
Componency



U.S. Marine Corps

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7 FOREWORD
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9 Marine Corps Warfighting Publication (MCWP) 3-40.8, *Componency*, addresses the fundamental
10 principles of Marine Corps componency. It deals with the Marine Corps component under a combatant
11 command; the role of the Marine Corps component commander and staff; and the relationship of the
12 Marine Corps component commander with the combatant commander, other Service component
13 commanders, and the Marine air-ground task force commander. It describes the role of the Marine Corps
14 Service component in a joint task force and at the combatant command level. It discusses how a Marine
15 Corps component headquarters supports a joint force commander (JFC) during joint operations and
16 clarifies the roles, functions, and command relationships of the Marine Corps component. It further
17 discusses the role of the Marine Corps Reserve within the Marine Corps' total force concept. Lastly, it
18 delineates the functions of a Marine Corps component throughout the phases of an expeditionary
19 campaign.
20

21 MCWP 3-40.8 represents the changes in warfighting doctrine and the Unified Command Plan that have
22 evolved since our Nation was attacked by terrorists on 11 September 2001. It provides guidance for
23 commanders and their staffs of Marine Corps components and major subordinate commands. It also
24 provides information for the Joint Staff, JFCs and their staffs, and other Service components on how
25 Marine Corps components will support the joint force. Included are descriptions of command
26 relationships and the service support functions performed by Marine Corps component headquarters. The
27 roles and functions described herein provide an understanding of how the Marine Corps will support the
28 JFC.
29

30 BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
31

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33
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45 Throughout this publication, masculine nouns and pronouns are used for the sake of simplicity. Except
46 where otherwise noted, these nouns and pronouns apply to either gender.
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Chapter 1

Fundamentals

“The role of component commanders in a joint force merits special attention. Component commanders are first expected to orchestrate the activity of their own forces, branches, and warfare communities . In addition, they must understand how their own capabilities best integrate into the overall design to most effectively satisfy the JFC’s intent.”¹

—JP 1, *Joint Warfare of the Armed Forces of the United States*

Service componency is a concept vital to the Marine Corps’ future operational success and to our continued visibility as an institution. The Marine Corps must consistently demonstrate its full commitment to componency and to providing the support required to make componency viable.²

LtGen Jefferson Davis Howell & LtCol Kerry K. Gershanenck, USMC (Ret)
Marine Corps Gazette, February 1997

Since 1775, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) has conducted military operations around the globe with forces from other Services and other nations to achieve our Nation’s strategic objectives. Combining the strengths and abilities of Marine Corps forces with forces from other Services and nations has resulted in a more effective military force. This synergy has allowed our Nation and its allies to enjoy worldwide success.

The Marine Corps’ operational forces are typically organized as Marine air-ground task forces (MAGTFs) and are employed either as Fleet Marine Forces in a Navy numbered fleet or as a component of a joint or combined force. To better support present and future joint military operations, the Marine Corps has established Marine Corps components in support of combatant commands and certain subunified commands. The Marine Corps creates components for other subunified commands and joint task forces as needed.

AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Before the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986, the Fleet Marine Forces provided MAGTFs to the combatant commander directly or through the US Fleet commander. An example of a successful command arrangement involving Marine Corps support of a joint force occurred in the early days of the Korean War. During this period, the 1st Marine Brigade (provisional) supported the 8th Army in defense of the Pusan Perimeter in August-September 1950. Later the 1st Marine Division, with supporting Marine aviation, served as part of X Corps, the land combat component of Joint Task Force 7, during the Inchon landing of September 1950. The joint force commanders (JFCs) for these operations effectively integrated Marine Corps forces into the joint force. Marine forces were task-organized as air-ground-logistics teams, which included organic Marine aviation. The concept of MAGTF operations was proven during these operations. The combined-arms capability and well-established support relationships between the two combat arms—ground and aviation—in the Marine Corps was the envy of the other Services. In the first volume of the official Marine Corps history

1 of the Korean War, The Pusan Perimeter, Colonel P. L. Freeman, United States Army (USA),
2 commanding the 23rd Infantry Regiment in the Pusan perimeter, commented:

3
4 . . . *the Marines on our left were a sight to behold. Not only was their equipment superior or equal to*
5 *ours, but they had squadrons of air in direct support. They used it like artillery. It was 'Hey, Joe—This is*
6 *Smitty—Knock the left of that ridge in front of Item Company.' They had it day and night. It came off*
7 *nearby carriers, and not from Japan with only 15 minutes of fuel to accomplish the mission.*³

8
9 Lieutenant General Walton H. Walker, USA, Commanding General of the 8th Army, and
10 Brigadier General Edward A. Craig, USMC, Commanding General of the 1st Marine Brigade, established
11 that the command structure was so successful for the “fire brigade of the Pusan perimeter.” This winning
12 command arrangement was duplicated by Commander, Joint Task Force 7, and contributed to the success
13 of the Inchon landing. Because of experiences like this, the Marine Corps fights its operational forces as
14 MAGTFs, retaining their optimal task organization to bring maximum sustainable combat power to the
15 fight.

16
17 The Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 created a new model
18 for joint operations by clearly placing responsibility for the accomplishment of a combatant command’s
19 assigned mission on the combatant commander and by ensuring that authority was fully commensurate
20 with responsibility. The act also established closer, more formal command linkages from the Services to
21 the supported combatant commander, thereby increasing the importance of Service components to the
22 combatant commands.

23
24 Operation Desert Storm further highlighted the need for the Marine Corps to provide a fully
25 staffed and capable component headquarters to the JFC. Such a headquarters allowed the Marine Corps
26 component commander to ensure that the JFC’s requirements were met and that Marine Corps forces
27 were employed in accordance with their capabilities. Operation Desert Storm revealed that manning and
28 equipping a Marine Corps component headquarters out of the limited resources of the MAGTF was
29 insufficient, and that the roles and functions of such a component were not fully understood. Soon after
30 the operation ended, the Marine Corps commissioned a study to explore various options to correct these
31 problems and conform to the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act. Joint and
32 combined exercises were used to test the various options for manning a component headquarters without
33 reducing the capabilities of the MAGTF. Operations such as Restore Hope in Somalia, Restore
34 Democracy in Haiti, Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and Iraqi Freedom in Iraq continue to test
35 Marine Corps competency in real world deployments and operations.

36 37 **ESTABLISHMENT OF MARINE CORPS COMPONENTS**

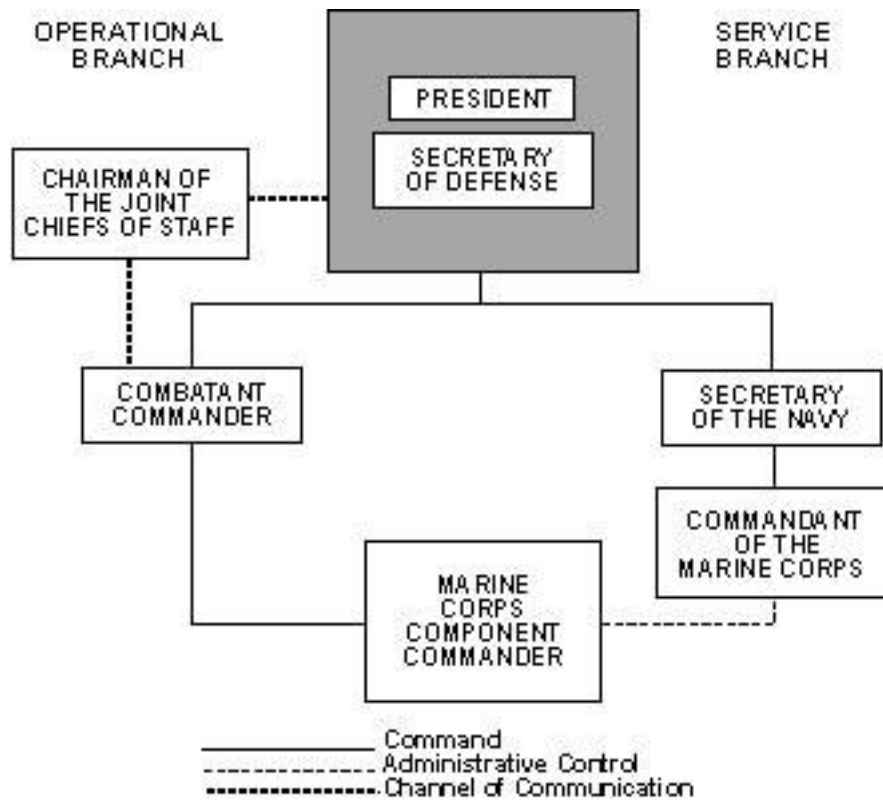
38
39 In 1992, the Commandant of the Marine Corps established Marine Corps competency by
40 creating two permanent Marine Corps component commanders—Commander, Marine Corps Forces,
41 Atlantic (COMMARFORLANT and Commander, Marine Corps Forces, Pacific (COMMARFORPAC)—
42 who were assigned or designated for each of the five geographic combatant commands existing at that
43 time. Fleet Marine Forces, Atlantic (FMFLANT) and Fleet Marine Forces, Pacific (FMFPAC) were
44 redesignated Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic (MARFORLANT) and Marine Corps Forces, Pacific
45 (MARFORPAC), respectively, and assumed the missions and responsibilities of Service component
46 commands Headquarters, Fleet Marine Forces, Europe was redesignated Headquarters, Marine Corps
47 Forces, Europe (MARFOREUR). Marine Corps component planning liaison cells were established in US
48 Central Command (USCENTCOM) and US Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM).

1 In addition to providing Marine Corps representation to each combatant command, these Marine
 2 Corps components assumed many of the planning, administrative, and logistic requirements that would
 3 otherwise be performed by MAGTFs. This change allowed the Marine Corps component's assigned
 4 MAGTF to concentrate on combat operations. The new joint organization, supported by the activation of
 5 Marine Corps components, significantly changed the operational environment in which Marine Corps
 6 forces deployed and operated.

7
 8 Marine Corps forces are also provided to naval commands by the Marine Corps component
 9 commander who may also perform the duties of a Fleet Marine Forces commanding general with the
 10 status of a naval type commander. Assignments as a commander, Marine Corps forces, and commanding
 11 general, Fleet Marine Forces, have separate, distinct command relationships and missions. For example,
 12 COMMARFORPAC—the Marine Corps component commander—provides Marine Corps forces to the
 13 Commander, US Pacific Command (USPACOM). As the Commanding General, FMFPAC—naval type
 14 commander status—COMMARFORPAC, provides MAGTFs to the Commander, US Pacific Fleet.
 15

16 **NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND STRUCTURE**

17
 18 American military forces operate under a chain of command with two distinct branches:
 19 operational chain of command and Service chain of command. See figure 1. This arrangement reflects our
 20 historic tradition of civilian control of the military.
 21
 22
 23



24
 25 **Figure 1. Chain of Command.**

1 For the Marine Corps, the operational chain of command runs from the President, as Commander
2 in Chief, through the Secretary of Defense to the combatant commander (and subordinate unified
3 commander or commander, joint task force, when designated) and then to the Marine Corps component
4 commander.

5
6 While the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff does not exercise military command over the
7 combatant commanders, Joint Chiefs of Staff, or any of the Armed Forces, the Chairman of the Joint
8 Chiefs of Staff does assist the President and Secretary of Defense in performing their national military
9 command functions. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff transmits orders to the combatant
10 commanders as directed by the President and Secretary of Defense. Additionally, as directed by the
11 Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff oversees the activities of those commands.
12 Reports from combatant commanders are normally submitted through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of
13 Staff, who forwards them to the Secretary of Defense. The Chairman also acts as the spokesman for the
14 combatant commanders.

15
16 The Service chain of command provides for the preparation of Service forces and their
17 administration and support. The Secretary of the Navy is responsible for the administration and support of
18 Marine forces assigned or attached to each of the combatant commands. The Secretary exercises
19 administrative control (ADCON) through the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the commander of
20 the Marine Corps component command assigned to a combatant command.

21
22 The Commandant's role as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is as important as his duties as a
23 Service chief. As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Commandant—

- 24
25 • Acts as a military advisor to the President and Secretary of Defense.
26 • Reviews command relationships and the use of Marine Corps forces.
27 • Advises the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on matters concerning the Marine Corps.
28

29 Marine Corps component commanders operate within both branches of the chain of command.
30 They respond to the orders of the combatant commander in the operational chain of command, while
31 being equipped, manned, and supported through the Service chain of command. Marine Corps component
32 commanders and their staffs, subordinate Marine commanders and staffs, as well as supporting Marine
33 Corps commands and organizations must understand the dual nature of the chain of command and its
34 impact on component operations.
35

36 **COMBATANT COMMAND STRUCTURE**

37
38 The President establishes combatant commands to execute broad and continuing missions at the
39 strategic level using forces of two or more Military Departments. Combatant commands typically have
40 geographic or functional responsibilities. The combatant commander exercises combatant command
41 (command authority) (COCOM) over its assigned or attached forces.
42

43 Combatant commands may be established based on a geographic area. There are currently five
44 geographic combatant commands: US Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), USSOUTHCOM, US
45 European Command (USEUCOM), USCENTCOM, and USPACOM. However, there is also US Joint
46 Forces Command (USJFCOM) with its unique mission of joint concept development, experimentation,
47 and joint force provider.
48

49 Combatant commands may also be based on functional responsibilities without respect to a
50 specific geographic area. These forces include the unified commands for transportation (US

1 Transportation Command), special operations (US Special Operations Command), and strategic
2 operations (US Strategic Command [USSTRATCOM]). When functional responsibilities are defined, the
3 focus should be on the effect desired or service provided.
4

5 A combatant commander, when authorized through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,
6 may establish a subordinate unified command. A subordinate unified command or joint task force
7 contains forces of two or more Military Departments. The Secretary of Defense or a combatant
8 commander can also form joint task forces to conduct operations of a smaller scope or more limited
9 duration that do not require all the forces assigned or attached to the combatant command. A joint task
10 force contains forces of two or more Military Departments. *However, a naval force consisting of Navy
11 and Marine Corps forces does not by itself constitute a joint force.* The establishing authority dissolves
12 the joint task force when the mission is complete or when the joint task force is no longer required.
13

14 All Service forces (except as noted in Title 10, US Code (USC), section 162, *Combatant
15 commands: assigned forces; chain of command*) are assigned to combatant commands by the Secretary of
16 Defense through the annual “Forces for Unified Commands” memorandum. A force, once assigned, may
17 be transferred from that command only at the direction of the Secretary of Defense and under the
18 procedures as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Defense and approved by the President. Using the
19 Service components as basic building blocks, the combatant commanders organize their forces to
20 accomplish their assigned mission.
21

22 While the Services’ roles and functions do not determine the theater command structure, the
23 combatant commander should consider the traditional roles of the Services in the organization of the
24 theater. The combatant commander seeks to organize his forces in the most effective manner to
25 accomplish the mission. The combatant commander attempts to preserve normal Service responsibilities
26 and organizational integrity to fully exploit their inherent capabilities. The primary options for organizing
27 the forces available to the combatant commander are by Service components, functional components, or a
28 combination of the two. The combatant commander may also establish a subordinate joint task force.
29 The combatant commander’s organization of forces should be tailored to accomplish the mission.
30

31 **Service Components**

32 All joint forces include Service components. The JFC also may conduct operations through the
33 Service component. Conducting operations through Service components is appropriate when stability,
34 continuity, economy, ease of long-range planning, and the scope of operations dictate maintaining
35 organizational integrity of Service forces. Normally Service component commanders will exercise
36 operational control (OPCON) of their assigned or attached forces. Because the individual Services are
37 organized, trained, and employed using the Services’ doctrine, this arrangement fully exploits the
38 capabilities and experience that the individual Services can bring to a joint command. (See figure 2.)
39

40 Using a Marine Corps component takes full advantage of the established lines of command and
41 standing operating procedures, and it enables Marine Corps forces to function as they were designed, as a
42 MAGTF. As Joint Publication (JP) 0-2, *Unified Action Armed Forces (UNAAF)*, states, “The intent (of
43 joint force organization) is to meet the needs of the JFC while maintaining the tactical and operational
44 integrity of the Service organizations.”⁴ Conducting operations through Service component commanders
45 also provides the advantage of clear and uncomplicated command lines.
46

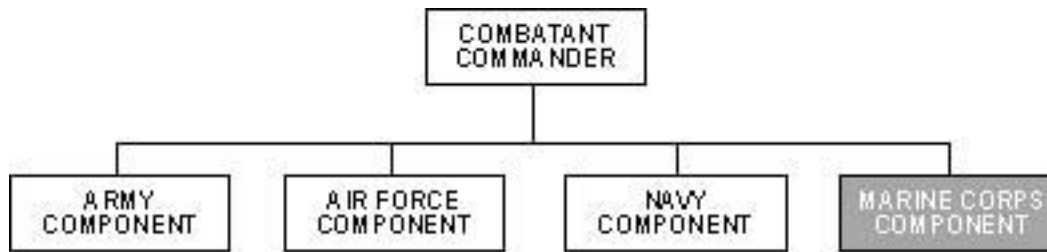


Figure 2. Combatant Command Organized by Service Components.

The Marine Corps component commander’s primary responsibility is as a force provider and sustainer. Additional responsibilities to the combatant commander include—

- Making recommendations on the proper employment of Marine Corps forces.
- Accomplishing such operational missions as may be assigned by the combatant commander. Operational missions are normally executed by the Marine Corps component commander’s assigned forces.
- Selecting and nominating specific Marine units or forces for assignment to other subordinate forces of the combatant command.
- Conducting joint training and exercises. A major focus of this training is to train the component staff to meet the standards contained in Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Manual 3500.04, *Universal Joint Task List*, and the Chief of Naval Operations Instruction 3500.38, *Universal Navy Task List*.
- Informing the combatant commander of any changes in planning for logistic support that will affect the combatant commander’s ability to accomplish the mission.
- Developing Marine Corps programming and budgeting requests to support the combatant commander’s warfighting requirements and priorities and keeping the combatant commander informed of the status of these programs.
- Providing supporting operation and exercise plans to support assigned missions.

The Marine Corps component commander provides Service logistic and administrative support. The Marine Corps component commander’s Service responsibilities include—

- Internal discipline and administration.
- Training in Marine Corps doctrine, tactics, techniques, and procedures.
- Logistic functions normal to the command, except as otherwise directed by higher authority.
- Service intelligence matters and the oversight of intelligence activities according to current laws, policies, and directives.

Functional Components

The combatant commander may establish functional component commands to centralize selected functions and reduce the span of control by placing forces with similar capabilities under a single commander. Conducting operations through functional component commands requires that the combatant commander—in accordance with joint doctrine—accomplish the following:

- Assign the authority and responsibilities of functional component commanders based on the concept of operations.
- Designate the forces or capabilities to be made available for tasking by the functional component commander. Functional component commanders have authority over those forces or capabilities made available to them by the combatant commander.

- Establish the command relationship of the functional component commander over the forces or assigned capabilities.

The functional component commander must be aware of the organization, capabilities, and limitations of assigned or attached forces and the responsibilities retained by the Service component commander. The functional component commander's assigned authority and responsibilities will not affect the command relationships between the Service component commander and the combatant commander. (See figure 3.)

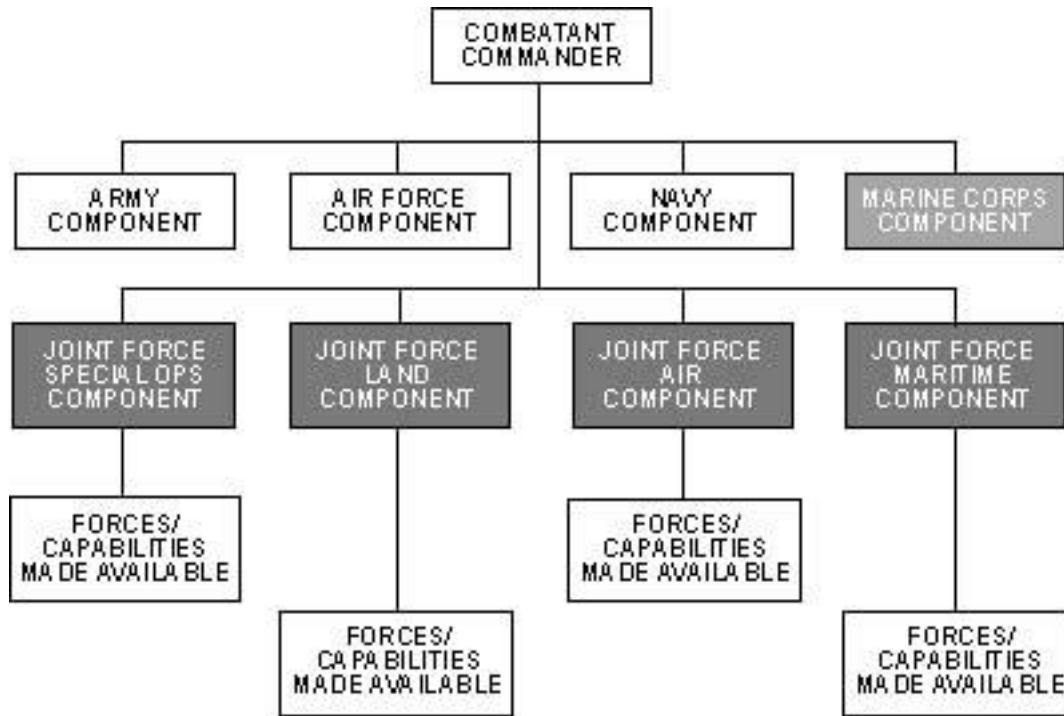


Figure 3. Combatant Command Organized by Functional Components.

Functional component commanders are normally selected from Service component commanders. The combatant commander will normally appoint the Service component commander with the preponderance of forces capable of accomplishing the function or assigned mission and the command and control (C2) capability to control such operations. The functional component commander is responsible for completing the assigned operational tasks or objectives. The functional component commander also makes recommendations to the combatant commander on the proper use of the military forces or capabilities available to accomplish the assigned missions. A Service component commander designated as the functional component commander retains Service component responsibilities.

Combination of Service and Functional Components

The most common method the combatant commander uses to organize the available forces is a combination of Service and functional competency. Figure 4 is an example of a combatant command organized with the four Service forces commanded by Service component commanders along with a special operations component.

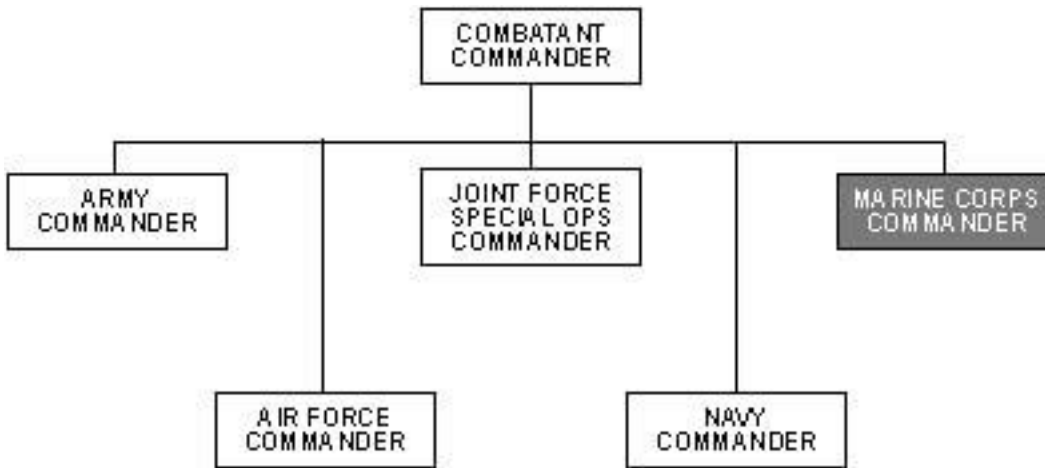


Figure 4. Combatant Command Organized by Combination of Service and Functional Components.

The combination of Service and functional components takes advantage of the benefits of Service competency while allowing the combatant commander to centralize certain functions to achieve his strategic or operational objective. In these cases, the Service components retain command of their forces, while providing forces and capabilities through the combatant commander to the functional component commander. Regardless of how the combatant commander organizes the assigned or attached forces, if Marine Corps forces are included there will be a Marine Corps Service component.⁵

SUBORDINATE JOINT COMMAND STRUCTURE

Subordinate joint commands may be either a subordinate unified command or a joint task force. Distinctive level of authority differences exist between the combatant command and the subordinate joint command. Forces, not command relationships, are transferred between commands. Combatant command COCOM is a nontransferrable command authority and remains with the assigned combatant commander. The subordinate JFC normally exercises OPCON of assigned or attached forces.

Both the combatant command and subordinate joint force may be organized with either Service components, functional components, or a combination of the two. Both may be established in a geographic area or on a functional basis. Subordinate unified commands, such as US Forces Korea (USFK), are established to conduct operations on a continuing basis in accordance with criteria set by the unified commander, while the joint task force has a specific, limited objective and does not require overall centralized control of logistics.

Like combatant commands, joint task forces contain components and are organized by Service, function, or a combination of the two. (See figure 5.) When a combatant commander determines that the Marine Corps is the appropriate Service to command a joint task force, the combatant commander tasks the Marine Corps component commander to provide the joint task force commander. The combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander nominates the commander, joint task force, and provides the nucleus for this joint staff from his assigned and/or attached forces. The combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander also designates the joint task force-level Marine component commander and provides the required Marine Corps forces after the commander, joint task force determines his force requirements.

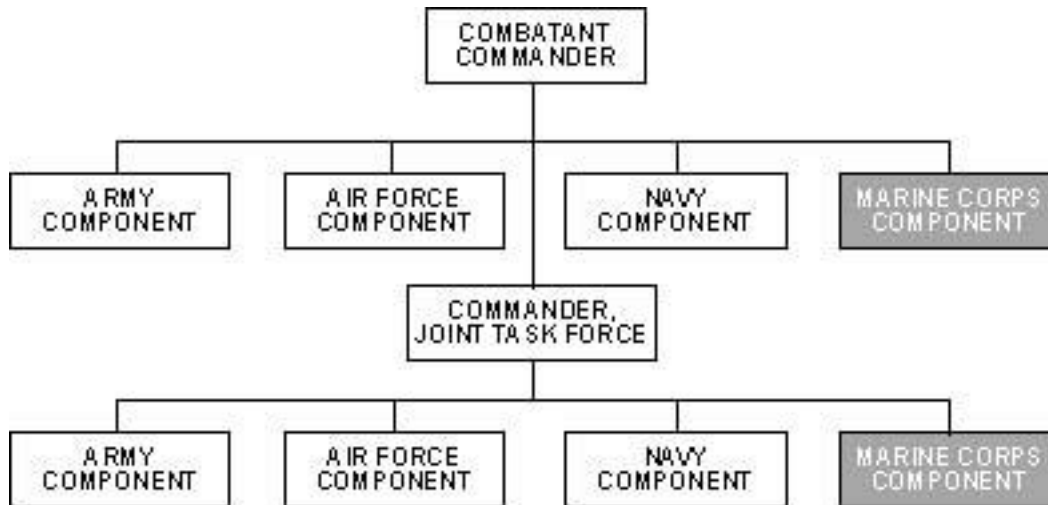


Figure 5. Joint Task Force Organized by Service Component.

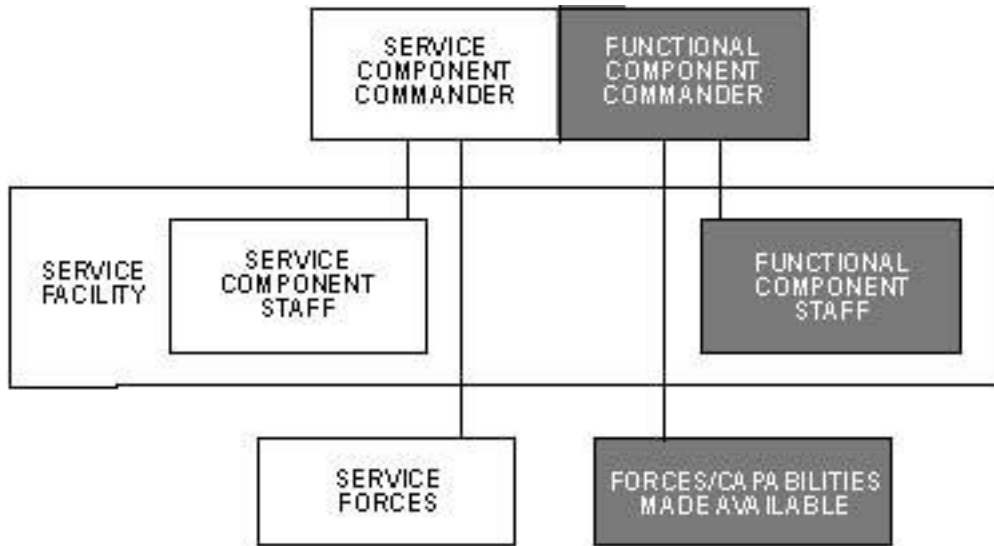
DESIGNATION AS A FUNCTIONAL COMPONENT COMMANDER

The JFC can designate the Marine Corps component commander as a functional component commander. The JFC can designate the Marine Corps component commander as the—

- Joint force maritime component commander.
- Joint force land component commander.
- Joint force air component commander.

Designation as a functional component commander brings additional responsibilities; however, they do not replace Service component responsibilities for assigned Marine Corps forces. Regardless of the joint command structure, the Marine Corps component commander must still provide administrative and logistic support to assigned forces. In addition to functional component duties, the JFC can assign the Marine Corps component commander other joint duties such as the area air defense commander or air space control authority. These functions are normally accomplished by the assigned MAGTF.

While one commander may have two designations—Marine Corps component commander and joint force functional component commander—the responsibilities are separate, distinct, and not interchangeable. Because the command functions are separate, so are the staff functions. The Marine Corps component commander’s staff performs Service component functions and is manned by the Marine Corps component’s normal staff members. The functional component commander’s staff performs functional component activities and should be manned to reflect the composition of the functional component command. The Service component and functional component staffs, while separate, can be collocated and use the same facility. In this case, the Service staff “hosts” the functional staff. (See figure 6.)



1
2
3

Figure 6. Arrangement of Service and Functional Staffs.

1
2

Chapter 2

3

The Marine Corps Component

4
5 “A combatant command-level Service component command consists of the Service component
6 commander and all the Service forces (such as individuals, units, detachments, organizations, and
7 installations, including the support forces) that have been assigned to a combatant command or further
8 assigned to a subordinate unified command or [joint task force] Other individuals, units,
9 detachments, organizations, or installations may operate directly under the Service component
10 commander and contribute to the mission of the JFC.”¹

11
12 —JP 0-2, *Unified Action*
13 *Armed Forces (UNAAF)*
14

15 “We must not allow the current tendency of defaulting to purely functional componency to infect the
16 doctrine by which we will operate in the future.”²

17
18 —General Charles C. Krulak, USMC
19
20

21 The Marine Corps component commander functions at the operational level of war. The Marine
22 Corps component commander is responsible for accomplishing assigned operational missions by the JFC
23 but primarily provides forces and administrative and logistic support to Marine Corps forces.
24

25

MARINE CORPS COMPONENT COMMANDS

26 There are seven combatant command level Marine Corps components—

- 27 • MARFORLANT.
28 • MARFORPAC.
29 • MARFOREUR.
30 • Marine Corps Forces Northern Command (MARFORNORTH).
31 • Marine Corps Forces, Southern Command (MARFORSOUTH).
32 • Marine Corps Forces, Central Command (MARFORCENT).
33 • Marine Corps Forces Strategic Command (MARFORSTRAT).

34 There is also Marine Forces Korea (MARFORK) to support USFK, the subunified combatant
35 commander in Korea. The commander of a Marine component headquarters may have additional
36 responsibilities. For example, the Commander MARFORLANT is also the Commander, MARFOREUR
37 and MARFORSOUTH.

38 The Commandant of the Marine Corps has designated the following general officer billets as
39 combatant command-level Marine Corps component commanders:

- 40 • Commander, Marine Corps Forces Reserve (MARFORRES) is the Marine Corps
41 component commander for USNORTHCOM.

- 1 • Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command is the Marine
2 Corps component commander for USSTRATCOM.
- 3 • Commander, MARFORLANT is the Marine Corps component commander for
4 USSOUTHCOM, USEUCOM, and USJFCOM.
- 5 • Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) is the component
6 commander for USCENTCOM.
- 7 • COMMARFORPAC is the Marine Corps component commander for USPACOM.
8 COMMARFORPAC is also designated as the Marine Corps component commander for
9 USFK, a subordinate unified command under USPACOM.

10
11 These assignments reflect the peacetime disposition of Marine Corps forces. MEFs are
12 apportioned to the geographic combatant commands for contingency planning and are provided to other
13 combatant commands when directed by the Secretary of Defense.
14

15 **LEVELS OF MARINE CORPS COMPONENTS**

16
17 There are two levels of Marine Corps components: a Marine Corps component under a unified
18 command and a Marine Corps component under a subordinate unified command or joint task force. The
19 subordinate unified command-level or joint task force-level Marine Corps component will communicate
20 directly to the combatant command-level Marine Corps component on Marine Corps-specific matters.
21

22 The Marine Corps component commander deals directly with the JFC in matters affecting Marine
23 Corps forces. The Marine Corps component commander commands, trains, equips, and sustains Marine
24 Corps forces. The Marine Corps component commander translates the JFC's intent into Marine Corps
25 forces' actions and is responsible for—
26

- 27 • Advising the JFC on the use of Marine Corps forces.
- 28 • Accomplishing the missions or tasks assigned by the JFC.
- 29 • Informing the JFC regarding the Marine Corps component's situation and progress.
- 30 • Providing Service-specific support (administrative, logistics, training, intelligence) to Marine Corps
31 forces.
32

33 **COMBATANT COMMANDS AND MARINE CORPS COMPONENTS**

34
35 Three documents provide the basis for the command relationships between the combatant
36 commands and the Marine Corps components. See chapter 4 for more information about command
37 relationships.
38

39 The Unified Command Plan provides basic guidance for combatant commanders. It establishes
40 missions, responsibilities, and force structure and delineates general geographic areas of responsibility.
41

42 In accordance with the Forces for Unified Commands and the Unified Command Plan except as
43 otherwise directed by the President or the Secretary of Defense, all forces operating within the geographic
44 area assigned to a combatant command shall be assigned or attached to and under the command of the
45 commander of that command. Forces are assigned, or reassigned, when the transfer of forces is
46 permanent or for an unknown period of time or when the broadest level of C2 is necessary. Forces are

1 attached when the transfer of forces is temporary. The combatant commander exercises COCOM over
2 assigned forces and normally exercises OPCON over attached forces.
3

4 Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 3110.01, *Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan*
5 (JSCP), translates the national security strategy into planning guidance for a specific period to the unified
6 commanders and Chiefs of the Military Services. This guidance includes a military strategy, strategic
7 tasks and objectives, and an apportionment of forces for contingency planning for peace and war. Marine
8 Corps forces may be apportioned to support multiple combatant commanders' missions. COCOM can
9 only reside with one combatant commander; supported combatant commanders must coordinate with the
10 combatant commander having COCOM over Marine Corps forces planned to support their operational
11 needs.
12

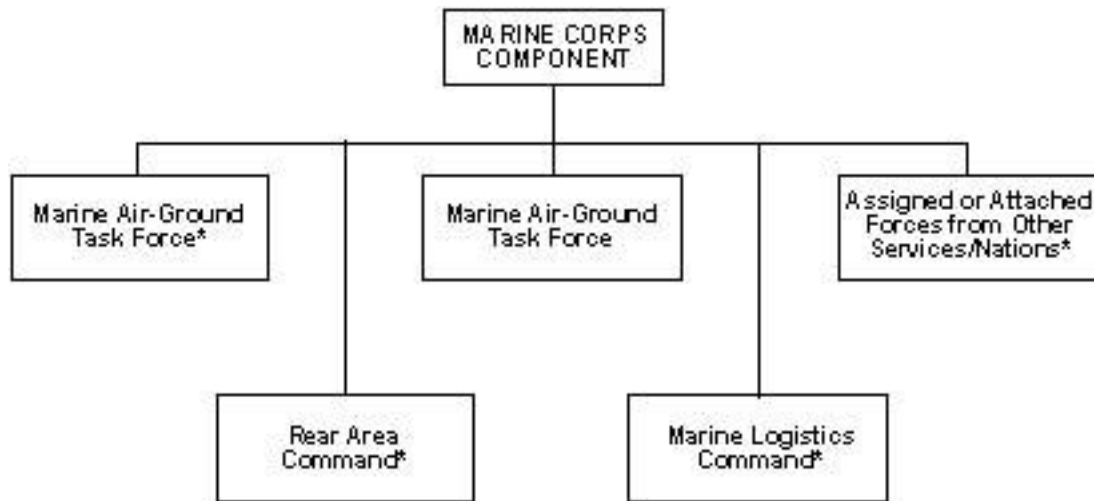
13 A vital element of the Marine Corps Total Force is the Marine Corps Reserve under the
14 Commander, MARFORRES. The Reserve is available to augment and reinforce any major operation in
15 which Marine Corps forces participate. Combatant commanders exercise COCOM over assigned Reserve
16 forces only when mobilized or ordered to active duty (other than for training). Commander,
17 USNORTHCOM normally exercises training and readiness oversight authority over assigned Selected
18 Marine Corps Reserve (SMCR) units on a continuous basis through CDRMARFORLANT (see the Forces
19 for Unified Commands memorandum for more information). This oversight includes the authority to—
20
21

- 22 • Provide guidance to COMMARFORLANT on operational requirements and priorities to be addressed
23 in training and readiness programs.
- 24 • Comment on COMMARFORLANT program recommendations and budget requests.
- 25 • Coordinate and approve participation of assigned SMCR units in joint exercises and other joint
26 training when on active duty for training or performing inactive duty training.
- 27 • Obtain and review readiness and inspection reports of assigned SMCR units.
- 28 • Coordinate and review mobilization plans (including post-mobilization training activities and
29 deployability validation procedures) developed for assigned SMCR units.
30

31 **ORGANIZATION**

32

33 A combatant command-level Marine Corps component is formed to conduct operations on a
34 continuing basis and at least one MAGTF is assigned. Depending on the scope of the assigned mission,
35 the combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander may establish a Marine logistics
36 command (MLC) and/or a rear area command. The Marine Corps component may also include forces
37 from other Services and nations. (See figure 7.)
38



* As required or assigned.

Figure 7. Marine Corps Component Organization.

The MAGTF provides the Marine Corps component commander combat power, while the MLC (if established) provides the operational logistics to sustain combat power. The rear area commander (if established) controls or coordinates operations in the component's rear area and coordinates rear area operations within the joint operations area or theater communications zone.

The subordinate joint force command-level Marine Corps component may be a Marine Corps component to either a subordinate unified command or a joint task force. The Marine Corps component to the subordinate unified command is also established to conduct operations on a continuing basis with responsibilities and missions similar to those of a combatant command-level Marine Corps component. However, the establishment of a MLC remains with the combatant command-level Marine Corps component. The Marine Corps component to a joint task force is normally established on an as-required basis and is not a standing component. The subordinate unified command-level Marine Corps component or the Marine Corps component to a joint task force normally exercises OPCON over assigned or attached forces. Each will normally have at least one MAGTF and may also include forces from other Services and nations.

COMBATANT COMMAND-LEVEL MARINE CORPS COMPONENT

All combatant commands include a Marine Corps component. Regardless of how the combatant commander conducts operations, the Marine Corps component commander provides Service-specific administration and support to Marine Corps forces. The Marine Corps component commander retains and exercises responsibility for Marine Corps logistic support except when responsibility has been altered by Service support agreements or when the combatant commander has directed otherwise.³

Combatant Commander and Marine Corps Component Commander

The combatant commander exercises COCOM over all assigned Marine Corps forces through the Marine Corps component commander. ADCON relationships with assigned or attached Marine Corps forces should be specified between the Marine Corps component providing the Marine Corps forces and the Marine Corps component gaining the Marine Corps forces. Unless otherwise specified, ADCON is

1 exercised through the combatant-level Marine Corps component commander to whom the forces are
2 assigned.
3

4 **Commandant of the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Component Commander**

5 The Commandant provides personnel, administrative, and logistic support to the Marine Corps
6 component commander. The Commandant's relationship with the Marine Corps component commander
7 is through the Service chain—not the operational chain. Unless otherwise directed by the combatant
8 commander, the Marine Corps component commander communicates through the combatant command on
9 those matters over which the combatant commander exercises COCOM or directive authority. On
10 Service-specific matters—personnel, administration, and unit training—the Marine Corps component
11 commander normally communicates directly with the Commandant, informing the combatant commander
12 as the combatant commander directs.
13

14 **Marine Corps Component Commander and Other Component Commanders**

15 The combatant commander may establish a support relationship between the Marine Corps
16 component commander and other Service and functional component commanders. There may be multiple
17 support relationships established between various commands. The Marine Corps component commander
18 may be both a supported and supporting commander. The Marine Corps component commander
19 coordinates and consults with the other component commanders to achieve unity of effort and accomplish
20 the combatant commander's mission.
21

22 **Marine Corps Component Commander and Subordinate Marine Corps Force Commanders**

23 When the combatant commander conducts operations using Service components, the Marine
24 Corps component commander should have OPCON of all assigned or attached Marine Corps forces. If the
25 combatant commander conducts operations using functional components, the Marine Corps component
26 commander normally retains OPCON of assigned or attached Marine Corps forces and delegates tactical
27 control (TACON) to the functional component commander.
28

29 **SUBORDINATE JOINT FORCE COMMAND-LEVEL MARINE CORPS COMPONENT**

30
31 All joint forces with Marine Corps forces assigned or attached include a Marine Corps
32 component. Regardless of how the JFC conducts operations, the Marine Corps component provides
33 administrative and logistical support for the Marine Corps forces. The Marine Corps component
34 commander retains and exercises control of Marine Corps logistic support except for any Service support
35 agreement or as directed by the JFC.
36

37 **Commander of a Subordinate Joint Force and Subordinate Joint Force-Level Marine Corps** 38 **Component Commander**

39 Normally, the senior Marine Corps commander assigned or attached to a joint force assumes
40 responsibilities as the joint force command-level Marine Corps component commander when a separate
41 Marine Corps component commander is not otherwise designated. The subordinate JFC exercises
42 OPCON over assigned or attached Marine Corps forces. ADCON relationships with assigned or attached
43 Marine Corps forces should be specified between the Marine Corps component providing the Marine
44 Corps forces and the Marine Corps component gaining the Marine Corps forces. Unless otherwise
45 specified, ADCON of attached Marine Corps forces remains with the combatant command-level Marine
46 Corps component commander to whom the forces were assigned.
47

1 **Combatant Command-Level Marine Corps Component Commander and Subordinate Joint Force**
2 **Command-Level Marine Corps Component Commander**

3 The combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander provides administrative and
4 logistical support for a subordinate joint force command-level Marine Corps component.
5

6 **Marine Corps Component Commander and Other Component Commanders**

7 The JFC may establish a support relationship between the Marine Corps component commander
8 and other components (Service or functional). There may be multiple support relationships established
9 between various commands. The Marine Corps component commander may be both a supported and
10 supporting commander. The Marine Corps component commander coordinates and consults with other
11 component commanders to achieve unity of effort and accomplish the mission of the JFC.
12

13 **Marine Corps Component Commander and MAGTF Commander**

14 When the JFC conducts operations using Service components, the Marine Corps component
15 commander has command of assigned and/or attached MAGTFs. If the JFC conducts operations using
16 functional components, the Marine Corps component commander normally retains OPCON of assigned
17 and/or attached Marine Corps forces and delegates TACON to the functional component commander.
18 When the JFC conducts operations using a combination of Service and functional components, the
19 Marine Corps component commander exercises command of assigned MAGTFs and normally retains
20 OPCON of Marine Corps forces or capabilities made available to the JFC.
21

22 **THE JOINT FORCE COMMAND-LEVEL MARINE CORPS COMPONENT AND THE MAGTF**

23
24 The roles and functions of the Marine Corps component commander and the MAGTF commander
25 are significantly different. The Marine Corps component commander sets the conditions for MAGTF
26 operations. The Marine Corps component commander does this primarily by advising the JFC of the
27 capabilities of his forces. This ensures that he is assigned missions his forces can accomplish. The Marine
28 Corps component commander also directs and coordinates the movement and sustainment of his forces in
29 to and within the theater. The Marine Corps component commander focuses on future operations—the
30 next Marine Corps component mission—and coordinates his actions with other component commanders
31 to achieve unity of effort for the joint force.
32

33 The orientation of the Marine Corps component commander is *normally* at the operational level
34 of war while the MAGTF commander is *normally* at the tactical level. Naturally, there will be some
35 overlap. (See figure 8).
36



Figure 8. Commander's Level of War Orientation.

This difference in orientation is the result of the JFC's organization of forces and each subordinate commander's place in the operational chain of command and the assigned mission. This orientation, in turn, determines the people and agencies with whom the Marine Corps component and MAGTF commanders must interact. The Marine Corps component commander—who translates strategic objectives into operational objectives—must interact up the chain of command with the JFC, laterally with other component commanders, and down to his MAGTF commander. The MAGTF commander—who translates operational objectives into tactical actions—must interact up the chain of command with the JFC and the Marine Corps component commander, laterally with adjacent tactical commanders, and down to his major subordinate commanders.

The difference in orientation of the Marine Corps component commander and the MAGTF commander also has an important influence on their command relationship and the staff organization adopted by the Marine Corps component commander. The staff organization that the Marine Corps component commander selects depends on the mission, size, scope, and duration of the operation and the size of the assigned force. Three possible command relationships and staff organizations are one commander with one staff, one commander with two staffs, and two commanders and two staffs.

One Commander and One Staff

Of the three arrangements, one commander and one staff is normal for joint task force operations. The commander is both the Marine Corps component and MAGTF commander. The single staff executes both Marine Corps component and MAGTF functions. The commander and his staff must balance the strategic-operational orientation of the Marine Corps component against the operational-tactical orientation of the MAGTF. This arrangement requires the fewest personnel but places the heaviest work load on the commander and the staff. Marine Corps component functions require close interaction with the JFC's staff and the other components. If the JFC's headquarters is geographically separated—possibly by long distances—from the tactical combat units, the Marine commander may not be able to move easily between the JFC's headquarters and the MAGTF headquarters. This requires a liaison to the JFC that can act in the Marine commander's name or that can maintain close and reliable communications with the commander.

A variation of the one commander and one staff organization is one commander and one staff with an embedded component augmentation cell. This arrangement is also built around the MAGTF commander and his staff. The commander is still the Marine Corps component and MAGTF commander. The combatant command-level Marine Corps component provides a deployable cell to perform Marine Corps component functions while the MAGTF staff executes MAGTF staff functions. This allows for a logical division of labor and focusing of staff functions. While requiring additional personnel, the size of this staff is still relatively small. The commander and his staff still have to balance the strategic-operational orientation of the Marine Corps component against the normally tactical orientation of the MAGTF. The one commander, one staff arrangement was used during Operation Restore Hope in Somalia.

1
2 **One Commander and Two Staffs**

3 The commander is both the Marine Corps component and MAGTF commander, but there are two
4 separate staffs. One staff executes the functions of the Marine Corps component while the other executes
5 the functions of the MAGTF. This allows each staff to maintain a single, focused orientation. The number
6 of personnel increases with two staffs. The commander must still try to balance the strategic-operational
7 orientation of the Marine Corps component against the operational-tactical orientation of the MAGTF.
8

9 This arrangement may be appropriate when the JFC is geographically separated from combat
10 forces. The commander may collocate both staffs with the MAGTF or locate the Marine Corps
11 component staff close to the joint force headquarters. With the Marine Corps component headquarters
12 near the JFC's headquarters, the Marine commander balances his presence between his two staffs. This
13 arrangement was used for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, however, the limited resources of
14 the MAGTF command element at that time prompted a subsequent study that established two permanent
15 Service component commands: MARFORLANT and MARFORPAC.
16

17 **Two Commanders and Two Staffs**

18 Two commanders with separate staffs require the most personnel, equipment, and facilities. There
19 are two separate commanders, each with a dedicated staff. The Marine Corps component commander
20 maintains the operational orientation while the MAGTF commander provides tactical orientation. This
21 allows each commander and staff to maintain a single, focused orientation. Additionally, each commander
22 can place himself at the appropriate location: the Marine Corps component commander close to the joint
23 force headquarters and the other components, the MAGTF commander with the MAGTF. This
24 arrangement may be used for major theater of war operations and was used during Operation Iraqi
25 Freedom.
26

27 **THE MARINE CORPS COMPONENT AND THE MARINE LOGISTICS COMMAND**

28
29 The combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander may establish a MLC to
30 fulfill his Service logistic responsibilities. For example, MARFORCENT established the MLC during
31 Operation Iraqi Freedom. The MLC is task-organized around a force service support group. When
32 formed, it provides logistic support to all Marine Corps forces—and may provide limited support to other
33 joint and combined forces as directed by the combatant commander. The MLC provides operational
34 logistics to Marine Corps forces as the Marine Corps component's logistics agency in theater.
35 Operational-level logistics includes deployment support, sustainment, resource prioritization and
36 allocation, and requirements identification activities required to sustain the force in a campaign or major
37 operation. These fundamental decisions concerning force deployment and sustainment are key for the
38 MLC to provide successful logistical support.
39

40 The combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander provides the logistic policy
41 for Marine Corps forces. The MLC executes that policy to support all Marine Corps forces. When
42 priorities of support are required, the combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander
43 provides these to the MLC commander. Likewise, the combatant command-level Marine Corps
44 component commander ensures the MLC receives assistance and resources outside its organic capability
45 like intelligence necessary for the MLC mission, for example.
46

47 The combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander may employ the MLC
48 when the following operational conditions occur:
49

- Expeditious force closure of a MEF-sized MAGTF is required.
- A MEF-sized MAGTF will be ashore for more than 60 days.
- Sequential maritime prepositioning force offloads or backloads are planned or required.
- Common item or user support is planned.
- Theater logistic support is shallow or has shortfalls.

These conditions assist the combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander in deciding if a MLC is necessary and, if so, its composition and capabilities.

The MLC allows the MAGTF commander to focus on the present and future battle. The MLC commander—as the combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander’s logistics agent—focuses on operational-level logistic support and arrival/assembly operations (including reception, staging, onward movement, and integration of Marine Corps forces). The MAGTF combat service support element commander—as the MAGTF commander’s logistics agent—focuses on tactical level logistics, concentrating on supporting the present battle and preparing for the MAGTF’s future battles.

The MLC is task-organized to fit the mission and tailored to meet specific theater and situational requirements. The combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander establishes support relationships between the MLC and the MAGTF. The division of labor between the MLC and the MAGTF is theater-specific. Finally, if there is a requirement for the combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander to conduct reconstitution (restoration of units to a certain level of combat effectiveness), the MLC normally executes the refitting, supply, personnel fill (assisted by component administration support), and medical actions required to successfully conduct the reconstitution.⁴

THE MARINE CORPS COMPONENT AND THE REAR AREA COMMAND/COORDINATOR

The combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander may establish a rear area command or coordinator to conduct rear area operations. In doing so, the combatant command-level Marine Corps component commander must weigh the advantages of such a command against the resources—personnel and equipment—it will require. It links the Marine Corps component commander to the JFC’s theater rear area. The rear area command commands, coordinates, and synchronizes component rear area operations with both the theater and MAGTF rear areas. The rear area coordinator coordinates vice commands the component rear area operations.

The rear area command provides the Marine Corps component commander with an organization to conduct or coordinate the eight functions of rear area operations. These functions are movement control, area management, security, sustainment, intelligence, communications, infrastructure development, and host-nation support. The rear area coordinator may coordinate any or all of the eight functions.

The rear area command is task-organized to conduct assigned functions, to include a tactical security force to conduct rear area security operations. The rear area command may not be assigned all of the rear area operations functions. For example, the MLC, if established, provides sustainment and movement control, while the rear area command coordinates and synchronizes these activities for the component. The rear area coordinator is normally not task-organized.

MARINE CORPS COMPONENT STAFF MANNING

1 The size of the Marine Corps prevents the manning of numerous, large Marine Corps component
2 headquarters. The combatant command-level Marine Corps component headquarters is manned primarily
3 by permanently assigned personnel who are augmented by additional personnel from sources throughout
4 the Marine Corps during operational commitments and times of war. These active duty and Reserve
5 Marines may participate in periodic exercises and training to maintain theater awareness and billet
6 proficiency.

7
8 A subordinate joint force command-level Marine Corps component headquarters is task-
9 organized to support a subordinate joint command. A combatant command-level Marine Corps
10 component commander who has to support a subordinate joint force must assemble a subordinate joint
11 force command-level Marine Corps component staff using personnel from his headquarters as well as
12 personnel from the Marine Corps forces assigned to the subordinate joint force and other global sources.
13 Globally sourced personnel may come from the Marine Corps Reserve, the supporting establishment, or
14 other Marine Corps component organizations. Along with the basic core of personnel required to man
15 Marine Corps component headquarters, augmentees, liaisons, and representatives are also necessary for
16 component operations.

17 18 **Augmentees**

19 Functional area experts comprise the Marine contribution to a joint force headquarters, functional
20 component headquarters, or other joint agencies within the joint force. These augmentees are usually
21 globally sourced from outside the Marine Corps component headquarters. They should be provided in
22 numbers that reflect the overall composition of Services within the joint force or functional component.
23 Augmentees are staff members of a joint force headquarters and do not directly represent the Marine
24 Corps component commander. They provide the JFC or functional component commander with expertise
25 in their specific areas as well as a general appreciation of Marine Corps forces capabilities and operational
26 considerations. As members of the gaining command, they receive full logistical and administrative
27 support from that command. They return to the Marine Corps forces upon completion of the operation or
28 the disestablishment of the joint force headquarters or functional component.

29 30 **Liaisons**

31 Liaison officers and their supporting teams are the direct representatives of the Marine Corps
32 component commander and are assigned to appropriate higher, adjacent, and lower joint, component, and
33 Service headquarters. Liaison teams gather and exchange information between the assigned headquarters
34 and the Marine Corps component—they are the Marine Corps component commander's eyes and ears.
35 Liaison teams are headed by a senior liaison officer. The Marine Corps component commander
36 determines what authority to give the senior liaison officer to make decisions on his behalf. Marines
37 assigned as liaison officers must understand the Marine Corps component commander's intent and be
38 capable of representing that interest.

39
40 Liaison officers facilitate critical interstaff issues and provide a conduit to the appropriate staff
41 officer at the Marine Corps component for the gaining command. They are not augmentees to the staff of
42 the gaining command and should not be assigned any duties other than liaison. Liaison officers and their
43 teams provide their own administrative and logistics support, including robust and redundant
44 communications and computer capabilities.

45 46 **Representatives**

47 JFCs and functional component commanders may establish standing or temporary boards, agencies, and
48 committees to perform essential joint functions or provide critical joint services or support. The Marine
49 Corps component commander provides representation to these boards, agencies, or committees. The

1 Marine representative must have the requisite subject matter expertise and the appropriate grade to fully
2 represent the Marine Corps component commander. Such representatives should not be assigned any staff
3 duties by the command hosting the board. They usually return to the Marine Corps component
4 headquarters upon completion of the board to assume their other duties. Subordinate joint force
5 command-level Marine Corps component commanders must ensure that their initial planning and requests
6 for staffing also reflect realistic manning for these critical functions.

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Chapter 3

Service Support Functions

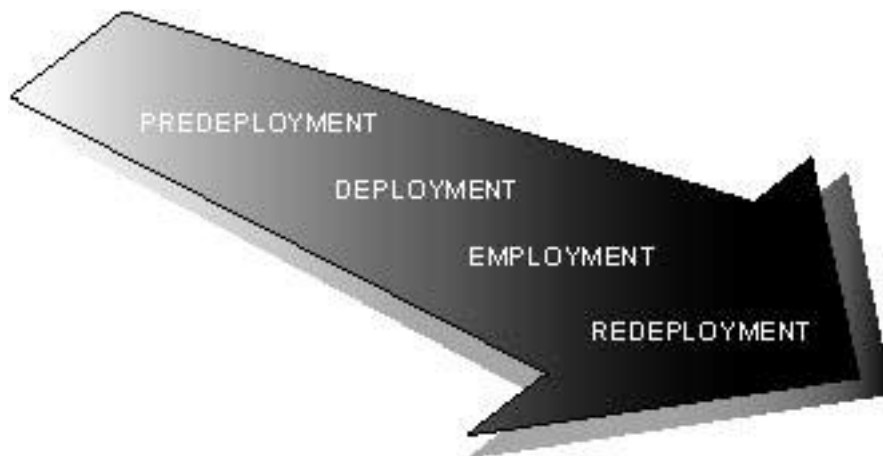
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“Service component commanders have responsibilities that derive from their roles in fulfilling the Services’ support function. The JFC also may conduct operations through the Service component commanders or, at lower echelons, Service force commanders. In the event that OPCON of Service component forces is delegated by the JFC to a Service component or force commander of a subordinate joint force command, the authority of the Service component of the superior JFC is described as ADCON that includes responsibilities for certain Service-specific functions.”¹

—JP 0-2, *Unified Action
Armed Forces (UNAAF)*

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22

Service component commanders are required to fulfill specific support functions. These specific support functions are described in this chapter. Figure 9 illustrates four possible operational phases in which the Marine Corps component commander may execute Service support functions.



23
24

Figure 9. Operational Phases.

PERSONNEL AND LOGISTICS

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28
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The Marine Corps component commander’s personnel functions include the coordination and supervision of active duty and Reserve manpower plans and personnel policies. Additionally, the Marine Corps component commander is responsible for administrative support, quality of life, casualty replacement, decedent affairs, and replacement training.

30
31
32
33
34
35

The Marine Corps component commander’s logistic functions include the identification and coordination of required Marine Corps logistic support at the operational level. Assigned or attached Marine Corps forces forward their support requirements and priorities to the Marine Corps component commander. The Marine Corps component commander then determines what resources will be used to fulfill the requirements.

36
37

The Marine Corps component commander and his staff organize logistic support throughout the communications zone. The Marine Corps component commander develops agreements with other

1 component commanders and participates in component command-level working groups. The theater of
2 operations/joint operations area sustaining base, which includes the communications zone, links strategic
3 sustainment to tactical combat service support. In military operations other than war, logistic support may
4 also apply to support of US forces, other US Government agencies, and forces of friendly countries or
5 groups supported by US forces.

6
7 During predeployment, the Marine Corps component commander conducts force sustainment
8 planning and force reception planning.

9
10 Throughout deployment, the Marine Corps component commander refines Marine Corps forces
11 personnel, sustainment, transportation, and reception requirements. The Marine Corps component
12 commander may meet these requirements using Service sources or other joint resources. Other Marine
13 Corps component commander functions include—

- 14
- 15 • Supporting the deployment of Marine Corps forces.
- 16 • Coordinating reception support.
- 17 • Obtaining needed infrastructure support.
- 18

19 A key function of the Marine Corps component commander during employment is to inform the
20 JFC of changes to personnel and logistic requirements that might affect the Marine Corps' ability to
21 support the operation. During employment, the Marine Corps component commander concentrates on—

- 22
- 23 • Sustainment sourcing.
- 24 • Intratheater transportation asset allocation.
- 25 • Facility and base development.
- 26 • Host-nation support.
- 27 • Health services management.
- 28

29 During redeployment, the Marine Corps component commander focuses on reconstituting Marine
30 Corps forces. The identification of accurate mission costs and material losses is also important to the
31 Marine Corps component commander.

32 **INTELLIGENCE**

33
34
35 The Marine Corps component commander facilitates Marine Corps forces intelligence functions
36 through close and continuous coordination with the JFC and other component commanders and
37 representation to theater intelligence support boards, agencies, and committees. The Marine Corps
38 component ensures that intelligence support is provided to the MAGTF and other assigned or attached
39 forces. The Marine Corps component does not normally collect information or conduct intelligence
40 analysis.

41
42 The Marine Corps component commander assists the MAGTF and other assigned or attached
43 commanders by conducting detailed, operational-level intelligence planning. The Marine Corps
44 component commander also monitors intelligence collection requirements to ensure synchronization with
45 the JFC's collection plans. These requirements focus on the collection and analysis of data and the
46 dissemination of intelligence products from national and theater sources. Intelligence is provided directly
47 from the source to the MAGTF and other assigned or attached commanders.

48
49 During predeployment, the Marine Corps component commander coordinates with the JFC to—
50

- 1 • Plan access to national, theater, and joint task force intelligence system architectures and
2 databases.
- 3 • Develop policy guidance for information security, counterintelligence/human intelligence,
4 technical surveillance countermeasures, and signals intelligence.

5
6 While conducting deployment operations, the Marine Corps component commander refines
7 operational-level intelligence plans, makes required adjustments, and coordinates the flow of intelligence
8 resources into theater.

9
10 Throughout employment, the Marine Corps component commander coordinates MAGTF organic
11 collection and counterintelligence/human intelligence requirements and operations with the JFC and
12 component commanders to avoid conflict or redundancy. The Marine Corps component commander also
13 requests target materials and execution support materials for Marine Corps forces.

14
15 During redeployment the Marine Corps component commander continues to ensure the
16 dissemination of intelligence to Marine Corps forces to support force protection and future operations.
17 The Marine Corps component commander also identifies scientific and technical intelligence
18 requirements for captured materiel and coordinates handling procedures with the JFC.

19 20 **OPERATIONS**

21
22 The Marine Corps component commander commands assigned or attached Marine Corps forces.
23 The Marine Corps component commander recommends to the JFC the appropriate and executable
24 missions and tasks that can be accomplished by Marine Corps forces. The component commander
25 identifies and sets conditions favorable to mission accomplishment by Marine Corps forces. The Marine
26 Corps component commander also trains the component staff and assigned or attached Marine Corps
27 forces.

28
29 Throughout predeployment, the Marine Corps component commander anticipates possible
30 operations and requirements for Marine Corps forces. The Marine Corps component commander conducts
31 internal Marine Corps component headquarters training and participates in joint exercises.

32
33 During deployment, the Marine Corps component commander executes the deployment order and
34 refines the concept of operations. The Marine Corps component commander also prioritizes the strategic
35 transportation requirements to support the JFC's intent and concept of operations.

36
37 The Marine Corps component commander is responsible for the employment of Marine Corps
38 forces and for the support of other component commanders as directed by the JFC. Additionally, the
39 Marine Corps component commander forwards his, the MAGTF commander's, and other assigned or
40 attached commanders' requests for support.

41
42 As Marine Corps forces redeploy, the Marine Corps component commander begins preparing and
43 training Marine Corps forces for subsequent operations. Marine Corps forces' training focuses on lessons
44 learned and after action reports. The Marine Corps component commander reviews and adjusts the
45 allocation of assigned or attached forces based on the receipt of a new mission and available resources.
46 The Marine Corps component commander prioritizes strategic transportation requirements to support the
47 JFC's intent and concept of operations.

48 49 **PLANS**

1 The Marine Corps component commander participates in the development of the JFC's campaign
2 plans, supporting operation plans, contingency plans, and time-phased force and deployment data. From
3 these plans and data, the Marine Corps component commander prepares Marine Corps component
4 supporting plans and coordinates planning with the other component commanders. Using the combatant
5 commander's guidance, the Marine Corps component commander develops planning, programming, and
6 budgeting system requirements to ensure that Marine Corps forces are adequately manned, equipped, and
7 trained to support the combatant commander's campaign plans. Because of the nature of a rapidly formed
8 and deployed joint task force, the joint task force-level Marine Corps component primarily conducts crisis
9 action planning.

10
11 During predeployment, the Marine Corps component commander identifies the amount and type
12 of Marine Corps forces necessary to provide the capabilities required by the JFC's campaign plans. The
13 Marine Corps component commander then coordinates his, the MAGTF commander's, and other assigned
14 or attached commanders' plans and forwards this input to the JFC.

15
16 Throughout deployment the Marine Corps component commander adjusts deployment plans as
17 necessary. The Marine Corps component commander refines deployment requirements and plans the
18 sequencing of MAGTF and assigned or attached forces to support the JFC's operations. The Marine
19 Corps component commander continues to develop operation plans and contingency plans, create and
20 analyze courses of action, and conduct war games to validate previous planning.

21
22 As the Marine Corps component commander's assigned or attached forces execute their missions,
23 he plans future operations using the JFC's objectives. The Marine Corps component commander revises
24 personnel and logistic support plans based on actual events and prepares sequels to the operation order to
25 support future operations. The Marine Corps component commander begins redeployment planning and,
26 if necessary, develops contingency plans to support other potential operations or campaigns.

27
28 The Marine Corps component commander completes plans for redeployment while refining
29 operation plans and contingency plans based on lessons learned. At the conclusion of redeployment, the
30 Marine Corps component commander compiles, reviews, and analyzes lessons learned and after action
31 reports for their potential impact on future operations.

32 33 **COMMAND AND CONTROL**

34
35 The Marine Corps component commander plans, establishes, and maintains the C2 system
36 necessary to conduct planning, decision, execution, and assessment cycles. The Marine Corps component
37 C2 system provides an interface with the JFC; other components; Headquarters, US Marine Corps; and
38 higher, adjacent, and subordinate Marine Corps forces.

39
40 For predeployment, the Marine Corps component commander designs a C2 system that supports
41 the JFC's campaign plan as well as the needs of the MAGTF and assigned or attached forces. Most
42 importantly, the Marine Corps component commander integrates the Marine Corps C2 system into the
43 overall C2 warfare plan and establishes a global C2 system.

44
45 The rapid establishment of the Marine Corps C2 system in theater aids the Marine Corps
46 component commander during deployment and establishes favorable conditions for Marine Corps forces.
47 As Marine Corps forces arrive in theater, the Marine Corps component commander identifies threats and
48 establishes C2 protection measures.

1 During employment, the Marine Corps component commander's C2 system must remain flexible;
2 it must be capable of being quickly reestablished if disrupted. C2 protection measures are adapted to meet
3 changing threats.
4

5 The Marine Corps component commander adjusts the C2 system as necessary to control the
6 redeployment. C2 lessons learned and after action items are reviewed and analyzed for their potential
7 impact on future operations.

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Chapter 4 Command Relationships

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“The primary emphasis in command relations should be to keep the chain of command short and simple so that it is clear who is in charge and of what. Unity of command is the guiding principle of war in the exercise of command.”¹

—JP 1, *Joint Warfare of the
Armed Forces of the United States*

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This chapter provides a general understanding of command relationships and how they apply to US military forces. Interactions with allies, coalitions, and other agencies may produce additional command relationship considerations, and Marine Corps component commanders and their staffs must be aware of these considerations and their level’s area of responsibility. Command relationship considerations may affect operational employment and must be included in operation plans, standing operating procedures, and other appropriate documents. See JP 0-2 and JP 3-0, *Doctrine for Joint Operations*, for detailed information.

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The commander is responsible for accomplishing the assigned mission. While the commander may delegate authority to accomplish the mission, the commander cannot delegate responsibility for mission accomplishment. The authority given to a commander must match the assigned responsibility. The levels of authority include—

- Command relationships—
 - COCOM.
 - OPCON.
 - TACON.
 - Support.
- Other authorities—
 - ADCON.
 - Coordinating authority.
 - Direct liaison authorized (DIRLAUTH)

COMBATANT COMMAND

COCOM is the command authority over assigned forces vested only in combatant commanders by Title 10, USC, section 164, *Commanders of combatant commands: assignment; powers and duties*, or as directed by the President of the United States in the Unified Command Plan. It cannot be transferred or delegated. It allows a combatant commander to perform those functions of command over assigned forces that involve 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. COCOM provides the combatant commander full authority to organize and employ commands and forces to accomplish assigned missions. COCOM should be exercised through the commanders of subordinate organizations. Normally, this authority is exercised—

- Through Service component commanders.

- 1 • Through functional component commanders, if established for a particular purpose.
- 2 • Through a commander of a subordinate unified command (unified command only).
- 3 • Through the commander of a joint task force reporting directly to the combatant commander.
- 4 • Through a single-Service force commander reporting directly to the combatant commander.
- 5 Normally, missions requiring operations of a single-Service force are assigned to the applicable
- 6 Service component commander. A combatant commander may establish a separate single-Service
- 7 force but normally does so only under exceptional circumstances.
- 8 • Directly over specific operational forces that, because of the mission assigned and the urgency of the
- 9 situation, must remain immediately responsive to the combatant commander.

10
11 COCOM includes, but is not limited to, the authority to—

- 12
- 13 • Exercise or delegate OPCON of assigned or attached forces.
- 14 • Function, unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of Defense, as the US military single point of
- 15 contact and exercise directive authority over all elements of the command in relationships with other
- 16 combatant commands, Department of Defense elements, US diplomatic missions, other US agencies,
- 17 and agencies of other countries in the area of responsibility.
- 18 • Coordinate with subordinate commands and components and approve the administration, support
- 19 (including control of resources and equipment, internal organization, and training), and discipline
- 20 necessary to carry out missions assigned to the command.
- 21 • Concur in the assignment of officers as commanders directly subordinate to the combatant
- 22 commander and officers in positions on the combatant command staff.
- 23 • Participate actively in the Planning, Programming, and Budgeting System by providing an integrated
- 24 priority list of essential warfighting requirements prioritized across Service and functional lines for
- 25 consideration in developing the Department of Defense program and budget. The combatant
- 26 commander also provides guidance to subordinate commands and components on warfighting
- 27 requirements and priorities for addressing their program and budget requests to their Military
- 28 Departments.

29
30 When directed in the Unified Command Plan or otherwise authorized by the Secretary of

31 Defense, the commander of US elements of a multinational command may exercise COCOM of those US

32 forces assigned to that command.

33
34 Commanders of combatant commands may exercise directive authority for logistics (or delegate

35 directive authority for a common support capability). The exercise of directive authority for logistics by a

36 combatant commander includes the authority to issue directives to subordinate commanders, including

37 peacetime measures, necessary to ensure—

- 38
- 39 • Effective execution of approved operation plans.
- 40 • Effectiveness and economy of operation.
- 41 • Prevention or elimination of unnecessary duplication of facilities and overlapping of functions
- 42 among the Service component commands.

43
44 A combatant commander's directive authority for logistics does not—

- 45
- 46 • Discontinue Service responsibility for logistic support. Unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of
- 47 Defense, Military Departments and Services are responsible for the logistic and administrative
- 48 support of Service forces assigned or attached to joint commands.
- 49 • Discourage coordination by consultation and agreement.
- 50 • Disrupt effective procedures, efficient utilization of facilities, or organization.

1
2 A combatant commander exercises approval authority over Service logistic programs (base
3 adjustments, force beddowns, and other aspects as appropriate) within the command's area of
4 responsibility that have significant effects on operational capability or sustainability. When the combatant
5 commander does not concur with a proposed Service logistic program action and coordination between
6 the combatant commander and the chief of the Service fails to result in an arrangement suitable to all
7 parties, the combatant commander may forward the issue through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of
8 Staff to the Secretary of Defense for resolution.
9

10 **OPERATIONAL CONTROL**

11
12 OPCON is the command authority that may be exercised by commanders at any echelon at or
13 below the level of combatant command and involves—
14

- 15 • Organizing and employing commands and forces.
- 16 • Assigning tasks.
- 17 • Designating objectives.
- 18 • Giving authoritative direction necessary to accomplish the mission.

19
20 Unless specifically delegated by the combatant commander, OPCON does not include
21 authoritative direction of logistic or administrative support, discipline, internal organization, or unit
22 training. OPCON may be delegated to commanders at any echelon at or below the level of combatant
23 command.
24

25 **TACTICAL CONTROL**

26
27 TACON is the command authority over assigned or attached forces or commands or the military
28 capability made available for tasking. TACON is limited to the detailed direction and control of
29 movements or maneuvers within the operational area necessary to accomplish the commander's assigned
30 missions or tasks. TACON provides the authority to—
31

- 32 • Give direction for military operations.
- 33 • Control designated forces.

34
35 TACON provides authority to control and direct the application of force or tactical use of combat
36 support forces or capabilities. TACON does not include organizational authority or authoritative direction
37 for logistic or administrative support. The parent unit commander maintains this authority unless
38 otherwise specified in the establishing directive. Functional component commanders typically exercise
39 TACON over military forces or over capabilities made available to the JFC for tasking through functional
40 component commanders. TACON may be delegated to commanders at any level at or below the level of
41 combatant command. TACON is inherent in OPCON.
42

43 **SUPPORT RELATIONSHIPS**

44
45 Support is a command authority. A senior commander sets a support relationship between
46 subordinate commanders when one organization should aid, protect, complement, or sustain another
47 force. Support may be exercised by commanders at any echelon at or below the level of combatant
48 command. Support relationships establish priorities to commanders and staffs who are planning or
49 executing joint operations.
50

1 The senior commander issues an establishing directive to guarantee that both the supported and
2 supporting commanders understand the authority given to the supported commander. The establishing
3 directive specifies the purpose of the support relationship in terms of the desired effect and the scope of
4 the action to be taken. The supported commander can exercise general direction of the supporting effort
5 which includes—
6

- 7 • The forces and resources allocated to the supporting effort.
- 8 • The time, place, level, and duration of the supporting effort.
- 9 • The priority of the supporting mission relative to the other missions of the supporting force
- 10 • The authority, if any, of the supporting force to modify the supporting force in the event of an
11 exceptional opportunity or an emergency.
- 12 • The degree of authority granted to the supported commander over the supporting effort.

13
14 The supporting commander determines the supported force's needs and fills them within his
15 capabilities based on the priorities and requirements of other assigned tasks. The supporting commander
16 determines the forces, tactics, methods, procedures, and communications necessary to provide the
17 support. The supporting commander—
18

- 19 • Advises and coordinates with the supported commander on the employment and limitations of his
20 support.
- 21 • Assists in integrating support into the supported commander's effort.
- 22 • Ensures that his entire command knows the supported commander's requirements.

23 24 **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL**

25
26 ADCON is the direction or exercise of authority over subordinate or other organizations in
27 respect to administration and support actions. ADCON includes—
28

- 29 • Organization of Service forces.
- 30 • Control of resources and equipment.
- 31 • Personnel management.
- 32 • Unit logistics.
- 33 • Individual and unit training.
- 34 • Readiness.
- 35 • Mobilization/demobilization.
- 36 • Discipline.
- 37 • Other matters not included in the operational missions of the subordinate or other organizations.

38
39 ADCON maybe delegated and exercised by Service force commanders at any echelon at or below
40 the level of a combatant command's Service component command.
41

42 **COORDINATING AUTHORITY**

43
44 Coordinating authority is given to a commander or individual to coordinate specific functions and
45 activities involving forces of two or more Military Departments, two or more joint force components, or
46 two or more forces of the same Service. The commander or individual has the authority to require
47 consultation between the agencies involved, but does not have the authority to compel agreement. The
48 establishing directive names the common task to be coordinated but does not change normal
49 organizational relationships in other matters. Coordinating authority is a consultation relationship
50 between commanders, not an authority by which command may be exercised. The missions and

1 capabilities of the commands determine the scope of the coordinating authority. Coordinating authority
2 applies more to planning than to operations. Commanders or individuals at or below the level of
3 combatant command can exercise coordinating authority.

4

5 **DIRECT LIAISON AUTHORIZED**

6

7 DIRLAUTH is that authority granted by a commander (at any level) to a subordinate to directly
8 consult or coordinate an action with a command or agency within or outside of the granting command.

9 DIRLAUTH is more applicable to planning than operations and always carries with it the requirement of
10 keeping the commander granting DIRLAUTH informed. DIRLAUTH is a coordination relationship, not

11 an authority through which command may be exercised.

Notes

Fundamentals

1. JP 1, *Joint Warfare of the Armed Forces of the United States* (14 November 2000), p. V-9.
2. LtGen Howell & LtCol Gershanenck, USMC, *Marine Corps Gazette*, "Componency: The Path to Operational Success" (February 1997), p. 64.
3. Lynn Montross and Captain Nicholas A. Canzona, USMC, *The Pusan Perimeter*, Vol I, *U.S. Marine Operations in Korea 1950-1953* (Washington, D.C.: Historical Branch G-3 HQMC, 1954), p. 243.
4. JP 0-2, *Unified Action Armed Forces (UNAAF)* (10 July 2001), p. V-4.
5. *Ibid.*, p. V-3.

The Marine Corps Component

1. JP 0-2, p. V-16.
2. General Charles C. Krulak, USMC, *Joint Forces Quarterly* "Doctrine for Joint Force Integration", Winter 1996-7, p. 23.
3. *Ibid.*, pp. V-4, V-5.
4. Marine Corps Doctrinal Publication 1-0, *Marine Corps Operations*, p. 5-14.

Service Support Functions

1. JP, p. V-17.

Command Relationships

1. JP 1, p. V-8

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Glossary

Section I. Acronyms

ADCON	administrative control
C2	command and control
CJCSI	Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction
CJCSM	Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Memorandum
COCOM	combatant command (command authority)
COMMARFORLANT	Commander, Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic
COMMARFORPAC	Commander, Marine Corps Forces, Pacific
DIRLAUTH	direct liaison authorized
FM	field manual
FMFLANT	Fleet Marine Forces, Atlantic
FMFPAC	Fleet Marine Forces, Pacific
JFC	joint force commander
JP	joint publication
MAGTF	Marine air-ground task force
MARFORCENT	Marine Corps Forces, Central Command
MARFOREUR	Marine Corps Forces, Europe
MARFORK	Marine Corps Forces, Korea
MARFORLANT	Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic
MARFORNORTH	Marine Corps Forces, Northern Command
MARFORPAC	Marine Corps Forces, Pacific
MARFORRES	Marine Corps Forces Reserve
MARFORSOUTH	Marine Corps Forces, Southern Command
MARFORSTRAT	Marine Corps Forces, Strategic Command
MCDP	Marine Corps doctrinal publication
MCWP	Marine Corps Warfighting publication
MCRP	Marine Corps reference publication
MEF	Marine expeditionary force
MLC	Marine logistics command
NDP	naval doctrine publication
OPCON	operational control
OPNAVINST	Chief of Naval Operations Instruction
SMCR	Selected Marine Corps Reserve
TACON	tactical control
US	United States
USA	United States Army
USC	United States Code
USCENTCOM	United States Central Command
USEUCOM	United States European Command
USFK	United States Forces, Korea
USJFCOM	United States Joint Forces Command
USMC	United States Marine Corps
USNORTHCOM	United States Northern Command
USPACOM	United States Pacific Command
USSOUTHCOM	United States Southern Command

1 USSTRATCOM..... United States Strategic Command

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Section II. Definitions

A

administrative control—Direction or exercise of authority over subordinate or other organizations in respect to administration and support, including organization of Service forces, control of resources and equipment, personnel management, unit logistics, individual and unit training, readiness, mobilization, demobilization, discipline, and other matters not included in the operational missions of the subordinate or other organizations. Also called **ADCON**. (JP 1-02)

assign—1. To place units or personnel in an organization where such placement is relatively permanent, and/or where such organization controls and administers the units or personnel for the primary function, or greater portion of the functions, of the unit or personnel. (JP 1-02)

attach—1. The placement of units or personnel in an organization where such placement is relatively temporary. (JP 1-02)

C

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combatant command—A unified or specified command with a broad continuing mission under a single commander established and so designated by the President, through the Secretary of Defense and with the advice and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Combatant commands typically have geographic or functional responsibilities. (JP 1-02)

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combatant command (command authority)—Nontransferable command authority established by Title 10 (“Armed Forces”), United States Code, section 164, exercised only by commanders of unified or specified combatant commands unless otherwise directed by the President or the Secretary of Defense. Combatant command (command authority) cannot be delegated and 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. Combatant command (command authority) should be exercised through the commanders of subordinate organizations. Normally this authority is exercised through subordinate joint force commanders and Service and/ or functional component commanders. Combatant command (command authority) provides full authority to organize and employ commands and forces as the combatant commander considers necessary to accomplish assigned missions. Operational control is inherent in combatant command (command authority). Also called **COCOM**. (JP 1-02)

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combatant commander—A commander in chief of one of the unified or specified combatant commands established by the President. Also called **CDR**. (JP 1-02)

1 **command**—1. The authority that a commander in the Armed Forces lawfully exercises over
2 subordinates by virtue of rank or assignment. Command includes the authority and responsibility
3 for effectively using available resources and for planning the employment of, organizing,
4 directing, coordinating, and controlling military forces for the accomplishment of assigned
5 missions. It also includes responsibility for health, welfare, morale, and discipline of assigned
6 personnel. (JP 1-02)

7
8 **command and control**—The exercise of authority and direction by a properly designated
9 commander over assigned and attached forces in the accomplishment of the mission. Command
10 and control functions are performed through an arrangement of personnel, equipment,
11 communications, facilities, and procedures employed by a commander in planning, directing,
12 coordinating, and controlling forces and operations in the accomplishment of the mission. Also
13 called **C2**. (JP 1- 02)

14
15 **command relationships**—The interrelated responsibilities between commanders, as well as the
16 authority exercised by commanders in the chain of command, defined further as combatant
17 command (command authority), operational control, tactical control, or support. (JP 1-02)

18
19 **communications zone**—Rear part of a theater of war or theater of operations (behind but
20 contiguous to the combat zone) which contains the lines of communications, establishments for
21 supply and evacuation, and other agencies required for the immediate support and maintenance
22 of the field forces. Also called **COMMZ**. (JP 1-02)

23
24 **component**—One of the subordinate organizations that constitute a joint force. Normally a joint
25 force is organized with a combination of Service and functional components. (JP 1-02)

26
27 **coordinating authority** — A commander or individual assigned responsibility for coordinating
28 specific functions or activities involving forces of two or more Military Departments, two
29 or more joint force components, or two or more forces of the same Service. The commander
30 or individual has the authority to require consultation between the agencies involved, but
31 does not have the authority to compel agreement. In the event that essential agreement
32 cannot be obtained, the matter shall be referred to the appointing authority. Coordinating
33 authority is a consultation relationship, not an authority through which command may be
34 exercised. Coordinating authority is more applicable to planning and similar activities than
35 to operations. (JP 1-02)

36 37 38 39 **D**

40
41 **deployment**—4. The relocation of forces and materiel to desired areas of operations.
42 Deployment encompasses all activities from origin or home station through destination,
43 specifically including intra-continental United States, intertheater, and intratheater movement
44 legs, staging, and holding areas. (JP 1-02)

45
46 **direct liaison authorized** — That authority granted by a commander (any level) to a subordinate

1 to directly consult or coordinate an action with a command or agency within or outside of
2 the granting command. Direct liaison authorized is more applicable to planning than
3 operations and always carries with it the requirement of keeping the commander granting
4 direct liaison authorized informed. Direct liaison authorized is a coordination relationship,
5 not an authority through which command may be exercised. Also called **DIRLAUTH**. (JP 1-02)
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8 9 **E**

10 **employment**—The strategic, operational, or tactical use of forces. (JP 1-02)
11
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13 14 **F**

15
16 **functional component command**—A command normally, but not necessarily, composed of
17 forces of two or more Military Departments which may be established across the range of
18 military operations to perform particular operational missions that may be of short duration or
19 may extend over a period of time. (JP 1-02)
20
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22 23 **J**

24 **joint**—Connotes activities, operations, organizations, etc., in which elements of two or more
25 Military Departments participate. (JP 1-02)
26

27 **joint force**—A general term applied to a force composed of significant elements, assigned or
28 attached, of two or more Military Departments, operating under a single joint force commander.
29 (JP 1-02)
30

31 **joint force air component commander**—The commander within a unified command,
32 subordinate unified command, or joint task force responsible to the establishing commander for
33 making recommendations on the proper employment of assigned, attached, and/or made
34 available for tasking air forces; planning and coordinating air operations; or accomplishing such
35 operational missions as may be assigned. The joint force air component commander is given the
36 authority necessary to accomplish missions and tasks assigned by the establishing commander.
37 Also called **JFACC**. (JP 1-02)
38

39 **joint force commander**—A general term applied to a combatant commander, subunified
40 commander, or joint task force commander authorized to exercise combatant command
41 (command authority) or operational control over a joint force. Also called **JFC**. (JP 1-02)
42

43 **joint force land component commander**—The commander within a unified command,
44 subordinate unified command, or joint task force responsible to the establishing commander for
45 making recommendations on the proper employment of assigned, attached, and/or made
46 available for tasking land forces; planning and coordinating land operations; or accomplishing

1 such operational missions as may be assigned. The joint force land component commander is
2 given the authority necessary to accomplish missions and tasks assigned by the establishing
3 commander. Also called **JFLCC**. (JP 1-02)
4

5 **joint force maritime component commander**—The commander within a unified command,
6 subordinate unified command, or joint task force responsible to the establishing commander for
7 making recommendations on the proper employment of assigned, attached, and/or made
8 available for tasking maritime forces and assets; planning and coordinating maritime operations;
9 or accomplishing such operational missions as may be assigned. The joint force maritime
10 component commander is given the authority necessary to accomplish missions and tasks
11 assigned by the establishing commander. Also called **JFMCC**. (JP 1-02)
12

13 **joint force special operations component commander**—The commander within a unified
14 command, subordinate unified command, or joint task force responsible to the establishing
15 commander for making recommendations on the proper employment of assigned, attached,
16 and/or made available for tasking special operations forces and assets; planning and coordinating
17 special operations; or accomplishing such operational missions as may be assigned. The joint
18 force special operations component commander is given the authority necessary to accomplish
19 missions and tasks assigned by the establishing commander. Also called **JFSOCC**. (JP 1-02)
20

21 **joint operations**—A general term to describe military actions conducted by joint forces or by
22 Service forces in relationships (e.g., support, coordinating authority), which, of themselves, do
23 not create joint forces. (JP 1-02)
24

25 **joint staff**—1. The staff of a commander of a unified or specified command, subordinate unified
26 command, joint task force, or subordinate functional component (when a functional component
27 command will employ forces from more than one Military Department), which includes
28 members from the several Services comprising the force. These members should be assigned in
29 such a manner as to ensure that the commander understands the tactics, techniques, capabilities,
30 needs, and limitations of the component parts of the force. Positions on the staff should be
31 divided so that Service representation and influence generally reflect the Service composition of
32 the force. (JP 1-02)
33

34 **joint task force**—A joint force that is constituted and so designated by the Secretary of Defense,
35 a combatant commander, a subunified commander, or an existing joint task force commander.
36 Also called **JTF**. (JP 1-02)
37
38

39 M

40
41 **Marine air-ground task force**—The Marine Corps principal organization for all missions
42 across the range of military operations, composed of forces task-organized under a single
43 commander capable of responding rapidly to a contingency anywhere in the world. The types of
44 forces in the Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) are functionally grouped into four core
45 elements: a command element, an aviation combat element, a ground combat element, and a
46 combat service support element. The four core elements are categories of forces, not formal

1 commands. The basic structure of the MAGTF never varies, though the number, size, and type of
2 Marine Corps units comprising each of its four elements will always be mission dependent. The
3 flexibility of the organizational structure allows for one or more subordinate MAGTFs, other
4 Service, and/or foreign military forces to be assigned or attached. Also called **MAGTF**. (MCRP
5 5-12C)
6

7 **Marine expeditionary force**—The largest Marine air-ground task force and the Marine Corps
8 principal warfighting organization, particularly for larger crises or contingencies. It is task-
9 organized around a permanent command element and normally contains one or more Marine
10 divisions, Marine aircraft wings, and Marine force service support groups. The Marine
11 expeditionary force is capable of missions across the range of military operations, including
12 amphibious assault and sustained operations ashore in any environment. It can operate from a
13 sea base, a land base, or both. It may also contain other Service or foreign military forces
14 assigned or attached to the MAGTF. Also called **MEF**. (MCRP 5-12C)
15

16 **Military Department**—One of the departments within the Department of Defense created by
17 the National Security Act of 1947, as amended. (JP 1-02)
18

19 **Military Service**—A branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, established by act of
20 Congress, in which persons are appointed, enlisted, or inducted for military service, and which
21 operates and is administered within a military or executive department. The Military Services
22 are: the United States Army, the United States Navy, the United States Air Force, the United
23 States Marine Corps, and the United States Coast Guard. (JP 1-02)
24
25

26 O

27
28 **operational control**—Command authority that may be exercised by commanders at any echelon
29 at or below the level of combatant command. Operational control is inherent in combatant
30 command (command authority) and may be delegated within the command. When forces are
31 transferred between combatant commands, the command relationship the gaining commander
32 will exercise (and the losing commander will relinquish) over these forces must be specified by
33 the Secretary of Defense. Operational control is the authority to perform those functions of
34 command over subordinate forces involving organizing and employing commands and forces,
35 assigning tasks, designating objectives, and giving authoritative direction necessary to
36 accomplish the mission. Operational control includes authoritative direction over all aspects of
37 military operations and joint training necessary to accomplish missions assigned to the
38 command. Operational control should be exercised through the commanders of subordinate
39 organizations. Normally this authority is exercised through subordinate joint force commanders
40 and Service and/or functional component commanders. Operational control normally provides
41 full authority to organize commands and forces and to employ those forces as the commander in
42 operational control considers necessary to accomplish assigned missions; it does not, in and of
43 itself, include authoritative direction for logistics or matters of administration, discipline, internal
44 organization, or unit training. Also called **OPCON**. (JP 1- 02)
45

1 **operational level of war**—The level of war at which campaigns and major operations are
2 planned, conducted, and sustained to accomplish strategic objectives within theaters or
3 operational areas. Activities at this level link tactics and strategy by establishing operational
4 objectives needed to accomplish the strategic objectives, sequencing events to achieve the
5 operational objectives, initiating actions, and applying resources to bring about and sustain these
6 events. These activities imply a broader dimension of time or space than do tactics; they ensure
7 the logistic and administrative support of tactical forces, and provide the means by which tactical
8 successes are exploited to achieve strategic objectives. (JP 1-02)

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11 **R**
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13 **redeployment**—The transfer of a unit, an individual, or supplies deployed in one area to another
14 area, or to another location within the area, or to the zone of interior for the purpose of further
15 employment. (JP 1-02)

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18 **S**
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20 **Service component command**—A command consisting of the Service component commander
21 and all those Service forces, such as individuals, units, detachments, organizations, and
22 installations under the command, including the support forces that have been assigned to a
23 combatant command or further assigned to a subordinate unified command or joint task force.
24 (JP 1-02)

25
26 **specified command**—A command that has a broad, continuing mission, normally functional,
27 and is established and so designated by the President through the Secretary of Defense with the
28 advice and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It normally is composed of
29 forces from a single Military Department. Also called specified combatant command. (JP 1-02)

30
31 **strategic level of war**—The level of war at which a nation, often as a member of a group of
32 nations, determines national or multinational (alliance or coalition) security objectives and
33 guidance, and develops and uses national resources to accomplish these objectives. Activities at
34 this level establish national and multinational military objectives; sequence initiatives; define
35 limits and assess risks for the use of military and other instruments of national power; develop
36 global plans or theater war plans to achieve these objectives; and provide military forces and
37 other capabilities in accordance with strategic plans. (JP 1-02)

38
39 **subordinate unified command**—A command established by commanders of unified
40 commands, when so authorized through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to conduct
41 operations on a continuing basis in accordance with the criteria set forth for unified commands.
42 A subordinate unified command may be established on an area or functional basis. Commanders
43 of subordinate unified commands have functions and responsibilities similar to those of the
44 commanders of unified commands and exercise operational control of assigned commands and
45 forces within the assigned operational area. Also called **subunified command**. (JP 1-02)

1 **supported commander**—The commander having primary responsibility for all aspects of a task
2 assigned by the Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan or other joint operation planning authority. In
3 the context of joint operation planning, this term refers to the commander who prepares
4 operation plans or operation orders in response to requirements of the Chairman of the Joint
5 Chiefs of Staff. (Joint Pub 1-02)

6
7 **supporting commander**—A commander who provides augmentation forces or other support to
8 a supported commander or who develops a supporting plan. Includes the designated combatant
9 commands and Defense agencies as appropriate. (Joint Pub 1-02)

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12 **T**
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14 **tactical control**—Command authority over assigned or attached forces or commands, or military
15 capability or forces made available for tasking, that is limited to the detailed and, usually, local
16 direction and control of movements or maneuvers necessary to accomplish missions or tasks
17 assigned. Tactical control is inherent in operational control. Tactical control may be delegated to,
18 and exercised at any level at or below the level of combatant command. Also called **TACON**.
19 (JP 1-02)

20
21 **tactical level of war**—The level of war at which battles and engagements are planned and
22 executed to accomplish military objectives assigned to tactical units or task forces. Activities at
23 this level focus on the ordered arrangement and maneuver of combat elements in relation to each
24 other and to the enemy to achieve combat objectives. (JP 1-02)

25
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27 **U**
28

29 **unified command**—A command with a broad continuing mission under a single commander
30 and composed of significant assigned components of two or more Military Departments that is
31 established and so designated by the President, through the Secretary of Defense with the advice
32 and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Also called unified combatant
33 command. (JP 1-02)

1	MCDP 3	Expeditionary Operations
2	MCDP 4	Logistics
3	MCDP 5	Planning
4	MCDP 6	Command and Control
5	MCRP 5-1A	Doctrinal References for Expeditionary Manuever Warfare
6	MCRP 5-12C	Marine Corps Supplement to the DOD Dictionary of Military and
7		Associated Terms

8

9 **7. Army Publications**

10		
11	FM 3-0	Operations
12	FM 100-7	Decisive Force: The Army in Theater Operations

13

14 **8. Miscellaneous Publications**

15

16 Lynn Montross and Captain Nicholas A. Canzona, USMC, *The Pusan Perimeter*, Vol I, *U.S.*
 17 *Marine Operations in Korea 1950-1953* (Washington, D.C.: Historical Branch G-3 HQMC,
 18 1954)