



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

MCO 3120.9C  
POE  
4 Aug 2009

MARINE CORPS ORDER 3120.9C

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Distribution List

Subj: POLICY FOR MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNITS (MEU) AND MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNITS (SPECIAL OPERATIONS CAPABLE) MEU(SOC)

Ref: (a) MCO 3900.15B  
(b) MCO 5311.1D  
(c) MCO 5320.12F  
(d) MCO P1300.8R  
(e) 10 U.S.C. 5063  
(f) MCO 3502.3A  
(g) MCO 3502.2A  
(h) CJCSM 3500.04E, "Universal Joint Task List," August 25, 2008  
(i) Marine Corps Task List Version 2.0 (NOTAL)  
(j) Joint Publication 1-02, "Department Of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms," March 17, 2009  
(k) MCO 3500.24A  
(l) MCBUL 3120 (S) (NOTAL) (Canc: Sep 09)  
(m) Joint Publication 3-02, "Joint Doctrine for Amphibious Operations," August 10, 2009  
(n) Global Naval Force Management Policy (NOTAL)  
(o) Joint Publication 1-0, "Personnel Support to Joint Operations," October 16, 2006  
(p) SECNAVINST 4000.37

Encl: (1) Notional MEU/MEU(SOC) Structure and Organization  
(2) Notional Equipment/Principle End Items (For Baseline MEU or MEU(SOC))

1. Situation. The purpose of this Order is to establish United States Marine Corps policy for MEUs and MEU(SOC)s, per references (a) through (p). It identifies the mission, characteristics and core capabilities of the MEUs as well as the baseline structure and notional major end-item composition. It further guides the development of MEU concepts, requirements, doctrine and training programs in accordance with the Expeditionary Force Development System, (reference (a)), and assigns appropriate responsibilities. This Order provides guidance for MEU certification, command relationships, and the development of the Predeployment Training Program (PTP). Additionally, this Order outlines the interoperability relationship between the MEU and the USSOCOM Marine Special Operations Company (MSOC) during the MEU PTP and deployment.

2. Cancellation. MCO 3120.9B.

3. Mission. To provide policy guidance for the manning, training, equipping and organization of MEUs and MEU(SOC)s.

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

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. The intent of this Order is to ensure a common understanding within the United States Marine Corps, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Unified Combatant Commands when addressing MEU and MEU(SOC) missions, characteristics, and capabilities. The desired end state is that, through this Order, the Marine Corps continues to provide certified, operationally flexible, sea-based forward presence in the form of Marine Expeditionary Units.

(2) Concept of Operations. This Order provides guidance to HQMC, the operating forces, and direct supporting establishments concerning the composition and capabilities of the MEU. Additionally, this Order addresses the relationship between the MEU and an associated Marine Special Operations Force (MARSOF) as well as addressing the unique requirements of the 31st MEU. Most importantly it directs all Deputy Commandants, their subordinate agencies, Marine Component Commands, Marine Expeditionary Forces (MEF), and Marine Expeditionary Units (MEU) to constantly validate the manner in which the Marine Corps conducts expeditionary operations to ensure the continued relevance of the MEU program.

b. Tasks

(1) Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations (DC, PP&O). Act as service coordinator for all service policy and serve as the focal point at HQMC for Joint and interagency policy matters.

(2) Deputy Commandant for Aviation (DC, AVN). Coordinate all Marine Corps aviation programs and plans in support of the MEU/MEU(SOC) program.

(3) Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (DC, M&RA). In accordance with references (b), (c), and (d), and paragraph 4.c.7 of this Order, assign Marines to the MEUs and their Major Subordinate Elements (MSE) by rank, grade, Military Operational Specialty (MOS), and strength in order to properly staff the MEUs and their subordinate elements.

(4) Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics

(a) In accordance with reference (p), coordinate the development and implementation of Naval Logistics in support of the MEU program - afloat and ashore.

(b) Coordinate all MEU ground equipment resourcing efforts in support of the MEU program.

(5) Director, Marine Corps Intelligence Activity (MCIA). Coordinate predeployment intelligence support to the MEU/MEU(SOC) program.

(6) Deputy Commandant, Combat Development and Integration (DC CD&I)

(a) In accordance with references (a) and (e), coordinate the development of doctrine, organizational structure, equipment, and facility support issues.

(b) Serve as the service point of contact for the validation of unique, MEU low density equipment requirements.

(7) Commanding General, Training and Education Command (CG, TECOM)

(a) Monitor training to ensure compliance with established Marine Corps standards.

(b) Coordinate external school, Joint and interagency training support for predeployment training.

(c) Develop Marine Corps training program and standards relative to reference (f), MEU/MEU(SOC) Predeployment Training Program (PTP), and reference (g), MEU(SOC) Special Skills Certification Program. Upon publication of this Order you are directed to oversee the re-write of reference (f) MCO 3502.3A and reference (g) MCO 3502.2A.

(d) Serve as the Marine Corps point of contact for training and training facility support.

(8) Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command (COMMARCORSSYSCOM)

(a) Serve as the Marine Corps agent for research, development, and acquisition of all weapons systems and equipment, including low density/non-standard equipment items, necessary to ensure that each MEU possesses the capabilities required by this Order.

(b) Coordinate the development and monitor the implementation of an integrated logistic support system to support the acquisition and time-sensitive fielding of unique equipment items.

(9) Commander, U. S. Marine Corps Forces Command (COMMARFORCOM) and Commander, U. S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific (COMMARFORPAC)

(a) Provide geographic COCOMs with organized, trained, and equipped forces in accordance with this Order.

(b) Coordinate the evaluation and certification of each MEU prior to deployment.

(c) Coordinate with DC CD&I, CG TECOM for validation of doctrine, organizational structure, training standards, equipment, and facilities to support MEUs and MEU(SOC)s.

(d) Ensure the MEFs report, via stabilization rosters, no later than E-180 those personnel who will deploy with the Ground Combat Element, Aviation Combat Element, and Logistics Combat Element.

(e) Ensure the MEFs, with the input of their associated evaluation unit, report to their respective MARFOR a recommendation for certification.

(f) Report when each MEU is certified. Indicate any deviation from core task training.

(g) Report and provide justification for significant deviations from baseline MEU Structure and major end items outlined in this Order no later than E-150.

(h) Coordinate with COMMARFORSOC regarding the provision and interoperability training and evaluation with MARSOF for each east and west coast sourced MEU prior to deployment. At a minimum, interoperability training should consist of the Amphibious Ready Group (ARG)/MEU's Staff Planning Workshop, an "At-Sea" training period, and an interoperability evaluation evolution.

(10) Commander, Marine Forces Special Operations Command (COMMARFORSOC)

(a) Provide MARSOF for interoperability training during the east and west coast sourced MEU's PTP.

(b) Coordinate with COMMARFORCOM/COMMARFORPAC for the provision and interoperability training and evaluation with MARSOF for east and west coast sourced MEUs prior to deployment. At a minimum, interoperability training should consist of the ARG/MEU's Staff Planning Workshop, an "At-Sea" training period, and an interoperability evaluation evolution.

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Definitions

(a) MEU: The term MEU will be used to refer to a MEU consisting of a Command Element (CE), Ground Combat Element (GCE) Aviation Combat Element (ACE) and Logistics Combat Element (LCE), in accordance with MCDP 3 Expeditionary Operations, which does not have any Marine Special Operations Forces embarked and/or operating with it.

(b) MEU(SOC): The term MEU(SOC) is used to indicate when MARSOF has been specifically task organized, embarked, and directed to conduct operations/deployments with a specific MEU that has been certified and undergone interoperability training and evaluation with special operations forces (SOF).

(2) MEU/MEU(SOC) Mission. Provide a forward deployed, flexible sea-based Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) capable of conducting Amphibious Operations, crisis response and limited contingency operations, to include enabling the introduction of follow on forces, and, designated special operations, in order to support the theater requirements of Geographic Combatant Commanders (GCC).

(3) Characteristics. A certified, versatile, suitable, ready Marine Air Ground Task Force characterized by:

(a) Sea-Based Forward Presence. As a sea-based force, the MEU remains independent of host nation ports and airfields, basing agreements, over-flight restrictions and, perhaps most importantly, the political sensitivities associated with land-based forces. This freedom of action and inherent force protection allow for unparalleled access to the littorals of the world and beyond, and provide for a continuous presence and credible combat power poised for rapid employment. The MEU/ARG's presence signals U.S. commitment to a region and helps to shape and promote regional stability. Sea-basing allows the MEU to remain on station, over the horizon of a potential adversary, masking its exact destinations and/or intentions.

(b) Expeditionary in Nature. The U.S. Marine Corps, as a service, is specifically organized for rapid deployment and conduct of operations with the MEU as its most expeditionary unit. The expeditionary mindset is characterized by constant preparation for immediate operation in austere environments and arriving with the necessary organization and equipment to accomplish the mission. The MEU's ability to rapidly task organize reinforces its expeditionary roots and affords the GCC a force with greater flexibility than more conventional units.

(c) Crisis Action Planning and Response. Each MEU, along with its associated Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON), conducts extensive training in the Rapid Response Planning Process (R2P2). Through the use of R2P2, the MEU is capable of planning and commencing execution of selected tactical operations within six hours of receipt of a mission.

(d) Combined Arms Integration. Each MEU conducts extensive integrated supporting arms training. During the PTP the MEU utilizes both assets inherent within the MEU and those from external sources, such as Naval Surface Fire Support ships, and when available, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) aviation and Joint assets. MEUs deploy with the ability to plan, coordinate and control fires in the Joint/Combined environment.

(e) Interoperability. The nature of MEU operations requires it to be inherently Joint. Its capabilities complement those of Joint, Combined, and Special Operations Forces. The MEU's robust C4I architecture allows it to function as part of a larger JTF. The MEU PTP accommodates the opportunity to train with SOF and other Joint forces in order to develop this capability.

(4) Forward-deployed MEU Operations. Forward-deployed MEUs primarily conduct operations within the following three areas; Amphibious Operations, Expeditionary Support to Other Operations / Crisis Response and Limited Contingency Operations, and Special Operations. The specific tasks associated with these areas are drawn from reference (h) and reference (i), and comprise the MEU Mission Essential Task List (METL).

(a) Amphibious Operations

1. Conduct Amphibious Assault (MCT 1.3.2.3). The principle type of amphibious operation that involves establishing a force on a hostile or potentially hostile shore.

2. Conduct Amphibious Raid (MCT 1.3.2.2). To conduct short-duration, small scale deliberate attacks, from the sea, involving a swift penetration of hostile or denied battlespace. Amphibious raids are conducted in order to secure information, to confuse the enemy, or to seize, destroy, neutralize, capture, exploit, recover, or damage designated sea-based or shore-based targets. Amphibious raids end with a planned withdrawal upon completion of the assigned mission.

3. Conduct Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) (MCT 1.3.2.8). Operations contained in this task include Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS), seizure of a static maritime platform and selected maritime security missions. As a subset of MIO, VBSS Operations (MCT 1.3.2.9) are designed to seize a ship, vessel or maritime platform and establish positive control over critical systems in order to transition control to designated organizations. These operations may be conducted in order to counter piracy, enforce international agreements, enforce international resolutions or sanctions, confiscate contraband, or as directed in accordance with current execution orders. VBSS forces ensure the health, safety, and welfare of detained crew until turned over to appropriate legal authorities. The MEU, supported by the ARG, will be trained and equipped to execute complex synchronized VBSS missions to include non-compliant and opposed boarding less specific situations that require the employment of SOF.

4. Conduct Advance Force Operations (MCT 1.6.10). To shape the battlespace in preparation for the main assault or other operations of an amphibious or Joint force by providing battlespace awareness and conducting such operations as reconnaissance, seizure of supporting positions, preliminary bombardment, and air support.

(b) Expeditionary Support to Other Operations / Crisis Response and Limited Contingency Operations

1. Conduct Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) (MCT 1.6.6.6). Operations directed by the Department of State whereby noncombatants are evacuated from foreign countries to safe havens or to the U.S., as directed, when their lives are endangered by war, civil unrest, or natural disaster.

2. Conduct Humanitarian Assistance (HA) (MCT 1.6.6.7). Assistance to relieve or reduce the results of natural or man-made disasters or other endemic conditions such as human pain, disease, hunger or privation that might present a serious threat to life or that can result in great damage to or loss of property. Normally these operations are limited in scope and duration. The assistance provided is designed to supplement or complement the efforts of the host nation, civil authorities and/or agencies that may have the primary responsibility for providing humanitarian assistance.

3. Conduct Stability Operations (SO) (MCT 1.6.6.9). Stability operations are conducted to help establish order that advances U.S. interests and values. U.S. military forces shall be prepared to perform all tasks necessary to establish or maintain order when civilians cannot do so, in an effort to secure a lasting peace and facilitate the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

4. Conduct Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel (TRAP) (MCT 6.2.1). This includes rescue or extraction, by surface or air, of downed aircraft and/or personnel and equipment, conduct aircraft sanitization, and provide advanced trauma life support in a benign or hostile environment.

5. Conduct Joint and Combined Operations (MCT 5.5). To conduct joint force organization and joint coalition operations. Joint forces are designated, composed of significant elements, assigned or attached, of two or more Military Departments, and commanded by a Joint Force Commander (JFC) with a joint staff. The principle in joint force organization is that JFCs organize forces to accomplish the mission based on the JFC's vision and concept of operations, with considerations involving unity of effort, centralized planning and direction, and decentralized execution.

6. Conduct Aviation Operations from expeditionary shore-based sites (MCT 1.3.3.3.2). The MAGTF's power-projection capability is based on its ability to move rapidly and operate freely within an objective area anywhere in the world. To provide responsiveness in austere expeditionary environments, Marine aviation units maintain the capability to operate from amphibious shipping, forward operating bases (FOBs), Expeditionary Airfields (EAFs), Forward Arming and Refueling Points (FARPs), austere forward operating sites, tactical landing zones, etc. that are in line with platform and unit capabilities.

7. Conduct/Support Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) Activities (MCT 5.5.5). Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) activities are combined and multinational military non-combat activities conducted with other nations within a theater in order to create favorable military geographical balances of power, advance mutual defense or security arrangements, and build allied and friendly military capabilities for self-defense and multinational operations.

8. Conduct Airfield/Port Seizure (MCT 1.6.5.6). Secure an airfield, port or other key facilities in order to support MAGTF missions, receive follow-on forces or enable the introduction of follow-on forces.

(c) Special Operations (Conducted by associated MARSOF)

1. Conduct Direct Action Operations (DA) (MCT 1.6.5.10, JP 1-02). Short duration strikes and other small-scale offensive actions conducted as a special operation in hostile, denied or politically sensitive environments and which employ specialized military capabilities to seize, destroy, capture, exploit, recover, or damage designated targets. Direct action differs from conventional offensive actions in the level of physical and political risk, operational techniques, and the degree of discriminate and precise use of force to achieve specific objectives.

2. Conduct Special Reconnaissance (SR) (JP 1-02). Reconnaissance and surveillance actions conducted as a special operation in hostile, denied, or politically sensitive environments to collect or verify information of strategic or operational significance, employing military capabilities not normally found in conventional forces. These actions provide an additive capability for commanders and supplement other conventional reconnaissance and surveillance actions.

3. Conduct Foreign Internal Defense (FID) (JP 1-02). Participation by civilian and military agencies of a government in any of the action programs taken by another government or other designated organization to free and protect its society from subversion, lawlessness, and insurgency.

(d) Additional Capabilities Associated with 31st MEU

1. The 31st MEU is the only permanently forward deployed MEU, and has characteristics that are unique in mission and structure when compared to contiguous United States (CONUS)-based MEUs. Regional requirements in support of USPACOM require the 31st MEU to maintain forces capable of conducting selected maritime contingency missions. The additional task listed below is specific to the 31st MEU and supports their regional requirements.

2. Conduct Small Boat Raid. This task is a sub-set of MCT 1.3.2.3 Conduct Amphibious Raid (see paragraph 4.C.4.A.2 above).

(5) Predeployment Training

(a) Reference (f) provides training policy and guidance, and serves as the primary source document for the MEU PTP.

(b) The MEU commander is responsible for the training of his command and all subordinate elements. Progressive improvement in individual and unit skills attained through enhanced training and the addition of specialized equipment allow a MEU to execute a broad range of missions across the spectrum of conflict and the range of military operations (ROMO). This is accomplished by means of a dedicated and intensive PTP, which is focused, standardized, and follows a progressive building block approach to training. The PTP is designed to integrate the ARG and MEU, as well as other designated U.S. Navy forces (e.g. Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) Command Elements, Naval Surface Fire Support ships, and, when available, CSGs) and, when available, designated Special Operations Command (SOCOM) assets (e.g. Naval Special Warfare Task Unit (NSWTU) and MARSOF) to optimize their inherent capabilities. Close coordination with respective U.S. Navy commands will ensure that appropriate interoperability training among U.S. Navy and Marine Corps units is accomplished throughout the initial, intermediate, and final training phases of the PTP cycle. Opportunities to train with Joint and Special Operations Forces should be pursued at all levels. Due to the nature of specialized training, the MEU commander will often require assistance from his higher HQ and agencies external to the Marine Corps for the scheduling and coordination of activities outside of federal reservations (e.g., Realistic Urban Training (RUT)). The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Training Assistance to the Marine Corps (TAMACOR) program, reference (k), was established for this purpose. Inherent to the effectiveness of the PTP is the stabilization of personnel assigned to all elements of the MEU.

(c) The training environment and operational tempo of the 31st MEU present some unique situations that require specific training and equipment solutions outside of those prescribed for the standard (CONUS-based) MEU PTP.

(6) MEU Certification

(a) MEUs that have executed the PTP and successfully completed a thorough evaluation/certification under the cognizance of the MEF Commander shall be designated as certified and deployment ready.

(b) At a minimum COMMARFORCOM/COMMARFORPAC and COMMARFORSOC will jointly evaluate the interoperability between a MEU and MARSOF. In order for the MEU to remain effective and relevant in the long term, COMMARFORCOM/COMMARFORPAC and COMMARFORSOC will explore all opportunities to develop interoperability between the MEU and any SOF element.

(c) All MEUs shall be capable of executing the full range of core capabilities/mission essential tasks (MET) prescribed in this Order. Prior to deployment, each MEU will be formally evaluated and certified in accordance with paragraph nine of reference (f) with the understanding that the certification/evaluation process is continuous in nature and encompasses training events throughout the entire PTP.

(d) Reference (g) will publish a minimum qualification standard for MEU(SOC) special skills training, to certify requirements and to establish frequency of sustainment training.

(e) The MEU evaluation may include events representative of conventional and, in the case of the 31st MEU, selected maritime contingency operations capabilities, which require the MEU to plan and conduct multiple missions simultaneously. In addition the MEU/SOF interoperability will be assessed and reported on by the appropriate I and II MEF evaluation team assisted by a MARFORSOC representative.

(f) COMMARFORCOM/COMMARFORPAC will certify their MEUs as operationally ready to deploy. This authority may be delegated to the appropriate MEF Commander.

(7) Manning and Staffing

(a) As an excepted command, the MEU Command Element (CE) is manned and staffed at 100 percent of chargeable Tables of Organization and Equipment (TOE) by grade and MOS, subject to inventory availability (reference (b)). Personnel staffed to the MEU CE are assigned to ensure availability for two predeployment training/deployment cycles. The assignment goal is to staff MEU CE personnel no later than 210 days before embarkation (E-210), inventory levels permitting. 31st MEU CE remains an excepted command. Due to the frequency of deployments, incoming 31st MEU CE personnel are required no later than twenty days prior to the beginning of the next cycle which is subject to the current Consolidated Deployment Schedule (reference (1)).

(b) All MEU MSEs are provided sufficient personnel to meet staffing requirements no later than 180 days prior to embarkation and will not be staffed above staffing goal.

(c) Assigned infantry battalions and flying squadrons are categorized as priority commands. Priority commands will be manned at 95 percent of chargeable TOE strength. They will be staffed at 100 percent of that manning level in total numbers. While the intent is to staff commands in this category at 95 percent of TOE, grade and MOS substitutions may occur due to inventory mismatches. For additional information, see references (c) and (d). Staffing is subject to modification by the Commandant's Planning Guidance and Prioritization of Staffing, Equipping and Supplying messages.

(d) Major Subordinate Element (MSE) key personnel will be available for coordination with the MEU CE no later than E-210. These key personnel include the Battalion, Squadron, and Combat Logistics Battalion (CLB) Commanders, Executive Officers, Sergeants Major, Administrative Officers, Intelligence Officers, Operations Officers, Logistics Officers, and Company/Battery Commanders. 31st MEU MSEs and detachments not stationed in Okinawa will be staffed/stabilized no later than 180 days prior to deployment in accordance with reference (1).

(e) The Logistics Combat Element (LCE) consists of a CLB. Since a standing CLB TOE has not been established, personnel are assigned to Monitored Command Codes (MCC) throughout the LCE higher headquarters (HHQs) and functional battalions. A provisional TOE is built based on the specific MEU unit and mission requirements. Personnel are assigned to the CLB in accordance with reference (c) by LCE HHQs.

(f) All MEU augmentees from HHQ, not directly assigned by M&RA, should be staffed to the MEU MCC no later than E-180 (31st MEU 15 days prior to cycle turnover).

(g) At E-180 (or appropriate timeline for 31st MEU) all units and supporting attachments will be joined to MEU Reporting Unit Code (RUC) per paragraph 60301 of Marine Corps Total Force System Personnel Reporting Instructions Manual (MCTFS PRIM) for Headquarters Marine Corps manpower management accountability. Unit diary reporting and DFR management

requirements remain the responsibility of the servicing Installation Personnel Administration Center.

(8) Deployment of Stand-by Detachments. Stand-by detachments are assigned to the MEUs but do not initially deploy with the respective MEU due to the detachments' high demand/low density (HD/LD) status within the U.S. Marine Corps. These detachments are included in the MEU force list, task organization, and associated Time Phased Force Deployment Data (TPFDD), as on-call forces, for contingencies. MEU standby detachments, which typically consist of a VMGR KC-130 detachment, an ANGLICO detachment, and MEU Command Element Battlestaff augments, are integral elements of the MAGTF. Even though these detachments may stay with the parent MEF when the MEU deploys, the detachment commanders report to the MEU Commander at E-180 for planning, selected predeployment training, and exercise/contingency employment. To call forward these forces, the MEU Commander requests for the detachment(s) to the supported GCC via his U.S. Marine Corps component commander operational chain of command. This "request to call forward message" includes the TPFDD information of the appropriate detachment(s). The supported GCC then validates the updated TPFDD to the lift provider, and the lift provider coordinates deployment of the on-call detachment(s). If strategic lift and/or aerial refueling are required to deploy the on-call force, validation of the requirement for the detachment(s) by the supported GCC constitutes authority for Air Mobility Command to schedule appropriate strategic lift and tanking assets in support of the deployment. As these forces are attached to the forward deployed MEU commander in an on-call status, a separate CJCS deployment order (DEPOD) is not required to deploy the force.

#### 5. Administration and Logistics

a. CDRUSJFCOM and CDRUSPACOM are directed by the Secretary of Defense, via CJCS, to execute the Global Naval Force Management Policy (GNFMP), reference (n), schedule (i.e., conduct predeployment training, deploy, and transfer rotational amphibious forces to designated Geographic Combatant Commanders OPCON for exercises, contingency employment, anti-terrorism/force protection (AT/FP) and redeployment).

#### b. References (Long Titles)

- (1) MCO 3900.15B, Marine Corps Expeditionary Force Development System (EFDS)
- (2) MCO 5311.1D, Total Force Structure Process (TFSP)
- (3) MCO 5320.12F, Precedence Levels For Manning and Staffing
- (4) MCO P1300.8R, Marine Corps Personnel Assignment Policy
- (5) 10 U.S.C. 5063, USMC Composition; Functions
- (6) MCO 3502.3A, MEU(SOC) Predeployment Training Program (PTP)
- (7) MCO 3502.2A, MEU(SOC) Special Skills Certification Program
- (8) CJCSM 3500.04E, "Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Manual: Universal Joint Task List," August 25, 2008
- (9) Marine Corps Task List Version 2.0
- (10) Joint Publication 1-02, "Department Of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms," March 17, 2009
- (11) MCO 3500.24A, Policy for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Training Assistance to the Marine Corps (TAMACOR) Program
- (12) MCBUL 3120, Consolidated Deployment Schedule
- (13) Joint Publication 3-02, "Joint Doctrine for Amphibious Operations," August 10, 2009
- (14) Global Naval Force Management Policy
- (15) Joint Publication 1-0, "Personnel Support to Joint Operations," October 16, 2006.
- (16) SECNAVINST 4000.37, Naval Logistics Integration (NLI)

#### 6. Command and Signal

##### a. Command

- (1) This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Total Force.

04 AUG 2009

2. Prior to deployment, the MEF Commander exercises full command of his organic MEU. Command relationships of the MEUs once embarked will be as delineated by the GCC. Per JP 3-02, "While the full range of command relationship options as outlined in JP 1, *Doctrine for the Armed Forces of the United States*, are available, in amphibious operations, Service component commanders normally retain OPCON of their respective forces. If the JFC organizes along functional lines, functional component commanders will normally exercise OPCON over their parent Services' forces and TACON over other Services' forces attached or made available for tasking."

3. At E-365 each MEU command element will report for planning to their respective U.S. Marine Component Commander in order to facilitate deployment planning. This relationship will be for deployment planning purposes only.

4. When deployed all special operations forces, to include MARSOF, are under the operational control of the respective GCC; normally exercised through their Theater Special Operations Components (TSOC). If/when SOF is directed to conduct operations with a MEU the command relationship between SOF and the MEU will be determined by the GCC with input from his component commanders.

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



J. F. DUNFORD Jr.  
Deputy Commandant for  
Plans, Policies, and Operations

DISTRIBUTION: PCN 10203170400  
Copy to: 7000110 (55)  
7000173 (50)  
8145005 (2)  
7000099, 144/8145001 (1)

**Notional MEU/MEU (SOC) Structure and Organization**

Element	COMMAND ELEMENT (CE)	GROUND COMBAT ELEMENT (GCE)	AVIATION COMBAT ELEMENT (ACE)	LOGISTICS COMBAT ELEMENT (LCE)	MARINE SPECIAL OPERATION COMPANY (MSOC)
	MEU/MEU (SOC) command and control is provided by the Command Element	The GCE is structured around a reinforced infantry battalion	The ACE is a composite/reinforced squadron structured around Medium Lift or Tilt-Rotor Squadron	The LCE is structured around Combat Logistic Battalion (CLB) provides the following	The MSOC is a special operations force partnered with the MEU/ARG for training and deployment
<b>Personnel</b>	Approximately 169 personnel: USMC: 25 OFF and 140 ENL, USN: 1 OFF and 3 ENL	Approximately 1200 personnel: USMC: 59 OFF and 1086 ENL, USN: 3 OFF and 50 ENL	Approximately 417 personnel: USMC: 75 OFF and 337 ENL, USN: 1 OFF and 4 ENL	Approximately 273 personnel: USMC: 14 OFF and 232 ENL, USN: 6 OFF and 21 ENL	Approximately 84 personnel: USMC: 8 OFF and 69 ENL, USN: 7 ENL
<b>Comprised of</b>	MEU/MEU (SOC) commander and staff	H&S Company	Medium Lift or Tilt-Rotor Squadron	Headquarters and Service Platoon	Company HQ
	Imagery Interpretation Det	Rifle Company x3	Heavy Helicopter Squadron Det	Communications Platoon	Marine Special Operations Teams (MSOT) x3
	Human Exploitation Team	Weapons Company	Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron Det	Maintenance Platoon	Enablers: Admin, EOD, Riggers, Maintenance, Supply, Ammo Techs, Fire Control Team, Embark
	Ground Sensor Det	Tank Platoon	Marine Attack Squadron Det	Supply Platoon	
	Topographic Det	Artillery Battery	Marine Fighter / Attack Squadron Det (Tethered)	Transportation Support Platoon (Includes Landing Support & Motor Transportation)	
	Radio Battalion Det	LAR Platoon/ Company	Marine Aerial Refueler/ Transport Squadron Det	Health Services Platoon	
	Communications Battalion Det	Shore Fire Control Party	Marine Air Control Group Det	Engineer Platoon	
	Force Reconnaissance Platoon	Combat Engineer platoon	Marine Wing Support Squadron Det		
	Military Police Squad	Division Reconnaissance Platoon	Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron Det		
		Assault Amphibian Vehicle Platoon			

04 AUG 2009

NOTIONAL EQUIPMENT/ PRINCIPLE END ITEMS  
(For Baseline MEU or MEU(SOC))

CE	BLT	ACE	LCE	MSOC
(1) MEWSS LAV	(7) LAVs	(12) CH-46E/MV-22B	(2) TWPS	(16) HMMWVs
(18) HMMWVs	(15) AAVs/EFVs	(4) CH-53E	(5) Refuelers	(4) Trailers
(1) JTF Enabler	(4) Tanks ***	(4) AH-1W	(1) M88A1	
(6) CRRCs*	(6) M777A2	(3) UH-1N/Y	(15) MTVRs	
	(20) CRRCs**	(6) AV-8B	(18) HMMWVs	
	(2) ACEs	(5) A-MANPADS	(1) AAVR7	
	(16) MTVRs	(5) HMMWVs	(1) 5k Forklift	
	(8) 81 MMs	(2) KC-130	(1) EBFL Forklift	
	(8) TOW Launchers	(6) F/A-18 *****	(1) D-7	
	(64) HMMWVs		(1) Excavator	
	(7) IFAVs		(2) TRAM Forklift	
	(6) M327 (EFSS)****			

\* CONUS deploying MEUs embark (6) CRRCs

\*\* 31st MEU embarks (20) CRRCs

\*\*\* 31st MEU does not embark

\*\*\*\* The EFSS (120mm mortar) may be employed in place of the M777, in conjunction with the M777 (reduced numbers for both), or not at all.

\*\*\*\*\* An F/A-18 Det could potentially be tethered to a MEU deployment