



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
2 NAVY ANNEX  
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

MCO 5600.20P  
C 398

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MARINE CORPS ORDER 5600.20P

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Distribution List

Subj: MARINE CORPS DOCTRINAL PUBLICATIONS SYSTEM

Ref: (a) DoD Directive 5100.1, *Functions of the Department of Defense and Its Major Components*, August 1, 2002  
(b) MCO 5600.48B  
(c) CJCSI 5120.02  
(d) NTTP 1-01 (Apr 05)  
(e) MCO 5711.1F w/Chg 1 (Sep 90)

Encl: (1) Doctrinal Publications Relationships  
(2) Publication Development Responsibilities

1. Situation. This Order establishes policy concerning the development of Marine Corps doctrine, as well as Marine Corps participation in naval, joint, multinational, and multi-service doctrine development procedures. Reference (a) assigns the Marine Corps responsibility for developing the doctrine employed by landing forces in amphibious operations. Reference (b) sets the guidelines for USMC participation in joint doctrine development. References (c) through (e) delineate Marine Corps participation in naval, joint, multinational, and multi-service doctrine development. MCBul 5600 series lists existing doctrinal publications and publications under development.

2. Cancellation. MCO 5600.20N and MCO 5600.49.

3. Mission. To establish policy, authority, assign responsibilities, and identify relationships within the Marine Corps for the Doctrinal Publications System and to implement the development, review, and maintenance processes for doctrinal publications.

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. Marine Corps doctrine will provide timely, relevant, and compelling guidance for use in the planning and execution of operations. Procedural guidance can be found at <https://www.doctrine.usmc.mil>.

(2) Concept of Operations. The CMC has delegated overall responsibility for Service doctrine development to the Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration (DC CD&I). Doctrine proponents and

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subject matter experts throughout the Marine Corps will augment doctrine development efforts in accordance with enclosures (1) and (2).

b. Subordinate Element Missions. Specific responsibilities are outlined in enclosure (2).

c. Coordinating Instructions. CMC retains the prerogative to approve Marine Corps doctrinal publications.

5. Administration and Logistics

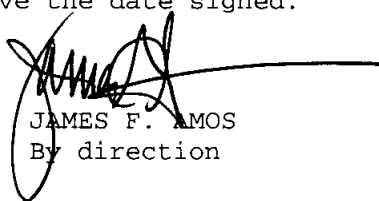
a. Submit recommended changes to this Order to DC CD&I by letter or naval message and include supporting rationale.

b. Doctrinal publications will be distributed and stocked by Commanding General, Marine Corps Logistics Command.

6. Command and Signal

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

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



JAMES F. AMOS  
By direction

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## DOCTRINAL PUBLICATIONS RELATIONSHIPS

1. General. This enclosure describes Marine Corps doctrinal publications and other related publications.

2. International Standardization Agreements (ISAs)

a. Marine Corps policy regarding participation in international doctrine matters is contained in the current edition of MCO 5711.1.

b. The U.S. has ratified a broad range of agreements with allied nations on military matters. These agreements (ISAs) are not distributed to units, but are maintained in central repositories. Within the Marine Corps, Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration (DC CD&I) maintains these agreements.

c. After national ratification and service subscription, the provisions of ISAs are implemented by incorporating them into Marine Corps doctrinal publications, per the current edition of MCO 5711.1.

3. Allied Joint Publications (AJPs). The U.S. has ratified AJPs that address doctrine, tactics, intelligence, training and exercise procedures, and security rules for use when operating with other North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member nations. AJPs are intended for use at all levels when involved in operations or exercises with NATO member nations. AJPs must be checked for national ratification details as well as for possible reservations. When the U.S. has ratified an AJP, and there is not a U.S. reservation recorded, that AJP is binding on U.S. forces participation in a NATO operation or exercise.

4. Joint, Multi-Service, and Service Publications. Policy regarding participation in joint and multi-service doctrine are contained in the current editions of CJCSI 5120.02 and MCO 5600.48.

a. Joint Publications (JPs). JPs provide general principles and procedural guidance directing the activities and performance of the military departments, unified and specified commands, and other authorized agencies. JPs are used to publish doctrine and procedures for specific types of joint operations not otherwise assigned to an individual military service, as specified in JP 0-2, *Unified Action Armed Forces*. They are also used to publish guidance for informational and planning purposes. These doctrinal publications are developed by the military services and the combatant commands, and are approved and promulgated by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in consultation with the other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. JPs provide guidelines for the coordinated employment of forces in joint operations. To satisfy the responsibilities assigned to the Marine Corps in DoD Directive 5100.1 of 1 Aug 2002, the Marine Corps develops joint doctrine for landing forces in coordination with the other military services. This includes the doctrine and equipment employed by landing forces in amphibious operations.

b. Multi-Service Publications. These publications contain doctrine applicable to at least two military services. Multi-service publications guide the employment of forces in coordinated action toward a common objective. Each of the authenticating military services assigns the

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publication its own doctrinal designation. Multi-service publications authenticated by the Marine Corps are listed in the current edition of MCBul 5600, *Marine Corps Doctrinal Publications Status*.

c. Single Service Publications. These publications address the doctrine of the promulgating military service. The other military services are authorized to use these publications to facilitate their roles and functions.

(1) Field Manuals (FMs). The development and publication of doctrine for land warfare is the responsibility of the U.S. Army. This doctrine is published in a series of manuals designated as FMs. FMs having direct application to the Marine Corps carry the designation of Marine Corps Warfighting Publication (MCWP), Marine Corps Reference Publication (MCRP), or Marine Corps Interim Publication (MCIP) and are listed in the current edition of MCBul 5600, *Marine Corps Doctrinal Publications Status*.

(2) Naval Doctrine Publications (NDPs)/Naval Warfare Publications (NWP)s. The U.S. Navy is charged with developing and publishing doctrine for naval air, surface, and subsurface warfare. The Navy coordinates with the Marine Corps for development of doctrine for amphibious operations. NDPs or NWPs that are specifically authorized for use by the Marine Corps are listed in the current edition of OPNAVINST 5605.19. A complete listing of NDPs/NWPs may be found in the current edition of NWP 0, *Naval Warfare*. NDPs/NWPs having direct application to the Marine Corps also carry the designation of MCWP or MCRP, as appropriate, and are listed in the current edition of MCBul 5600, *Marine Corps Doctrinal Publications Status*.

(3) Air Force Manuals and Air Force Regulations. The U.S. Air Force is charged with developing and publishing the doctrine for sustained combat operations in the air and for the defense of the U.S. against air attack. Air Force manuals having direct application to the Marine Corps are dual designated, carry the designation of MCWP or MCRP, and are listed in the current edition of MCBul 5600, *Marine Corps Doctrinal Publications Status*.

5. Doctrinal Publications. Marine Corps Doctrinal Publications (MCDPs), MCWPs, MCRPs, and MCIPs address Service-specific Marine Corps doctrine.

a. MCDPs. Higher order doctrine containing fundamental and enduring principles regarding warfighting and the guiding doctrine for the conduct of major warfighting activities.

b. MCWPs. More narrowly focused than MCDPs, publications promulgated as MCWPs contain the doctrine and tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) utilized by the Marine Corps in the prosecution of war or other assigned missions.

c. MCRPs. Publications containing general reference and historical material, or more specific/detailed TTP than MCWPs.

d. MCIPs. The overall purpose of an MCIP is to rapidly disseminate new TTPs, based on findings from lessons learned, training, and experimentation. MCIPs will expire after 2 years (or earlier, if superseded by a new or revised MCWP or MCRP). The 2-year period is intended to allow for in-depth validation and incorporation of information into MCRPs/MCWPs during their scheduled review cycle. The DC CD&I makes MCIPs available to units via the

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publication distribution system (hardcopy, electronic, and compact disc), to ensure commonality across the Marine Corps.

6. Numbering System. Marine Corps doctrinal publications are numbered in the following manner:

a. MCDPs. Capstone/Keystone publications, which include all of the MCDPs, as follows:

- MCDP 1, *Warfighting*
- MCDP 1-0, *Marine Corps Operations*
- 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*

b. MCWPs. MCWPs are tiered in five subordinate series as follows:

- MCWP 2 Series - *Intelligence Operations*
- MCWP 3 Series - *Training, Ground Combat Operations, Aviation Operations, Type Operations, and MAGTF Operations*
- MCWP 4 Series - *Logistics Operations*
- MCWP 5 Series - *Marine Corps Planning Process*
- MCWP 6 Series - *Command Series*

c. MCRPs. MCRPs are given the same number as the "parent" MCWP, with an alpha designator. For example: MCWP 5-1.1, *Aviation Planning*, and MCRP 5-1.1A, *Aviation Planning Documents*.

d. MCIPs. MCIPs are given the same number as the "parent" MCWPs and MCRPs, with a 01, 02, etc., designator assigned. For example: MCWP 2-1, *Intelligence Operations*, and MCIP 2-1.01, *Intelligence Operations TTPs*.

A complete listing of doctrinal publications can be found at <https://www.doctrine.usmc.mil> and <http://www.doctrine.mccdc.usmc/smil/mil>.

## PUBLICATION DEVELOPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. General. As outlined in the current edition of MCO 5600.48, the development of joint and NATO (multinational) doctrinal publications is the responsibility of DC Plans, Policies and Operations (PP&O). The development of Service doctrinal publications is the responsibility of Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration (DC CD&I). Doctrinal proponents support the development and maintenance of doctrine. Any individual or command that recognizes the need for a change to an existing Marine Corps doctrinal publication or a doctrinal gap should submit a Universal Need Statement (UNS), to be entered into the Expeditionary Force Development System. The UNS should specify in operational and measurable terms why the change is warranted. Doctrinal changes of an urgent nature should be processed as urgent UNS.

### 2. Responsibilities

a. DC PP&O is the coordinating authority for Marine Corps participation in the development and maintenance of joint and NATO doctrine. Specific responsibilities are outlined in the current edition of MCO 5600.48.

b. DC CD&I is the coordinating authority for the development and maintenance of Marine Corps Service doctrine and coordinates with DC PP&O (PL) for Marine Corps participation in the development of multinational, joint, and multi-service doctrine. Responsibilities include:

- (1) Promulgating Marine Corps doctrinal publications.
- (2) Assigning proponents for Marine Corps doctrinal publications.
- (3) Promulgating Marine Corps Bulletins in the 5600 and 5603 series to provide periodic updates on current Marine Corps doctrinal publications and proponency assignments.
- (4) Monitoring the staffing and review of doctrinal publications and resolving issues that arise in the staffing and review process.
- (5) Developing, in coordination with the other military services, the doctrine employed by landing forces in amphibious operations, as required by DoD Directive 5100.1 of 1 August 2002.
- (6) Serving as coordinating authority to the operating forces, advocates, and subject matter experts outside of HQMC for Marine Corps participation in doctrine development with appropriate multinational, joint, multi-service and military service agencies and commands, as outlined in the current editions of MCO 5711.1 and MCO 5600.48.
- (7) Promulgating Marine Corps orders in the 5600 and 5711 series dealing with joint, multinational, multi-service, and Marine Corps Service doctrine.

c. Commanders, Marine Forces (COMMARFOR). The COMMARFORs are responsible for providing review comments to DC CD&I on doctrinal publications.

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d. Doctrinal Proponents. Proponents for doctrinal publications will be assigned by MCBul 5603, *Marine Corps Doctrinal Proponency Assignments*, issued annually. Assigned Marine Corps doctrine proponents support DC CD&I in the development and revision of doctrinal publications. Responsibilities include:

(1) Developing draft doctrinal publications and revisions to existing publications, utilizing the plan of action and milestones issued by DC CD&I. Procedural guidance can be found at <https://www.doctrine.usmc.mil>.

(2) Coordinating with contributing commands and other sources of information during the research stage of publication development to ensure the most current resources are used.

e. Contributing Commands

(1) Contributing commands are selected to provide a cross-section of expertise in the development and review of doctrinal publications. Contributing commands include:

(a) Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (to include subordinate commands, i.e., Commanding General, Marine Corps Logistics Command).

(b) Commander, Marine Corps Installations, East and West.

(c) Commanding General, Marine Corps Systems Command.

(d) Commanding General, Training and Education Command.

(e) Commanding General, Marine Air-Ground Task Force Training Command.

(f) Commanding Officers, Expeditionary Warfare Training Groups, Atlantic and Pacific.

(g) Commanding Officer, Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1.

(2) Responsibilities include participating in review of new and emerging naval, joint, multinational, or Marine Corps Service doctrine, as requested, and making recommendations to DC CD&I.

f. United States Marine Corps Representatives. Marine Corps representatives at other Service schools will attend Service, multi-service, joint, or multinational working groups to monitor doctrinal matters and publications, as directed by DC CD&I. Representatives will provide pertinent information concerning changes and progress on doctrinal matters to DC CD&I.

g. Organizational Commanders. Organizational commanders may provide comments on the contents of doctrinal publications and maintain doctrinal publications as required.