

MCWP 3-40.8
(Formally MCDP 1-0.1)

Componency



U.S. Marine Corps

PCN 143 000053 00

To Our Readers

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Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine or feminine gender is used, both men and women are included.

MCCDC (C 42)
27 June 2003

E R R A T U M

to

MCWP 3-40.8

COMPONENCY

1. For administrative purposes, the publication short title has been reidentified. Change “MCDP 1-0.1” to read: “MCWP 3-40.8” of June 1998 wherever it appears in the Manual.

143 000053 81

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Headquarters United States Marine Corps
Washington, D.C. 20380-1775

5 June 1998

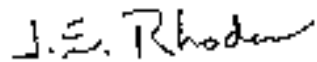
FOREWORD

Marine Corps Warfighting Publication (MCWP) 3-40.8, *Componency*, addresses the fundamental principles of Marine Corps componency. It deals with the Marine Corps component under a combatant command; the role of the Marine Corps component commander and staff; the relationship of the Marine Corps component commander with the combatant commander, other Service component commanders, and the Marine air-ground task force commander. It describes the role of the Marine Corps component commander in a joint task force and the relationship of the Marine Corps component commander with the Marine Corps' Service component at the combatant command. It further discusses the role of the Marine Corps Reserve within the Marine Corps Total Force concept. Lastly it delineates the functions of a Marine Corps component throughout the phases of an expeditionary campaign.

This publication provides guidance for the commanders and their staffs of Marine Corps components and major subordinate commands. It also provides information for the Joint Staff, joint force commanders and their staffs, and other Service

components on how Marine Corps components will support the joint force. Included are descriptions of command relationships and the Service support functions performed by Marine Corps component headquarters. The roles and functions described herein provide an understanding of how the Marine Corps will support the joint force commander.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT
OF THE MARINE CORPS



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DISTRIBUTION: 142 000013 00

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

Table of Contents

Chapter 1. Fundamentals

An Historical Overview—Establishment of Marine Corps Components—National Military Command Structure—Combatant Command Structure—*Service Components—Functional Components—Combination of Service and Functional Components*—Subordinate Joint Command Structure—Designation as a Functional Component Commander

Chapter 2. The Marine Corps Component

Marine Corps Component Commands—Levels of Marine Corps Components—Combatant Commands and Marine Corps Components—Organization—Combatant Command-Level Marine Corps Component—*Combatant Commander and Marine Corps Component*

Commander—Commandant of the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Component Commander—Marine Corps Component Commander and Other Component Commanders—Marine Corps Component Commander and Subordinate Marine Corps Force Commanders—Subordinate Joint Command-Level Marine Corps Component—Commander of a Subordinate Joint Command and Subordinate Joint Command-Level Marine Corps Component Commander—Combatant Command-Level Marine Corps Component Commander and Subordinate Joint Command-Level Marine Corps Component Commander—Marine Corps Component Commander and Other Component Commanders—Marine Corps Component Commander and MAGTF Commander—The Marine Corps Component and the MAGTF—One Commander and One Staff—One Commander and Two Staffs—Two Commanders and Two Staffs—The Marine Corps Component and the Marine Corps Logistics Command—The Marine Corps Component and the Rear Area Command—Marine Corps Component Staff Manning—Augmentees—Liaisons—Representatives

Chapter 3. Service Support Functions

Personnel and Logistics—Intelligence—Operations—
Plans—Command and Control

Chapter 4. Conclusion

Appendix. Levels of Authority

Combatant Command—Operational Control—Tactical
Control—Support Relationships—Administrative
Control—Coordinating Authority

Notes

Glossary

References

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 pieces fit into the overall design and best support the joint force commander’s plans and goals.”¹

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

Since 1775, the United States Marine Corps has conducted military operations around the globe with forces from other Services and 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 military force whose combat power exceeds that of a comparably sized force drawn from a single Service. This synergy has allowed our nation and its allies to win against numerically superior enemies while limiting our own losses.

The Marine Corps' operational forces are organized as Marine air-ground task forces (MAGTFs) and are employed either as part of naval expeditionary forces or as part of larger joint or combined forces. To better support present and future joint military operations, the Marine Corps has established Marine Corps components with the five geographic combatant commands. This publication discusses how a Marine Corps component headquarters supports a joint force commander during joint operations. It clarifies the roles, functions, and command relationships of the Marine Corps component.

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