

CHAPTER 2

NATIONAL AND MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MARITIME PREPOSITIONING FORCES

2001. General

The use of Maritime Prepositioned Forces in support of strategic and military objectives requires timely political and military decisions from an array of organizations, commands, and agencies. MPF is a unified action; therefore, Joint doctrine and terminology is applicable. The definitions and descriptions of the various national agencies and military commands discussed in this chapter are not all inclusive, and are provided as general information for MPF planning purposes. MPF planners requiring more detailed information should consult additional Joint and service specific doctrine.

2002. National and Military Command Structure and Responsibilities

The various agencies, organizations, and commands comprising the national and military command structure for MPF operations, (and their responsibilities), are outlined in the following paragraphs. Specific Joint doctrine, terminology, and definitions are taken primarily from Joint Publication 3-0, *Doctrine for Joint Operations* and Joint Publication 0-2, *Unified Action Armed Forces (UNAAF)*. The MPF organization and command structure, to include specific command relationships, is discussed in chapter 3.

a. National Command Authorities

The National Command Authorities (NCA) consist of the President and the Secretary of Defense or their duly deputized alternates or successors (Joint Publication 0-2). The decision to deploy and employ military forces is ultimately the responsibility of the President. Specific assignments for MPF operations are issued predicated on NCA direction and guidance. The NCA will—

- Provide an initial decision to deploy/employ forces
- Provide a mission statement to the Joint Staff
- Consider requests for mobilization/activation of reserves for MPF operations after consultation with the Joint Staff and Service Chiefs
- Direct support from other departments/agencies
- Provide general guidance/approval of rules of engagement (ROE)

b. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of State (CJCS) serves as the principal military advisor to the NCA, and provides comments and recommendations as to the military options and forces available to include the employment of MPF as recommended by a CINC. Upon a decision by the NCA to deploy/employ military forces, the CJCS—

- Issues appropriate orders to CINCs in accordance with the Crisis Action System (CAS)/Joint Operation Planning and Execution Systems (JOPES)
- Tasks/coordinates services, subordinate Department of Defense (DOD) agencies and appropriate unified commands (e.g., USCINTRANS)

- Recommends (to the NCA) interdepartmental linkages between operational forces and support agencies
- Coordinates and provides advice to the NCA on ROE
- Recommends (to the NCA) activation of reserves as required (e.g., to augment the MAGTF, NSE and NCW)
- Supervises inter-unified command coordination

c. Military Services

The individual services administer, equip, train, and support forces provided to the unified commands. The services—

- Provide support to service components
- Activate reserves as directed by the NCA
- Exercise administrative control (ADCON) of forces through service components

d. Combatant Commanders

MPF operations are conducted under the command of a combatant commander. A combatant commander is a CINC of one of the unified or specified combatant commands established by the NCA. Combatant command (command authority) (COCOM) 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. The combatant commander is under the direct command of the NCA. CINCs have overall responsibility to plan contingency deployment and employment of forces in their area of responsibility (AOR). Direct communication between supported/supporting CINCs involved in an MPF operation is essential to ensure clear understanding of what is required and what each is contributing to the operation.

(1) Supported Commander-in-Chief

The supported CINC is the CINC in whose AOR the operation will take place. Supported CINCs are responsible for—

- Determining military options and force requirements
- Executing NCA-issued orders
- Coordinating and facilitating host nation support (HNS) through the U.S. country team
- Issuing specific rules of engagement within the AOR
- Exercising COCOM over assigned forces, and operational control (OPCON) over augmentation forces provided by the other CINCs
- Coordinating overall security and protection of assigned forces
- Allocating resources
- Coordinating with USCINCTrans and supporting agencies and commands

- Coordinating intelligence collection requirements, processing intelligence information, and disseminating to the supported and supporting commanders
- Designating the commander responsible for conducting the MPF operation in conjunction with Marine and Navy service component commanders
- Determining, in broad terms, the area in which the MPF operation is to occur

(2) Supporting Commander-in-Chief

A supporting CINC is the CINC who provides personnel, equipment, supplies, and services to a supported CINC. Supporting CINCs are responsible for—

- Providing input to the supported CINC regarding options
- Providing forces and/or support as required
- Passing HNS requirements of MPF to a supported CINC, if appropriate
- Issuing specific ROE within their assigned AOR
- Providing/coordinating security/defense for MPF and supporting forces in their assigned AOR
- Coordinating the allocation of resources with supported CINC and USCINTRANS
- Providing for exchange and support of liaison linkages with the supported CINC

e. Joint Force Commander

Joint force commander (JFC) is a general term applied to a combatant commander, subunified commander, or a joint task force commander authorized to exercise COCOM or OPCON over a joint force (Joint Publication 1-02, *DOD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms*).

f. Functional Component Command

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

g. Service Component Command

A service component command consists of a service component commander and service forces assigned to a combatant command. Service component commanders are responsible for the internal administration, discipline, training, and logistics support of their service forces.

h. Commander, Marine Forces

The Commander, Marine Forces (COMMARFOR) for either the Atlantic (COMMARFORLANT) or the Pacific (COMMARFORPAC) performs the following tasks at the direction of a combatant commander:

- Provides recommendations to the combatant commander on Marine forces employment for an MPF operation
- Coordinates planning efforts in accordance with priorities and guidance established by higher authority

- Provides deployment support, such as coordinating with USCINTRANS and other supporting commands

i. Fleet Commander-in-Chief

The Fleet CINC for the Atlantic (CINCLANTFLT), or the Fleet CINC for the Pacific (CINCPACFLT), performs the following tasks at the direction of a combatant commander:

- Provides recommendations to the combatant commander on fleet employment for an MPF operation
- Designates and activates the naval forces required to support an MPF operation

2003. Subordinate Naval Forces Type Commanders

Type commanders (TYCOMS) are specific administrative commands responsible for preparing forces for operational assignments. Commanding Generals, Fleet Marine Forces, function as TYCOMs. Unlike Navy TYCOMs, however, the Fleet Marine Forces retain an operational capability and are subject to the operational chain of command of the Fleet CINC.

a. Fleet Marine Forces

The Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic (FMFLANT), and Fleet Marine Force, Pacific (FMFPAC), provide administrative support to train and deploy Marine amphibious forces. FMFLANT/FMFPAC allocates assigned forces when directed by a CINC.

b. Commander, Naval Surface Forces

The Commander, Naval Surface Force, Atlantic (COMNAVLANT), or Commander, Naval Surface Force, Pacific (COMNAVSURFPAC) allocates forces such as:

- Commander, Amphibious Group (COMPHIBGRU)
- Navy support element (NSE)
- Naval mobile construction battalion (NMCB)
- Fleet hospital (FH)

NOTE: The Navy is the service provider of the naval construction force and the fleet hospital. In naval doctrine, the Naval Construction Force (NCF) reports to the MAGTF command element, and deploys as a major subordinate element (MSE) of the MAGTF for operational employment. The FH should report to the MAGTF as an MSE as well. For example, the NMCB would be the fourth MSE to the MAGTF, and the FH would be the fifth MSE. Ultimately, the erection of the FH is dependent on the NMCB, which is typically OPCON to the MAGTF Commander. Placing the FH under the OPCON of the MAGTF Commander as well, simplifies the C2 structure.

c. Commander, Military Sealift Command

The commander of the Military Sealift Command (MSC) provides administrative direction and support of the MPSRON through close coordination with the civilian operating companies to satisfy extraordinary requirements generated by operational considerations. The MSC commander also exercises ADCON, via MSC area commanders, to coordinate logistics and administrative support for MPSRONS (including personnel training, material readiness, doctrine, ship characteristics and budget). Additionally, the MSC commander provides deployment support, as required.

d. Commander, Naval Air Force

The Commander, Naval Air Force, Atlantic (COMNAVAIRLANT), or the Commander, Naval Air Force, Pacific (COMNAVAIRPAC) provides support of Marine aviation and allocates missiles during naval operations.

e. Operational Commanders

(1) Commanding General, Marine Expeditionary Force

The following tasks are the responsibility of the MEF Commander. If the MPF operation involves units from more than one MEF, the MAGTF Commander should discuss requirements to eliminate duplication.

- Plans, executes, and supports MAGTF operations as directed
- Establishes, in accordance with policies of higher authorities, deployability postures of units and elements for MPF deployment. Readiness, preparation, and support of units and elements for deployment are the responsibility of the parent division, wing, or force service support group, or in their absence, such other commands as the MEF Commander may designate
- Liaisons with USCINCTRANS and other supporting commanders as directed
- Specific functions include the following:
 - Determines and assigns the appropriate MAGTF for the MPF mission
 - On receipt of warning or alert order, shifts OPCON of assigned forces to the MAGTF
 - Reviews the MAGTF Commander's proposed course of action (COA), commander's estimate, concept of operations, and employment and deployment plans
 - Activates the force movement control center (FMCC)
 - Directs activation of the logistics movement control centers (LMCC) and other movement control organizations
 - Directs the deployment of a MAGTF in conjunction with the MAGTF commander's concept of deployment and operations
 - Coordinates the deployment of forces and sustainment provided to the MAGTF Commander by commands/agencies external to the MARFOR. (This includes the airlift requirements of naval elements supporting the MAGTF (e.g., NSE, NCW, etc.). The sequencing of the naval support units must be phased into the AAA to support the force standup of the MAGTF. Therefore, the MAGTF Commander must decide the appropriate deployment window for these units. Normally, the NSE and NCW units are part of the advance party)
 - Provides liaison to external commands and agencies as required
 - Provides public affairs guidance
 - Evaluates existing plan(s) to determine if they can serve as a base point, and identifies units available for deployment tasking
 - Assists the MAGTF Commander with review of applicable database development guidance provided by higher headquarters
 - Responds to direction from higher headquarters in regards to plan formulation, task organization, and the establishment or revision of the deployment database

- Assists the MAGTF Commander in analysis of time-phased deployment plans for use in COA development
- Participates, as directed, in the COA development process of a supported CINC
- Directs and/or coordinates deployment database development to include time phasing and prioritization of forces/sustainment. Determines mode and source of transportation for all movement segments (origin to Port of Embarkation (POE), POE to Port of Debarkation (POD), POD to destination) for each COA
- Directs and coordinates preliminary determination of quantities of basic prescribed loads and accompanying supplies, and initiates preparations for release of war reserve material through the war reserve system
- Coordinates the Marine Corps Base (MCB) and Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) support deploying elements of the MPF

(2) Numbered Fleet Commander

Numbered fleet commander refers to the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, and 7th fleets. Numbered fleet commanders perform the following tasks at the direction of a joint forces commander, service or functional component commander, or other appropriate authority.

- Exercises operational control over assigned Navy forces
- Identifies additional support requirements to higher authority
- Task-organizes Navy forces for the MPF operation
- Requests, coordinates, and directs support forces as appropriate
- Provides force protection for Navy forces and the MPSRON

(3) MPF Forces. See Chapter 3.

2004. Supporting Organizations and Agencies

The execution of MPF operations requires the support of many diverse organizations and agencies external to the MPF.

a. Commander-in-Chief, United States Transportation Command

- Coordinates strategic deployment of forces assigned to (or in support of) the unified commander
- Provides airlift support for MPF operations, to include coordinating enroute aerial refueling of the MAGTF flight ferried aircraft and strategic airlift as required
- Military Sealift Command (MSC) is responsible for administrative control and support of MPSRONs
- Military Traffic Management Command is responsible for coordinating common user surface transportation within the continental United States (CONUS) and common user ports worldwide

b. Supporting Establishments

Marine Corps and Navy supporting and shore establishments provide support and assist deployment of forces as directed and/or coordinated by appropriate authority.

c. Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, Georgia

Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, has primary responsibility for the material readiness of maritime prepositioned material prior to its commitment in an MPF operation. This includes contract maintenance and logistics support of MPE/S aboard the MPSRON as well as a technical assistance and advisory team to provide transitional assistance to employing forces. Blount Island Command, a major subordinate command of Albany, is tasked as the executive agent for MPF maintenance operations.

d. Air Combat Command

Air Combat Command (ACC) may provide enroute aerial refueling capabilities for the MAGTF fixed-wing flight ferry. The Marine air wing Self-Deploying Aircraft Control Center will coordinate enroute aerial refueling with the AMC and ACC.