

MCRP 5-12D

Organization of Marine Corps Forces



U.S. Marine Corps

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Headquarters United States Marine Corps
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FOREWORD

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1. PURPOSE

Marine Corps reference publication (MCRP) 5-12D, *Organization of Marine Corps Forces*, provides general information on the mission, concept of employment, organization, and equipment of the Marine Corps forces.

2. SCOPE

This publication addresses the mission, organization, equipment, and concept of employment of Marine Corps Forces Atlantic, Marine Corps Forces Pacific, and the Marine Corps Reserve, as well as subordinate organizations thereof, through 1 September 1998. However, due to the frequent changes in organization, the tables of organization will be reviewed and this publication will be updated annually. This publication does not discuss in any detail Marine Corps Security Forces, the Marine Security Guard Battalion, or the Marine Corps supporting establishment. *This publication should be considered only a guide based on current Marine Corps tables of organization and equipment, and not as a replacement for those tables.* This reference publication is primarily intended for Marine commanders, their staffs, and Marine Corps training and education institutions, although all Marines may find it useful. It may also prove valuable to joint force commanders and their staffs in planning and executing operations involving Marine Corps forces.

3. SUPERSESION

MCRP 5-12D supersedes Fleet Marine Force reference publication (FMFRP) 1-11, *Fleet Marine Force Organization—1992*, dated 2 March 1992.

4. CERTIFICATION

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

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DISTRIBUTION: 144 000050 00

To Our Readers

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Unless otherwise specified, masculine nouns and pronouns used in this publication refer to both men and women.

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Chapter 1

The Marine Corps

1001. Introduction

The Marine Corps, within the Department of the Navy, is organized as a general purpose “force in readiness” to support national needs. Deploying for combat as combined-arms Marine air-ground task forces (MAGTFs), the Marine Corps provides the National Command Authorities (NCA) with a responsive force that can conduct operations across the spectrum of conflict. Recent events continue to highlight the Navy-Marine Corps team’s key national security role. Seabased, combat ready, forward deployed naval forces have been involved in more than 28 major military operations since 1995. Whether responding to natural disasters or to the specter of regional aggression, Navy and Marine forces provide self-contained and self-sustained air, land, and sea strike forces, operating from a protected sea base, that can be tailored to meet any contingency.

1002. Organization and Chain of Command

Two parallel chains of command—Service and operational—exist within the Marine Corps. The Service chain begins with the President, through the Secretary of Defense, and continues through the Secretary of the Navy and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. The operational chain runs from the President, through the Secretary of Defense, directly to commanders of combatant commands for missions and forces assigned to their commands. Marine Corps component commanders provide operational forces to commanders of combatant commands and other operational commanders as required.

The Marine Corps is divided into four broad categories: operating forces; the Marine Corps

Reserve; the supporting establishment; and Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

1003. Marine Corps Operating Forces

The Marine Corps’ operating forces consist of:

- w Marine Corps forces (MARFOR)
- w Marine Corps security forces (MCSF) at naval installations
- w Marine security guard detachments at embassies and consulates around the globe.

The “Forces for Unified Commands” memorandum assigns Marine Corps operating forces to each of the combatant commands. A force assigned or attached to a combatant command may be transferred from that command only as directed by the Secretary of Defense and under procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense and approved by the President. The Marine Corps has established multiple Marine Corps component headquarters to support the unified commands.

a. Marine Corps forces are organized as MAGTFs and are either employed as part of naval expeditionary forces or separately as part of larger joint or combined forces.

The commanders of MARFOR Atlantic and Pacific serve as Marine Corps component commanders to their respective combatant commanders and may also serve as commanding generals of Fleet Marine Forces (FMFs) Atlantic, Pacific, and Europe. As commanding generals, with the status of a naval type commander, they provide forces for service with Commander US Atlantic Fleet, Commander US