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HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
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26 Jun 92

MARINE CORPS ORDER 3120.8A

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: POLICY FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF FLEET MARINE FORCES FOR
COMBAT

Ref: (a) National Security Act of 1947, as amended
(b) JCS Pub 0-2, Unified Action Armed Forces (UNAAF)
(c) Marine Corps Manual
(d) JCS Pub 3-02, Joint Doctrine for Amphibious
Operations

Encl: (1) Organizational Structure of Marine Air-Ground Task
Forces (MAGTF's)
(2) Types of Marine Air-Ground Task Forces
(3) Designation of Fleet Marine Force Units

1. Purpose. To issue Marine Corps policy regarding
organization of Fleet Marine Forces for combat.

2. Cancellation. MCO 3120.8.

3. Intent. Our Corps is in transition. As the Marine Corps
plan for downsizing and restructuring is implemented, we will
evaluate our MAGTF organizations, terminology, and capabilities
for deployment and employment. There may be better ways to
organize and describe what we can provide to the unified
combatant commanders. The MEB, which has been one of our basic
MAGTF's for a long time, will remain part of the structure
until FY 94. Our planning and programming efforts; i.e.,
amphibious lift requirements, Norway Air-Landed MEB (NALMEB),
and Maritime Prepositioning Force MEB (MPF MEB), are, and will
continue to be for the near term, linked to MEB's. Component
initiatives are still being developed. Until changes to
organizations and terminology are approved and implementation
orders are issued, this Order will be the basic directive for
organizing the FMF for combat.

4. Basic Policy. A key element to maintaining our operational
excellence is our collective ability to accurately define who
and what we are. The terms we use to describe how we are
organized to fight must be uniformly and correctly used by all
hands. This Order is a statement of Marine Corps policy
relative to the organization of Fleet Marine Forces for combat.

5. Background

a. Fleet Marine Forces primarily organize for combat as
Marine Air-Ground Task Forces (MAGTF's). This organization for
combat is within the scope of our specific legislated
structure, combatant functions, roles, and missions. The

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statutory basis for the combatant functions assigned to the Marine Corps is reference (a). References (b) and (c) provide further amplification of the roles and functions of the Marine Corps. Within this framework, the defined combatant functions of the Marine Corps are the most explicit of all the military Services.

b. Reference (a) is the basis for the structure and combatant functions of the Marine Corps and states that the Marine Corps will:

(1) Organize to include not less than three combat divisions and three aircraft wings, and such other land combat, aviation, and other services as may be organic therein (active forces).

(2) Organize, train, and equip to provide Fleet Marine Forces (FMF's) of combined arms, together with supporting air components, for service with the Fleet in the seizure or defense of advance naval bases and for the conduct of such land operations as may be essential to the prosecution of a naval campaign.

(3) Maintain a Marine Corps Reserve for the purpose of providing trained units and qualified individuals to be available for active duty in the Marine Corps in time of national emergency and at such other times as the national security may require. For logical reasons, the Marine Corps will ensure Reserve units are organized, trained, and equipped to provide forces of combined arms.

(4) Perform such other duties as the President may direct.

c. To meet these statutory requirements, the Marine Corps has developed operational capabilities within the framework of the MAGTF organization which provide the maximum aggregate usefulness to the Nation today while ensuring the ability to rapidly adapt to changing world situations. These operational capabilities serve the Nation throughout the spectrum of conflict and within all three levels of war. Consequently, MAGTF's are task-organized and prepared to conduct operations in low-, mid-, and high-intensity conflicts by participating in:

(1) naval campaigns;

(2) continental or theater campaigns;

(3) amphibious operations and sustained operations ashore as they relate to all of the foregoing; and

(4) Support to other U.S. military Services and Government agencies.

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6. Categories of Forces. There are two broad categories of Fleet Marine Force organizations for combat:

- a. Marine Air-Ground Task Forces (MAGTF's)
- b. Forces other than MAGTF's

7. MAGTF Characteristics

a. The composition of a MAGTF may vary considerably, but a MAGTF organizational structure, by definition, will always include these four elements:

- (1) Command Element (CE);
- (2) Ground Combat Element (GCE);
- (3) Aviation Combat Element (ACE); and
- (4) Combat Service Support Element (CSSE).

b. MAGTF's are readily available, self-sustaining, combined arms warfighting organizations composed of Marine forces from a division, aircraft wing, service support group, and the Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Intelligence Group (SRI Group) under a single commander. Detachments from the SRI Group do not constitute a separate element of a MAGTF. The task organization of a MAGTF is designed to exploit the combat power inherent in a carefully integrated combined arms team. A MAGTF is organized, trained, and equipped to accomplish the specific mission(s) assigned.

c. Enclosure (1) provides a brief description of the four elements of a MAGTF.

8. Types of MAGTF's

a. Regardless of size, all MAGTF's are expeditionary forces. An expeditionary force is a capability vice a structure. Thus, any size MAGTF could, technically, be referred to as a Marine expeditionary force. However, to provide a frame of reference for general sizing, there are three basic types of MAGTF's among the task organizations provided by the Fleet Marine Forces:

- (1) Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU);
- (2) Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB); and
- (3) Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF).

b. Although not a basic MAGTF, a fourth type of MAGTF organization shall be designated as a Special Purpose MAGTF (SPMAGTF). It is normally used for a special purpose (e.g.,

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disaster relief, humanitarian assistance, noncombatant evacuation operation, security operations) or in unique instances (e.g., Exxon Valdez oil spill containment) where employment of one of the three basic MAGTF's would be inappropriate.

c. Enclosure (2) describes the organizational characteristics of each type MAGTF. Enclosure (3) defines designations of FMF units.

9. Forces other than MAGTF's. Not every mission for which a FMF organization is requested will require a MAGTF. Forces not categorized as MAGTF's are classified as "forces other than MAGTF's" and reflect a variety of designations: some are derived from a unit's designation (e.g., 7th Marines (REIN)) and some from standard terms used to designate task-organized detachments (e.g., CSSD-17). Enclosure (3) further discusses the designations of "forces other than MAGTF's."

10. MAGTF Capabilities

a. Marines organize for combat as MAGTF's by drawing capabilities from the reservoir of combat power found in Fleet Marine Force Pacific (FMFPac) and Fleet Marine Force Atlantic (FMFLant). The MEF is the principal standing MAGTF. The MEF CE is the organization that assists the commander in exercising command, to include operational control (OPCON) and administrative control (ADCON) over a Marine division (GCE), Marine aircraft wing (ACE), force service support group (CSSE), and the SRI Group. All other MAGTF's shall be formed by changing the OPCON of the appropriate units from the MEF commander to another type of MAGTF commander.

b. The MEF is the principal warfighting organization in a unified combatant command. Deployment considerations and the tactical/operational environment may require the early deployment of a MEB as the lead element of the MEF and, as such, will be redesignated as the MEF (Forward). This does not preclude the use of a MEB operating independently when required by the tactical and operational situation.

c. In a major regional contingency, in a joint or combined force, it will normally be necessary to form a separate Marine component headquarters, in addition to the warfighting command element. This Headquarters will usually be formed by a deployable component headquarters from one of the two FMF headquarters, augmented by a standing Battle Roster from within the Total Force Marine Corps. It will focus on Service requirements and joint/combined coordinating responsibilities. For lesser regional contingencies, when a MAGTF functions operationally under a joint task force, the MAGTF commander may also assume the responsibilities of the Marine component commander. If the MAGTF is an element of a naval component, the

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FMF commander will provide representation to the component commander's staff.

d. All MAGTF's shall be capable of serving within a joint or combined force. FMF commanders shall ensure assigned MAGTF's maintain an appropriate command, control, communication, computer, intelligence, and interoperability (C4I2) capability, including designated equipment and personnel identified and trained for employment on joint/combined staffs, for each CINC for which the MAGTF is apportioned. MEF CE's shall be capable of providing the headquarters for joint/combined task forces.

e. All MAGTF's, less SPMAGTF's, shall possess the following warfighting capabilities:

(1) The ability to enter and exit a battle area at night:

- (a) under adverse weather conditions;
- (b) from over the horizon;
- (c) in EMCON; and
- (d) by surface or air.

(2) The ability to locate and fix the enemy, involving finding and identifying those forces, maintaining surveillance once located, assessing the capabilities and intentions, and reporting these findings.

(3) The ability to engage, destroy, or capture the enemy in a rural or urban setting, in hostile environments (NBC), with minimized/controlled collateral damage.

f. The Marine Corps has instituted an aggressive Special Operations Capable (SOC) training program to optimize the inherent capability of our MAGTF's to conduct selected maritime special operations. Progressive improvement in individual and unit skills attained through enhanced training and the addition of specialized equipment will allow a MAGTF to execute the full range of conventional and selected maritime special operations missions. MAGTF's which have undergone this enhanced training program, have been provided special equipment, and have successfully completed a thorough evaluation/certification by the FMF commander shall be designated as SOC. This certification will list the specific capabilities for which the MAGTF is trained and equipped.

g. In addition to the three common capabilities noted in paragraph 10(e), any MAGTF designated as SOC shall have the requisite training, equipment, and skills to execute these additional tasks:

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- (1) close quarter battle (CQB);
- (2) specialized breaching;
- (3) clandestine reconnaissance and surveillance;
- (4) tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel (TRAP);
- (5) in-extremis hostage recovery (IHR);
- (6) seizure and destruction of offshore gas/oil platforms (GOPLAT); and
- (7) rapidly plan and commence execution of operations within 6 hours of receipt of the warning/alert order, signified by the launch of aircraft or surface means. This may range from something as simple as the insertion of reconnaissance and surveillance assets in support of the mission to the actual launch of an assault force.

h. All MAGTF's designated as SOC shall be fully capable of concurrently executing their general purpose expeditionary missions as well as special operations tasks.

11. Related Considerations

a. The MEF will continue to be the MAGTF required for most of our operational mission planning and for sustained operations ashore. To rapidly establish this force in the theater of operations may require the deployment of subordinate elements from all three MEF's. These subordinate elements will deploy into theater by various means for employment under the designated MEF CE. The availability of amphibious shipping and strategic air/sealift, other operational commitments, and the geographic location of the forces relative to the objective area will influence the deployment decisions.

b. The Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) concept represents a significant capability for deployment of Marine forces. The MAGTF that falls in on maritime prepositioned equipment and supplies (MPE/S) comprises a portion of a MPF. This force, because of its method of deployment, provides the CINC of a unified combatant command with a range of strategic deployment and employment options. A MPF consists of a commander, a ship or ships of a Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron (MPSRON), a MAGTF and a Naval Support Element (NSE). This force will normally be commanded by a Navy officer designated as Commander Maritime Prepositioning Force (CMPF). The MAGTF and NSE are deployed by strategic airlift into an area of operations, arriving and assembling with the prepositioned equipment and supplies on the MPS. The MPSRON can be offloaded instream and/or at pierside if a port is available. The prepositioned equipment and supplies are currently configured aboard each MPSRON to support not only

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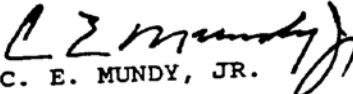
a full MEB (with all the MPSRON's ships) but also a MEU (with one ship), a low-intensity conflict (LIC) MEB (with two to four ships), or any lesser required capability. The principal force projection requirements which can be met using MPF include:

(1) Augmenting the deployment of a MAGTF, bridging the initial introduction of other Marine forces with follow-on forces.

(2) Independent deployment of MAGTF's into tactically secure areas to conduct a full range of combat operations, following arrival and assembly, alone or in conjunction with a joint task force.

12. Action. Commanders will comply with the policy established by this Order.

13. Reserve Applicability. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.


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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF MARINE AIR-GROUND TASK FORCES
(MAGTF'S)

1. General. The scope of this enclosure is limited to a brief description of the major elements of a MAGTF. It also describes characteristics of elements comprising MAGTF's, and when used in concert with enclosure (2), provides a general description of a particular type of MAGTF.

2. The Command Element (CE)

a. The commander of a MAGTF is designated by appropriate authority, normally from outside the major subordinate elements of the MAGTF. In an amphibious operation, if a MAGTF is embarked, the MAGTF commander serves concurrently as the Commander of the Landing Force (CLF). Operating under the Composite Warfare Concept, the CLF may find variations in the doctrinal command relationships delineated in reference (d).

b. The MAGTF commander is provided with an integrated staff and requisite communications to enable him to exercise command and control of MAGTF operations. The establishment of a single command element over the ground, aviation, and combat service support elements provides the command, control, coordination, computer, intelligence, and interoperability capability essential for effective planning and execution of operations.

c. The MAGTF commander directs the combat actions of his force. This preeminent function is inherent in his assigned authority and responsibilities. For a MAGTF to be effective, the elements of the MAGTF must work together toward common goals. To facilitate this, the MAGTF commander establishes objectives for planning and conducting operations. His mission analysis, intent and directions to subordinate commanders provide the framework so unity of effort can be achieved.

d. In an amphibious operation with an embarked MAGTF, the MAGTF CE concurrently serves as the Commander Landing Force (CLF) staff. This arrangement enhances the direct relationship between the Commander Amphibious Task Force (CATF) and the CLF. The CLF exploits the capabilities of his MSE commanders in accomplishing the detailed planning required for the amphibious operation. To this end, he normally assigns them appropriate portions of the landing force plan for their preparation. He may also temporarily use them to augment the landing force staff, particularly for tasks concerned with landing force control agencies.

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e. In executing amphibious operations, the requirements of the appropriate Fleet commander, the provisions of reference (d) and all applicable Tactical Memoranda (TACMEMO's) shall be observed.

f. The forward afloat MAGTF commander retains coequal command status with the Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) commander until the publication of an initiating directive by the common senior of these forces, directing the conduct of a specific amphibious operation/exercise and specifying the ARG commander as Commander, Amphibious Task Force (CATF). Such authority ceases upon termination of the operation/exercise under the conditions specified in the initiating directive.

g. The major organizational limitation of the CE of a MAGTF smaller than a MEF is that it may not be a permanent entity. Commanders minimize the adverse effects of this limitation by such measures as the assignment of key personnel on an additional duty basis, compilation of files and standing operating procedures, periodic activation of the staff for planning or command post exercises, and the designation, exercise, and frequent inspection of command element equipment.

3. The Ground Combat Element (GCE)

a. The GCE is a task organization tailored for the conduct of ground operations. It is constructed around an infantry unit, varying in size from a rifle platoon to a reinforced Marine division or divisions, and includes its organic combat support and combat service support units.

b. Normally, there is only one major maneuver element in the GCE of a MAGTF. When exceptional circumstances require more than one GCE, they will normally be assigned their own missions and sectors of responsibility. Under this condition, the CE will play an expanded role in fire support coordination and must be organized to accomplish this increased span of control and attendant command and coordination requirements.

4. The Aviation Combat Element (ACE)

a. There is only one ACE in a MAGTF, although in certain circumstances basing of the ACE at diverse locations may be required. This element is a task organization tailored for the conduct of tactical air operations. As the ACE is a task organization, it is not always necessary to include all six functions of Marine aviation. Only those functions required or reasonably anticipated to be needed to accomplish the MAGTF mission should be included. The ACE normally includes those

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aviation command (including air control agencies), combat, combat support, and combat service support units required for conduct of the mission. These capabilities are provided from the various aviation resources of a Marine aircraft wing and appropriate FMF units.

b. Both rotary-wing and fixed-wing aviation capabilities can be included in the ACE of all three basic MAGTF's. Normally, only rotary-wing aviation capabilities will be included in the ACE of a SPMAGTF; however, in some situations, Vertical Short Take Off and Landing (VSTOL) attack aircraft may be included.

5. The Combat Service Support Element (CSSE). The CSSE is task-organized to provide those functions not within the organic capability of the other elements of the MAGTF. The CSSE does not provide redundant capabilities, but is designed to support the continued readiness and sustainability of the MAGTF as a whole. It has the ability to sustain the force for a prescribed period of time for most classes of supply, depending on the size of the MAGTF. The Force Service Support Group (FSSG) task organizes the CSSE based on the mission statement of the MAGTF. Unless the entire MEF deploys, the FSSG builds detachments from its organic battalions to source the requisite CSSE.

ENCLOSURE (1)

TYPES OF MARINE AIR-GROUND TASK FORCES

1. General. This enclosure briefly describes organizational characteristics of each type MAGTF. It amplifies enclosure (1) and should be used in conjunction with that enclosure to obtain a general description of a particular type MAGTF organization.

2. Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force (SPMAGTF)

a. The SPMAGTF is a MAGTF configured to accomplish the specific mission(s) for which one of the three basic MAGTF types would be inappropriate or too large to employ. SPMAGTF's can be organized, trained, and equipped to conduct a wide variety of expeditionary operations in response to a crisis or peacetime mission. SPMAGTF's have been successfully employed in the Persian Gulf, in Panama, Liberia and the Philippines, and in support of the Exxon Valdez oil spill containment operation.

b. Designation of the SPMAGTF commander shall be the responsibility of the FMFor MEF commander. The SPMAGTF commander shall be provided a staff and the requisite command, control, and communications that will enable him to carry out the assigned mission. The establishment of a single commander over the ground, aviation, and combat service support elements provides the centralized command, control, and support capability essential for effective planning and execution. The SPMAGTF's CE is structured for the conduct of operational functions and is tailored to the mission and task organization of the SPMAGTF.

c. The GCE of a SPMAGTF shall normally be at least a platoon sized element.

d. The ACE of a SPMAGTF shall be a task-organized detachment of aircraft, designated per current CG FMFPac/FMFLant policies and regulations pertaining to detachments and officers in charge. If required, air defense teams and air traffic control capability can be included.

e. The CSSE of a SPMAGTF will be task-organized to meet the specific service support requirements of the SPMAGTF. Depending on the mission of the SPMAGTF, the CSSE will be centered on the unit designated to provide the preponderance of service support. For example, this could be a landing support detachment if a port or airhead is used, or an engineer detachment if the mission is construction or bulk fuel movement.

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3. Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU)

a. The MEU is a MAGTF built around a reinforced infantry battalion, a reinforced helicopter squadron, and a MEU Service Support Group (MSSG). It is commanded by a colonel and is routinely deployed with an Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) to form a forward deployed, sea-based, naval expeditionary force. A deployed MEU is vital element of our National Military Strategy requirement to maintain a capable forward presence. It is capable of conducting amphibious operations of limited duration, acting as an advance force for a larger follow-on MAGTF and providing an immediate response capability to a wide spectrum of crises/contingencies by conducting maritime-oriented missions. A MEU is capable of rapid deployment and employment via amphibious shipping, strategic airlift, marrying with MPF assets or any combination thereof. Capabilities of the MEU in intelligence, command and control, communications, and combat power are enhanced by significant augmentation of FMF assets. When embarked aboard amphibious shipping the MEU deploys with 15 days of accompanying supplies in classes I, II, VIII, and IX. The ARG deploys with 15 days of class III(B), IV, and V embarked as Landing Force Operational Readiness Material (LFORM) to support the embarked MEU.

b. The GCE of a MEU is a reinforced infantry battalion. These attachments normally include artillery, engineers, light armored infantry (LAI), antiarmor, assault amphibian, and division reconnaissance units.

c. The ACE of a MEU is a reinforced medium helicopter squadron. This squadron is normally reinforced with a mix of transport helicopters, attack helicopters, a detachment from the Marine Air Control Group (MACG), a Low Altitude Air Defense (LAAD) section, and a detachment from the Marine Wing Support Group (MWSG). VSTOL attack aircraft and aerial refueler/transport aircraft, if not embarked, may be provided as reinforcements if required.

d. The CSSE of a MEU is a MSSG formed from the FSSG. The MSSG normally consists of an executive staff, two support platoons, and six service support platoons. The two support platoons are the Headquarters Platoon and the Communications Platoon. The six service support platoons are the Engineer Support Platoon, the Maintenance Support Platoon, the Motor Transport Platoon, the Landing Support Platoon, the Supply Platoon, and the Medical Platoon. Within its organic assets, the MSSG is capable of providing limited line haul transportation, limited third echelon repairs, and Arrival Airfield Control Group (AACG) or Departure Airfield Control Group (DACG) functions.

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e. As discussed in paragraph 9f of the basic Order, a primary goal for all forward deploying MEU's is to be trained, evaluated, and certified to conduct selected maritime special operations. Following the certification, the MEU will be designated as Special Operations Capable (SOC).

4. Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB)

a. The MEB is a MAGTF built around a reinforced infantry regiment, an aircraft group, and a Brigade Service Support Group (BSSG). It is normally commanded by a Brigadier General. As an expeditionary force, it is capable of rapid deployment and employment via amphibious shipping, strategic airlift, marrying with Maritime Prepositioned Force (MPF) assets, or any combination thereof. The MEB deploys with 30 days of accompanying supplies and is capable of conducting combat operations of limited scope. If the scope of operations expands beyond the capability of the MEB, additional forces can readily deploy to expand to a MEF. Thus, the MEB becomes the forward echelon of the MEF.

b. The GCE of a MEB is tailored to accomplish a specific assigned mission. It is normally an infantry regiment reinforced with selected division units.

c. The ACE of a MEB is a task-organized Marine aircraft group. This group has substantially more varied aviation capabilities than the normal helicopter/attack/fighter/control group. It contains those antiair warfare capabilities required by the situation. Unlike the ACE of the MEU, the entire ACE of a MEB is usually organized and equipped for early establishment in the objective area as airfields are uncovered or expeditionary airfields are established.

d. The CSSE of a MEB is a Brigade Service Support Group (BSSG) which is task-organized from the organic battalions of the FSSG. The BSSG is organized to provide maintenance support, limited line haul transportation, expeditionary vertical and horizontal construction, supply support, medical collecting and clearing, and landing support functions.

e. If a MEB is to be the lead echelon of a MEF and the concept of operations envisions the deployment of a MEF, the MEB will be designated as the MEF (Forward) (e.g., II MEF (Forward)). If the MEB is to be a stand alone MAGTF and the concept of operations does not envision the deployment of a MEF, the MAGTF will be designated as a MEB (e.g., 5th MEB). If the concept of operations later changes to require the MEF, the

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MEB will be designated as the MEF (Forward) in preparation for the arrival of follow-on forces (e.g., redesignate 5th MEB as I MEF (Forward)).

5. Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF)

a. The MEF is the principal warfighting MAGTF in the active force structure of the Marine Corps and is normally built around a Division/Wing/FSSG team. MEF's are normally commanded by a lieutenant general. There are presently three active MEF's which source the CE's, GCE's, ACE's, and CSSE's of other MAGTF's (SPMAGTF, MEU, and MEB). The MEF is capable of conducting a wide range of expeditionary operations, both amphibious operations and sustained operations ashore. It can be tailored for a wide variety of combat missions in any geographic environment and deploys with 60 days of accompanying supplies.

b. The GCE of a MEF is normally a Marine division reinforced with other appropriate FMF units.

c. The ACE of a MEF is a Marine aircraft wing, task-organized to conduct all six functions of tactical air operations. The wing is organized and equipped to operate from ships, permanent airfields ashore, or expeditionary airfields.

d. The CSSE of a MEF is the FSSG. The organic battalions of the FSSG provide the full range of CSS functions to include maintenance, transportation, deliberate engineering, supply, health services, and other services (e.g., postal, disbursing, law enforcement).

6. Marine Reserve Force. The Marine Reserve Force consists of the 4th Marine Division, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, and the 4th Force Service Support Group. During periods of mobilization, the primary role of the Marine Reserve Force is to augment and to selectively reinforce the active forces.

ENCLOSURE (2)

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DESIGNATION OF FLEET MARINE FORCE UNITS

1. General. This enclosure provides guidance in assigning numerical designations to MAGTF's and tactical elements of the FMF. MAGTF's do not, in themselves, denote a specific task organization. MAGTF's are task organizations and it is inappropriate to refer to these forces as "minus" or "reinforced." Accordingly, such terms as MEF (-) or MEU (REIN) will not be used.

a. MAGTF's formed within FMFPac will be assigned odd number numerical designations. Those formed within FMFLant will be assigned even number numerical designations.

b. Arabic numerals will be used to designate MEB's and MEUUs. Roman numerals will be used to designate MEF's.

c. SPMAGTF's formed within either FMFPac or FMFLant shall be designated as SPMAGTF followed by its geographic location in parentheses.

d. Deployed task-organized forces that do not meet the strict definition of a MAGTF will be assigned the designation of the Marine ground, aviation, or logistic unit having operational control of the Marine forces.

2. Description and Illustration of Designations

a. MAFTF's. Illustrations of MAGTF designations are provided below:

(1) Force - II Marine Expeditionary Force (II MEF);

(2) Brigade - 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade (1st MEB);

(3) Unit - 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (11th MEU);
and

(4) Special Purpose MAGTF - SPMAGTF (LIBERIA).

b. Division Units. There are three Marine divisions in the active force and one in the Reserve. A division is the largest Marine ground combat organization of a MEF. Divisions are designated with Arabic numerals. Illustrations of division unit designations are provided below:

(1) Division - 1st Marine Division (1st MarDiv);

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(2) Regiment - 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division (1st Mar, 1st MarDiv);

(3) Battalion - 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division (1st Bn, 1st Mar, 1st MarDiv);

(4) Battalion - 2d Tank Battalion, 2d Marine Division (2d Tk Bn, 2d MarDiv);

(5) Company - Company A, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division (Co A, 1st Bn, 1st Mar, 1st MarDiv)' and

(6) Battery - Battery A, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Btry A, 1st Bn, 11th Mar, 1st MarDiv).

c. Aviation Units. There are three Marine aircraft wings in the active force and one in the Reserve. A Marine aircraft wing is the largest Marine aviation organization of the MEF. All wing units are designated with Arabic numerals. The wing and group do not have fixed tables of organization. Illustrations of wing unit designations are provided below:

(1) Wing - 2d Marine Aircraft Wing (2d MAW);

(2) Group - Marine Aircraft Group 26, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing (MAG-26, 2d MAW);

(3) Squadron - Marine Attack Squadron (All Weather) 533, Marine Aircraft Group 14, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing (VMA(AW)-533, MAG-14, 2d MAW); and

(4) Squadron - Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263, Marine Aircraft Group 29, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing (HMM-263, MAG-29, 2d MAW). Reinforced helicopter squadrons shall retain their squadron designation as the ACE of the MAGTF (HMM-263 (REIN)).

d. Combat Service Support Units. There are three Force Service Support Groups (FSSG's) in the active force and one in the Reserve. A FSSG is the largest combat service support organization of a MEF. All FSSG units are designated with Arabic numerals and will have the same numeric designation of the MAGTF they support. Illustrations of combat service support unit designations are provided below:

(1) FSSG - 2d Force Service Support Group, II MEF (2d FSSG, II MEF);

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(2) BSSG - Brigade Service Support Group - 1, 1st MEB (BSSG-1, 1st MEB); and

(3) MSSG - MEU Service Support Group - 11, 11th MEU (SOC) (MSSG-11, 11th MEU (SOC)).

e. Non-MAGTF Organizations. Not all Marine forces are deployed or employed as a MAGTF organization. Deployed task organized forces that do not meet the strict definition of a MAGTF will be designated as illustrated below:

(1) Battalion (REIN) - 3d Battalion (REIN), 9th Marines (3d Bn (REIN), 9th Mar); and

(2) Engineer Battalion (-) (REIN) - 2d Combat Engineer Battalion (-) (REIN) (2d Cbt Engr Bn (-) (REIN)).

ENCLOSURE (3)