



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

MCO 1301.25C  
MPO

FEB 9 2012

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1301.25C

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Distribution List

Subj: ASSIGNMENT OF AVIATION OFFICERS AS AIR OFFICERS AND FORWARD AIR CONTROLLERS

Ref: (a) Unit Tables of Organization and Equipment (NOTAL)  
(b) MCO P1300.8R  
(c) NAVMC 3500.14  
(d) OPNAVINST 3710.7U  
(e) NAVMC 3500.42A  
(f) MCO 5311.1D  
(g) SECNAV M-5210.1

1. Situation. This Order provides guidance on policy and eligibility criteria pertaining to the assignment of aviation officers as Air Officers (AO) and Forward Air Controllers (FAC), per references (a) through (f).

2. Cancellation. MCO 1301.25B.

3. Mission. The assignment of qualified naval aviators and naval flight officers to AO and FAC billets on a permanent basis is vital to the Marine Corps' Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) concept. The intent of this Order is to govern the assignment of aviators to Air Officer (AO), Forward Air Controller (FAC), and instructor billets throughout the MEFs, Special Operations units, and the training establishments.

4. Execution

a. Commanders's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. Assign qualified naval aviators to AO and FAC requirements throughout the Marine Corps in order to conduct air operations critical to the MAGTF concept in the most effective and efficient manner.

(2) Concept of Operations

(a) Aviators shall be permanently assigned as AOs or FACs to MEF units that are, at a minimum, six months from deployment. Reference (a) provides the number and rank requirements of individual units, and identifies those billets, which require the 7502 BMOS or NMOS. Training Exercise and Employment Plans detail operational requirements and will be used to prioritize assignments.

(b) During the post-deployment phase, FAC staffing at the Battalion level can decrease to a single AO. The timing pertaining to the reassignment of FACs during the post-deployment phase is based on operational requirements, as determined by the appropriate Marine Expeditionary Force Commander, and on FAC tour lengths outlined in paragraph 5.b.

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

FEB 9 2012

(c) The following eligibility criteria shall be adhered to when assigning AOs or FACs:

1. All AO and FAC assignments will be in accordance with reference (b).

2. Aviators must have previously served a 7502 tour beforehand to serve as an AO at the Division level.

3. Aviators assigned to billets requiring the 7502 BMOS or NMOS, in accordance with reference (a), shall be a certified Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) following successful completion of Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) school at either Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Atlantic or Pacific (EWTGLANT or EWTGPAC). MMOA-2 will coordinate with Marine Forces Command (MARFORCOM), gaining and losing commands for TACP school seat assignment for FACs and AOs. The additional military occupational specialty (AMOS) 7502 will be awarded upon successful completion of an EWTG TACP School.

4. In accordance with reference (e), aviators assigned to billets as Regimental or Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Air Officers shall attend the required Air Officer Course. Commanders will request Air Officer Course seats per Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1) Planning Guide.

5. In accordance with reference (c), aviators assigned to company grade 7502 billets shall have served a minimum of 24 months duty in an operational flying status involving flight operations with an operational squadron or group.

6. Requests for waiver of the above criteria shall be submitted via Naval message format by the nominating unit to Commanding General, Training and Education Command (CG TECOM) (ATD), in accordance with reference (c). Justification for waiver requests shall at a minimum include; (1) circumstances that mitigate the lack of required aviation experience; (2) requesting unit point of contact knowledge of mitigating circumstances; and (3) qualifications/designations held by the subject aviator for his/her aircraft type.

7. CG TECOM (G3) will adjudicate waiver requests and a response via Naval message will be received by the requesting unit prior to assignment of the respective individual to TACP school.

8. Assignment to instructor billets within the TACP training establishment, specifically to the EWTGs, MAWTS-1 Air Officer Department, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group (TTECG), and Marine Corps Training Operations Group (MCTOG) shall have a minimum of 12 months of 7502 experience or 12 months as a qualified FAC(A).

(d) Coordinating Instructions

1. FAC assignment orders will specify duty in a flying status; flight activity denied (DIFDEN). Further information on DIFDEN status is found in reference (d).

2. The tour length for FACs serving at the Battalion level will normally be less than 14 months depending on the requirements specified in paragraph 4.a.(2)(b). The tour length for active duty Marines serving as FACs with Reserve commands will be 24 months.

FEB 9 2012

3. The tour length for Air Officers and FACs above the Battalion level and at MEUs, Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO), and Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC) will normally be 18-24 months. The tour length for active duty Marines serving as AOs with reserve commands will be 24 months.

4. Upon completion of duty as a FAC, an officer will be reassigned to duty involving flight operations except:

a. Upon selection for resident professional military education.

b. Upon request by the officer for duty in a DIFDEN status, if approved by DC, MR&A (MMOA-2).

b. Subordinate Element Missions

(1) Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MM):

(a) Ensure compliance with paragraph 6 of this order.

(b) Approve 7502 assignments and issue Permanent Change of Station/Permanent Change of Assignment (PCS/PCA) orders concurrent with receipt of nominees, provided eligibility criteria is satisfied or approval of waivers has been received.

(c) Coordinate with DC, AVN (ASM), DC, PP&O (POG) and MARFORCOM (Training and Readiness) to identify required billet assignments based on unit deployment plans and prioritize available EWTG School seats.

(d) Schedule and assign FACs to TACP training, via temporary additional duty orders en route, prior to their respective battalion report dates.

(e) Ensure accomplishment of JTAC certification in accordance with paragraph 4.a.(2)(c)3.

(f) Assign aviators the additional MOS 7502 upon successful completion of the TACP course.

(2) Deputy Commandant for Aviation (ASM):

(a) Serve as the MOS 7502 occupational field manager in accordance with reference (f).

(b) Coordinate with DC, M&RA (MM), DC, PP&O (POG) and MARFORCOM (Training and Readiness) to identify required billet assignments based on unit deployment plans and prioritize available EWTG school seats.

(c) Coordinate with DC, M&RA (MMOA), DC, PP&O (POG) and DC, CD&I in the development, implementation, and revision of force structure and assignment initiatives related to billets requiring MOS 7502.

(3) Marine Expeditionary Force Commanders:

(a) In coordination with DC, M&RA (MMOA-2) direct and control the assignment of aviators at least six months prior to unit deployments.

(b) Identify aviator nominees to DC, M&RA (MMOA-2) in accordance with paragraph 4.a.(2)(c) of this Order, and not later than six months prior to expected report date. Company grade 7502 billets within a division will be

FEB 9 2012

sourced from the associated Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW). When necessary, division company grade 7502 requirements may be filled by DC, M&RA (MMOA-2) when notified by the respective MAW via naval message no later than six months prior to expected report date.

5. Administration and Logistics

a. Developers, owners, and users of all Marine Corps information systems have the responsibility to establish and implement adequate operation and information technology controls including records management requirements to ensure the proper maintenance and use of record, regardless of format or medium, to promote accessibility and authorized retention per the approved records schedule and reference (g).

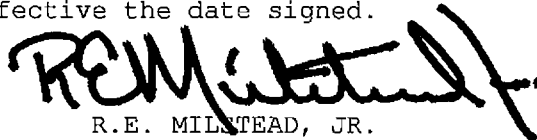
b. This Order is published electronically and can be accessed on-line via the Marine Corps Publications Electronics Library at <http://www.marine.mil/news/publications/Pages/Orders.aspx>.

c. For commands without access to the Internet, hard copy and CD-ROM versions of Marine Corps directives can be obtained through Marine Corps Publications Distribution System (MCPDS).

6. Command and Signal

a. Command. This Order is not applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.

b. Signal. This Order is effective the date signed.



R.E. MILSTEAD, JR.  
Deputy Commandant for  
Manpower and Reserve Affairs

DISTRIBUTION: PCN 10200980700