces on the ground in Afghanistan. Notably, MACS-2 deployed an Early Warning and Control Site to assist with data collection on Iraq in the months building to OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

During OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM all subordinate units of MACG-28 deployed Marines with I Marine Expeditionary Force. MASS-1, MWCS-28, VMU-2 deployed their entire squadrons, while 2nd LAAD deployed a battery, MACS-2 an EW/C detachment, and MTACS-28 critical augments for the 3d MAW TACC.

At the conclusion of Major Offensive Operations, most elements of MACG-28 redeployed. In early 2004 MACG-28 deployed VMU-2 and an Air Traffic Control Detachment from MACS-2, and B CO, MWCS-28 to Al Taqqadum Airfield in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. At the

start of 2005, MACG-28 deployed its Headquarters, MTACS-28, MACS-2, 2nd LAAD, MASS-1, MWCS-28 back to Iraq. The units of MACG-28 maintained Air Command and Control, Wing Communications, and ISR of the MEF battle space for the duration of 2005, then the majority redeployed back to the States.

In January 2007, MACG-28 continued their support of MEF deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Throughout the year MACG-28 detachment support of Marine Expeditionary Units continued as the 22nd MEU stood up, 24th MEU redeployed and the 26th MEU deployed.

MACG-28 deployed all units (with the exception of 2nd LAAD) again in 2009 to Al Asad Air Base, Iraq to support Operation Iraqi Freedom where they controlled complex airspace, maintained communications, and provided ISR support over II MEF (fwd) battlespace in western Iraq.

Throughout 2009 MACG-28 deployed VMU-2 to two different areas of operations. VMU-2 provided support to both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan where they utilized both Shadow and Scan Eagle systems to provide intelligence and imagery analysis support over the MEF and MEB battle spaces.

During 2009, a detachment from MACG-28 deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom under Marine Aircraft Group 40, 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, providing all agencies of the MACCS to support initial Marine Corps combat operations throughout the Helmand River Valley.

When tragedy struck Haiti during February 2010 with a massive earthquake, MACG-28 provided a detachment to the 22nd MEU in support of Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief operations (Joint Task Force Operation Unified Response).

MACG-28 stands ready to deploy where called in support of our Nation, providing tactical aviation command and control, integrated UAS ISR, and communications support to 2d Marine Aircraft Wing.

Marine Air Control Group 28 Unit Awards



Meritorious Unit Citation Streamer 1982



National Defense Streamer with 2 Bronze Stars



Iraqi Campaign Streamer with 3 Bronze Stars



Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Streamer



Global War on Terrorism Service Streamer