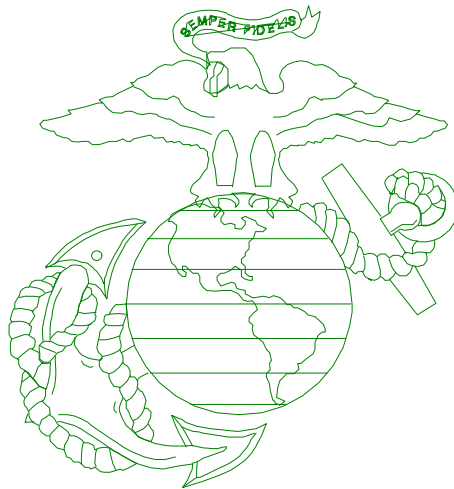


**MCDP 1-0.1**

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# Componentency

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**U.S. Marine Corps**

PCN 142 000013 00

MCCDC (C 42)  
20 Jun 2001

E R R A T U M

to

MCDP 1-0.1

COMPONENCY

1. For administrative purposes, the publication short title and PCN have been reidentified. Change "MCWP 0-1.1" to read: "MCDP 1-0.1" of June 1998 wherever it appears in the Manual.

PCN 143 000053 80

## To Our Readers

**Changes:** Readers of this publication are encouraged to submit suggestions and changes that will improve it. Recommendations may be sent directly to Commanding General, Doctrine Division (C 42), Marine Corps Combat Development Command, 3300 Russell Road, Suite 318A, Quantico, VA 22134-5021 or by fax to 703-784-2917 (DSN 278-2917) or by E-mail to **smb@doctrine div@mccdc**. Recommendations should include the following information:

- Location of change
  - Publication number and title
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**Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine or feminine gender is used, both men and women are included.**

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Headquarters United States Marine Corps  
Washington, D.C. 20380-1775

5 June 1998

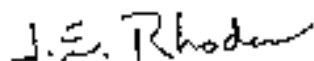
FOREWORD

Marine Corps Warfighting Publication (MCWP) 0-1.1, *Componentency*, addresses the fundamental principles of Marine Corps componentency. It deals with the Marine Corps component under a combatant command; the role of the Marine Corps component commander and staff; the relationship of the Marine Corps component commander with the combatant commander, other Service component commanders, and the Marine air-ground task force commander. It describes the role of the Marine Corps component commander in a joint task force and the relationship of the Marine Corps component commander with the Marine Corps' Service component at the combatant command. It further discusses the role of the Marine Corps Reserve within the Marine Corps Total Force concept. Lastly it delineates the functions of a Marine Corps component throughout the phases of an expeditionary campaign.

This publication provides guidance for the commanders and their staffs of Marine Corps components and major subordinate commands. It also provides information for the Joint Staff, joint force commanders and their staffs, and other Service

components on how Marine Corps components will support the joint force. Included are descriptions of command relationships and the Service support functions performed by Marine Corps component headquarters. The roles and functions described herein provide an understanding of how the Marine Corps will support the joint force commander.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT  
OF THE MARINE CORPS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. E. Rhodes".

J. E. RHODES  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding General  
Marine Corps Combat Development Command

DISTRIBUTION: 143 000053 00

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Throughout this publication, masculine nouns and pronouns are used for the sake of simplicity. Except where otherwise noted, these nouns and pronouns apply to either gender.

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## Chapter 1

# Fundamentals

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*“The role of component commanders in a joint force merits special attention. Component commanders are first expected to orchestrate the activity of their own forces, branches, and warfare communities . . . . In addition, [they must] understand how their own pieces fit into the overall design and best support the joint force commander’s plans and goals.”<sup>1</sup>*

—Joint Pub 1, *Joint Warfare of the Armed Forces of the United States*



Since 1775, the United States Marine Corps has conducted military operations around the globe with forces from other Services and nations to achieve our nation's strategic objectives. Combining the strengths and abilities of Marine Corps forces with forces from other Services and nations has resulted in a military force whose combat power exceeds that of a comparably sized force drawn from a single Service. This synergy has allowed our nation and its allies to win against numerically superior enemies while limiting our own losses.

The Marine Corps' operational forces are organized as Marine air-ground task forces (MAGTFs) and are employed either as part of naval expeditionary forces or as part of larger joint or combined forces. To better support present and future joint military operations, the Marine Corps has established Marine Corps components with the five geographic combatant commands. This publication discusses how a Marine Corps component headquarters supports a joint force commander during joint operations. It clarifies the roles, functions, and command relationships of the Marine Corps component.

## **AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW**

Before the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986, the Fleet Marine Forces provided MAGTFs to the combatant commander directly or through the

U.S. Fleet commander. An example of a successful command arrangement involving Marine Corps support of a joint force occurred in the early days of the Korean War. During this period, the 1st Marine Brigade supported the 8th Army in the defense of the Pusan perimeter in August–September 1950. Later the 1st Marine Division, with supporting Marine aviation, served as part of X Corps, the land combat component of Joint Task Force 7, during the Inchon landing of September 1950. The joint force commanders for these operations effectively integrated Marine Corps forces into the joint force. The MAGTF operated using Marine Corps Service doctrine and its optimal task organization, including organic Marine aviation. The concept of MAGTF operations was proven during these operations. The combined arms capability and well-established support relationships between the two combat arms—ground and aviation—was the envy of the other Services. In the first volume of the official Marine Corps history of the Korean War, *The Pusan Perimeter*, Colonel P. L. Freeman, USA, commanding the 23rd Infantry Regiment in the Pusan perimeter, commented,

. . . the Marines on our left were a sight to behold. Not only was their equipment superior or equal to ours, but they had squadrons of air in direct support. They used it like artillery. It was 'Hey, Joe—This is Smitty—Knock the left of that ridge in front of Item Company.' They had it *day and night*. It came off nearby carriers, and not from Japan with only 15 minutes of fuel to accomplish the mission.<sup>2</sup>

Lieutenant General Walton H. Walker, USA, Commanding General of the 8th Army, and Brigadier General Edward A.

Craig, USMC, Commanding General of the 1st Marine Brigade, established the command structure which was so successful for the “fire brigade of the Pusan perimeter.” This winning command arrangement was duplicated by Commander, Joint Task Force 7, and contributed to the success of the Inchon landing. Because of experiences like this, the Marine Corps recommends that its operational forces be employed as MAGTFs that retain their optimal task organization to bring maximum sustainable combat power to the fight.

The Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 created a new model for joint operations by clearly placing responsibility for the accomplishment of a combatant command’s assigned mission on the combatant commander and by ensuring that authority was fully commensurate with responsibility. The act also established closer, more formal command linkages from the Services to the supported combatant commander, thereby creating the requirement for Service components to the combatant commands.

Operation Desert Storm highlighted the need for the Marine Corps to provide a fully staffed and capable component headquarters to the joint force commander. Such a headquarters allows the Marine Corps component commander to ensure that the joint force commander’s requirements are met and that Marine Corps forces are employed in accordance with their capabilities. Operation Desert Storm revealed that manning and equipping a Marine Corps component headquarters out of the limited resources of the MAGTF was insufficient and that the

roles and functions of such a component were not fully understood. Soon after the operation ended, the Marine Corps commissioned a study to explore various options to correct these problems and conform to the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986. Joint and combined exercises were used to test the various options for manning a component headquarters without reducing the capabilities of the MAGTF. Operation Restore Hope in Somalia and Operation Restore Democracy in Haiti tested componency in real world deployments and operations. The joint and Service doctrines in this publication reflect the results of these actions and is an effort to maximize the benefits of componency in joint operations.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF MARINE CORPS COMPONENTS**

In 1992 Marine Corps componency was established and Marine Corps component commanders, who are referred to as the Commander, Marine Corps Forces (COMMARFOR), were assigned or designated for each of the five geographic combatant commands. Fleet Marine Forces Atlantic (FMFLANT) and Fleet Marine Forces Pacific (FMFPAC) were redesignated Marine Corps Forces Atlantic (MARFORLANT) and Marine Corps Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC), respectively, and assumed the missions and responsibilities of Service component commands. Headquarters, Fleet Marine Forces Europe

(FMFEUR), was redesignated Headquarters, Marine Corps Forces Europe (MARFOREUR). Marine Corps component planning liaison cells were established in Central Command (CENTCOM) and Southern Command (SOCOM).

In addition to providing Marine Corps representation to each combatant command, these Marine Corps components have assumed many of the administrative and logistic requirements previously performed by Marine Corps forces. This change allowed the Marine Corps component's assigned MAGTF to concentrate on combat operations. The new joint force organization, supported by the activation of Marine Corps components, significantly changed the operational environment in which Marine Corps forces deployed and operated.

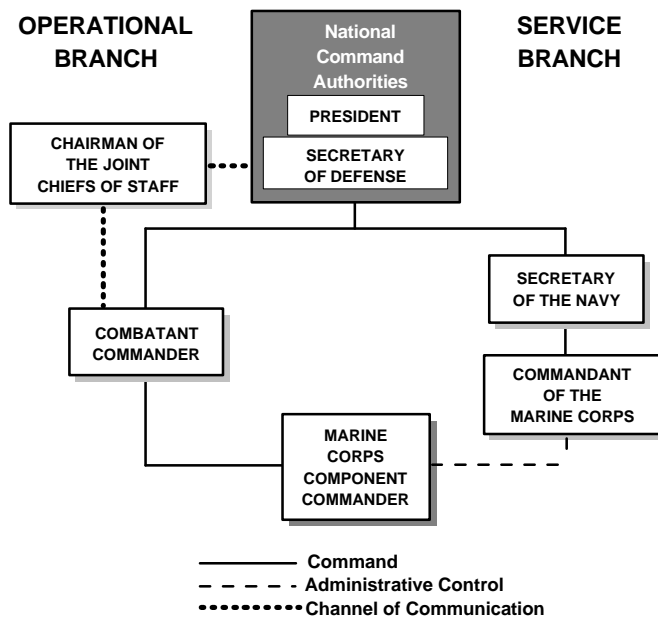
Marine Corps forces are also provided to naval commands by the Marine Corps component commander who may also perform the duties of a Fleet Marine Forces commanding general with the status of a naval type commander. Assignments as both a commander, Marine Corps forces, and commanding general, Fleet Marine Forces, have separate, distinct command relationships and missions. For example, Commander, MARFORPAC—the Marine Corps component commander—provides Marine Corps forces to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command. As the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Forces Pacific—naval type commander status—Commander, MARFORPAC, provides Marine air-ground task forces to the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

## NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND STRUCTURE

American military forces operate under a chain of command with two distinct branches. (See figure.) This arrangement reflects our historic tradition of civilian control of the military. The first branch is an *operational chain of command*. For the Marine Corps, this branch runs from the President through the Secretary of Defense to the combatant commander (and subordinate unified commander or commander, joint task force, when designated) and then to the Marine Corps component commander.

While the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff does not exercise military command over the combatant commanders, Joint Chiefs of Staff, or any of the Armed Forces, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff assists the President and Secretary of Defense in performing their command functions. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff transmits orders to the combatant commanders as directed by the President. Additionally, as directed by the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff oversees the activities of those commands. Reports from combatant commanders will normally be submitted through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who forwards them to the Secretary of Defense and also acts as the spokesman for the combatant commanders.





### Chain of command.

The second branch of the chain of command is the *Service chain of command*. The Service chain of command provides for the preparation of Service forces and their administration and support. The Secretary of the Navy is responsible for the administration and support of Marine forces assigned or attached to each of the combatant commands. The Secretary exercises administrative control (ADCON) through the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the commander of the

Marine Corps component command assigned to a combatant command.

The Commandant's role as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is as important as his duties as a Service chief. As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Commandant—

- Acts as a military advisor to the National Command Authorities.
- Reviews command relationships and the use of Marine Corps forces.
- Advises the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on matters concerning the Marine Corps.

Marine Corps component commanders operate within both branches of the chain of command. They respond to the orders of the joint force commander in the operational chain of command, while being equipped, manned, and supported through the Service chain of command. Marine Corps component commanders and their staffs, subordinate Marine commanders and staffs, as well as supporting Marine Corps commands and agencies must understand the dual nature of the chain of command and its impact on component operations.

## **COMBATANT COMMAND STRUCTURE**

The President establishes combatant commands to execute broad and continuing missions using forces of two or more

Military Departments. Combatant commands typically have *geographic* or *functional* responsibilities.

Establishing a joint force based on a geographic area is the most common method to assign responsibility for continuing operations. The title of the area and its delineation is prescribed in the establishing directive.

Joint forces are also based on functional responsibilities without respect to a specific geographic area. These forces include the unified commands for transportation, space, special operations, and strategic operations. When functional responsibilities are defined, the focus should be on the effect desired or service provided.

A combatant commander, when authorized through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, may establish a subordinate unified command. The Secretary of Defense or a joint force commander can form joint task forces to conduct operations of a smaller scope or more limited duration that do not require all the forces assigned or attached to the combatant command. A joint task force contains forces of two or more Military Departments. *A naval force consisting of Navy and Marine Corps forces does not by itself constitute a joint force.* The establishing authority dissolves the joint task force when the mission is complete or when it is no longer required.

All Service forces (except as noted in Title 10, U.S. Code, section 162) are assigned to combatant commands by the

Secretary of Defense through the annual “Forces for Unified Commands” memorandum. A force, once assigned, may be transferred from that command only at the direction of the Secretary of Defense and under the procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense and approved by the President (see appendix). Using the Service components as basic building blocks, the combatant commanders organize their forces to accomplish their assigned mission.

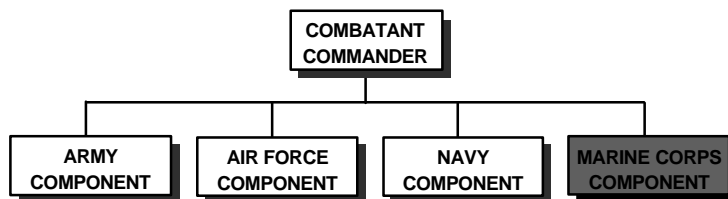
While the Services’ roles and functions do not determine the theater command structure, the combatant commander should consider the traditional roles of the Services in the organization of the theater. The combatant commander seeks to organize his forces in the most effective manner to accomplish the mission. The combatant commander attempts to preserve normal Service responsibilities and organizational integrity to fully exploit their inherent capabilities. The primary options for organizing the forces available to the combatant commander are by Service components, functional components, or a combination of the two. The combatant commander could also establish a subordinate joint task force. The combatant commander’s organization of forces should be tailored to his envisioned actions.

### **Service Components**

All joint forces include Service components. The joint force commander also may conduct operations through the Service component. Conducting operations through Service components is appropriate when stability, continuity, economy, ease of long-range planning, and the scope of operations dictate

maintaining organizational integrity of Service forces. Because the individual Services are organized, trained, and employed using the Service's doctrine, this arrangement fully exploits the capabilities and experience that the individual Service can bring to a joint command. (See figure.)

Using a Marine Corps component takes full advantage of the established lines of command and standing operating procedures, and it enables Marine Corps forces to function as they were designed, as a MAGTF. As Joint Pub 0-2, *Unified Action Armed Forces (UNAAF)*, states, "The intent is to meet the needs of the [joint force commander] while maintaining the tac-



**Combatant command organized by  
Service components.**

tical and operational integrity of the Service organizations.”<sup>3</sup> Conducting operations through Service component commanders also provides the advantage of clear and uncomplicated command lines.

The Marine Corps component commander's primary responsibility is as a force provider and sustainer. Additional responsibilities to the combatant commander include—

- Making recommendations on the proper employment of Marine Corps forces.
- Accomplishing such operational missions as may be assigned by the combatant commander. Operational missions are normally executed by the Marine Corps component commander's assigned forces.
- Selecting and nominating specific Marine units or forces for assignment to other subordinate forces of the combatant command.
- Conducting joint training and exercises. A major focus of this training is to train the component staff to meet the standards contained in Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Manual 3500.04, *Universal Joint Task List*, and the Chief of Naval Operations Instruction 3500.38, *Naval Tactical Task List*.
- Informing the combatant commander of any changes in planning for logistic support that will affect the combatant commander's ability to accomplish the mission.
- Developing Marine Corps programming and budgeting requests to support the combatant commander's warfighting requirements and priorities and keeping the combatant commander informed of the status of these programs.
- Providing supporting operation and exercise plans to support assigned missions.

The Marine Corps component commander provides Service logistic and administrative support using established Marine Corps procedures. The Marine Corps component commander's Service responsibilities also include—

- Internal discipline and administration.
- Training in Marine Corps doctrine, tactics, techniques, and procedures.
- Logistic functions normal to the command, except as otherwise directed by higher authority.
- Service intelligence matters and the oversight of intelligence activities according to current laws, policies, and directives.

### **Functional Components**

The combatant commander may establish functional component commands to centralize selected functions and reduce his span of control by placing forces with similar capabilities under a single commander. Conducting operations through functional component commands requires that the combatant commander—in accordance with joint doctrine—accomplish the following:

- Assign the authority and responsibilities of functional component commanders based on his concept of operations.
- Designate the forces or capabilities to be made available for tasking by the functional component commander.

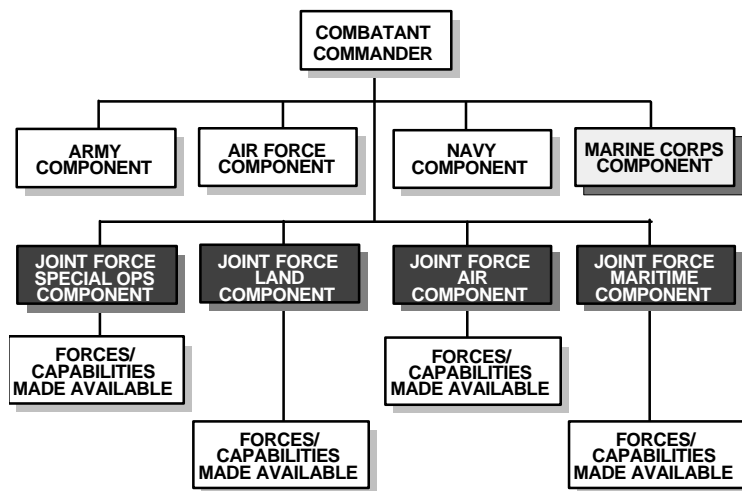
Functional component commanders have authority over those forces or capabilities made available to them by the combatant commander.

- Establish the command relationship of the functional component commander over the forces or assigned capabilities.

The functional component commander must be aware of the organization, capabilities, and limitations of assigned or attached forces and the responsibilities retained by the Service component commander. The functional component commander's assigned authority and responsibilities will not affect the command relationships between the Service component commander and the combatant commander. (See figure.)

*Functional component commanders are normally selected from Service component commanders. The combatant commander will normally appoint the Service component commander with the preponderance of forces capable of accomplishing the function or assigned mission and the command and control capability to control such operations. The functional component commander is responsible for completing his assigned operational tasks or objectives. The functional component commander also makes recommendations to the combatant commander on the proper use of the military forces or capabilities available to accomplish the assigned missions. A Service component commander designated as the functional*





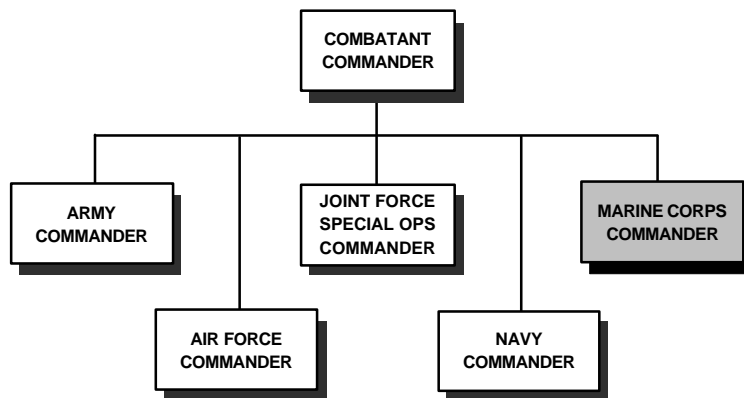
**Combatant command organized by functional components.**

component commander retains Service component responsibilities.

#### **Combination of Service and Functional Components**

The most common method the combatant commander uses to organize his available forces is a combination of Service and functional component. The following figure is an example of a combatant command organized with the four Service forces commanded by Service component commanders along with a special operations component.

The combination of Service and functional components takes advantage of the benefits of Service componency while allowing the combatant commander to centralize certain functions to achieve his strategic or operational objective. In these cases, the Service components retain command of their forces, while providing forces and capabilities through the combatant commander to the functional component commander. Regardless of how the combatant commander organizes his assigned



**Combatant command organized by combination of Service and functional components.**

or attached forces, if Marine Corps forces are included there will be a Marine Corps component.<sup>4</sup>

## **SUBORDINATE JOINT COMMAND STRUCTURE**

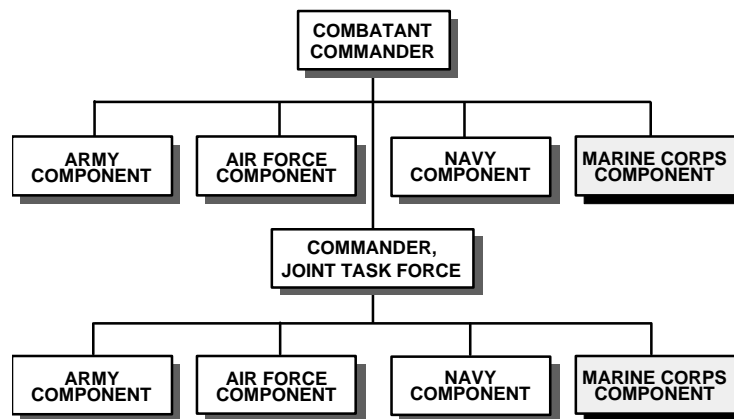
Subordinate joint commands may be either a subordinate unified command or a joint task force. Distinctive level of authority differences exist between the combatant command and the subordinate joint force command. Unless otherwise specified, all elements of combatant command (command authority) (CO-COM) remain with the assigned combatant commander. The subordinate joint force commander normally exercises operational control (OPCON) of assigned or attached forces.

Both the combatant command and subordinate joint force may be organized with either Service components, functional components, or a combination of the two. Both may be established in a geographic area or on a functional basis. Subordinate unified commands are established to conduct operations on a continuing basis in accordance with criteria set by the unified commander, while the joint task force has a specific, limited objective and does not require overall centralized control of logistics.

Like combatant commands, joint task forces contain components and are organized by Service, function, or a combination of the two. (See figure.) When a combatant commander determines that the Marine Corps is the appropriate Service to command a joint task force, the combatant commander tasks the Marine Corps component commander to provide the commander, joint task force. The combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander nominates the

commander, joint task force, and provides the nucleus for this joint staff from his assigned and/or attached forces. The combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander also designates the joint task force-level Marine component commander and provides the required Marine Corps forces after the commander, joint task force, determines his force requirements.

## DESIGNATION AS A FUNCTIONAL COMPONENT COMMANDER



**Joint task force organized by Service component.**

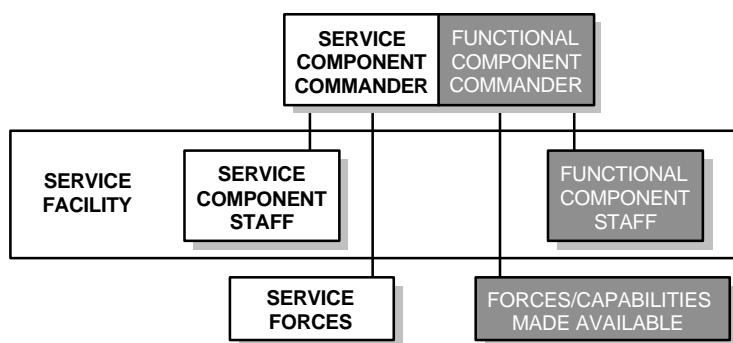
The joint force commander can designate the Marine Corps component commander as a functional component commander. The joint force commander can designate the Marine Corps component commander as the—

- Joint force maritime component commander.
- Joint force land component commander.
- Joint force air component commander.

If the Marine Corps component commander is assigned functional component commander responsibilities, execution is normally accomplished by the assigned MAGTF. Designation as a functional component commander brings additional responsibilities; however, they do not replace Service component responsibilities for assigned Marine Corps forces. *Regardless of the joint command structure, the Marine Corps component commander must still provide administrative and logistic support to assigned forces.* In addition to functional component duties, the joint force commander can assign the Marine Corps component commander other joint duties such as the area air defense commander or airspace control authority. Again, these functions are normally accomplished by the assigned MAGTF.

While one commander may have two designations— Marine Corps component commander and joint force functional component commander—the responsibilities are separate, distinct, and not interchangeable. Because the command functions are separate, so are the staff functions. The Marine Corps component commander's staff performs Service component functions

and is manned by the Marine Corps component's normal staff members. The functional component commander's staff performs functional component activities and should be manned to reflect the composition of the functional component command. The Service component and functional component staffs, while separate, can be collocated and use the same facility. In this case, the Service staff "hosts" the functional staff. (See figure.)



**Arrangement of Service and functional staffs.**

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## Chapter 2

# The Marine Corps Component

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*“A combatant command-level Service component command consists of the Service component commander and all the Service forces, such as individuals, units, detachments, organizations, and installations, including the support forces, that have been assigned to a combatant command or further assigned to a subordinate unified command or joint task force . . . . Other individuals, units, detachments, organizations, or installations may operate directly under the Service component commander and contribute to the mission of the [ joint force commander].”<sup>1</sup>*

—Joint Pub 0-2, *Unified Action  
Armed Forces (UNAAF)*





**T**he Marine Corps component commander functions at the operational level of war. The Marine Corps component commander is responsible for accomplishing assigned operational missions but primarily provides forces and administrative and logistic support to Marine Corps forces.

## **MARINE CORPS COMPONENT COMMANDS**

The “Forces for Unified Commands” memorandum assigns Marine Corps operating forces to each of the combatant commands. Although there are five Marine Corps components, there are only two Marine Corps component commands. The Marine Corps has established two combatant command-level Service component commands: Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic, and Marine Corps Forces, Pacific. The II Marine Expeditionary Force is provided by Commander, Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic, to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command, and the I and III Marine Expeditionary Forces are provided by Commander, Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command. This assignment reflects the peacetime disposition of Marine Corps forces. Marine expeditionary forces are apportioned to the remaining geographic combatant commands for contingency planning and are provided to the combatant commands when directed by the Secretary of Defense.

The Commander, Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic, is assigned to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command, and the Commander, Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, is assigned to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command. In order to provide three-star, general officer representation to the remaining three geographic combatant commands, Commander, Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic (COMMARFORLANT), is designated as the Marine Corps component commander to both Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command (CINCUSEUCOM), and Commander in Chief, U.S. Southern Command (CINCUSCOM). The Commander, Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, is designated as the Marine Corps component commander to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command (CINCUSCENTCOM).

Headquarters, Marine Corps Forces, Europe, has been established in the European Command (EUCOM) and a planning liaison element has been established with both Central Command and Southern Command to support their respective designated Marine Corps component commander. During peacetime, the designated Marine Corps component commander provides operation and contingency planning support and advice to their respective combatant commanders on Marine Corps-specific matters. When directed, the Marine Corps component commander exercises OPCON of forces assigned or attached to the combatant commander.

Additionally, Commander, Marine Corps Forces, Pacific (COMMARFORPAC), possesses the capability to deploy a

combatant command-level Marine Corps component headquarters. This capability is required due to the unique nature of the supported combatant commands.

## **LEVELS OF MARINE CORPS COMPONENTS**

There are two levels of Marine Corps components: a Marine Corps component under a unified command and a Marine Corps component under a subordinate unified command or joint task force. The subordinate unified command-level or joint task force-level Marine Corps component will communicate directly to the combatant command-level Marine Corps component on Marine Corps-specific matters.

The Marine Corps component commander deals directly with the joint force commander in matters affecting Marine Corps forces. The Marine Corps component commander commands, trains, equips, and sustains Marine Corps forces. The Marine Corps component commander translates the joint force commander's intent into Marine Corps forces' actions and is responsible for—

- Advising the joint force commander on the use of Marine Corps forces.

- Accomplishing the missions or tasks assigned by the joint force commander.
- Informing the joint force commander regarding the Marine Corps component's situation and progress.
- Providing Service-specific support (administrative, logistics, training, intelligence) to Marine Corps forces.

## COMBATANT COMMANDS AND MARINE CORPS COMPONENTS

Three documents provide the basis for the command relationships between the combatant commands and the Marine Corps components. "The Unified Command Plan" provides basic guidance for combatant commanders. It establishes missions, functions, responsibilities, and force structure and delineates general geographic areas of responsibility.

The "Forces for Unified Commands" memorandum *assigns* or *attaches* forces to the combatant commander. Forces are assigned, or reassigned, when the transfer of forces is permanent or for an unknown period of time or when the broadest level of command and control is necessary. Forces are attached when the transfer of forces is temporary. The combatant commander exercises COCOM over assigned forces and normally exercises OPCON over attached forces. All forces—assigned or

attached—operating within a combatant commander's geographic area are under his command.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 3100.01C, *Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan*, provides guidance to the combatant commanders and the Service Chiefs to accomplish tasks and missions. It provides strategic planning direction for the combatant commanders to develop operation plans and contingency plans. In accordance with this guidance and these plans, Marine Corps forces are apportioned to the combatant commanders. Marine Corps forces are apportioned to support multiple combatant commanders' missions. COCOM can only reside with one combatant commander; supported combatant commanders must coordinate with the combatant commander having COCOM over Marine Corps forces planned to support their operational needs.

A vital element of the Marine Corps Total Force is the Marine Corps Reserve under the Commander, Marine Corps Forces Reserve. The Marine Corps Reserve is available to augment and reinforce any major operation in which Marine Corps forces participate. Combatant commanders will exercise COCOM over assigned Reserve forces only when mobilized or ordered to active duty (other than for training). The Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command, will normally exercise *training and readiness oversight* authority over assigned Selected Marine Corps Reserve units on a continuous basis through COMMARFORLANT (see the "Forces for Unified

Commands” memorandum for more information). This oversight includes the authority to—

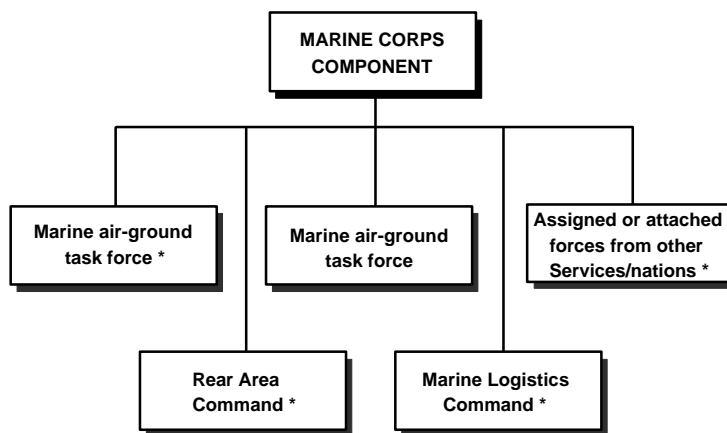
- Provide guidance to COMMARFORLANT on operational requirements and priorities to be addressed in training and readiness programs.
- Comment on COMMARFORLANT program recommendations and budget requests.
- Coordinate and approve participation of assigned Selected Marine Corps Reserve units in joint exercises and other joint training when on active duty for training or performing inactive duty training.
- Obtain and review readiness and inspection reports of assigned Selected Marine Corps Reserve units.
- Coordinate and review mobilization plans (including post-mobilization training activities and deployability validation procedures) developed for assigned Selected Marine Corps Reserve units.

## ORGANIZATION

Within the two levels of Marine Corps components, there exist three types of component headquarters, each with different responsibilities and establishing criteria. A combatant command-level Marine Corps component is formed to conduct operations on a continuing basis and at least one MAGTF assigned. Depending on the scope of the assigned mission, the

combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander may establish a Marine Corps logistics command and/or a rear area command. The Marine Corps component may also include forces from other Services and nations. (See figure.)

The MAGTF provides the Marine Corps component commander combat power, while the Marine Corps logistics command (if established) provides the operational logistics to sustain that combat power. The rear area command (if established) controls operations in the component's rear area and coordinates rear area operations within the joint operations area or theater communications zone.



\* As required or assigned.

**Marine Corps component organization.**

The subordinate joint command-level Marine Corps component may be a Marine Corps component to either a subordinate unified command or a joint task force. The Marine Corps component to the subordinate unified command is also established to conduct operations on a continuing basis with responsibilities and missions similar to those of a combatant command-level Marine Corps component; however, the establishment of a Marine Corps Logistics Command remains with the combatant command-level Marine Corps component. The Marine Corps component to a joint task force is normally established on an as-required basis and is not a standing component. The subordinate unified command-level Marine Corps component or the Marine Corps component to a joint task force will normally exercise OPCON over assigned or attached forces. Each will normally have at least one MAGTF and may also include forces from other Services and nations.

## **COMBATANT COMMAND-LEVEL MARINE CORPS COMPONENT**

All combatant commands include a Marine Corps component. Regardless of how the combatant commander conducts operations, the Marine Corps component commander provides Service-specific administration and support to Marine Corps forces. The Marine Corps component commander retains and exercises responsibility for Marine Corps logistic support except when responsibility has been altered by Service support



agreements or when the combatant commander has directed otherwise.<sup>2</sup>

The following paragraphs discuss the relationships between the combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander and higher, adjacent, and subordinate commanders.

#### **Combatant Commander and Marine Corps Component Commander**

The combatant commander exercises COCOM over all assigned Marine Corps forces through the Marine Corps component commander. ADCON relationships with assigned or attached Marine Corps forces should be specified between the Marine Corps component providing Marine Corps forces and the Marine Corps component gaining the Marine Corps forces. Unless otherwise specified, ADCON is exercised through the combatant-level Marine Corps component commander to whom the forces are assigned.

#### **Commandant of the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Component Commander**

The Commandant provides personnel, administrative, and logistic support to the Marine Corps component commander. The Commandant's relationship with the Marine Corps component commander is through the Service chain—not the operational chain. Unless otherwise directed by the combatant commander, the Marine Corps component commander will communicate through the combatant command on those matters over which

the combatant commander exercises COCOM or directive authority. On Service-specific matters—personnel, administration, and unit training—the Marine Corps component commander will normally communicate directly with the Commandant, informing the combatant commander as the combatant commander directs.

#### **Marine Corps Component Commander and Other Component Commanders**

The combatant commander may establish a support relationship between the Marine Corps component commander and other Service and functional component commanders. There may be multiple support relationships established between various commands. The Marine Corps component commander may be both a supported and supporting commander. The Marine Corps component commander coordinates and consults with the other component commanders to achieve unity of effort and accomplish the combatant commander's mission.

#### **Marine Corps Component Commander and Subordinate Marine Corps Force Commanders**

When the combatant commander conducts operations using Service components, the Marine Corps component commander should have OPCON of all assigned or attached Marine Corps forces. If the combatant commander conducts operations using functional components, the Marine Corps component commander normally retains OPCON of assigned or attached

Marine Corps forces and delegates tactical control (TACON) to the functional component commander.

## **SUBORDINATE JOINT COMMAND-LEVEL MARINE CORPS COMPONENT**

All joint forces with Marine Corps forces assigned or attached include a Marine Corps component. Regardless of how the joint force commander (JFC) conducts operations, the Marine Corps component provides administrative and logistical support for the Marine Corps forces. The Marine Corps component commander retains and exercises control of Marine Corps logistic support except for any Service support agreement or as directed by the joint force commander.

The following paragraphs discuss the relationships between the subordinate joint command-level Marine Corps component commander and higher, adjacent, and subordinate commanders.

### **Commander of a Subordinate Joint Command and Subordinate Joint Command-Level Marine Corps Component Commander**

Normally the subordinate joint force commander exercises OP-CON over assigned or attached MAGTFs through the Marine Corps component commander. ADCON relationships with assigned or attached Marine Corps forces should be specified

between the Marine Corps component providing Marine Corps forces and the Marine Corps component gaining the Marine Corps forces. Unless otherwise specified, ADCON of attached Marine Corps forces remain with the combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander to whom the forces were assigned. The Marine Corps component commander provides a liaison element to the joint force commander. This liaison element helps the Marine Corps component commander plan and conduct specified functions for the joint force commander.

**Combatant Command-Level Marine Corps Component Commander and Subordinate Joint Command-Level Marine Corps Component Commander**

The combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander provides administrative and logistical support for a subordinate joint command-level Marine Corps component.

**Marine Corps Component Commander and Other Component Commanders**

The joint force commander may establish a support relationship between the Marine Corps component commander and other components (Service or functional). There may be multiple support relationships established between various commands. The Marine Corps component commander may be both a supported and supporting commander. The Marine Corps component commander coordinates and consults with other

component commanders to achieve unity of effort and accomplish the mission of the joint force commander.

#### **Marine Corps Component Commander and MAGTF Commander**

When the joint force commander conducts operations using Service components, the Marine Corps component commander has command of assigned and/or attached MAGTFs. If the joint force commander conducts operations using functional components, the Marine Corps component commander normally retains OPCON of assigned and/or attached Marine Corps forces and delegates TACON to the functional component commander. When the joint force commander conducts operations using a combination of Service and functional components, the Marine Corps component commander exercises command of assigned MAGTFs and normally retains OPCON of Marine Corps forces or capabilities made available to the joint force commander.

#### **THE MARINE CORPS COMPONENT AND THE MAGTF**

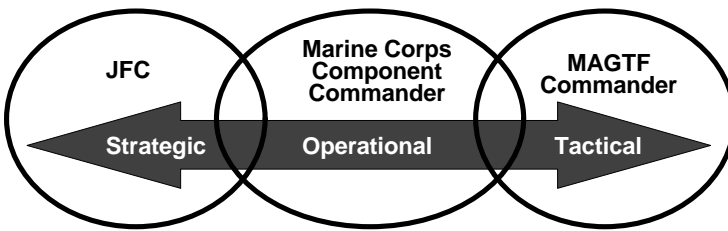
The roles and functions of the Marine Corps component commander and the MAGTF commander are significantly different. The joint force commander conducts campaigns through a series of related major operations. The joint force commander prosecutes his campaign by assigning component commanders

missions that accomplish strategic and operational objectives. The Marine Corps component commander accomplishes his assigned mission by conducting Marine Corps component operations. Marine Corps component operations include combat actions executed by the MAGTF and by the assigned or attached forces of other Services and nations.

The Marine Corps component commander is responsible to set the conditions for MAGTF operations. The Marine Corps component commander does this primarily by advising the joint force commander of the capabilities of his forces. This ensures that he is assigned missions his forces can accomplish. The Marine Corps component commander also directs and coordinates the movement and sustainment of his forces to and within the theater. The Marine Corps component commander focuses on future operations—the next Marine Corps component mission—and coordinates his actions with other component commanders to achieve unity of effort for the joint force.

The orientation of the Marine Corps component commander is *normally* at the operational level of war while the MAGTF commander is *normally* at the tactical level. Naturally, there will be some overlap. (See figure.)

This difference in orientation is the result of the joint force commander's organization of forces and each subordinate commander's place in the operational chain of command and the assigned mission. This placement, in turn, determines the people and agencies with whom the Marine Corps component and



**Commander's level of war orientation.**

MAGTF commanders must interact. The Marine Corps component commander—who translates strategic objectives into operational objectives—must interact up the chain of command with the joint force commander, laterally with other component commanders, and down to his MAGTF commander. The MAGTF commander—who translates operational objectives into tactical actions—must interact up the chain of command with the Marine Corps component commander, laterally with adjacent tactical commanders, and down to his subordinate commanders. The Marine Corps component commander assigns the MAGTF commander missions which may accomplish objectives at both the operational and tactical levels of war.

The difference in orientation of the Marine Corps component commander and the MAGTF commander also has an important influence on the Marine Corps component-MAGTF command relationship and the staff organization adopted by the Marine Corps component commander. The Marine Corps component-MAGTF command relationship and staff organization that the Marine Corps component commander selects

depends on the mission, size, scope, and duration of the operation and the size of the assigned force. Three possible command relationships and staff organizations are one commander with one staff, one commander with two staffs, and two commanders and two staffs.

### **One Commander and One Staff**

Of the three arrangements, one commander and one staff is normal for joint task force operations. The commander is both the Marine Corps component and MAGTF commander. The single staff executes both Marine Corps component and MAGTF functions. The commander and his staff must balance the strategic-operational orientation of the Marine Corps component against the operational-tactical orientation of the MAGTF. This arrangement requires the fewest personnel but places the heaviest work load on the commander and the staff. Marine Corps component functions require close interaction with the joint force commander's staff and the other components. If the joint force commander's headquarters is geographically separated—possibly by long distances—from the tactical combat units, the Marine commander may not be able to move easily between the joint force commander's headquarters and the MAGTF headquarters. This requires a liaison to the joint force commander that can act in the Marine commander's name or that can maintain close and reliable communications with the commander.

A variation of the one commander and one staff organization is *one commander and one staff with an embedded component*



*augmentation cell*. This arrangement is also built around the MAGTF commander and his staff. The commander is still the Marine Corps component and MAGTF commander. The combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander provides a deployable cell to perform Marine Corps component functions while the MAGTF staff executes MAGTF staff functions. This allows for a logical division of labor and focusing of staff functions. While requiring additional personnel, the size of this staff is still relatively small. The commander and his staff still have to balance the strategic-operational orientation of the Marine Corps component against the normally tactical orientation of the MAGTF.

Both variations of one commander and one staff may be most appropriate for small-scale contingencies. The one commander, one staff arrangement was used during Operation Restore Hope in Somalia.

#### **One Commander and Two Staffs**

The commander is both the Marine Corps component and MAGTF commander, but there are two separate staffs. One staff executes the functions of the Marine Corps component while the other executes the functions of the MAGTF. This allows each staff to maintain a single, focused orientation. The number of personnel will increase with two staffs. The commander must still try to balance the strategic-operational orientation of the Marine Corps component against the operational-tactical orientation of the MAGTF.

This arrangement may be appropriate when the joint force commander is geographically separated from combat forces. The commander may collocate both staffs with the MAGTF or locate the Marine Corps component staff close to the joint force headquarters. With the Marine Corps component headquarters near the joint force commander's headquarters, the Marine commander must balance his presence between his two staffs. This arrangement was used for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

### **Two Commanders and Two Staffs**

Two commanders with separate staffs require the most personnel, equipment, and facilities. There are two separate commanders, each with a dedicated staff. The Marine Corps component commander maintains the operational orientation while the MAGTF commander has the tactical orientation. This allows each commander and staff to maintain a single, focused orientation. Additionally, each commander can place himself at the appropriate location: the Marine Corps component commander close to the joint force headquarters and the other components, the MAGTF commander with the MAGTF. This arrangement may be used for major theater of war operations.

## **THE MARINE CORPS COMPONENT AND THE MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS COMMAND**

The combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander may establish a Marine Corps logistics command to fulfill his Service logistic responsibilities. The Marine Corps logistics command is task-organized around a force service support group. When formed, it provides logistic support to all Marine Corps forces—and may provide limited support to other joint and combined forces as directed by the combatant commander. The Marine Corps logistics command provides operational logistics to Marine Corps forces as the Marine Corps component's logistics agency in theater. Operational-level logistics includes deployment, sustainment, resource prioritization and allocation, and requirements identification activities required to sustain the force in a campaign or major operation. These fundamental decisions concerning force deployment and sustainment are key for the Marine Corps logistics command to provide successful logistical support.

The combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander provides the logistic policy for Marine Corps forces. The Marine Corps logistics command executes that policy to support all Marine Corps forces. When priorities of support are required, the combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander provides these to the Marine Corps logistics command commander. Likewise, the combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander ensures the Marine Corps logistics command receives assistance and resources outside its organic capability (i.e., intelligence necessary for the Marine Corps logistics command mission).

The combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander may employ the Marine Corps logistics command when the following operational conditions occur:

- Expeditionary force closure of a Marine expeditionary force-sized MAGTF is required.
- A Marine expeditionary force-sized MAGTF will be ashore for more than 60 days.
- Sequential maritime prepositioning force offloads or backloads are planned or required.
- Common item or user support is planned.
- Theater logistic support is shallow or has shortfalls.

These conditions assist the combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander in deciding if a Marine Corps logistics command is necessary and, if so, its composition and capabilities.

The Marine Corps logistics command allows the MAGTF commander to focus on the present and future battle. The Marine Corps logistics command commander—as the combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander’s logistics agent—focuses on operational-level logistic support and arrival/assembly operations (including reception, staging, onward movement, and integration of Marine Corps forces). The MAGTF combat service support element commander—as the MAGTF commander’s logistics agent—focuses on tactical level logistics, concentrating on supporting

the present battle and preparing for the MAGTF's future battles.

The Marine Corps logistics command is task-organized to fit the mission and tailored to meet specific theater and situational requirements. The combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander establishes support relationships between the Marine Corps logistics command and the MAGTF. The division of labor between the Marine Corps logistics command and the MAGTF is theater-specific.

## **THE MARINE CORPS COMPONENT AND THE REAR AREA COMMAND**

The combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander may establish a rear area command to conduct rear area operations. In doing so, the combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander must weigh the advantages of such a command against resources—personnel and equipment it will require. It links the Marine Corps component commander to the joint force commander's theater rear area. The rear area command coordinates and synchronizes component rear area operations with both the theater and MAGTF rear areas.

The rear area command provides the Marine Corps component commander with an organization to conduct or coordinate the eight functions of rear area operations. These functions are movement control, area management, security, sustainment, intelligence, communications, infrastructure development, and host-nation support.

The rear area command will be task-organized to conduct assigned functions, to include a tactical security force to conduct rear area security operations. The rear area command may not be assigned all of the rear area operations functions. For example, the Marine Corps logistics command, if established, would provide sustainment and movement control, while the rear area command would coordinate and synchronize these activities for the component.

## **MARINE CORPS COMPONENT STAFF MANNING**

The size of the Marine Corps prevents the manning of numerous, large Marine Corps component headquarters. The combatant command-level Marine Corps component headquarters is manned primarily by permanently assigned personnel who are augmented by additional personnel from sources throughout the Marine Corps during operational commitments and war-time. These active duty and reserve Marines and Sailors may

participate in periodic exercises and training to maintain theater awareness and billet proficiency.

A subordinate joint command-level Marine Corps component headquarters is task-organized to support a subordinate joint command. A combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander who has to support a subordinate joint force must assemble a subordinate joint command-level Marine Corps component staff using personnel from his headquarters as well as personnel from the Marine Corps forces assigned to the subordinate joint force and other global sources. Globally sourced personnel may come from the Marine Corps Reserve, the supporting establishment, or other Marine Corps component organizations.

Along with the basic core of personnel required to man Marine Corps component headquarters, augmentees, liaisons, and representatives are also necessary for component operations.

### **Augmentees**

Functional area experts comprise the Marine contribution to a joint force headquarters, functional component headquarters, or other joint agencies within the joint force. These augmentees are usually globally sourced from outside the Marine Corps component headquarters. They should be provided in numbers that reflect the overall composition of Services within the joint force or functional component. Augmentees are staff members

of a joint force headquarters and do not directly represent the Marine Corps component commander. They provide the joint force commander or functional component commander with expertise in their specific areas as well as a general appreciation of Marine Corps forces capabilities and operational considerations. As members of the gaining command, they receive full logistical and administrative support from that command. They return to the Marine Corps forces upon completion of the operation or the disestablishment of the joint force headquarters or functional component.

### **Liaisons**

Liaison officers and their supporting teams are the direct representatives of the Marine Corps component commander and are assigned to appropriate higher, adjacent, and lower joint, component, and Service headquarters. Liaison teams gather and exchange information between the assigned headquarters and the Marine Corps component—they are the Marine Corps component commander's eyes and ears. Liaison teams are headed by a senior liaison officer. The Marine Corps component commander determines what authority to give the senior liaison officer to make decisions on his behalf. Marines assigned as liaison officers must understand the Marine Corps component commander's intent and be capable of representing that interest.

Liaison officers facilitate critical interstaff issues and provide a conduit to the appropriate staff officer at the Marine



Corps component for the gaining command. They are not augmentees to the staff of the gaining command and should not be assigned any duties other than liaison. Liaison officers and their teams provide their own administrative and logistics support, including robust and redundant communication and computer capabilities.

### **Representatives**

Joint force commanders and functional component commanders may establish certain standing or temporary boards, agencies, and committees to perform essential joint functions or provide critical joint services or support. The Marine Corps component commander provides representation to these boards, agencies, or committees. A Marine sent to such a board must have the requisite subject matter expertise and the appropriate grade to fully represent the Marine Corps component commander. Such representatives should not be assigned any staff duties by the command hosting the board and will usually return to the Marine Corps component headquarters upon completion of the board to assume their other duties.

Marine Corps component commanders must ensure that their component headquarters provide Marines of appropriate grade and experience to meet these requirements for augmentation, liaison, and representation. Subordinate joint command-level Marine Corps component commanders must ensure that their initial planning and requests for staffing also reflect realistic manning for these critical functions.

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## Chapter 3

# Service Support Functions

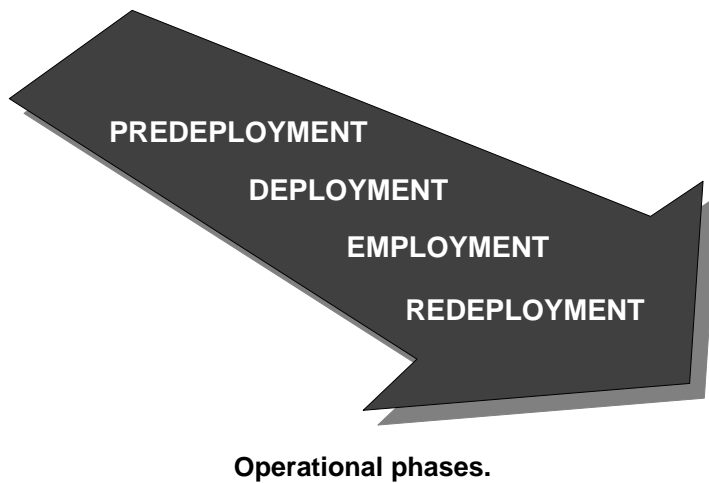
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*“Service component commanders have responsibilities that derive from their roles in fulfilling the Services’ support function. The [joint force commander] also may conduct operations through the Service component commanders or, at lower echelons, Service force commanders. In the event that operational control of Service component forces is delegated by the [joint force commander] to a Service component commander of a subordinate joint force command, the authority of the Service component of the superior [joint force commander] is described as administrative control that includes responsibilities for certain Service-specific functions.”<sup>1</sup>*

—Joint Pub 0-2, *Unified Action  
Armed Forces (UNAAF)*

Service component commanders are required to fulfill specific support functions. These specific functions are described in this chapter.

The following figure illustrates four possible operational phases in which the Marine Corps component commander may execute Service support functions.

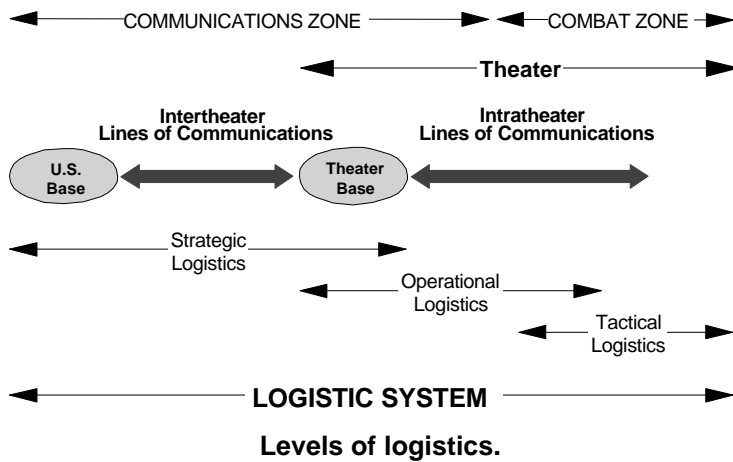


## **PERSONNEL AND LOGISTICS**

The Marine Corps component commander's personnel functions include the coordination and supervision of active duty and reserve manpower plans and personnel policies. Additionally, the Marine Corps component commander is responsible for administrative support, quality of life, casualty replacement, decedent affairs, and replacement training.

The Marine Corps component commander's logistic functions include the identification and coordination of required Marine Corps logistic support at the operational level. Assigned or attached Marine Corps forces forward their support requirements and priorities to the Marine Corps component commander. The Marine Corps component commander then determines what resources will be used to fulfill the requirements.

The Marine Corps component commander and his staff organize logistic support through the communications zone. The Marine Corps component commander develops agreements with other component commanders and participates in component, command-level working groups. The theater of operations/joint operations area sustaining base, which includes the communications zone, links strategic sustainment to tactical combat service support. In military operations other than war, logistic support may also apply to support of U.S. forces, other U.S. Government agencies, and forces of friendly countries or groups supported by U.S. forces. (See figure.)



During predeployment the Marine Corps component commander conducts force sustainment planning and force reception planning.

Throughout deployment the Marine Corps component commander refines Marine Corps forces personnel, sustainment, transportation, and reception requirements. The Marine Corps component commander may meet these requirements using Service sources or other joint resources. Other Marine Corps component commander functions include—

- Supporting the deployment of Marine Corps forces.
- Coordinating reception support.
- Obtaining needed infrastructure support.

A key function of the Marine Corps component commander during employment is to inform the joint force commander of changes to personnel and logistic requirements that might affect the Marine Corps' ability to support the operation. During employment, the Marine Corps component commander concentrates on—

- Sustainment sourcing.
- Intratheater transportation asset allocation.
- Facility and base development.
- Host-nation support.
- Health services management.

During redeployment the Marine Corps component commander focuses on reconstituting Marine Corps forces. The identification of accurate mission costs and material losses is also important to the Marine Corps component commander.

## **INTELLIGENCE**

The Marine Corps component commander facilitates Marine Corps forces intelligence functions through close and continuous coordination with the joint force commander and other component commanders and representation to theater intelligence support boards, agencies, and committees. The Marine Corps component ensures that intelligence support is provided

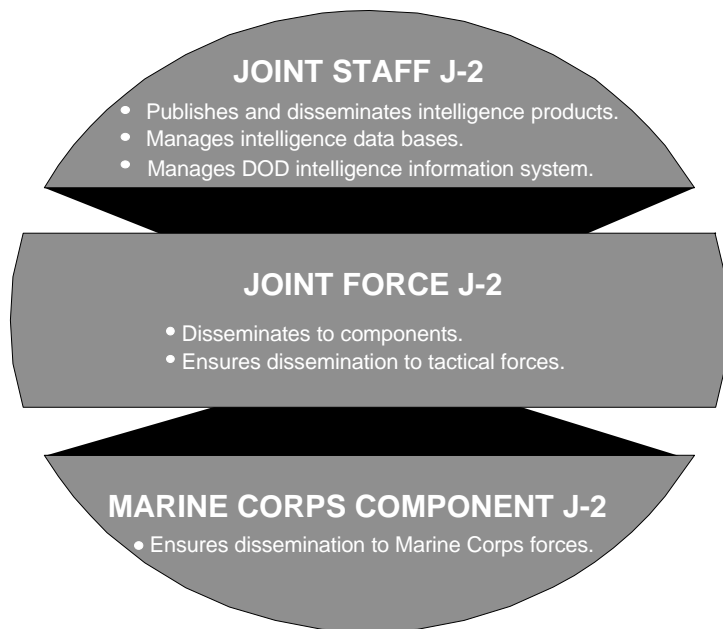
to the MAGTF and other assigned or attached forces. The Marine Corps component does not normally collect information or conduct intelligence analysis.

The Marine Corps component commander assists the MAGTF and other assigned or attached commanders by conducting detailed, operational-level intelligence planning. The Marine Corps component commander also monitors intelligence collection requirements to ensure synchronization with the joint force commander's collection plans. These requirements focus on the collection and analysis of data and the dissemination of intelligence products from national and theater sources. Intelligence is provided directly from the source to the MAGTF and other assigned or attached commanders. (See figure on page 58.)

During predeployment the Marine Corps component commander coordinates with the joint force commander to—

- Plan access to national, theater, and joint task force intelligence system architectures and data bases.
- Develop policy guidance for information security, counterintelligence/human intelligence, technical surveillance countermeasures, and signals intelligence.

While conducting deployment operations, the Marine Corps component commander refines operational-level intelligence plans, makes required adjustments, and coordinates the flow of intelligence resources into theater.



**Intelligence dissemination responsibilities.**

Throughout employment the Marine Corps component commander coordinates MAGTF organic collection and counterintelligence/human intelligence requirements and operations with the joint force commander and component commanders to avoid conflict or redundancy. The Marine Corps



component commander also requests target materials and execution support materials for Marine Corps forces.

During redeployment the Marine Corps component commander continues to ensure the dissemination of intelligence to Marine Corps forces to support force protection and future operations. The Marine Corps component commander also nominates scientific and technical intelligence requirements for captured materiel and coordinates handling procedures with the joint force commander.

## **OPERATIONS**

The Marine Corps component commander commands assigned or attached Marine Corps forces. The Marine Corps component commander recommends to the joint force commander the appropriate and executable missions and tasks that can be accomplished by Marine Corps forces. The Marine Corps component commander then issues missions and tasks to the MAGTF for execution and assigns commanders. The component commander identifies and sets conditions favorable to mission accomplishment by Marine Corps forces. The Marine Corps component commander also trains the component staff and assigned or attached Marine Corps forces.

Throughout predeployment the Marine Corps component commander anticipates possible operations and requirements

for Marine Corps forces. The Marine Corps component commander conducts internal Marine Corps component headquarters training and participates in joint exercises.

During deployment the Marine Corps component commander executes the deployment order and refines the concept of operations. The Marine Corps component commander also prioritizes the strategic transportation requirements to support the joint force commander's intent and concept of operations.

The Marine Corps component commander is responsible for the employment of Marine Corps forces and for the support of other component commanders as directed by the joint force commander. Additionally, the Marine Corps component commander forwards his, the MAGTF commander's, and other assigned or attached commanders' requests for support.

As Marine Corps forces redeploy, the Marine Corps component commander begins preparing and training Marine Corps forces for subsequent operations. Marine Corps forces' training focuses on lessons learned and after-action reports. The Marine Corps component commander reviews and adjusts the allocation of assigned or attached forces based on the receipt of a new mission and available resources. The Marine Corps component commander prioritizes strategic transportation requirements to support the joint force commander's intent and concept of operations.

## **PLANS**

The Marine Corps component commander participates in the development of the joint force commander's campaign plans, supporting operation plans, contingency plans, and time-phased force and deployment data. From these plans and data, the Marine Corps component commander prepares Marine Corps component supporting plans and coordinates planning with the other component commanders. Using the combatant commander's guidance, the Marine Corps component commander develops planning, programming, and budgeting system requirements to ensure that Marine Corps forces are adequately manned, equipped, and trained to support the combatant commander's campaign plans. Because of the nature of a rapidly formed and deployed joint task force, the joint task force-level Marine Corps component primarily conducts crisis action planning.

During predeployment the Marine Corps component commander identifies the amount and type of Marine Corps forces necessary to provide the capabilities required by the joint force commander's campaign plans. The Marine Corps component commander then coordinates his, the MAGTF commander's, and other assigned or attached commanders' plans and forwards this input to the joint force commander.

Throughout deployment the Marine Corps component commander adjusts deployment plans as necessary. The Marine Corps component commander refines deployment requirements and plans the sequencing of MAGTF and assigned or attached forces to support the joint force commander's operations. The

Marine Corps component commander continues to develop operation plans and contingency plans, create and analyze courses of action, and conduct wargames to validate previous planning.

As the Marine Corps component commander's assigned or attached forces execute their missions, he plans future operations using the joint force commander's objectives. The Marine Corps component commander revises personnel and logistic support plans based on actual events and prepares sequels to the operation order to support future operations. The Marine Corps component commander begins redeployment planning and, if necessary, develops contingency plans to support other potential operations or campaigns.

The Marine Corps component commander completes plans for redeployment while refining operation plans and contingency plans based on lessons learned. At the conclusion of redeployment, the Marine Corps component commander compiles, reviews, and analyzes lessons learned and after-action reports for their potential impact on future operations.

## **COMMAND AND CONTROL**

The Marine Corps component commander plans, establishes, and maintains the command and control system necessary to conduct planning, decision, execution, and assessment cycles. The Marine Corps component command and control system

provides an interface with the joint force commander; other components; Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; and higher, adjacent, and subordinate Marine Corps forces.

For predeployment the Marine Corps component commander designs a command and control system that supports the joint force commander's campaign plan as well as the needs of the MAGTF and assigned or attached forces. Most importantly, the Marine Corps component commander integrates the Marine Corps command and control system into the overall command and control warfare plan and establishes a global command and control system.

The rapid establishment of the Marine Corps command and control system in theater aids the Marine Corps component commander during deployment and establishes favorable conditions for Marine Corps forces. As Marine Corps forces arrive in theater, the Marine Corps component commander identifies threats and establishes command and control protection measures.

During employment the Marine Corps component commander's command and control system must remain flexible; it must be capable of being quickly reestablished if disrupted. Command and control protection measures are adapted to meet changing threats.

The Marine Corps component commander adjusts the command and control system as necessary to control the re-

deployment. Command and control lessons learned and after-action items are reviewed and analyzed for their potential impact on future operations.

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## Chapter 4

# Conclusion

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*“To achieve assigned objectives, joint forces conduct campaigns and major operations. Functional and Service components of the joint force conduct subordinate and supporting operations, not independent campaigns. Joint force commanders . . . synchronize the actions of air, land, sea, space, and special operations forces to achieve strategic and operational objectives through integrated, joint campaigns and major operations. The goal is to increase the total effectiveness of the joint force, not necessarily to involve all forces or to involve all forces equally.”<sup>1</sup>*

—Joint Pub 3-0, *Doctrine  
for Joint Operations*





**M**arine Corps componentcy began with the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986. Tested during Operations Desert Storm, Provide Comfort, and Sea Angel and numerous other joint operations, Service componentcy has proven to be a valuable command arrangement. Therefore, it bears repeating that “all joint forces include Service components. Administrative and logistic support for joint forces are provided through Service components.”<sup>2</sup> As the nature of joint operations evolves, the Marine Corps must continue to adapt how it conducts component functions and responsibilities.

The Marine Corps component commander has command of all assigned Marine Corps forces. As a subordinate commander, the Marine Corps component commander must provide the joint force commander with the following:

- Advice regarding employment possibilities of and consequences to the subordinate command.
- Accomplishment of missions or tasks assigned.
- Timely information relating to the subordinate commander’s situation and progress.<sup>3</sup>

Joint Pub 3-0 states that “The [joint force commander] also may conduct operations through the Service component commanders.”<sup>4</sup> The Marine Corps component commander therefore has operational responsibilities and must focus on the formulation and execution of the joint force commander’s

plans, policies, and requirements. The Marine Corps component commander coordinates strategic and operational actions with other component commanders to achieve unity of effort for the joint force. The Marine Corps component commander accomplishes any assigned mission by executing Marine Corps component operations through the MAGTF and other assigned or attached forces.

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## Appendix

# Levels of Authority

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*“The primary emphasis in command relations should be to keep the chain of command short and simple so that it is clear who is in charge of what. Unity of command is the guiding principle of war in military command relationships.”<sup>1</sup>*

—Joint Pub 1, *Joint Warfare of the  
Armed Forces of the United States*



This appendix provides a general understanding of command relationships and how they apply to U.S. military forces. Interactions with allies, coalitions, and other agencies may produce additional command relationship considerations, and Marine Corps component commanders and their staffs must be aware of these considerations and their level's area of responsibility. Command relationship considerations may affect operational employment and must be included in operation plans, standing operating procedures, and other appropriate documents. See Joint Pub 0-2, *Unified Action Armed Forces (UNAAF)*, and Joint Pub 3-0, *Doctrine for Joint Operations*, for detailed information.

The commander is responsible for accomplishing the assigned mission. While the commander may delegate authority to accomplish the mission, the commander cannot delegate responsibility for mission accomplishment. The authority given to a commander must match the assigned responsibility. The levels of authority include—

- Command relationships—
  - Combatant command (command authority) (COCOM).
  - Operational control (OPCON).
  - Tactical control (TACON).
  - Support.
- Other authorities—
  - Administrative control (ADCON).
  - Coordinating authority.

## COMBATANT COMMAND

COCOM is the command authority over assigned forces vested only in combatant commanders or as directed by the President of the United States in the Unified Command Plan. It cannot be transferred or delegated. It allows a combatant commander to perform those functions of command over assigned forces that involve organizing and employing commands and forces, assigning tasks, designating objectives, and giving authoritative direction over all aspects of military operations, joint training, and logistics. COCOM provides the combatant commander full authority to organize and employ commands and forces to accomplish assigned missions. COCOM should be exercised through the commanders of subordinate organizations. Normally, this authority is exercised—

- Through Service component commanders.
- Through functional component commanders, if established for a particular purpose.
- Through a commander of a subordinate unified command (unified command only).
- Through the commander of a joint task force reporting directly to the combatant commander.
- Through a single-Service force commander reporting directly to the combatant commander. Normally, missions requiring operations of a single-Service force will be assigned to the applicable Service component commander. A combatant commander may establish a separate single-

Service force but normally does so only under exceptional circumstances.

- Directly over specific operational forces that, because of the mission assigned and the urgency of the situation, must remain immediately responsive to the combatant commander.

COCOM includes (but is not limited to) the authority to—

- Exercise or delegate OPCON of assigned or attached forces.
- Function, unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of Defense, as the U.S. military single point of contact and exercise directive authority over all elements of the command in relationships with other combatant commands, Department of Defense elements, U.S. diplomatic missions, other U.S. agencies, and agencies of countries in the area of responsibility.
- Coordinate with subordinate commands and components and approve the administration, support (including control of resources and equipment, internal organization, and training), and discipline necessary to carry out missions assigned to the command.
- Concur in the assignment of officers as commanders directly subordinate to the combatant commander and officers in positions on the combatant command staff.
- Participate actively in the Planning, Programming, and Budgeting System by providing an integrated priority list of essential warfighting requirements prioritized across

Service and functional lines for consideration in developing the Department of Defense program and budget. The combatant commander also provides guidance to subordinate commands and components on warfighting requirements and priorities for addressing their program and budget requests to their Military Departments.

When directed in the Unified Command Plan or otherwise authorized by the Secretary of Defense, the commander of U.S. elements of a multinational command may exercise COCOM of those U.S. forces assigned to that command.

Commanders of combatant commands may exercise directive authority for logistics (or delegate directive authority for a common support capability). The exercise of directive authority for logistics by a combatant commander includes the authority to issue directives to subordinate commanders, including peacetime measures, necessary to ensure—

- Effective execution of approved operation plans.
- Effectiveness and economy of operation.
- Prevention or elimination of unnecessary duplication of facilities and overlapping of functions among the Service component commands.

A combatant commander's directive authority for logistics does not—

- Discontinue Service responsibility for logistic support. Unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of Defense,



Military Departments and Services are responsible for the logistic and administrative support of Service forces assigned or attached to joint commands.

- Discourage coordination by consultation and agreement.
- Disrupt effective procedures, efficient utilization of facilities, or organization.

A combatant commander exercises approval authority over Service logistic programs (base adjustments, force beddowns, and other aspects as appropriate) within the command's area of responsibility that will have significant effects on operational capability or sustainability. When the combatant commander does not concur with a proposed Service logistic program action and coordination between the combatant commander and the chief of the Service fails to result in an arrangement suitable to all parties, the combatant commander may forward the issue through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the Secretary of Defense for resolution.

## **OPERATIONAL CONTROL**

OPCON is the command authority over all aspects of military operations necessary for mission accomplishment. OPCON is the authority to perform functions of command over subordinate forces and involves—

- Organizing and employing commands and forces.
- Assigning tasks.

- Designating objectives.
- Giving authoritative direction over all aspects of military operations and joint training necessary to accomplish the commander's assigned missions.

Unless specifically delegated by the combatant commander, OPCON does not include authoritative direction of logistic or administrative support, discipline, internal organization or unit training. OPCON may be delegated to commanders at any echelon at or below the level of combatant command. OPCON is inherent in COCOM.

## **TACTICAL CONTROL**

TACON is the command authority over assigned or attached forces or commands or military capability made available for tasking. TACON is limited to the detailed and local direction and control of movements or maneuvers necessary to accomplish the commander's assigned missions or tasks. TACON provides the authority to—

- Give direction for military operations.
- Control designated forces.

TACON provides authority to control and direct the application of force or tactical use of combat support forces or capabilities. TACON does not include organizational authority or

authoritative direction for logistic or administrative support. The parent unit commander maintains this authority unless otherwise specified. Functional component commanders typically exercise TACON over military forces or over capabilities made available to the joint force commander for tasking through functional component commanders. TACON may be delegated to commanders at any level at or below the level of combatant command. TACON is inherent in OPCON.

## **SUPPORT RELATIONSHIPS**

Support is a command authority. A senior commander sets a support relationship between subordinate commanders when one organization should aid, protect, complement, or sustain another force. Support may be exercised by commanders at any echelon at or below the level of combatant command. Support relationships establish priorities to commanders and staffs who are planning or executing joint operations.

The senior commander issues an establishing directive to guarantee that both the supported and supporting commanders understand the authority given to the supported commander. The establishing directive specifies the purpose of the support relationship, the desired effect, and the scope of the action to be taken. The supported commander can exercise general direction of the supporting effort which includes—

- Designation and prioritization of targets or objectives.

- Time and duration of the supporting action.
- Other instructions necessary for coordination and efficiency.

The supporting commander determines the supported force's needs and fills them within his capabilities based on the priorities and requirements of other assigned tasks. The supporting commander determines the forces, tactics, methods, procedures, and communications necessary to provide the support. The supporting commander—

- Advises and coordinates with the supported commander on the employment and limitations of his support.
- Assists in integrating support into the supported commander's effort.
- Ensures that his entire command knows the supported commander's requirements.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL**

ADCON is the direction or exercise of authority over subordinate or other organizations for administration and support actions. ADCON includes—

- Organization of Service forces.
- Control of resources and equipment.
- Personnel management.

- Unit logistics.
- Individual and unit training.
- Readiness.
- Mobilization/demobilization.
- Discipline.
- Other matters not included in the operational missions of the subordinate or other organizations.

ADCON may be delegated and exercised by Service force commanders at any echelon at or below the level of a combatant command's Service component command.

## **COORDINATING AUTHORITY**

Coordinating authority is given to a commander or individual to coordinate specific functions and activities involving forces of two or more Military Departments or two or more forces of the same Service. Coordinating authority is used to coordinate special functions and activities. The commander or individual can require consultation among the agencies but does not have the authority to force agreement. The establishing directive names the common task to be coordinated but does not change normal organizational relationships in other matters. The missions and capabilities of the commands determine the scope of the coordinating authority. Coordinating authority applies more to planning than to operations. Commanders or individuals at or below the level of combatant command can exercise coordinating authority.

## Notes

### Fundamentals

1. Joint Pub 1, *Joint Warfare of the Armed Forces of the United States* (10 January 1995) p. III-10.
2. Lynn Montross and Captain Nicholas A. Canzona, USMC, *The Pusan Perimeter*, Vol I, *U.S. Marine Operations in Korea 1950-1953* (Washington, D.C.: Historical Branch G-3 HQMC, 1954) p. 243.
3. Joint Pub 0-2, *Unified Action Armed Forces (UNAAF)* (24 February 1995) p. IV-4.
4. Ibid., p. IV-3.

### The Marine Corps Component

1. Joint Pub 0-2, p. IV-16.
2. Ibid., p. IV-18.

### **Service Support Functions**

1. Joint Pub 0-2, p. IV-16.

### **Conclusion**

1. Joint Pub 3-0, *Doctrine for Joint Operations* (1 February 1995) p. ix.
2. Ibid., p. II-13.
3. Joint Pub 0-2, p. IV-11.
4. Joint Pub 3-0, p. II-13.

### **Appendix**

1. Joint Pub 1, *Joint Warfare of the Armed Forces of the United States* (10 January 1995) p. III-9.

# Glossary

## Section I. Acronyms

ADCON ..... administrative control

CENTCOM ..... Central Command

CINCUSACOM ..... Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command

CINCUSCENTCOM ..... Commander in Chief, U.S. Central  
Command

CINCUSEUCOM ..... Commander in Chief, U.S. European  
Command

CINCUSPACOM ..... Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific  
Command

CINCUSSOCOM ..... Commander in Chief, U.S. Southern  
Command

CJCSI ..... Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction

CJCSM ..... Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Memorandum

COCOM ..... combatant command (command authority)

COMMARFOR ..... Commander, Marine Corps Forces

COMMARFORLANT ..... Commander, Marine Corps  
Forces, Atlantic

COMMARFORPAC ..... Commander, Marine Corps  
Forces, Pacific

DOD ..... Department of Defense

EUCOM ..... European Command



FM ..... field manual  
FMFEUR ..... Fleet Marine Forces Europe  
FMFLANT ..... Fleet Marine Forces Atlantic  
FMFPAC ..... Fleet Marine Forces Pacific  
FMFRP ..... Fleet Marine Force reference publication  
  
JFC ..... joint force commander  
  
MAGTF ..... Marine air-ground task force  
MARFOREUR ..... Marine Corps Forces, Europe  
MARFORLANT ..... Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic  
MARFORPAC ..... Marine Corps Forces, Pacific  
MCDP ..... Marine Corps doctrinal publication  
  
NDP ..... naval doctrine publication  
  
OPCON ..... operational control  
OPNAVINST ..... Chief of Naval Operations Instruction  
  
SOCOM ..... Southern Command  
  
TACON ..... tactical control  
  
UNAAF ..... Unified Action Armed Forces

## Section II. Definitions

**administrative control**—Direction or exercise of authority over subordinate or other organizations in respect to administration and support, including organization of Service forces, control of resources and equipment, personnel management, unit logistics, individual and unit training, readiness, mobilization, demobilization, discipline, and other matters not included in the operational missions of the subordinate or other organizations. Also called **ADCON**. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**assign**—1. To place units or personnel in an organization where such placement is relatively permanent, and/or where such organization controls and administers the units or personnel for the primary function, or greater portion of the functions, of the unit or personnel. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**attach**—The placement of units or personnel in an organization where such placement is relatively temporary. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**combatant command**—A unified or specified command with a broad continuing mission under a single commander established and so designated by the President, through the Secretary of Defense and with the advice and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Combatant commands typically have geographic or functional responsibilities. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**combatant command (command authority)**—Nontransferable command authority established by Title 10 (“Armed Forces”), United States Code, section 164, exercised only by commanders of unified or specified combatant commands unless otherwise directed by the President or the Secretary of Defense. Combatant command (command authority) cannot be delegated and is the authority of a combatant commander to perform those functions of command over assigned forces involving organizing and employing commands and forces, assigning tasks, designating objectives, and giving authoritative direction over all aspects of military operations, joint training, and logistics necessary to accomplish the missions assigned to the command. Combatant command (command authority) should be exercised through the commanders of subordinate organizations. Normally this authority is exercised through subordinate joint force commanders and Service and/or functional component commanders. Combatant command (command authority) provides full authority to organize and employ commands and forces as the combatant commander considers necessary to accomplish assigned missions. Operational control is inherent in combatant command (command authority). Also called **COCOM**. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**combatant commander**—A commander in chief of one of the unified or specified combatant commands established by the President. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**command**—The authority that a commander in the Military Service lawfully exercises over subordinates by virtue of rank or assignment. Command includes the authority and

responsibility for effectively using available resources and for planning the employment of, organizing, directing, coordinating, and controlling military forces for the accomplishment of assigned missions. It also includes responsibility for health, welfare, morale, and discipline of assigned personnel. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**command and control**—The exercise of authority and direction by a properly designated commander over assigned and attached forces in the accomplishment of the mission. Command and control functions are performed through an arrangement of personnel, equipment, communications, facilities, and procedures employed by a commander in planning, directing, coordinating, and controlling forces and operations in the accomplishment of the mission. Also called **C<sup>2</sup>**. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**command relationships**—The interrelated responsibilities between commanders, as well as the authority of commanders in the chain of command. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**component**—One of the subordinate organizations that constitute a joint force. Normally a joint force is organized with a combination of Service and functional components. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**deployment**—4. The relocation of forces and materiel to desired areas of operations. Deployment encompasses all activities from origin or home station through destination,

specifically including intra-continental United States, inter-theater, and intratheater movement legs, staging, and holding areas. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**employment**—The strategic, operational, or tactical use of forces. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**functional component command**—A command normally, but not necessarily, composed of forces of two or more Military Departments which may be established across the range of military operations to perform particular operational missions that may be of short duration or may extend over a period of time. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**joint**—Connotes activities, operations, organizations, etc., in which elements of two or more Military Departments participate. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**joint force**—A general term applied to a force composed of significant elements, assigned or attached, of two or more Military Departments, operating under a single joint force commander. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**joint force air component commander**—The joint force air component commander derives authority from the joint force commander who has the authority to exercise operational control, assign missions, direct coordination among subordinate commanders, redirect and organize forces to ensure unity of effort in the accomplishment of the overall mission. The joint

force commander will normally designate a joint force air component commander. The joint force air component commander's responsibilities will be assigned by the joint force commander (normally these would include, but not be limited to, planning, coordination, allocation, and tasking based on the joint force commander's apportionment decision). Using the joint force commander's guidance and authority, and in coordination with other Service component commanders and other assigned or supporting commanders, the joint force air component commander will recommend to the joint force commander apportionment of air sorties to various missions or geographic areas. Also called **JFACC**. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**joint force commander**—A general term applied to a combatant commander, subunified commander, or joint task force commander authorized to exercise combatant command (command authority) or operational control over a joint force. Also called **JFC**. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**joint force land component commander**—The commander within a unified command, subordinate unified command, or joint task force responsible to the establishing commander for making recommendations on the proper employment of land forces, planning and coordinating land operations, or accomplishing such operational missions as may be assigned. The joint force land component commander is given the authority necessary to accomplish missions and tasks assigned by the establishing commander. The joint force land component commander will normally be the commander with the

preponderance of land forces and the requisite command and control capabilities. Also called **JFLCC**. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**joint force maritime component commander**—The commander within a unified command, subordinate unified command, or joint task force responsible to the establishing commander for making recommendations on the proper employment of maritime forces and assets, planning and coordinating maritime operations, or accomplishing such operational missions as may be assigned. The joint force maritime component commander is given the authority necessary to accomplish missions and tasks assigned by the establishing commander. The joint force maritime component commander will normally be the commander with the preponderance of maritime forces and the requisite command and control capabilities. Also called **JFMCC**. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**joint force special operations component commander**—The commander within a unified command, subordinate unified command, or joint task force responsible to the establishing commander for making recommendations on the proper employment of special operations forces and assets, planning and coordinating special operations, or accomplishing such operational missions as may be assigned. The joint force special operations component commander is given the authority necessary to accomplish missions and tasks assigned by the establishing commander. The joint force special operations component commander will normally be the commander with the preponderance of special operations forces and the requisite

command and control capabilities. Also called **JFSOCC**. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**joint operations**—A general term to describe military actions conducted by joint forces, or by Service forces in relationships (e.g., support, coordinating authority), which, of themselves, do not create joint forces. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**joint specialty officer/joint specialist**—An officer on the active duty list who is particularly trained in, and oriented toward, joint matters. Also called **JSO**. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**joint staff**—The staff of a commander of a unified or specified command, subordinate unified command, joint task force, or subordinate functional component (when a functional component command will employ forces from more than one Military Department), which includes members from the several Services comprising the force. These members should be assigned in such a manner as to ensure that the commander understands the tactics, techniques, capabilities, needs, and limitations of the component parts of the force. Positions on the staff should be divided so that Service representation and influence generally reflect the Service composition of the force. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**joint task force**—A joint force that is constituted and so designated by the Secretary of Defense, a combatant commander, a subunified commander, or an existing joint task force commander. Also called **JTF**. (Joint Pub 1-02)



**Marine air-ground task force**—A task organization of Marine forces (division, aircraft wing, and service support groups) under a single command and structured to accomplish a specific mission. The Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) components will normally include command, aviation combat, ground combat, and combat service support elements (including Navy Support Elements). Three types of Marine air-ground task forces which can be task organized are the special purpose MAGTF, Marine expeditionary unit, and Marine expeditionary force. The four elements of a Marine air-ground task force are: **a. command element (CE)**—The MAGTF headquarters. The CE is a permanent organization composed of the commander, general or executive and special staff sections, headquarters section, and requisite communications and service support facilities. The CE provides command, control, and coordination essential for effective planning and execution of operations by the other three elements of the MAGTF. There is only one CE in a MAGTF. **b. aviation combat element (ACE)**—The MAGTF element that is task organized to provide all or a portion of the functions of Marine Corps aviation in varying degrees based on the tactical situation and the MAGTF mission and size. These functions are air reconnaissance, antiair warfare, assault support, offensive air support, electronic warfare, and control of aircraft and missiles. The ACE is organized around an aviation headquarters and varies in size from a reinforced helicopter squadron to one or more Marine aircraft wing(s). It includes those aviation command (including air control agencies), combat, combat

support, and combat service support units required by the situation. Normally, there is only one ACE in a MAGTF. **c. ground combat element (GCE)**—The MAGTF element that is task organized to conduct ground operations. The GCE is constructed around an infantry unit and varies in size from a reinforced infantry battalion to one or more reinforced Marine division(s). The GCE also includes appropriate combat support and combat service support units. Normally, there is only one GCE in a MAGTF. **d. combat service support element (CSSE)**—The MAGTF element that is task organized to provide the full range of combat service support necessary to accomplish the MAGTF mission. CSSE can provide supply, maintenance, transportation, deliberate engineer, health, postal, disbursing, enemy prisoner of war, automated information systems, exchange, utilities, legal, and graves registration services. The CSSE varies in size from a Marine expeditionary unit (MEU) service support group (MSSG) to a force service support group (FSSG). Normally, there is only one combat service support element in a MAGTF. (Proposed for Joint Pub 1-02)

**Marine expeditionary force**—The Marine expeditionary force, the largest of the Marine air-ground task forces, is normally built around a division/wing team, but can include several divisions and aircraft wings, together with an appropriate combat service support organization. The Marine expeditionary force is capable of conducting a wide range of amphibious assault operations and sustained operations ashore. It can be tailored for a wide variety of combat missions in any geographic environment. Also called **MEF**. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**Military Department**—One of the departments within the Department of Defense created by the National Security Act of 1947, as amended. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**Military Service**—A branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, established by act of Congress, in which persons are appointed, enlisted, or inducted for military service, and which operates and is administered within a military or executive department. The Military Services are: the United States Army, the United States Navy, the United States Air Force, the United States Marine Corps, and the United States Coast Guard. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**National Command Authorities**—The President and the Secretary of Defense or their duly deputized alternates or successors. Also called **NCA**. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**operational control**—Transferable command authority that may be exercised by commanders at any echelon at or below the level of combatant command. Operational control is inherent in combatant command (command authority). Operational control may be delegated and is the authority to perform those functions of command over subordinate forces involving organizing and employing commands and forces, assigning tasks, designating objectives, and giving authoritative direction necessary to accomplish the mission. Operational control includes authoritative direction over all aspects of military operations and joint training necessary to accomplish missions assigned to

the command. Operational control should be exercised through the commanders of subordinate organizations. Normally this authority is exercised through subordinate joint force commanders and Service and/or functional component commanders. Operational control normally provides full authority to organize commands and forces and to employ those forces as the commander in operational control considers necessary to accomplish assigned missions. Operational control does not, in and of itself, include authoritative direction for logistics or matters of administration, discipline, internal organization, or unit training. Also called **OPCON**. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**operational level of war**—The level of war at which campaigns and major operations are planned, conducted, and sustained to accomplish strategic objectives within theaters or areas of operations. Activities at this level link tactics and strategy by establishing operational objectives needed to accomplish the strategic objectives, sequencing events to achieve the operational objectives, initiating actions, and applying resources to bring about and sustain these events. These activities imply a broader dimension of time or space than do tactics; they ensure the logistic and administrative support of tactical forces, and provide the means by which tactical successes are exploited to achieve strategic objectives. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**redeployment**—The transfer of a unit, an individual, or supplies deployed in one area to another area, or to another location within the area, or to the zone of interior for the purpose of further employment. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**Service component command**—A command consisting of the Service component commander and all those Service forces, such as individuals, units, detachments, organizations, and installations under the command, including the support forces that have been assigned to a combatant command, or further assigned to a subordinate unified command or joint task force. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**specified command**—A command that has a broad, continuing mission, normally functional, and is established and so designated by the President through the Secretary of Defense with the advice and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It normally is composed of forces from a single Military Department. Also called specified combatant command. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**strategic level of war**—The level of war at which a nation, often as a member of a group of nations, determines national or multinational (alliance or coalition) security objectives and guidance, and develops and uses national resources to accomplish these objectives. Activities at this level establish national and multinational military objectives; sequence initiatives; define limits and assess risks for the use of military and other instruments of national power; develop global plans or theater war plans to achieve these objectives; and provide military forces and other capabilities in accordance with strategic plans. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**subordinate unified command**—A command established by commanders of unified commands, when so authorized through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to conduct operations on a continuing basis in accordance with the criteria set forth for unified commands. A subordinate unified command may be established on an area or functional basis. Commanders of subordinate unified commands have functions and responsibilities similar to those of the commanders of unified commands and exercise operational control of assigned commands and forces within the assigned joint operations area. Also called subunified command. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**supported commander**—The commander having primary responsibility for all aspects of a task assigned by the Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan or other joint operation planning authority. In the context of joint operation planning, this term refers to the commander who prepares operation plans or operation orders in response to requirements of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**supporting commander**—A commander who provides augmentation forces or other support to a supported commander or who develops a supporting plan. Includes the designated combatant commands and Defense agencies as appropriate. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**tactical control**—Command authority over assigned or attached forces or commands, or military capability or forces made available for tasking, that is limited to the detailed and,

usually, local direction and control of movements or maneuvers necessary to accomplish missions or tasks assigned. Tactical control is inherent in operational control. Tactical control may be delegated to, and exercised at any level at or below the level of combatant command. Also called **TACON**. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**tactical level of war**—The level of war at which battles and engagements are planned and executed to accomplish military objectives assigned to tactical units or task forces. Activities at this level focus on the ordered arrangement and maneuver of combat elements in relation to each other and to the enemy to achieve combat objectives. (Joint Pub 1-02)

**unified command**—A command with a broad continuing mission under a single commander and composed of significant assigned components of two or more Military Departments, and which is established and so designated by the President, through the Secretary of Defense with the advice and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Also called unified combatant command. (Joint Pub 1-02)

## References

### 1. Joint Publications

Joint Pub 1	Joint Warfare of the Armed Forces of the United States
Joint Pub 0-2	Unified Action Armed Forces (UNAAF)
Joint Pub 1-02	Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms
Joint Pub 2-0	Joint Doctrine for Intelligence Support to Operations
Joint Pub 3-0	Doctrine for Joint Operations
Joint Pub 4-0	Doctrine for Logistic Support of Joint Operations
Joint Pub 5-0	Doctrine for Planning Joint Operations
CJCSI 3100.01C	Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan (JSCP) (SECRET)
CJCSM 3500.04A	Universal Joint Task List of 13 September 1996



## **2. Navy Publications**

NDP 1	Naval Warfare
NDP 2	Naval Intelligence
NDP 4	Naval Logistics
NDP 5	Naval Planning
OPNAVINST 3500.38	Naval Universal Task List (UNTL)

## **3. Marine Corps Publications**

MCDP 1	Warfighting
MCDP 1-1	Strategy
MCDP 1-2	Campaigning
MCDP 1-3	Tactics
MCDP 2	Intelligence
MCDP 3	Expeditionary Operations
MCDP 4	Logistics
MCDP 5	Planning
MCDP 6	Command and Control

FMFRP 0-14                      Marine Corps Supplement to  
the DOD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms  
(FMFRP 0-14 is currently under development. It will be re-  
issued as MCRP 5-2C.)

#### **4. Army Publications**

FM 100-5                      Operations  
FM 100-7                      Decisive Force: The Army in  
Theater Operations

#### **5. Miscellaneous Publications**

Unified Command Plan (SECRET)  
Forces for Unified Commands Memorandum (SECRET)  
Lynn Montross and Captain Nicholas A. Canzona, USMC,  
*The Pusan Perimeter, Vol I, U.S. Marine Operations in  
Korea 1950-1953* (Washington, D.C.: Historical Branch  
G-3 HQMC, 1954)