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MARINE CORPS ORDER 3502.6A

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Distribution List

Subj: MARINE CORPS FORCE GENERATION PROCESS

Ref: (a) Commandant's Planning Guidance  
(b) (S) GENADMIN/CMC WASHINGTON DC PPO(SC)/261252Z APR 11/USMC FY11 through FY14 GFM Force Allocation Guidance (NOTAL)  
(c) (U/FOUO) GENADMIN/CMC WASHINGTON DC PPO(SC)/151101Z APR 11/USMC FY11 Conventional Force Allocation and Synchronization Process (NOTAL)  
(d) (U/FOUO) GENADMIN/CMC WASHINGTON DC PPO(SC)/151626Z NOV 11/USMC Process for Satisfying RFF with Aggregated Individuals (NOTAL)  
(e) MCO P3000.15B  
(f) MCO 3120.9C  
(g) MCO 3502.3B  
(h) MCO 1001.61A  
(i) (S) MCBul 3120, Marine Corps Force Allocation Schedule (NOTAL)  
(j) MCO 3000.13  
(k) MCO 3000.19A  
(l) Memorandum of Agreement between Department of the Navy and U.S. Special Operations Command (NOTAL)  
(m) MCO 3500.110  
(n) MCO 5320.12H  
(o) Systems Approach to Training (SAT) Manual, June 2004  
(p) MCO 1553.3B  
(q) MCO 3500.14 w/Admin Change  
(r) MCO P3500.72A  
(s) MCO 1510.121A  
(t) ALMAR 045/02  
(u) TECOMO 3502.2  
(v) MARADMIN 740/07  
(w) SECNAV M-5210.1

1. Situation. This Marine Corps Order, per references (a) through (e), establishes the process for preparing USMC personnel and units for validated routine requests for forces or capabilities (RFFs/RFCs) in the Global Force Management Allocation Plan (GFMAP), such as rotational force deployments and exercises, and as standing crisis response forces, up to emergent RFFs/RFCs for crisis response missions. Force requirements can range from individual augments and transition teams up to a Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF). This framework is described for deliberate planning and is intended to be a model with the flexibility to coordinate rapid and efficient force generation planning and execution in time-compressed requirements, such as crisis response scenarios. The focus of the Marine Corps force generation process is to generate operationally ready forces through the aligned efforts of Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC), the operating force, and the supporting establishment.

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

a. Marine Expeditionary Units (MEUs). The process for generating USMC forces assigned to a MEU is prescribed in references (f) and (g), Marine Corps policy for MEUs and MEU predeployment training.

b. Individual augmentation (IA). The process for generating Joint and Service individual augmentation is prescribed in reference (h), Marine Corps standard operating procedures for managing IA requirements.

c. Terms of reference

(1) Mission Essential Task (MET): An externally focused task that is critical to mission accomplishment.

(a) Core MET: A task that all units of the same type are organized, trained, and equipped to perform.

(b) Core plus MET: A task that may be required of a unit, but not all units of the same type, in addition to its core METs. Core plus METs reflect additional capabilities that may be required to support a specific CCDR or a mission that is limited in duration or scope; additional resources (personnel, equipment, or training) may be required to perform a core plus MET.

(c) Assigned MET: A task critical to the accomplishment of a specific mission, operation, or deployment; usually a core or core plus MET.

(2) Mission Essential Task List (METL): The set of all METs that a unit is organized, trained, and equipped to perform. An assigned METL is the set of all core, core plus, and assigned METs for a unit critical to a single mission, operation, or deployment.

(3) Deploying units: USMC units assigned rotational force deployments or deployments for scheduled exercises in the GFMAP as routine RFFs/RFCs, such as units participating in the Unit Deployment Program (UDP).

(4) Task-organized forces: USMC forces organized to meet routine RFFs/RFCs in the GFMAP, such as special purpose Marine Air Ground Task Forces (SPMAGTFs) and transition and advisor teams.

(5) Standing crisis response forces: Service-retained USMC units or task-organized forces deliberately planned and organized to provide ready Service-directed crisis response capability for a limited duration.

2. Cancellation. MCO 3502.6.

3. Mission. Enable the USMC Total Force to deploy mission-capable forces in support of CCDR requirements.

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent

(1) Purpose. To establish a process that focuses and synchronizes the efforts of HQMC, the supporting establishment, and the operating force towards efficiently and effectively preparing Marine Corps personnel and units in a timely manner for operational deployments.

(2) Method

(a) Assess Service core warfighting competencies against CCDR operational requirements to synchronize force capabilities and meet these requirements within Marine Corps capacity and priorities.

(b) Provide a framework to efficiently organize, train, and equip forces for operational deployments and standing crisis response capabilities in consonance with the Title 10 responsibilities of the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

(c) Provide a framework to incorporate operational lessons learned in order to enhance the force generation process and improve readiness of the operating force.

(3) Endstate. Commanders, U.S. Marine Corps Forces (COMMARFORs) are provided operationally ready forces able to execute METs in support of CCDRs.

b. Concept of Operations. The force generation process provides a systematic, Service-wide approach to selecting, resourcing, and preparing units for deployment, conducted in five phases: (1) synchronize the force; (2) generate the force; (3) ready the force; (4) deploy the force; and (5) redeploy the force. Throughout this continuum, operational units and assigned personnel conduct core MET training to maintain operational readiness.

(1) Phase I: Synchronize the force. Service capabilities and capacities and COMMARFOR estimates of supportability are assessed against CCDR operational requirements to develop force sourcing solutions for deployments, including standing crisis response forces.

(2) Phase II: Generate the force. Units identified to support operational deployments or standing crisis response force requirements begin predeployment planning, based upon a validated assigned METL. COMMARFORs and MEF CGs identify the staffing, training, and equipping resourcing requirements of units during this phase; HQMC assists operating force commanders in identifying solutions to resourcing shortfalls. Units are staffed and equipped to readiness goals in order to execute a predeployment training plan.

(3) Phase III: Ready the force. During this phase, deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces complement ongoing core MET training with assigned MET training and begin readiness reporting against an assigned METL. Units and forces conduct a mission rehearsal exercise (MRX) and are assessed in demonstrating proficiency in the tasks and standards of the assigned METL; deployment readiness is certified by the MEF Commander. Training trend reversal reports, based upon unit assessments, are reviewed for recommended changes to improve force generation policies and procedures or warfighting capabilities training and readiness.

(4) Phase IV: Deploy the force. Operational lessons learned by deployed units and forces are reviewed for recommended changes to improve force generation policies and procedures. Standing crisis response forces with assigned METs are prepared to deploy or deploy to meet emergent CCDR

operational requirements; remaining operating force elements are prepared to deploy or deploy for crisis response scenarios with core MET capabilities.

(5) Phase V: Redeploy the force. Post-deployment reports provided by redeployed units, task-organized forces, or relieved standing crisis response forces are reviewed for recommended changes in force generation policies and procedures; approved recommendations are implemented to refine the process and warfighting capabilities readiness of the operating force.

c. Scheme of Maneuver. HQMC and MARFOR/MEF commanders will use the force synchronization conference to review progress in each phase for each operational commitment and its associated Marine Corps force. Milestone dates in force generation phasing are targets in order to conduct effective deliberate force generation planning; milestone dates will be adjusted through force synchronization, based upon CCDR or Service operational or mission requirements, in order to maintain flexibility in force generation planning.

(1) Phase I: Synchronize the force (D-720 to D-360). During this phase, the operating force conducts core MET training. COMMARFORs identify registered and anticipated CCDR force capabilities requirements and recommend Marine Corps force options with METs to Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command (COMMARFORCOM). Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations (DC PP&O) and COMMARFORCOM assess Service capability, capacity, and priorities against CCDR force capabilities requirements to identify an operational commitment or crisis response capability requirement.

(a) Based upon COMMARFOR estimates of supportability and analysis of deployable populations, COMMARFORCOM coordinates with HQMC and MARFORs/MEFs to develop force sourcing solutions and deployment dates, including standing crisis response force solutions with activation dates and periods.

(b) In order to facilitate initial predeployment planning, HQMC and sourcing MARFORs/MEFs review force sourcing solutions to establish deployment or activation readiness milestones and goals; COMMARFORCOM assists supported MARFORs and sourcing MARFORs/MEFs in developing assigned METLs for deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces.

(c) Endstate: Pending publication of the GFMAP, DC PP&O approves force sourcing solutions for scheduled unit deployments, including standing crisis response forces, and releases MCBul 3120 at the end of Phase I with by-unit assignments per reference (i). Staffing and equipping goals are defined to achieve P-2/S-2 readiness for deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces by the end of Phase II.

(2) Phase II: Generate the force (D-360 to D-180). Given an approved force sourcing solution to Service or CCDR operational requirements, units are formally notified of scheduled deployments and standing crisis response force activation periods in MCBul 3120 and begin deployment or activation preparation and predeployment training planning. During this phase, units continue core MET training.

(a) Deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces refine assigned METLs in coordination with MARFORCOM, supported MARFORs, and sourcing MARFORs/MEFs. DC, PP&O validates assigned

METLs and COMMARFORCOM establishes assigned METLs for deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces in Defense Readiness Reporting System - Marine Corps (DRRS-MC) per reference (j) at the end of Phase II.

(b) Based upon a validated assigned METL, deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces develop a MET-based predeployment training and assessment plan; units coordinate Service-level predeployment training support requirements with TECOM through MARFORCOM in order to coordinate, schedule, resource, and deconflict unit participation at Joint and Service training venues.

(c) Based upon initial deployment or activation readiness milestones and goals, deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces are stabilized; MEFs/MARFORs coordinate unsourced predeployment personnel and equipment resourcing requirements of deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces with MARFORCOM and HQMC in order to develop solutions that achieve unit P-2/S-2 readiness by the end of Phase II.

(d) Endstate: Deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces are stabilized, staffed, and equipped to P-2/S-2 readiness; have an assigned METL in DRRS-MC; and have a resourced predeployment training and assessment plan by the end of Phase II.

(3) Phase III: Ready the force (D-180 to D-0). Deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces continue core MET training, begin assigned MET training, and begin reporting readiness against an assigned METL in DRRS-MC per reference (j).

(a) During this phase, deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces are staffed and equipped to P-1/S-1 readiness in accordance with deployment readiness milestones and goals in order to accomplish training in core and assigned METs of an assigned METL; NLT D-30, deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces conduct an MRX and MET-based assessment to inform the MEF Commander's unit deployment readiness certification.

(b) Assessments conducted on deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces in core and assigned MET proficiency against an assigned METL are provided to CG, TECOM for training trend analysis; recommended changes to force generation policies and procedures or warfighting capabilities training and readiness, based upon training trend analysis, are provided to COMMARFORCOM for force synchronization working group review and development of implementation strategies.

(c) Endstate: Deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces are staffed, trained, and equipped to C-1 readiness and certified in deployment readiness against an assigned METL by the MEF Commander.

(4) Phase IV: Deploy the force (D+0 to R-0). During this phase, operational lessons learned by deployed units and task-organized forces are reviewed by supported and/or sourcing MARFORs/MEFs for recommended changes to force generation policies and procedures; recommended changes are provided to

COMMARFORCOM for force synchronization working group review and development of implementation strategies.

(5) Phase V: Redeploy the force (R+0 to R+180). During this phase, post-deployment reports of assigned, task-organized, and standing crisis response forces are submitted to Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned and reviewed by sourcing MARFORs/MEFs for recommended changes to force generation policies and procedures; recommended changes are provided to COMMARFORCOM for force synchronization working group review and development of implementation strategies. Recommended changes endorsed by COMMARFORCOM are provided to DC PP&O for review, approval, and implementation through HQMC and COMMARFORs.

d. Tasks

(1) Deputy Commandant for Aviation (DC AVN). Participate in the force generation process and force synchronization conferences to coordinate support for the resourcing of deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces with COMMARFORCOM and sourcing/supported COMMARFORs; advocate for the force generation, readiness, and employment of Aviation Combat Element (ACE) units and personnel assigned to Marine Air Wings.

(2) Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC)

(a) Participate in the force generation process and force synchronization conferences to coordinate support for the Service-level training resourcing of deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces with COMMARFORCOM and sourcing/supported COMMARFORs. Provide Service training venues to support the MRX for deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces; provide direct support to deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces in conducting predeployment MET training proficiency assessments.

(b) Review assessment reports, identify training-related trends issues, and develop training trend reversal and reinforcement process reports to inform force generation planning.

(c) Receive, validate, and analyze lessons learned reports from operational deployments and develop emerging training concepts to inform force generation planning.

(d) Provide new concepts and equipment capabilities with associated training to the operating force in coordination with Marine Corps Systems Command (MARCORSYSCOM). Ensure the fielding for and training implementation of new capability initiatives for employment by deployed and standing crisis response forces prior to Phase III.

(3) Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration (DC CD&I). Participate in the force generation process to advocate for the force generation, readiness, and employment of Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Command Element (CE) units and personnel assigned to MAGTF command elements.

(4) Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics (DC I&L)

(a) Participate in the force generation process and force synchronization conferences to coordinate material and installations support for the equipment and sustainment resourcing of deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces with COMMARFORCOM; sourcing/supported COMMARFORs; Commander, Marine Corps Installations Command (COMMCICOM); Commander, Marine Corps Logistics Command (MCLC); and Commander, MARCORSYSCOM. Coordinate Marine Corps global sourcing for unsourced equipment or sustainment requirements of deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces with DC PP&O and COMMARFORCOM.

(b) Participate in the force generation process to advocate for the force generation, readiness, and employment of Logistics Combat Element (LCE) units, MAGTF logistics units, and personnel assigned to Marine Logistics Groups, MCICOM, and MCLC.

(5) Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (DC M&RA). Participate in the force generation process and force synchronization conferences to coordinate support for the manpower resourcing and stabilization planning of deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces with COMMARFORCOM and sourcing/supported COMMARFORs.

(a) Provide operational data requirements to facilitate COMMARFORCOM force sourcing solution development and enable appropriate analysis of structure, inventory, and deployable capacity.

(b) Coordinate Marine Corps global sourcing for Joint and Service individual augmentation requirements with DC PP&O and COMMARFORCOM.

(c) Issue manpower mobilization planning guidance and develop manpower resource requirements necessary to inform programmatic and budgetary planning per reference (k).

(6) Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations (DC PP&O)

(a) Function as approving authority in the Marine Corps force generation process and coordinate with COMMARFORCOM to execute the Marine Corps global force management process; participate in force synchronization conferences and working groups as required to coordinate Service requirements and obligations in force generation planning.

(b) Participate in the force generation process to advocate for the force generation, readiness, and employment of Ground Combat Element (GCE) units; personnel assigned to Marine Divisions; and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARFORSOC) personnel and units.

(c) Manage Service-level policy and procedures for the readiness reporting of deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces throughout the force generation process.

(d) Coordinate implementation of changes to force generation policies and procedures as recommended by HQMC, the operating force, and the supporting establishment through COMMARFORCOM and force synchronization,

based upon predeployment readiness assessments, operational lessons learned, and post-deployment reports.

(7) Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources (DC P&R).

Participate in the force generation process and force synchronization conferences to coordinate support for the financial resourcing of deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces with COMMARFORCOM and sourcing/supported COMMARFORs.

(8) Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command (COMMARFORCOM)

(a) Function as coordinating authority for conventional force allocation planning and synchronization across the Total Force in the Marine Corps force generation process. Execute force sourcing synchronization through coordination with COMMARFORs, the supporting establishment, and HQMC to collect, collate, and maintain global visibility of all Marine Corps forces in order to develop and provide force and individual sourcing recommendations to DC PP&O. Convene force synchronization conferences and working groups to conduct detailed planning and coordinate efforts across the five phases of the force generation process. Coordinate operational data requirements in force sourcing solutions development with DC M&RA to enable appropriate analysis of structure, inventory, and deployable capacity.

(b) Participate in the force generation process to coordinate force allocation planning of assigned units: provide estimates of supportability in the capability and capacity of assigned forces to meet operational commitments during Phase I force generation planning; support the Phase II and Phase III force generation of assigned and task-organized forces for operational deployments and standing crisis response forces; and recommend changes to force generation policies and procedures, based upon operational lessons learned and post-deployment reports of assigned, task-organized, and standing crisis response forces, to improve force generation planning.

(9) Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific (COMMARFORPAC).

Participate in the force generation process and force synchronization conferences to coordinate force allocation planning of assigned units with COMMARFORCOM: provide estimates of supportability in the capability and capacity of assigned forces to meet operational commitments during Phase I force generation planning; support the Phase II and Phase III force generation of assigned and task-organized forces for operational deployments and standing crisis response forces; and recommend changes to force generation policies and procedures, based upon operational lessons learned and post-deployment reports of assigned, task-organized, and standing crisis response forces, to COMMARFORCOM to improve force generation planning.

(10) Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve (COMMARFORRES)

(a) Participate in the force generation process and force synchronization conferences to coordinate force allocation planning of assigned units with COMMARFORCOM: provide estimates of supportability in the capability and capacity of assigned forces to meet operational commitments during Phase I force generation planning; support the Phase II and Phase III force generation of assigned forces for operational deployments; and recommend changes to force generation policies and procedures, based upon

operational lessons learned and post-deployment reports of assigned forces, to COMMARFORCOM to improve force generation planning.

(b) Coordinate Phase I through Phase III force generation planning, execution, and activation requirements with employing force commanders in accordance with reference (k), Marine Corps plan for Total Force mobilization, activation, integration, and deactivation.

(11) Commanders, U.S. Marine Corps Forces (COMMARFORs). Participate in the force generation process and force synchronization conferences to coordinate CCDR capability requirements and unit METL development with COMMARFORCOM during Phase I force generation planning; provide manning and equipping resourcing guidance and theater-specific training requirements to inform Phase II and Phase III force generation planning for Marine Corps forces in support of CCDR; and recommend changes to force generation policies and procedures, based upon operational lessons learned by forces deployed in support of CCDR, to COMMARFORCOM to improve force generation planning.

(12) Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (COMMARFORSOC). Participate in the Special Operations force generation process to facilitate sourcing of MARFORSOC force requirements per reference (1); inform the Marine Corps force generation process through COMMARFORCOM and DC PP&O. Identify and synchronize potential integration points between MARFORSOC and MEFs/MARFORRES deployed forces through the Marine Corps force generation process.

(13) Commanding Generals, Marine Expeditionary Forces (MEF CGs)

(a) Execute the force generation of assigned units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces. Participate in the force generation process and force synchronization conferences to coordinate development of unit assigned METLs, required resourcing, and training.

(b) Ensure the development and execution of predeployment training and assessment plans for deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces, based upon assigned METLs. Coordinate Service-level training support and assessment requirements of deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces with CG, TECOM through COMMARFORCOM (through COMMARFORPAC for I and III MEFs) at force synchronization. Provide MRX assessments of deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces to CG, TECOM for training-related trend analysis.

(c) Certify deployment readiness of assigned, task-organized, and standing crisis response forces.

(d) Recommend changes to force generation policies and procedures based upon operational lessons learned and post-deployment reports of assigned, task-organized, and standing crisis response forces, to COMMARFORCOM (via COMMARFORPAC for I and III MEF) to improve force generation planning.

(14) Commander, Marine Corps Installations Command (COMMCICOM)

(a) Participate in the force generation process and force synchronization conferences to coordinate installations support for deploying

units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces with COMMARFORCOM and sourcing/supported COMMARFORs.

(b) Participate in the force generation process and force synchronization conferences as required to coordinate force allocation planning of forces assigned to bases, stations, and installations with COMMARFORCOM: provide estimates of supportability in the capability and capacity of assigned forces to meet operational commitments during Phase I force generation planning; support the Phase II and Phase III force generation of assigned forces for operational deployments; and recommend changes to force generation policies and procedures, based upon operational lessons learned and post-deployment reports of assigned forces, to COMMARFORCOM to improve force generation planning. Coordinate Phase I through Phase III force generation planning and execution requirements with employing force commanders.

(15) Inspector General of the Marine Corps (IGMC). Incorporate requirements of this Order within the scope of the Marine Corps Readiness and Inspections Program.

e. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Force synchronization conferences. COMMARFORCOM will convene force synchronization conferences to coordinate Total Force requirements across the five phases of the force generation process. Mitigating the competing priorities of the Total Force in the staffing, training, and equipping requirements of deploying individuals and units necessitates the representative participation of Deputy Commandants, COMMARFORs, and MEF CGs; representatives of other HQMC/Joint organizations and USMC operational commands participate as required. COMMARFORCOM will convene force synchronization working groups with HQMC, MARFOR, and MEF representatives to conduct detailed planning and coordinate efforts across the five phases of the force generation process; working groups will have three areas of focus:

(a) Developing Phase I force sourcing solutions with deployment or activation dates, assigned METLs, and deployment readiness milestones and goals, based upon Marine Corps capability and capacity, sourcing COMMARFOR estimates of supportability, and CCDR requirements.

(b) Coordinating deployment readiness milestones, goals, and resourcing requirements for sourced units in Phase II and confirming Phase III predeployment resourcing and training requirements of deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces among HQMC, COMMARFORs, and MEFs.

(c) Providing recommendations for changes to force generation policies and procedures, based upon predeployment readiness assessments, operational lessons learned, and post-deployment reports, to DC PP&O and COMMARFORCOM.

(2) METL development, training, and reporting

(a) During Phase I force sourcing solutions development, supported COMMARFORs will propose additional (core plus) METs as required to accompany recommended Marine Corps force options and associated core METs in support of CCDR capabilities requirements; COMMARFORCOM will develop assigned

METLs with force sourcing solutions to facilitate the predeployment planning of sourced units. During Phase II, COMMARFORCOM will assist COMMARFORs, MEFs, deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces in refining assigned METLs, based upon unit mission analysis, for validation by DC PP&O. Validated assigned METLs will be established in DRRS-MC at the end of Phase II.

(b) The unit assigned METL, which is developed from core and core plus, or assigned, METs in accordance with reference (m), provides the basis for predeployment training objectives and assessment. Units will report readiness for core and assigned METs of the assigned METL in DRRS-MC in accordance with reference (j). If limited time or resources prevent the accomplishment of core or assigned MET training requirements, the unit's chain of command will provide guidance on training priorities, including which tasks of the assigned METL to assess.

(3) Force stabilization. Deploying units, task-organized forces, and standing crisis response forces will be stabilized during Phase II per reference (n), Marine Corps policy for manning and staffing precedence levels, to facilitate personnel turnover, new equipment fielding and equipment maintenance, and formal school key personnel leadership training in order to execute Phase III predeployment training.

(4) Predeployment training planning. Per reference (o), development of predeployment training plans will follow the Systems Approach to Training (SAT). Commanders will further adhere to the Marine Corps Unit Training Management (UTM) System in reference (p) and the Marine Corps Aviation and Ground Training and Readiness (T&R) Programs in references (q) and (r) to develop predeployment training plans. The predeployment training plan will include training assessments, per references (o) through (t), to continually evaluate and remediate training as needed in an assigned METL. In developing predeployment training plans for units deploying in support of named operations, the training block approach is used to appropriately align individual and collective training events in core and core plus METs with additional individual and collective theater/mission capabilities requirements prescribed by CCDR or directed at the Service level; the training block approach is comprised of four blocks:

(a) Block I training. Training consisting of (Block IA) individual sustained core skills training, core plus skills training, Marine Corps common skills sustainment training, formal schools training and (Block IB) required individual theater-specific training. For aviation units, Block I training includes resident instructor development/certification and individual aircrew/mechanic qualification/designation sustainment training.

(b) Block II training. Training consisting of unit core capabilities training at company level and below (for battalion-sized units) or core skills refinement and flight leadership development (for squadrons), normally single ship through division flight operations.

(c) Block III training. Training consisting of advanced core capabilities training at battalion level or core plus capabilities training at squadron level. Block III training incorporates higher headquarters and supporting agencies to integrate command and control functions required between aviation and supported ground units to perform assigned METs to required output standards.

(d) Block IV training. Training consisting of an MRX and an assessment of a unit's ability to perform tasks on its assigned METL.

(5) Predeployment training execution. Per reference (u), the use of Service-level training venues to support the training, MRX, and METL proficiency assessment of the operating force will be maximized in order to leverage standardized core MET training capability resourced through TECOM. Limited Service-level training capability and capacity can be exported through TECOM mobile training teams.

(a) Integrated Training Exercise (ITX). ITX is a Service-level assessment of an exercise force, conducted in conjunction with a live-fire training exercise, to meet training standards in required core METs and, by exception, core plus METs. Each ITX is resourced to support two maneuver battalions, four squadrons with limited ACE headquarters, and associated combat support and combat service support; with additional resourcing, TECOM can surge capacity to support GCE and LCE regimental headquarters in Service-level exercise design. ITX is conducted at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC), Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms, California, and is the preferred venue for conducting the core MET assessment of a deploying unit or standing crisis response force.

(b) Enhanced ITX (EITX). EITX is an ITX with expanded TECOM capability and capacity to support the MRX and MET-based assessment of an exercise force scheduled to deploy in support of a named operation or specific geographic or functional CCDR with specific theater/mission training requirements. EITX is conducted at MCAGCC and is the preferred venue for conducting the MRX and assessment of a deploying unit; with Marine Corps Security Cooperation Group support, EITX can support the MRX requirements for security force assistance and advisor trainer teams.

(c) Mountain Exercise (MTNEX). MTNEX is a Service-level assessment of an exercise force, conducted in conjunction with a live-fire training exercise, to meet training standards in required core METs for missions in a complex environment, specifically addressing the technical aspects of mountain and cold weather operations; the incorporation of regional Joint and Service-level training venues in MTNEX provides the tactical integration of MAGTF elements at the battalion level and the synchronization of participating units at the MAGTF level to exercise distributed operations. MTNEX provides an alternative training venue to ITX and is conducted at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, California; Hawthorne Army Depot, Nevada; and at Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada.

(d) Talon Exercise (TALONEX). TALONEX is resourced to support one infantry battalion and the Service-level assessment of a company-level exercise force to meet training standards in required core METs and, by exception, core plus METs. TALONEX is conducted in conjunction with a live-fire combined arms training exercise in support of ACE training objectives at Weapons and Tactics Instructor course; the incorporation of regional Service-level training venues and ranges in TALONEX provides the tactical planning and integration of ACE and GCE elements at battalion level and the synchronization of participating units at MAGTF level to exercise distributed operations. TALONEX provides an alternative training venue to ITX and is conducted at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, and other southwest US installations.

(e) Large scale exercise (LSE). The LSE is a Service-level assessment of an exercise force at the Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) level, conducted in conjunction with a live, virtual, and constructive training exercise for a MEB CE. Each LSE will be resourced with surge TECOM capability and capacity to support a MEB exercise force comprised of all MAGTF elements. The LSE will be flexible in design and execution to facilitate an array of capabilities and training objectives across the range of military operations in order to exercise MAGTF core capabilities within a joint, combined, and distributed operating environment. The LSE is conducted at MCAGCC; given its size and scope, other MEF-level exercises may be linked to, or serve as, alternative training venues to regional LSEs.

#### (6) Equipping

(a) During Phase I, supported MARFORs will provide guidance in equipment requirements in conjunction with registered and anticipated CCDR force capabilities requirements to inform force sourcing solutions development.

(b) Upon publication of MCBul 3120, the supported MARFOR will coordinate with the supporting MARFOR/MEF during Phase II to develop equipment density lists (EDLs) for deploying units and task-organized forces with RFF assignments, based upon mission requirements. Once developed, the supported MARFOR will validate the EDL and forward to DC PP&O for approval and an operational risk assessment. MARFORs/MEFs with standing crisis response force assignments will develop and forward a validated EDL to DC PP&O for approval.

(c) Once approved, the supporting MARFOR/MEF will source the EDL internally; equipment requirements that cannot be sourced internally by the supporting MARFOR will be forwarded to DC I&L for global sourcing. DC I&L will coordinate with MCLC and MARFORs to develop Marine Corps global sourcing solutions; solutions that meet current Service-level equipping priorities and a DC PP&O risk assessment will be tasked with shipping instructions, destinations, and required delivery dates during Phase II. DC I&L and DC PP&O will convene a Strategic Ground Equipment Working Group as required to assess the Marine Corps global sourcing solution and its associated risk on operational capabilities for DC PP&O review and approval.

(d) When necessary, DC I&L will leverage Joint Service sourcing solutions for approved equipment requirements that cannot be sourced from within the Marine Corps existing capability sets.

(e) The supported MARFOR will coordinate with DC CD&I to register an urgent need for approved equipment capability requirements that do not exist in Marine Corps or Joint Service inventory.

#### 5. Administration and Logistics

a. Waivers. Training requirement waivers for deliberately planned deployments, or activation periods for standing crisis response forces, shall be submitted via the operational chain of command to the establishing authority of the training requirement. Waivers for selected predeployment training requirements may be prescribed by DC PP&O under specific and

extraordinary circumstances, such as emergent RFFs, surge force deployments, and severely limited unit dwell time.

b. Marine Corps bulletins (MCBuls) will be used in conjunction with this Order to provide specifying information in force generation planning or procedures, such as required METs for specific missions or standardized predeployment training requirements for deployments in support of specific geographic or functional component commands and named operations.

c. Per reference (m), the authoritative data source for unit METLs is Marine Corps Training Information Management System (MCTIMS), which provides MET-based training standards, conditions, and measures; MCTIMS also provides unit METL templates, training measures, and associated T&R events. DC CD&I is the primary authority for developing and managing core and core plus METs; CG, TECOM is the primary authority for developing and managing training standards and references for each MET. COMMARFORCOM is the coordinating authority for managing core METs, core plus METs, and METLs in MCTIMS to support force generation and operational planning requirements.

d. The authoritative data source for service- and theater-specific training requirements for deploying units and Marines is the Predeployment Training Program (PTP) Toolkit, per reference (v). The PTP Toolkit is an unclassified website managed by CG, TECOM that provides current training requirements for specific missions and/or specific theaters as directed by DC PP&O in MCBuls to this order. The toolkit will be used in conjunction with MCTIMS to facilitate the predeployment training planning, execution, and assessment of assigned METLs with associated specific training requirements for deploying units.

e. Changes to this Order will be coordinated by COMMARFORCOM for DC PP&O approval and implementation through force synchronization conference reviews of recommended changes proposed by HQMC, the operating force, and the supporting establishment.

f. Records created as a result of this Order shall be managed according to National Archives and Records Administration approved dispositions per reference (w) to ensure proper maintenance, use, accessibility and preservation, regardless of format or medium.

## 6. Command and Signal

a. Signal. This Order is effective on the date signed.

(1) COMMARFORs with assigned forces provide estimates of supportability for potential operational commitments to COMMARFORCOM during Phase I force sourcing development at force synchronization conferences.

(2) Report for planning authorities and procedures will be established between supporting MARFORs/MEFs and supported MARFORs upon publication of MCBul 3120.

(3) Per reference (j), MEF CGs report deploying unit and standing crisis response force readiness in an assigned METL through DRRS-MC beginning Phase III; COMMARFORRES reports deploying unit readiness in an assigned METL through DRRS-MC beginning Phase III, unless deploying units are sooner joined to an employing force (MEF) commander.

07 JUN 2013

(4) MEF CGs and COMMARFORRES provide deploying unit and standing crisis response force MRX assessment reports to CG, TECOM within 60 days of MRX completion for training-related trends analysis and assessment.

(5) Per reference (i), MEF CGs notify deployment readiness certification of deploying units and standing crisis response forces to COMMARFORCOM, sourcing and supported COMMARFORs, and the employing force (MEF) commanders within 30 days prior to deployments.

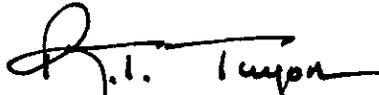
(6) CG, TECOM provides recommendations for changes to force generation policies and procedures, based upon MRX training-related trend reports and validated lessons learned reports, to COMMARFORCOM at force synchronization conferences.

(7) COMMARFORs and MEF CGs provide recommendations for changes to force generation policies and procedures, based upon operational lessons learned and post-deployment reports of assigned, task-organized, and standing crisis response forces, to COMMARFORCOM at force synchronization conferences.

b. Command. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Total Force.

(1) COMMARFORCOM is the coordinating authority in the Marine Corps force generation process.

(2) DC PP&O is the approving authority in the Marine Corps force generation process.



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