



Concepts Overview

If a service does not possess a well-defined strategic concept, the public and political leaders will be confused as to the role of the service, uncertain as to the necessity of its existence, and apathetic or hostile to the claims made by the service upon the resources of society.

—Samuel P. Huntington, 1954

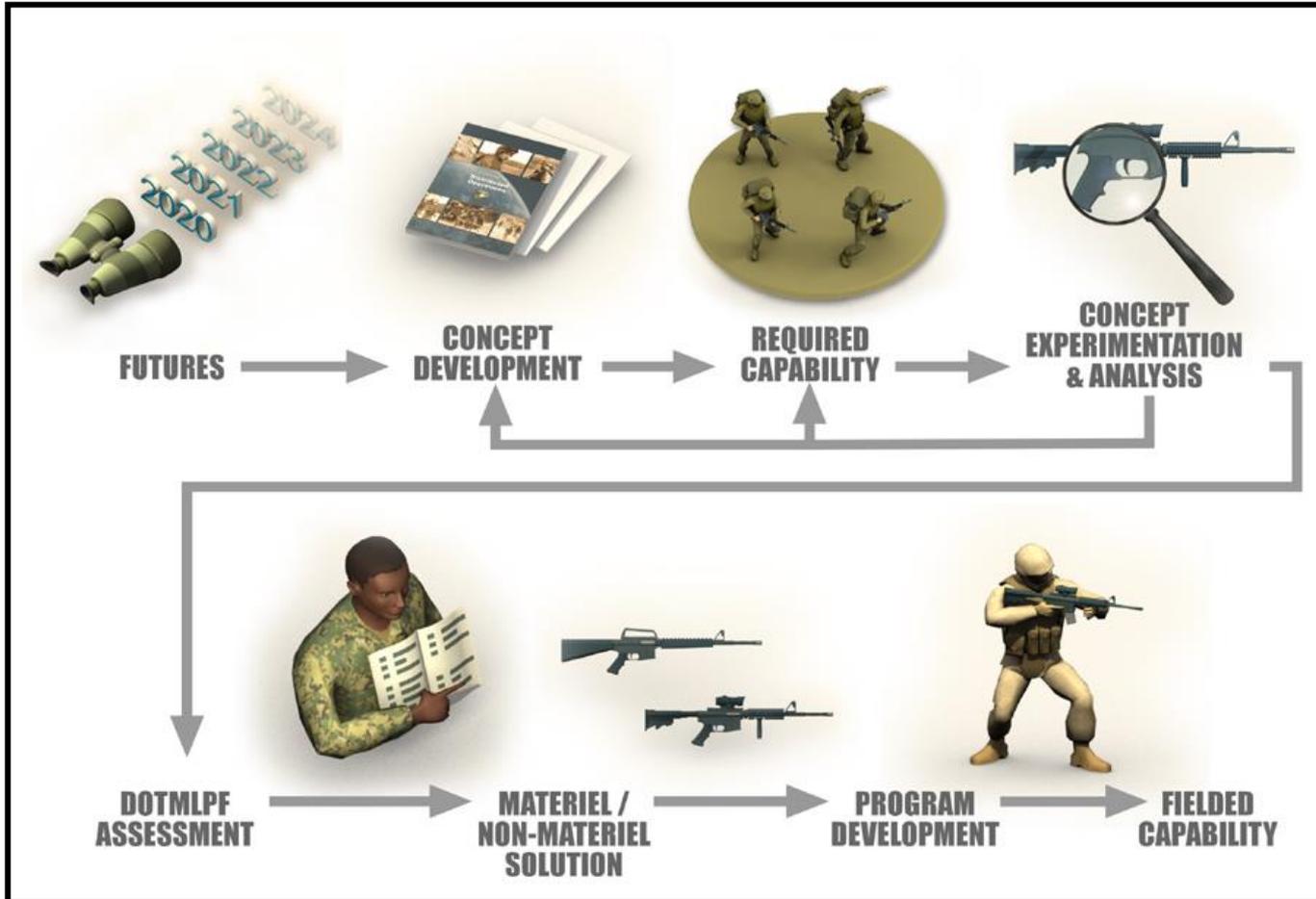


Purpose of this Brief

- **Explain the Marine Corps view of concepts and concept development.**
- **Summarize key Naval and Marine Corps concepts and terms.**
 - *A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower*
 - *Naval Operations Concept 2010 (NOC 10)*
 - *Marine Corps Operating Concepts, 3rd Edition (MOC 3)*
 - *Ship-to-Objective Maneuver (STOM)*



Concepts-Driven Force Development



DOTMLPF=doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, and facilities



Historical Example: Translating Concept Into DOTMLPF solutions



- 1920: Office of Naval Intelligence predicts trans-Pacific war
- 1921: USMC writes *Advance Base Operations in Micronesia* in support of War Plan Orange
- 1922: Advance Base Force begins rudimentary landing exercises
- 1924: First testing of **specialized landing craft**
- 1932: USMC begins drafting doctrine for landing operations
- 1932: **Marine Corps Schools study Gallipoli, presents Advance Base Problem I to Naval War College, and revises PME**
- 1933: **Fleet Marine Force established**
- 1934: USMC publishes *Tentative Manual for Landing Operations*
- 1935: Annual Fleet Landing Exercises (FLEX) commence
- 1935-1941: **Platform testing and evaluation, to include “Higgins Boat” and “Roebling Alligator”**
- 1939: USN adopts USMC manual as *Landing Operations Doctrine, FTP 167*
- 1940: **Modified Roebling Alligator delivered as first Landing Vehicle, Tank (LVT)**
- 1941: USN owns 0 purpose-build amphibious ships
- 1941: Amphibious training **commands / bases** established in LANT and PAC
- 1941: Army adopts USMC-USN manual as FM 31-5, *Landing Operations on Hostile Shores*
- 1942: **Higgins Boat approved as the Landing Craft, Vehicle and Personnel (LCVP)**
- 1942: **1st Marine Division lands at Guadalcanal**
- 1945: **USN owns 2547 amphibious ships (37.6% of the fleet) and associated landing craft, providing sufficient lift to simultaneously project 13 divisions**



Types of Concepts

- **Strategic Concept:**
 - Defines the role of the Service
 - *A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower*
 - Chapter 1, *Marine Corps Operating Concepts, 3rd Edition (MOC 3)*
 - Chapter 1, MCDP 1-0, *Marine Corps Operations*.
- **Operations / Operating Concept**
 - Describes how, when, and where the Service will fulfill its strategic concept
 - Provides sufficient detail to extrapolate requisite capabilities
 - *Naval Operations Concept 2010 (NOC 10)*
 - MOC 3
- **Concepts of Operation (CONOPS)**
 - Apply operations/operating concepts against specific scenarios
 - Basis for wargaming, experimentation, and assessment
 - Used to inform capability and capacity investment decisions
- **Enabling and Functional Concepts**
 - Provide increased level of detail to drive specific DOTMLPF changes
 - Describe how key activities, operations, or warfighting functions will be accomplished



Concepts Branch Mission & Tasks



- **“Develop Marine Corps service concepts, and lead Marine Corps participation in the development of joint, naval, multinational and other service concepts” in order to inform development of “future warfighting capabilities to meet national security objectives.” (MCO 3900.15B 10 Mar 2008, paragraphs 4.b(1)(g) and 3, respectively.)**
- **Tasks:**
 - Research, draft, formally staff, refine, and submit concepts for approval by designated authority.
 - Articulate Marine Corps concepts and capabilities in professional journals and force development venues, to include wargames, experiments, and seminars.
 - Participate in the planning and development of wargames, experiments, and seminars designed to develop, test, and refine concepts.
 - Transition validated concepts into Marine Corps doctrine.
 - Support Doctrine Control Branch in proposed revisions to joint & naval doctrine
 - Support the Naval Warfare Group/Ellis Group



Concepts Branch Approach

- **Webster: *concept***—n. 1. A general idea or understanding, esp. one derived from specific instances or occurrences. 2. A notion or thought.
- **Concept (idea) generation is unbounded by organization**—may be “top down” or “bottom up.”
- **Initial ideas are developed through seminars, wargaming & experimentation, as appropriate.**
- **Ideas considered to have merit are eventually formalized into a published Service, naval, multi-Service, or joint concepts & further examined through wargaming, experimentation, & exercises.**
- **Concept Branch:**
 - Is usually in a supporting role during initial idea development;
 - Is in a supported role during formal concept development;
 - Major exception: The integration divisions within CDD or other USMC organizations with functional expertise normally produce or participate in the development of functional concepts, with reviews by Concepts Branch to ensure accuracy of context and references;
 - Is usually in a supporting role during the examination of published concepts.
 - Works closely with Doctrine Control Branch in transitioning ideas into doctrine.

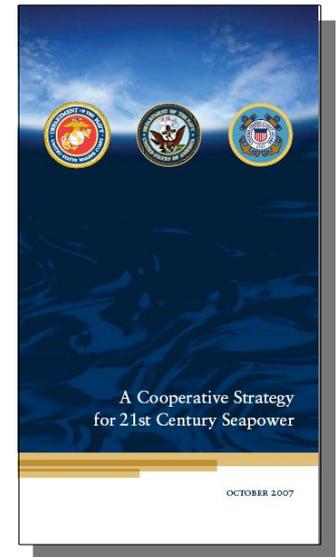


A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower

Signed by CNO, CMC & CCG in October 2007



- **Purpose: Articulate a unified maritime strategy**
 - “We believe that preventing wars is just as important as winning wars.”
- **Expanded global presence: “Trust and cooperation cannot be surged”**
 - “Credible combat power” in Western Pacific & Arabian Gulf/Indian Ocean
 - “Mission-tailored maritime forces” for engagement activities in all other theaters (economy of force efforts)
 - Promote access
 - Extend positive US influence
 - “Tread lightly” on political, social, and cultural sensitivities
 - Respond to crises
- **In order to counter:**
 - Rising peers
 - Regional actors
 - Transnational extremism
 - Disruptions to the global system
- **Requires:**
 - Highly skilled forces capable across the range of military operations
 - Multi-mission platforms
 - Marines on wider variety of ships
 - Integrated application of all elements of national power



Currently being updated with a target date for publication in Fall 2013.



Naval Operations Concept 2010 (NOC 10)

Signed by CNO, CMC & CCG in June 2010

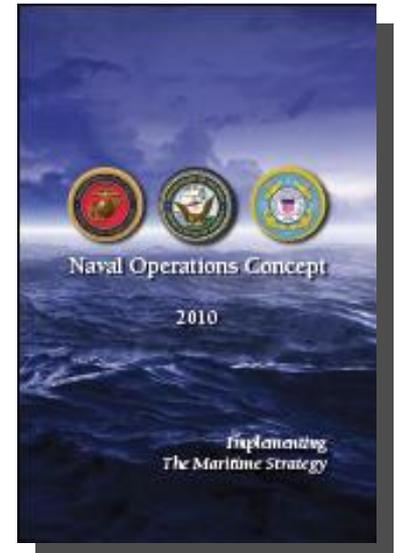


- **Purpose:**

- NOC 10 “describes when, where and how U.S. naval forces will contribute to enhancing security, preventing conflict and prevailing in war in order to guide Maritime Strategy implementation in a manner consistent with national strategy.”
- NOC 10 describes the *ways* and *means* with which the sea services will achieve the *ends* articulated in *A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower*.”

- **Significance:**

- Expands on the idea of “**operational maneuver from the sea**” (OMFTS)
- Calls for closer integration of naval capabilities.
- Explains sea control is often thought of as a prerequisite for power projection but power projection—to include amphibious operations—*may be required to achieve sea control*.
- “Sea control is the essence of seapower—it allows naval forces to close within striking distance of land to neutralize land-based threats to maritime access, which in turn enhances freedom of action at sea and the resulting ability to project power ashore.”
- “The Naval Service employs a combined-arms approach to achieve sea control” integrating “sea, air, land, space, cyberspace, and information operation capabilities”



Will likely be revisited following revision to the maritime strategy.

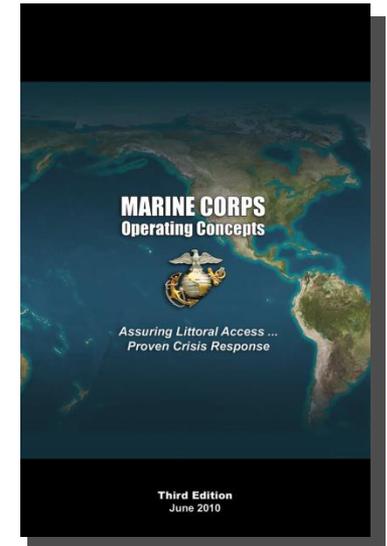


Marine Corps Operating Concepts 3rd Edition (MOC 3)

Signed by CNO, CMC & CCG in June 2010



- Signed by DC, CD&I, June 2010.
- Purpose: Articulate our strategic concept—
 - “Often thought of exclusively as an amphibious *assault* force, the period 1942-1945 was the only time in our history the Marine Corps was organized, trained, and equipped for that one mission and did only that one mission.”
 - “The Marine Corps is organized, trained, and equipped to operate at and from the sea as part of the naval team to...*engage* with a wide set of partners in order to build capability, forge solid relationships across cultural barriers, and promote diplomatic access...*respond* to crises—either natural or man-made...*project* power—either “soft” or “hard” as the situation requires—at and from the sea. Collectively, these Marine Corps capabilities contribute to *preventing* conflict, *protecting* national interests, and assuring overseas access that will enable the United States to *prevail* in a conflict.”
- Significance:
 - Developed in tandem with NOC 10, the MOC describes who we are and how and where the Marine Corps will operate in order to guide capability development.
 - Defines the terms: ***naval maneuver***, ***littoral maneuver***, and ***naval movement***.
 - Activities and documents influenced by the MOC include, for example, the POM development process and MCDP 1-0, *Marine Corps Operations*.





Ship-to-Objective Maneuver, 2011

Signed by DC CD&I, May 2011



- **Signed by DC, CD&I, May 2011.**
- **Purpose: Explain how STOM applies across the range of military operations.**
 - The 1997 edition “offered a method for conducting an amphibious assault from over the horizon to achieve operational objectives deep inland, while avoiding the establishment of an ‘iron mountain’ of logistics at the beachhead.”
 - This new edition expands on that idea to explain how STOM has utility “in future uncertain, complex, and often austere environments where access cannot easily be assured” in order to “think through implications and combat development actions necessary to improve upon this capability.”
- **Significance. The updated STOM concept reinforces the utility of amphibious forces for the range of military operations and seeks to counter the common misperception that amphibious operations equate to a frontal attack against a fortified position.**



Note: The terms OMFTS, STOM, naval maneuver, littoral maneuver, and naval movement have been formalized into Service doctrine.

See MCDP 1-0, *Marine Corps Operations*, 9 Aug 2011, pages 2-20 to 2-23.



Today's concepts reflect the evolution of amphibious capabilities since 1945...



Photo # NH 104136 Map of Japanese defense installations on Iwo Jima, 1945

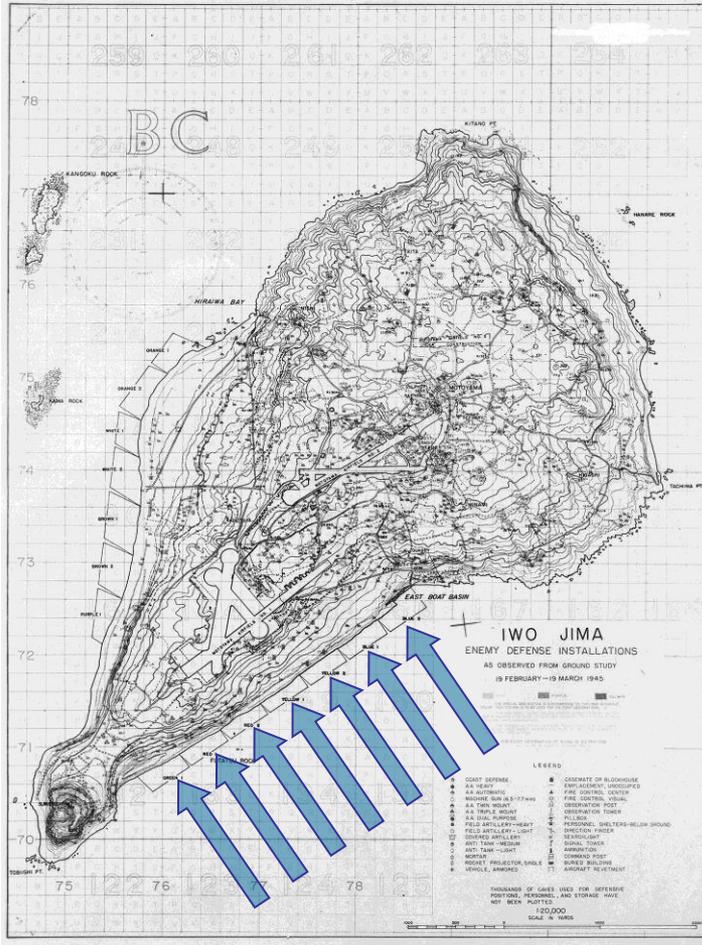


Photo # 80-G-415308 (cropped) First landings on Iwo Jima, 19 February 1945





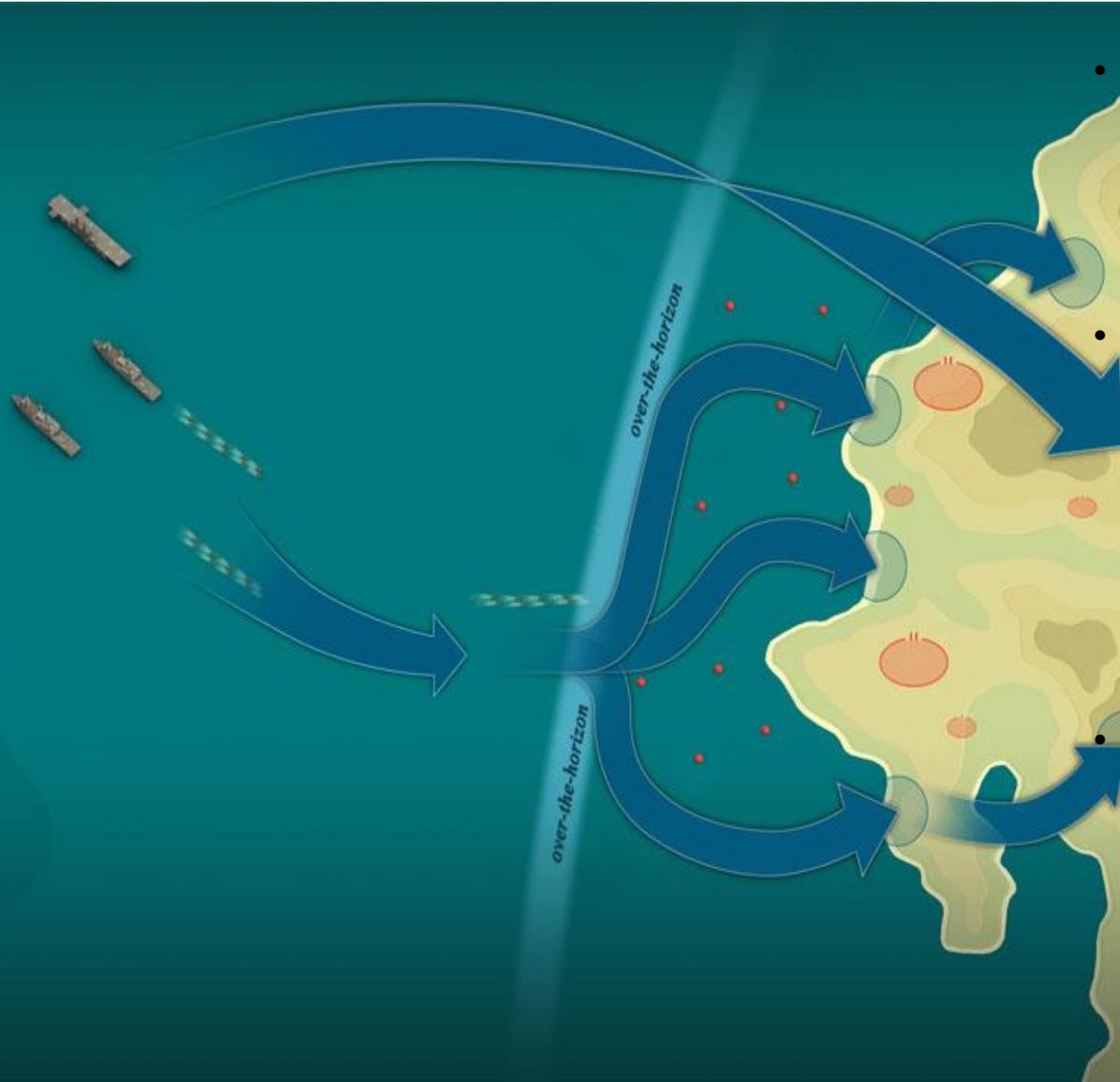
...incorporating vertical envelopment, dispersed operations and STOM...



- **MajGen A. A. Vandergrift, 1943:** “...landings should not be attempted in the face of organized resistance if, by any combination of march or maneuver, it is possible to **land unopposed within striking distance of the objective.**”
- **“The New Concept”—vertical envelopment, 1948:** “...a landing force that could be launched from ships **widely dispersed and underway miles offshore.**”
- **Hogaboom Board, 1956:** “...the Board concluded that its precept required it to develop and recommend an organizational structure for the Fleet Marine Force which would facilitate and be consistent with the requirement for **the projection of seapower ashore at any selected point on the world littoral without the necessity of direct assault on the intervening shoreline.**” Requires a combination of vertical and surface maneuver.
- **Ship to Objective Maneuver, 1997:** “...leverage the advantages of **emerging technologies** to develop greater capabilities for our amphibious operations, operations characterized by **extraordinary mobility and flexibility, that are able to be executed in depth.**”
- **Ship to Objective Maneuver, 2011:** “This revised concept discusses the utility of STOM in **all missions—including major combat operations. It should be viewed as the next step in the Marine Corps’ development of littoral maneuver...**”



The “Big Idea”—*Littoral Maneuver*



- Neutralize anti-access / area denial threats for the location & duration required to establish “moving umbrellas of domain superiority” over littoral maneuver forces.
- **Initiate littoral maneuver from OTH:**
 - Numerous vertical & surface elements;
 - Enter the objective area via multiple, distributed points;
 - Avoid defenses, obstacles, establishing a static beachhead & presenting a concentrated, lucrative target.
- **Littoral maneuver may be employed:**
 - To neutralize land-based threats to access;
 - Directly against inland objectives to accomplish the mission singly;
 - To seize infrastructure or lodgments which will enable the arrival of follow-on forces.