



EXPEDITIONARY FORCE 21

MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE Informational Overview



***FORWARD and READY:
Now and in the Future***



FOREWORD

The Marine Corps is our nation's premier Expeditionary Force in Readiness; as such the Corps employs scalable Marine Air Ground Task Forces (MAGTFs) to support the Geographic Combatant Commander's (GCC) operational requirements. As part of a joint naval force, the Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) is designed to ensure the GCC has the right size force, at the right place, and at the right time.



The 21st century is characterized by global security challenges from intra-state instability to violent extremism, and piracy to natural / man-made disasters. Our nation's critical link in the globalized economy depends on free and open sea lanes, which may be seen as Anti-Access / Area Denial (A2/AD) focus areas by potential adversaries.

Maritime superiority requires the MAGTF to operate in the littorals by integrating efforts with the Navy while optimizing the Seabase. To meet the demands of the GCCs, we are establishing three Marine Expeditionary Brigades (MEBs) as the principal MAGTF to respond to crises or contingencies across the ROMO. Each MEB is general officer-led with a combined joint task force capable command element. To realize the vision of Expeditionary Force 21, this document outlines our centerpiece capability: forward, ready, scalable MEBs with regional expertise at sea, while leading the forward edge of the joint force.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kenneth J. Glueck, Jr." in a cursive style.

Kenneth J. Glueck, Jr.
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General



MARINE AIR-GROUND TASK FORCE (MAGTF)

Marine Corps and Naval component commanders normally task-organize for operations by forming MAGTFs—balanced, air-ground, combined arms formations under a single commander. The commander leads and coordinates this combined-arms team through all phases of pre-deployment training, deployment, and employment. MAGTF compositions will be tailored depending on the mission, but a MAGTF organizational structure will always include the following four elements:



There are four standing MAGTFs which form the basis of task organization for any crisis or contingency. From largest to smallest they are:

- Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF)
- Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB)
- Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU)
- Special Purpose MAGTF (SPMAGTF)

For several decades, the Marine Corps' capability and capacity development efforts were focused on enhancing the ability of our largest MAGTF, the MEF, to conduct major operations and

campaigns. The ability to conduct security cooperation activities and crisis response was generally derived from capabilities designed for major combat operations. However, the current and projected security environment requires a reshaping of the force to meet the growing demand for steady-state security cooperation activities and crisis response, without forfeiting our



ability to fight as a decisive force in any large conflict or enduring war. Based on the proven concepts of OMFTS, STOM, Seabasing, and Expeditionary Force 21, the MEB is to be the primary, most flexible, and scalable MAGTF for operations across the ROMO in the 21st century.



MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (MEF)

There are three standing MEFs, each built around a Marine Division as the GCE, a Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW) as the ACE, and a Marine Logistics Group (MLG) as the LCE. The overall MEF posture will evolve from three to two operational standing MEF CEs and one non-deployable HQ that are sufficient to support our national strategy. Each MEF is commanded by a Lieutenant General and are located at the following:

- I MEF: Camp Pendleton
- II MEF: Camp Lejeune (Non-deployable; Commanded by a Major General)
- III MEF: Okinawa, Japan



MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE (MEB)

The MEB is the “middle weight” MAGTF and is scalable based on the mission requirements of the GCC and the intensity of the operations. The MEB is a general officer-led MAGTF built around a Regimental Landing Team (RLT) as the GCE, a Marine Air Group (MAG) as the ACE, and a Combat Logistics Regiment (CLR) as the LCE. The MEB will conduct planning and exercise command and control (C2) of forces conducting steady-state activities, responding to crises or contingencies, and forcible entry operations. The MEB is organized and equipped to exercise C2 of joint and multi-national task forces, enable the MEF for larger

CJTF operations, or integrate with the Navy to conduct amphibious operations. MEB CEs will also function as the MEF Forward (Fwd), providing an additional CE option for the MEF, which was proven in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) over the last decade. Another characteristic is the ability to composite forward and merge rapidly deploying Marine Corps forces into a cohesive, agile MAGTF scaled to the mission. This will make the MEBs the centerpiece of an expeditionary force in readiness prepared for immediate, effective employment in any type of crisis or conflict.



MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT (MEU)

The MEUs and their associated Amphibious Ready Groups (ARGs) will continue to provide forward presence in key regions through a combination of forward basing and rotational deployments. The MEU’s strength is its ability to respond to crises as an integrated

“The Marine Corps will remain an expeditionary force in readiness, forward deployed to deter conflict, assure allies and partners, and respond to crises around the world.”

QDR 2014



MAGTF built around a reinforced infantry battalion (BN) as the GCE, a Marine composite squadron (reinforced) as the ACE, and Combat Logistics Battalion (CLB) as the LCE. MEUs may operate in a disaggregated or split manner. This will include appropriate C2 assets and arrangements to accomplish a wider range of steady-state security activities as well as provide an immediate response to emergencies and episodic crises. MEUs are able to composite with other forward forces to provide the foundation of a MEB or perform contingency operations.



SPECIAL PURPOSE MAGTF (SPMAGTF)

SPMAGTFs are uniquely task organized to offer GCCs a specifically tailored MAGTF, generating greater capacity for forward presence in more locations. Based on GCC requirements, these organizations are tailored appropriately to conduct security cooperation activities with partner nations in order to develop interoperability, facilitate access, build defense and security relationships, gain regional understanding, and position for immediate response to episodic crises.

“As the Nation’s Expeditionary Force in Readiness, we are and will continue to be heavily engaged around the world.”

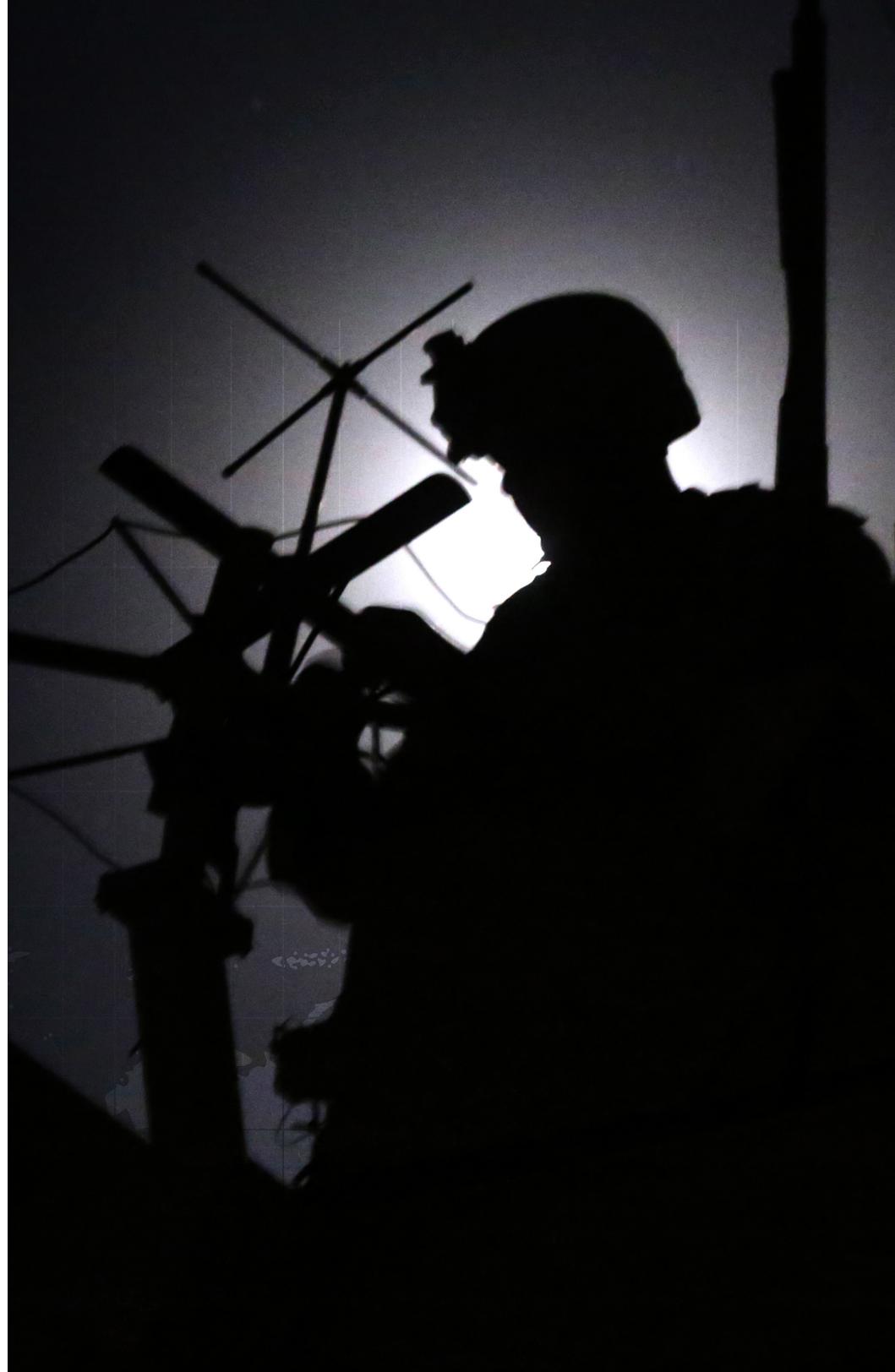
General James E. Amos



COMMAND STRUCTURE

In order to provide better C2 and unity of command, afloat Marine Corps forces normally operate as part of larger naval task forces under a Joint Force Maritime Component Commander (JFMCC) or fleet commander. Marine Corps component commanders will coordinate with Navy and Coast Guard counterparts to integrate resources and plans to produce more effective and efficient maritime force packages, focusing on unity of effort and flexibility for the GCC.

When participating in a joint or combined force during a major regional contingency, it will normally be necessary to form a separate Marine component headquarters, in addition to a MAGTF CE. These headquarters are usually formed by a deployable component headquarters, augmented by a standing battle roster. It will focus on service requirements and joint / combined coordinating responsibilities. For crisis response and limited contingency operations, when a MAGTF functions operationally under a CJTF, the MAGTF commander may also assume the responsibilities of the Marine component commander. If the MAGTF is an element of a naval component, the MAGTF commander will provide representation to the component commander's staff.



The commander's problem framing, intent, and directions to subordinate commanders provide the framework for unity of effort and decentralized execution. Commanders ensure assigned MAGTFs maintain an appropriate and interoperable command, control, communication, computer, and intelligence (C4I) capability, including designated equipment and personnel identified and trained for employment on combined or joint staffs. Establishment of a single CE over ground, aviation, and logistics combat elements provides the C4I and interoperability essential for effective planning and execution of operations.

“The American people will surely continue to expect – and the world will count on – Marines to be the leading edge of humanitarian relief and disaster recovery operations.”

General James E. Amos



MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE (MEB)

MEB MISSION

On order, the MEB provides a rapidly deployable and CJTF-capable CE with task-organized air-ground forces that are composited from forward-deployed and/or rapidly deployable forces in order to fulfill GCC operational requirements.

MEBs will often be formed in stride by forward deployed forces under a general officer-led MEB CE. Examples of this are the opening of OEF and entry operations by Task Force 58, as well as during relief operations in Haiti during 2010, where two ARG/MEUs composited to form a MEB. Furthermore, we have recently shown the ability of a CJTF-capable CE to deploy rapidly and command disparate composited forces during initial operations to resolve crises and relieve suffering in the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, as well as in the Phillipines after Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

The relevancy of the MEB is directly related to its ability to rapidly respond and meet the GCC's operational requirements with a special focus on crisis response. The MEB's ability to rapidly composite forces forward and project power to defeat adversaries enhances the strategic agility and operational reach of the naval enterprise. Because of the MEB's flexibility, no two MEBs will look alike.

MEB CEs will maintain situational awareness within their designated AORs in close coordination with the respective regional MARFOR, naval forces, special operation forces, and GCC staffs. When crises arise, the initial response force will likely consist





of a forward ARG/MEU and / or SPMAGTF. For those crises that require a larger response, the MEB CE will rapidly deploy by air to a forward location either afloat or ashore to assume command of Marine Corps forces already present, as well as follow-on forces. Follow-on forces may include a MEU or continental United States (CONUS)-based crisis response task forces. MEB CEs will provide a contributing portion of an integrated naval headquarters or provide the nucleus of a CJTF headquarters. In the event of major operations and campaigns, one or more MEBs may conduct forcible entry or decisive offensive operations.

MEB ESSENTIAL TASK LIST

Forcible Entry and Expeditionary Operations:

- Conduct Amphibious Operations
- Conduct Prepositioning Operations

Contingency Response:

- Conduct Maneuver
- Employ Firepower

Respond Rapidly to Crisis:

- Conduct Crisis Response
- Conduct Noncombatant Evacuation Operations
- Conduct Humanitarian Assistance
- Provide Security

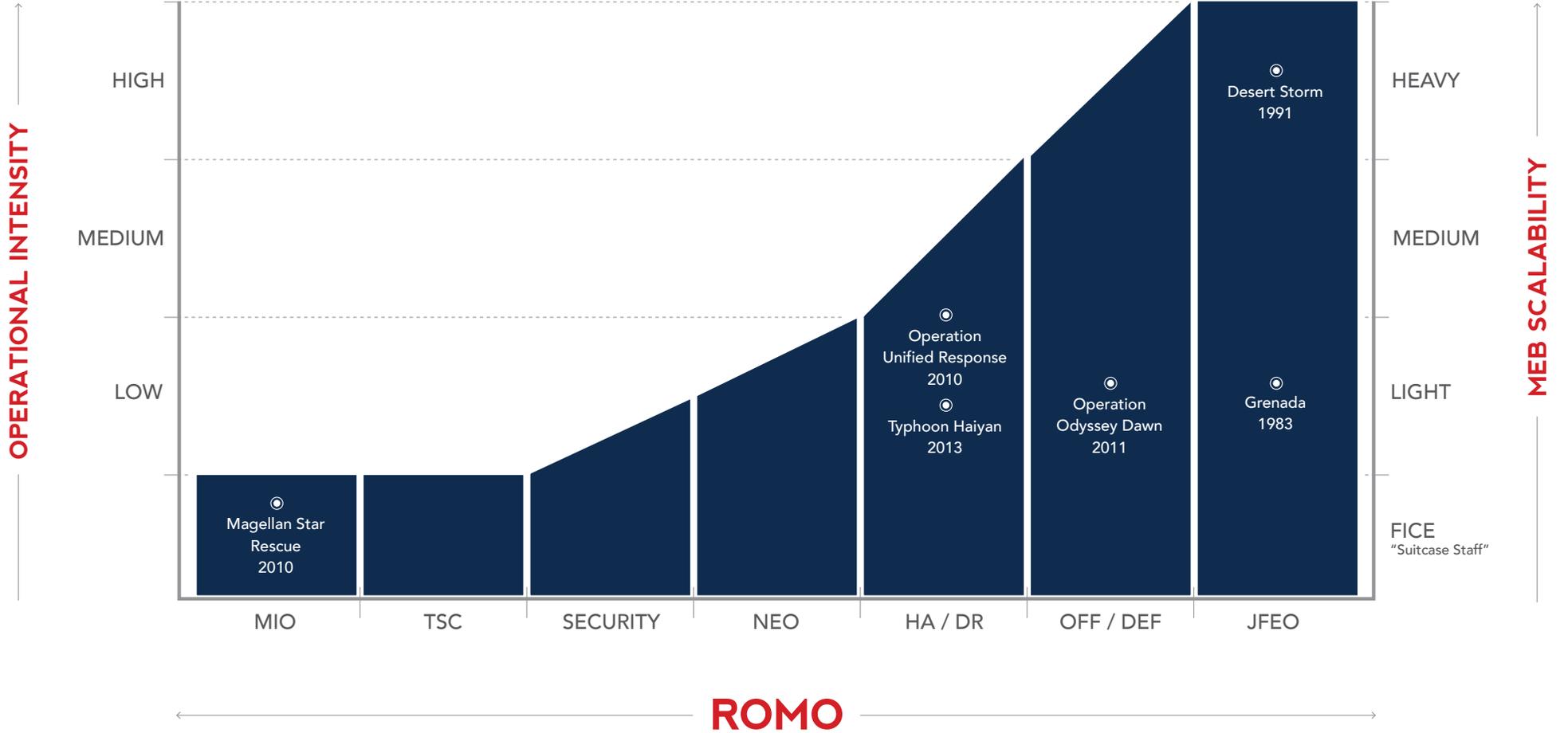
Facilitate Follow-on Joint and Combined Forces:

- Conduct Joint and Combined Operations

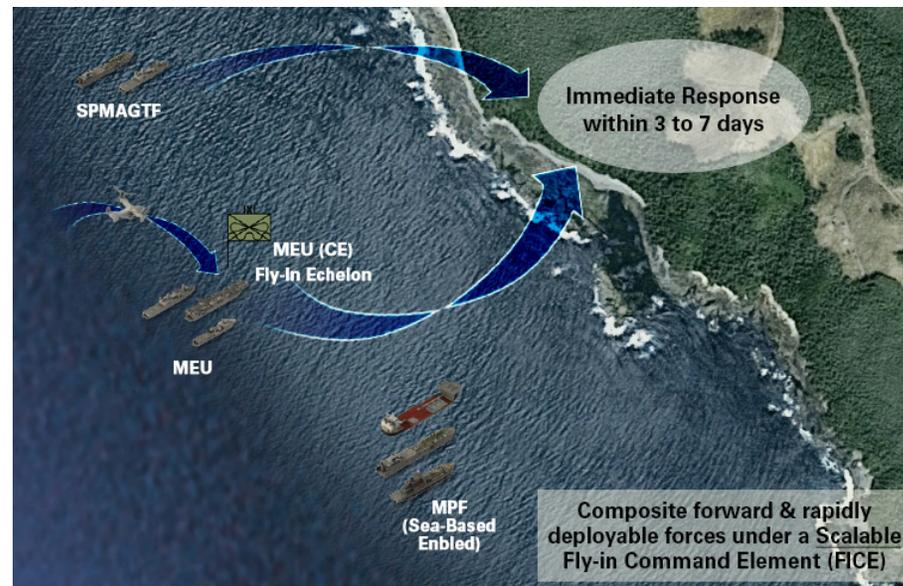
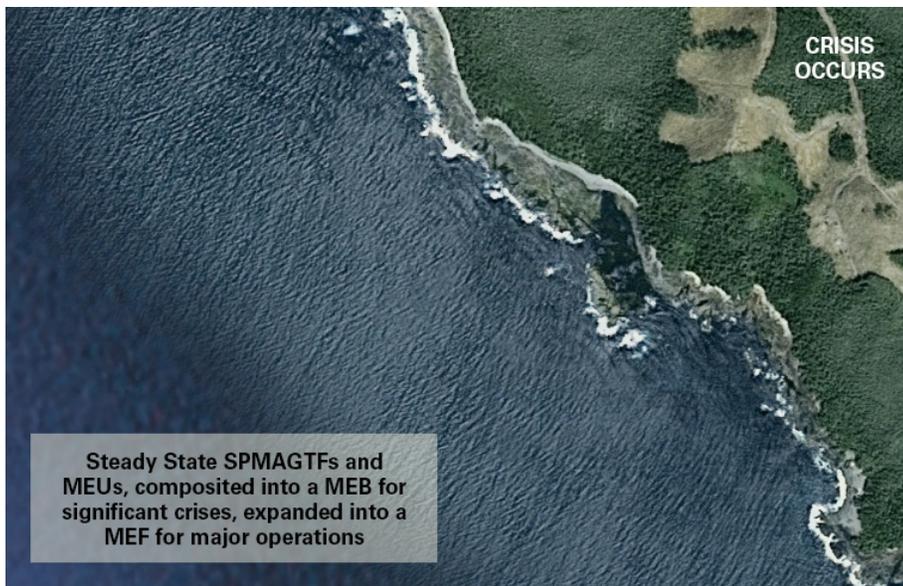
Conduct Steady State Stability Operations:

- Conduct Stability Operations

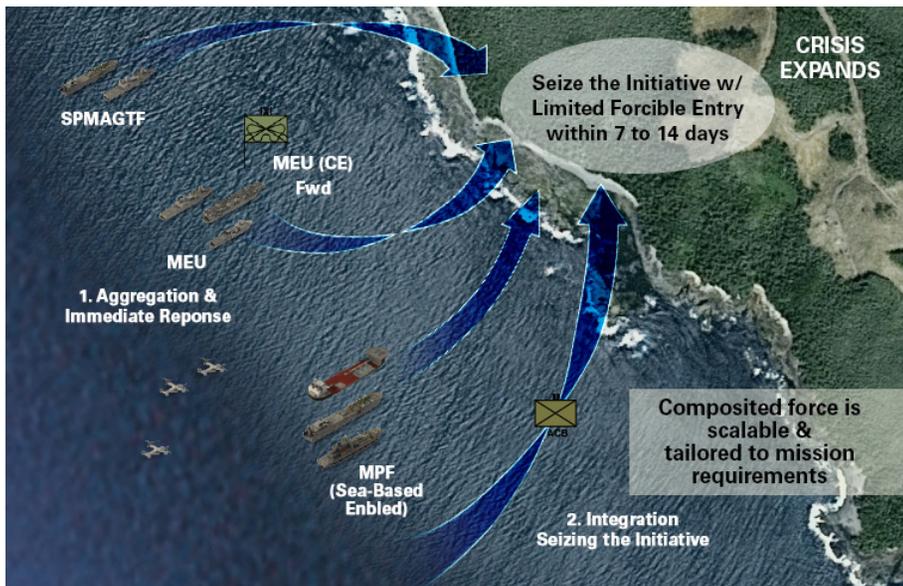
Perform Logistics and Combat Service Support



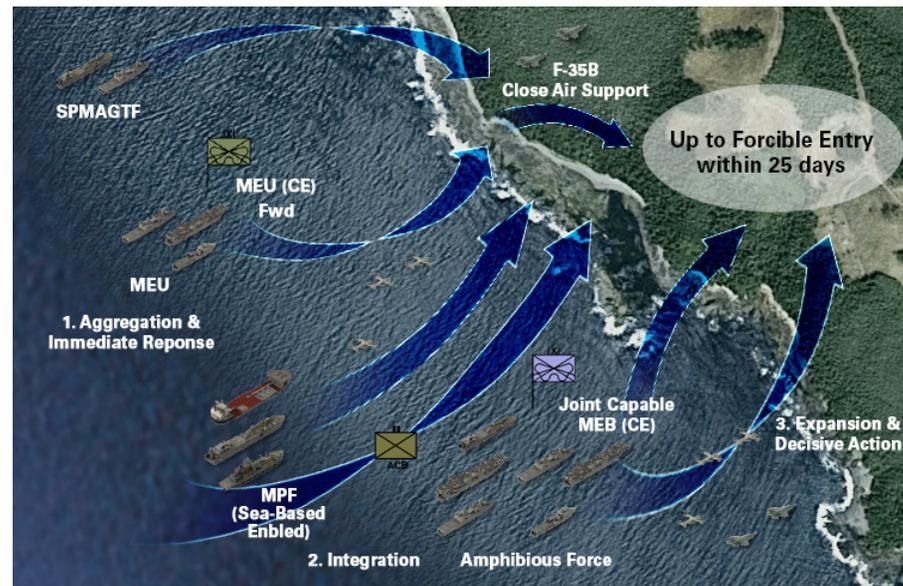
MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE (MEB) // DEPLOYING & COMPOSITING THE MEB



LOW INTENSITY OPERATION



MEDIUM INTENSITY OPERATION

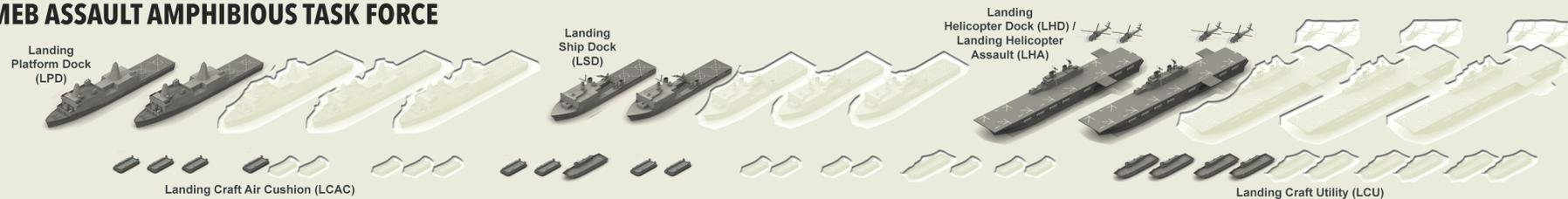


HIGH INTENSITY OPERATION

MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE (MEB) // DEPLOYING & COMPOSITING THE MEB

Note: This laydown is intended to be an example and is scalable / tailorable based on mission requirements and the needs of the GCC.

MEB ASSAULT AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE

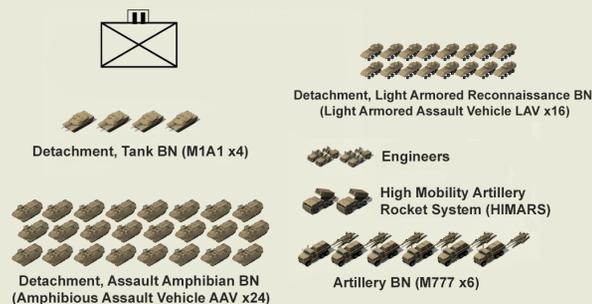


EXAMPLE MEB WHEN SCALED / COMPOSITED FOR LOW INTENSITY OPERATIONS

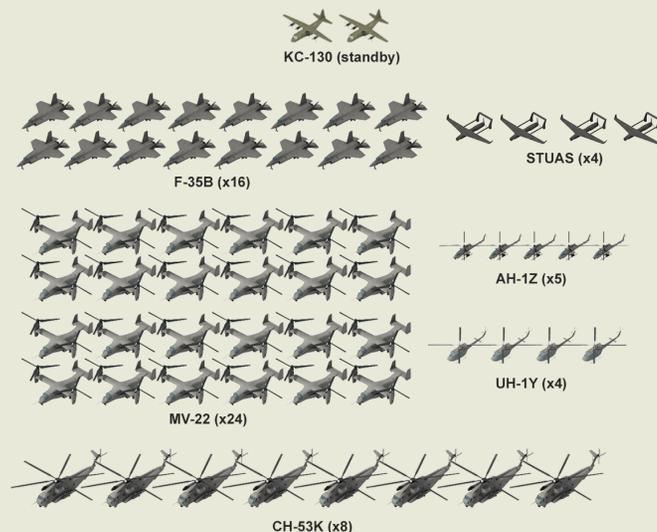
FLY-IN COMMAND ELEMENT (FICE)



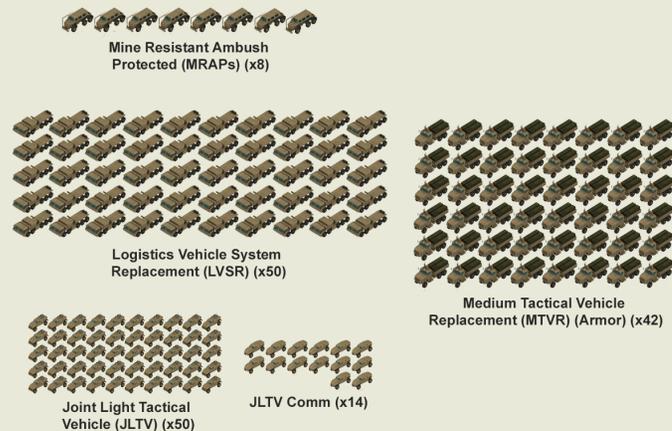
GROUND COMBAT ELEMENT



AVIATION COMBAT ELEMENT



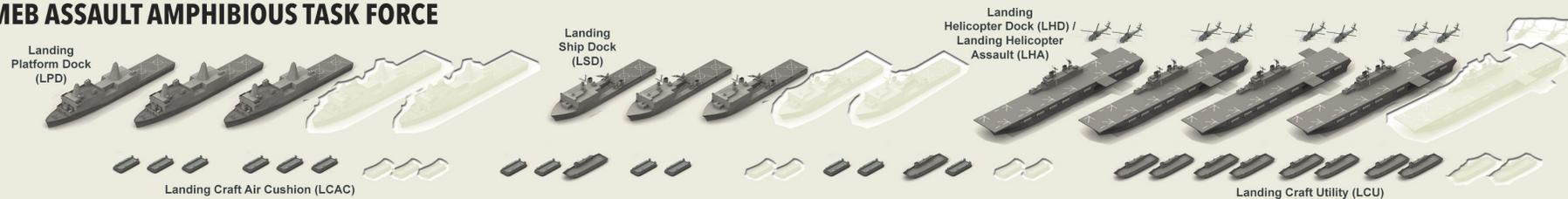
LOGISTICS COMBAT ELEMENT



MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE (MEB) // DEPLOYING & COMPOSITING THE MEB

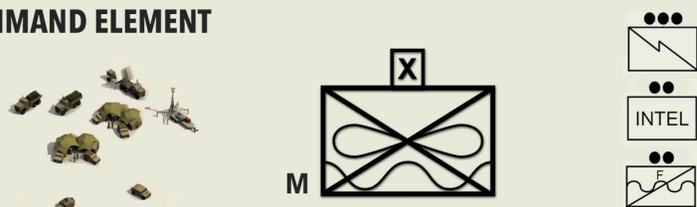
Note: This laydown is intended to be an example and is scalable / tailorable based on mission requirements and the needs of the GCC.

MEB ASSAULT AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE

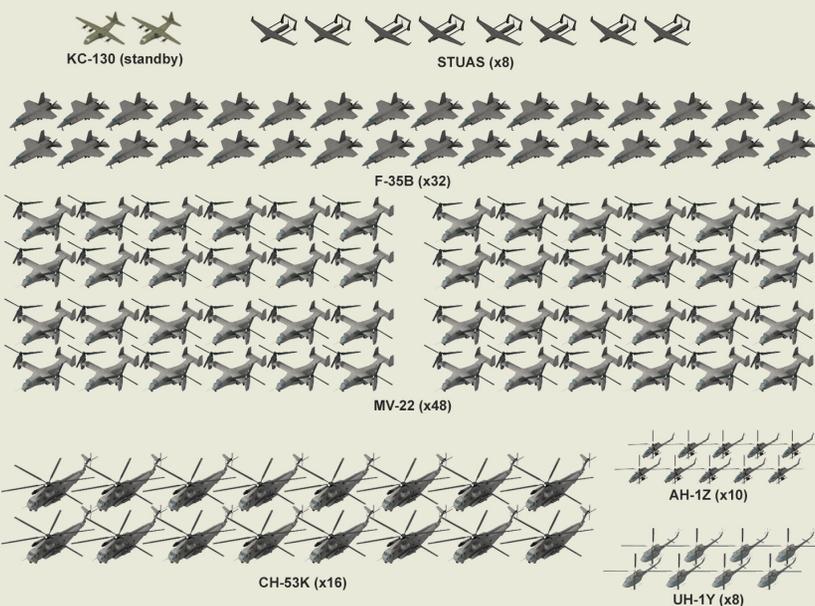


EXAMPLE MEB WHEN SCALED / COMPOSITED FOR MEDIUM INTENSITY OPERATIONS

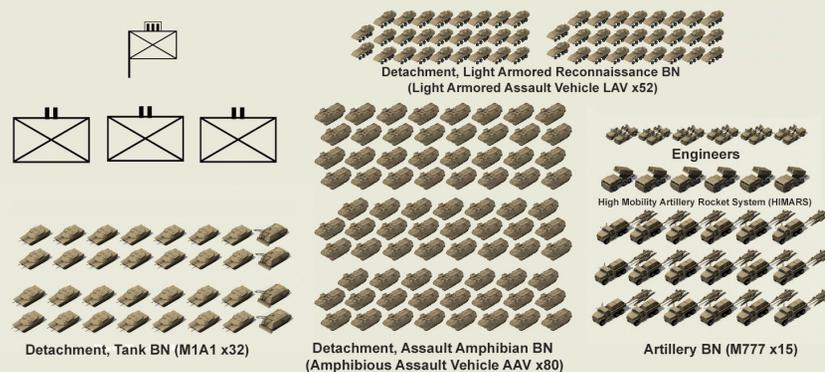
COMMAND ELEMENT



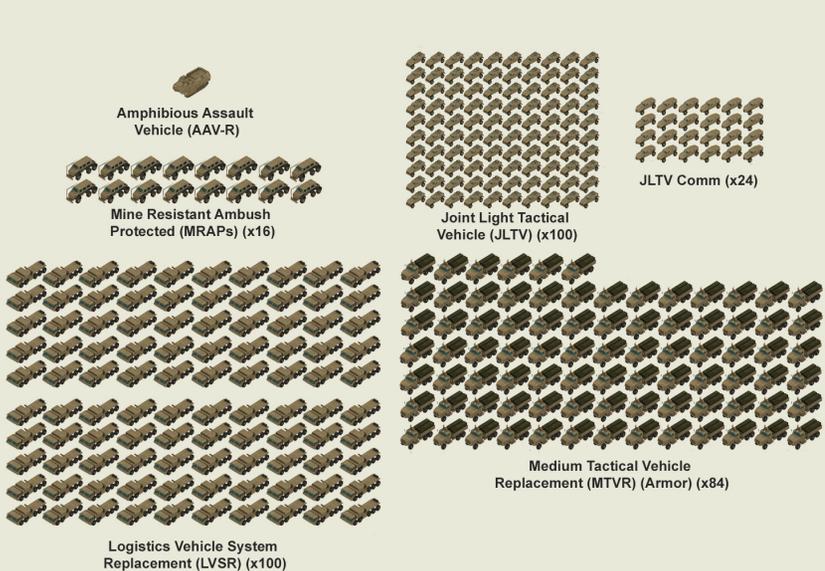
AVIATION COMBAT ELEMENT



GROUND COMBAT ELEMENT



LOGISTICS COMBAT ELEMENT

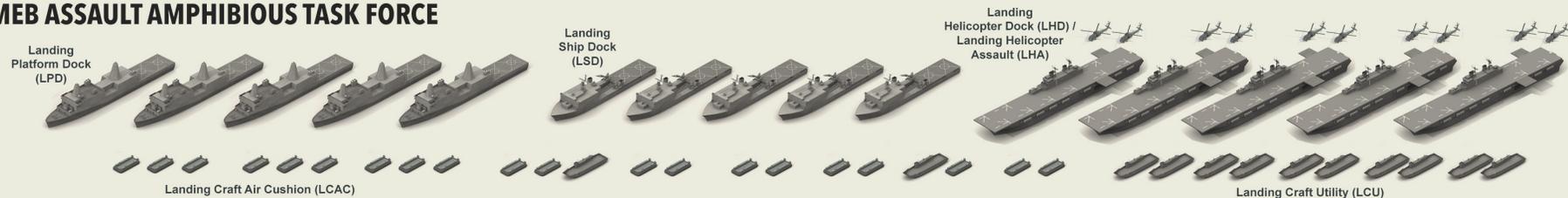


MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE (MEB) // DEPLOYING & COMPOSITING THE MEB

(MEB BASELINE = 15,292)

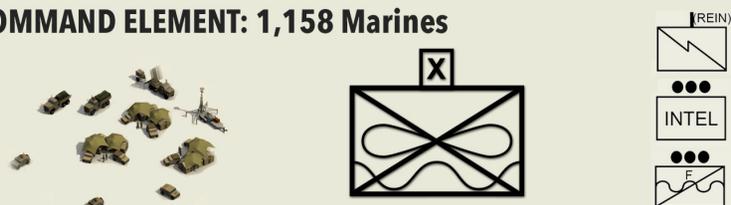
Note: This laydown is intended to be an example and is scalable / tailorable based on mission requirements and the needs of the GCC.

MEB ASSAULT AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE

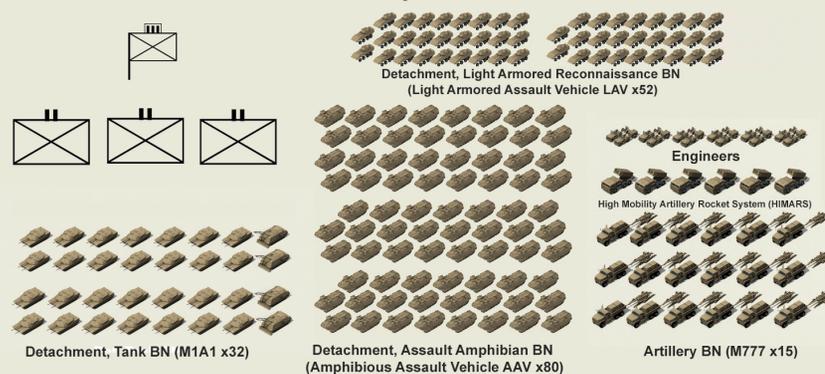


EXAMPLE MEB WHEN SCALED / COMPOSITED FOR HIGH INTENSITY OPERATIONS

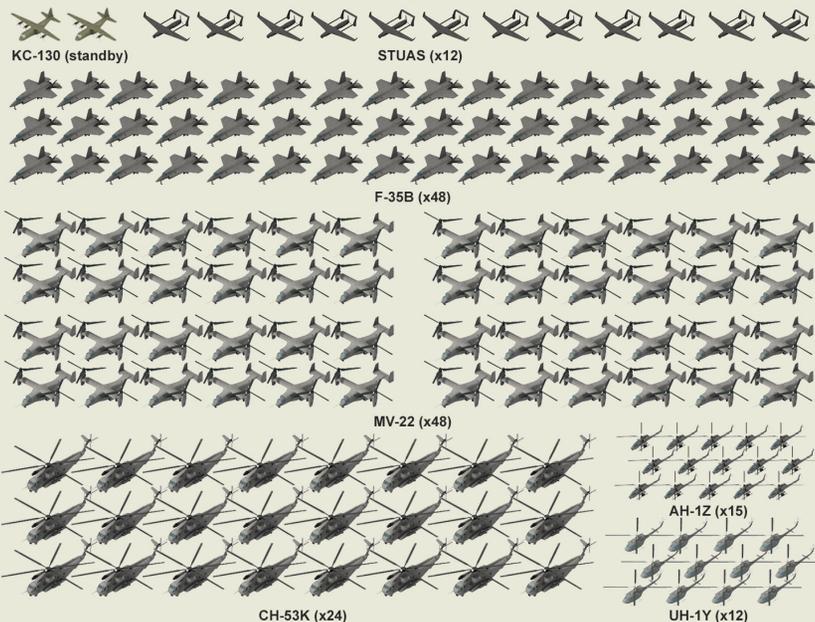
COMMAND ELEMENT: 1,158 Marines



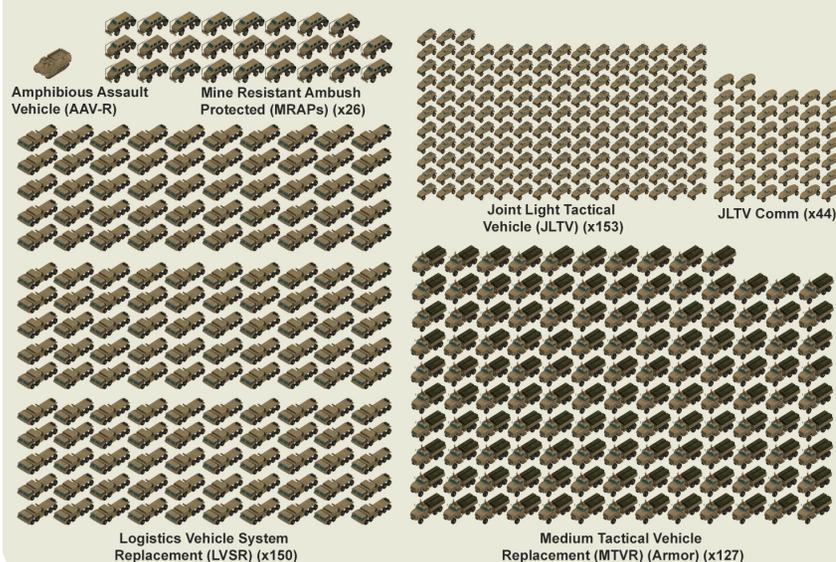
GROUND COMBAT ELEMENT: 5,842 Marines



AVIATION COMBAT ELEMENT: 5,560 Marines



LOGISTICS COMBAT ELEMENT: 2,732 Marines

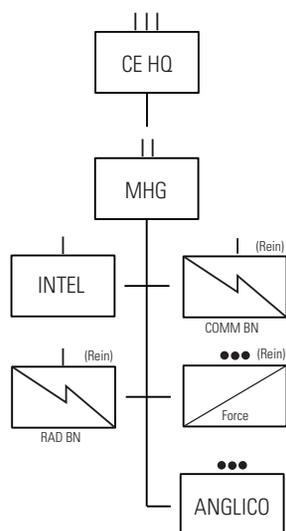


MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE (MEB) // MEB CE, GCE, ACE, & LCE



MEB CE

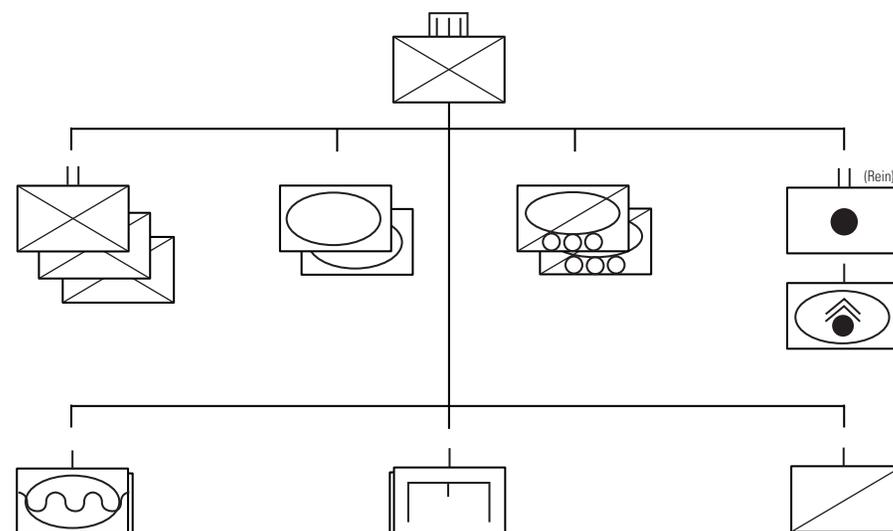
MEB CEs, scalable from an initial "Suitcase Staff" to a full MEB CE staff, are capable of providing the headquarters for a CJTF or to be the initial CE capable of scaling up to a MEF, or MEF (Fwd) if necessary. An additional capability of MEB CEs is that they can be seabased with Over the Horizon (OTH) communications and reach back, resulting in a smaller signature / footprint ashore that does not need to transition command ashore to execute missions.



MEB COMMAND ELEMENT

MEB GCE

The MEB GCE is a reinforced infantry regiment organized to exploit any situation decisively. The advantage of the MEB GCE is that it provides mobility / maneuverability, speed, and sufficient combat power for increased Operations Tempo (OPTEMPO). When task-organized for GCE purposes, the MEB can achieve an OPTEMPO consistent with OMFTS/STOM by employing Armor, Assault Amphibian, Combat Engineers, Ground Reconnaissance, Light Armored Reconnaissance, Rocket Artillery, and Tube Artillery assets.



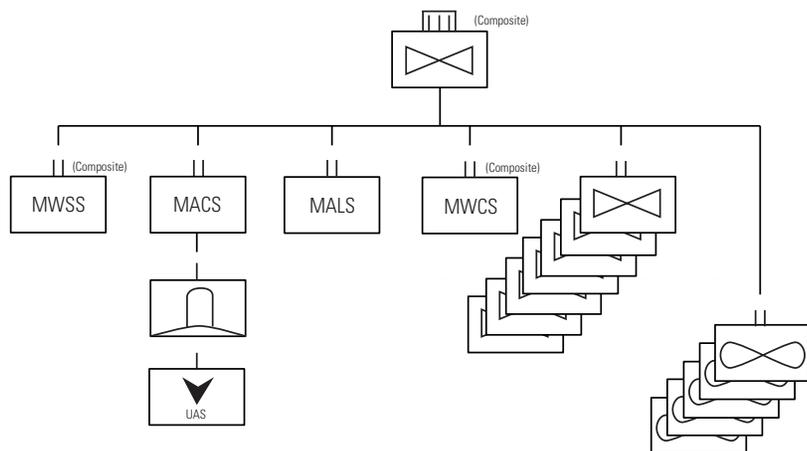
MEB GROUND COMBAT ELEMENT

MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE (MEB) // MEB CE, GCE, ACE, & LCE

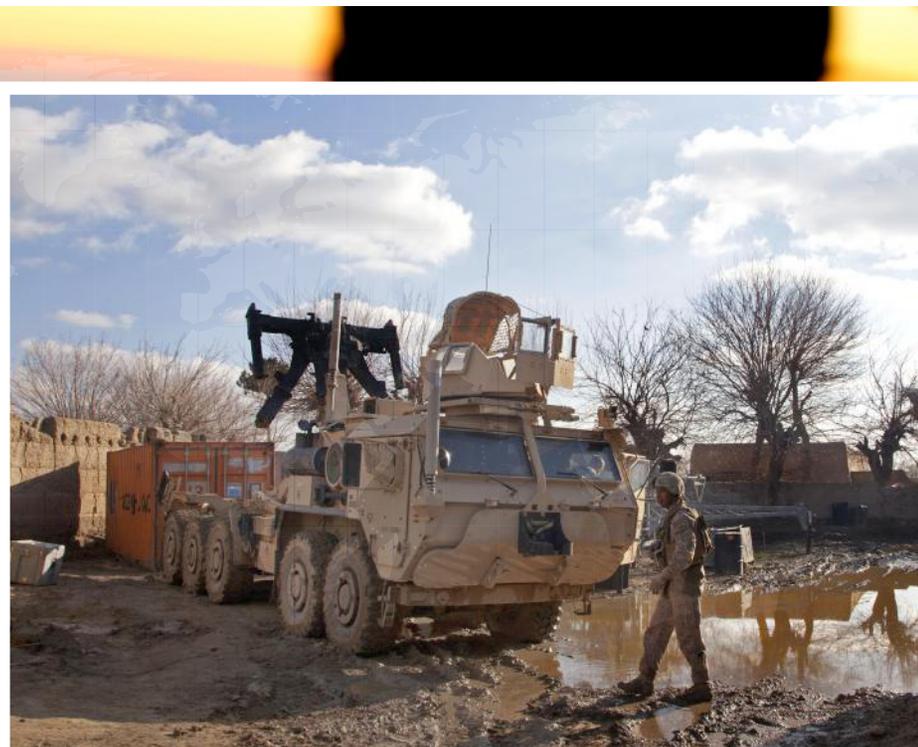


MEB ACE

The ACE is a composite / reinforced MAG. This composite group possesses a wide variety of aviation capabilities, providing the MAGTF commander the ability to mass decisive aviation fires at any time and place in the area of operations. Unlike the ACE of the smaller MEU, the entire ACE of a MEB is usually organized to operate forward and in close proximity to the objective area from expeditionary airfields, while also providing its own security. A task-organized MEB ACE supports the GCE to achieve the increased OPTEMPO implicit in OMFTS/STOM. It offers the capability of greater assault support lift at increased ranges with more reliance on organic fires and an increased role in combat service support.

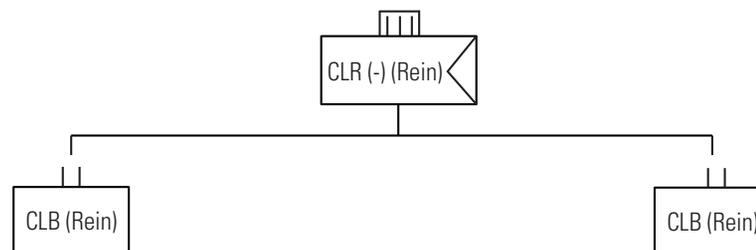


MEB AVIATION COMBAT ELEMENT



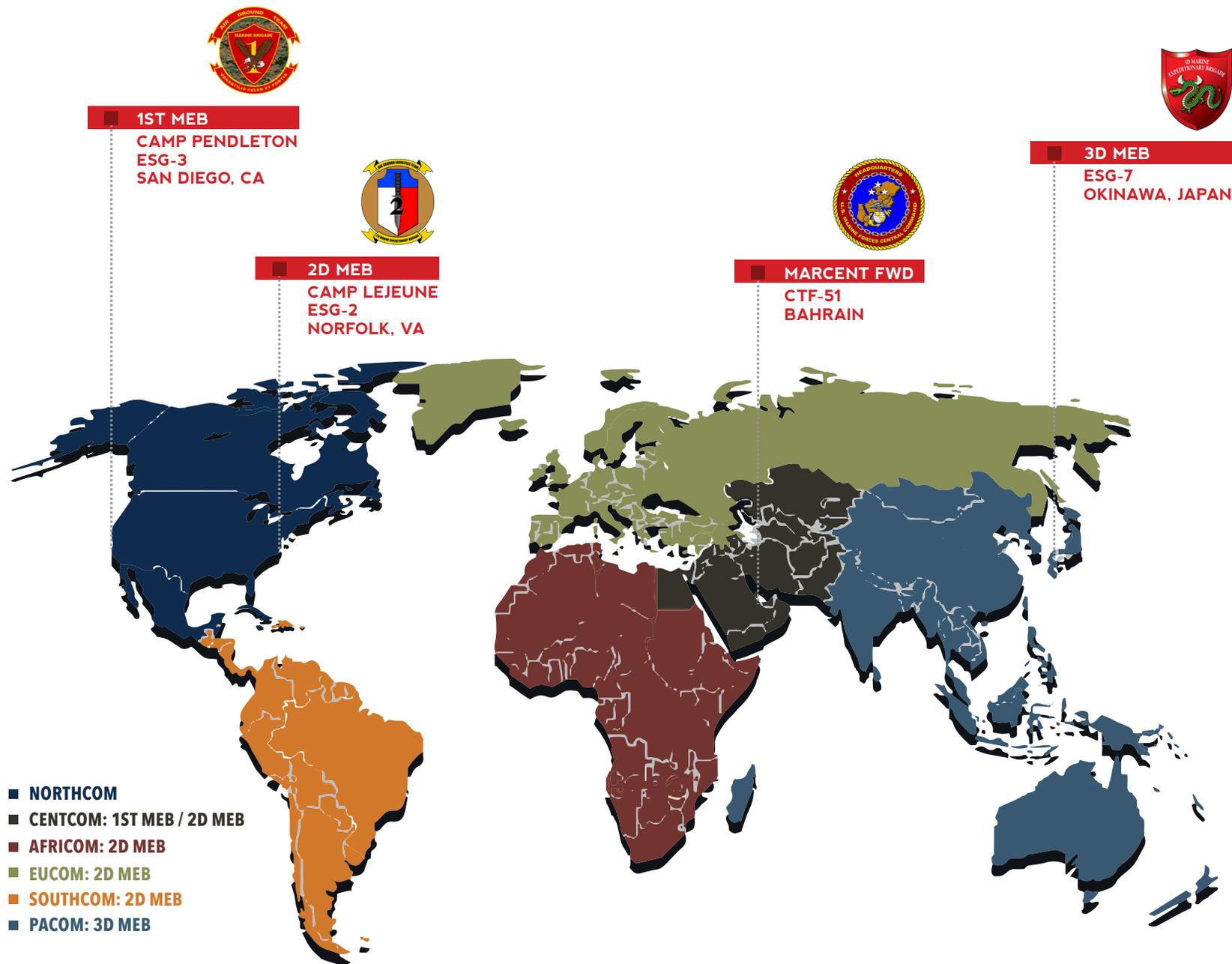
MEB LCE

The LCE of a MEB is a CLR that is task-organized from the organic battalions of an MLG and is able to provide its own security. The CLR is able to perform all the functions of Marine Corps Logistics including: engineer support, landing support, aerial delivery, medical, dental, maintenance and motor transport.



MEB LOGISTICS COMBAT ELEMENT

MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE (MEB) // LOCATIONS & ORIENTATION



1st MEB is embedded within I MEF and is regionally oriented to US Central Command (CENTCOM) and supports the Global Response Force (GRF).

2D MEB is a standing CE located in Camp Lejeune, NC and regionally oriented on U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) and U.S. European Command (EUCOM), and also support the GRF.

MARCENT Forward (FWD) is a MEB - like command capable of becoming a MEB CE to achieve GCC objectives.

3D MEB is a standing CE located in Okinawa, Japan and is regionally oriented to US Pacific Command (PACOM).

