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I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE ORDER 1414.6

From: Commanding General
To: Distribution List

Subj: FLEET MARINE FORCE QUALIFIED OFFICER PROGRAM (FMFQO)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 1414.6
(b) OPNAVINST 1414.6 CH-1
(c) SECNAVINST 1650.1G

1. Purpose. To publish the requirements for qualification and designation of I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF), Navy Officers as Fleet Marine Force Qualified Officers (FMFQO).

2. Cancellation. Per reference (a), as of 01 January 2006, Navy Officers assigned to the operational units of Fleet Marine Force (FMF) are no longer eligible for the Fleet Marine Force Ribbon as outlined in reference (c).

3. Background. This order contains the standards and procedures that an officer must follow and achieve to qualify as a FMFQO.

4. Discussion. Attainment of the FMFQO designation for a Navy Officer signifies an achieved level of excellence and proficiency in Marine Corps operations and indicates a fundamental understanding of a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) and its components. The FMFQO insignia signifies additional general knowledge that enhances their understanding of war fighting, mission effectiveness, and command survivability. Officers who wear the FMFQO insignia stand out as significant contributors to the Naval services ground warfare mission. The FMFQO qualification may only be obtained through the formal qualification program set forth in this order. Per ref (a), coordination of the FMFQO program will be at the MEF level for active duty personnel; approved and supervised at the Major Subordinate Command (MSC) (Division/Wing/Group) level, and administered at the Battalion/Squadron level.

5. Responsibility. Designated as follows:

a. FMFQO Manager. Per reference (a), A senior Navy Officer assigned to HQMC will be appointed in writing by the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps to manage the FMFQO program.

b. FMFQO Coordinator

(1) A Senior Navy officer assigned at the MEF Headquarters and appointed in writing by the MEF Commanding General.

(2) Monitor and provide guidance and assistance to Major Subordinate Commanders in administration of the program.

(3) Keep a listing of designated officers within the MEF and provide information as required to the FMFQO Manager.

(4) Forward all program and policy recommendations to the FMFQO Manager at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (HQMC) for consideration.

c. I MEF and Major Subordinate Commands (MSC)

(1) The Commanding General, I MEF and each MSC Commanding General will approve designation of a Naval Officer as a FMFQO based upon successful completion of the requirements set forth in this order and the recommendation of the candidate's Commanding Officer.

(2) Conduct oral boards for subordinate and supporting units.

(3) CG I MEF and each MSC Commanding General will designate in writing a Senior Navy Officer to serve as the I MEF and MSC FMFQO Program Coordinator. The Program Coordinator shall:

(a) Designate MSC FMFQO Program Managers.

(b) Chair or appoint the Senior Board Member for I MEF and MSC FMFQO qualification boards.

(c) Designate FMFQO Program board members.

(d) Submit a letter of recommendation utilizing enclosure (1) to the candidate's Commanding Officer upon a candidate's successful completion off all requirements.

(4) The MSC Program Manager shall:

(a) Assist the I MEF and MSC Coordinators in administering the FMFQO program. Ensure all administrative requirements, including appropriate service entries, are completed.

(b) Maintain and stock copies of reference (a).

(c) Ensure necessary reference materials, as listed in the bibliography of reference (a), are accessible.

(d) Assist in scheduling training and provide candidates with points of contact for PQS qualifiers.

(e) Inform all newly joined officers of the FMFQO Program during command orientation.

(f) Administer oral examination boards for candidates who have completed the PQS book and all prerequisite qualifications.

(g) Post and maintain a PQS progress chart for all personnel enrolled in the program. Submit enrollment and progress reports through the chain of command via the MSC Program Coordinator to the I MEF Program Coordinator on a quarterly basis.

d. Battalion/Squadron Commanding Officer

(1) Establish a FMFQO qualification program that meets both the provisions and the intent of this order.

(2) Make recommendation for FMFQO designation to the MSC Commanding General based on the candidate's successful completion of all program requirements.

e. PQS Qualifier. PQS qualifiers shall be USN or USMC personnel, preferably O-3 or above and/or a Subject Matter Expert (SME) within their area.

(1) USN PQS qualifiers must be FMFQO or enlisted FMFEWS qualified, E-6 and above.

(2) USMC SME PQS qualifiers must be Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) qualified in their area of expertise; for example, 06XX MOS USMC SME PQS qualifiers will instruct candidates on section 109 (communication, of reference (c). Marine Staff Non-Commissioned Officers are authorized to act as qualifiers for generic Marine Corps sections such as Marine Corps History, Customs and Courtesies, and Close Order Drill.

(3) PQS Qualifiers will make themselves available to candidates for training and for signing of PQS section qualifications.

6. Program Integrity

a. Commanding Generals will approve FMFQO designation only for those officers recommended by the unit Commanding Officer and who meet the standards outlined in paragraph 9.

b. The FMFQO Coordinator will ensure the spirit and intent of this order is met within their units. Particular attention will be given to assuring board questions and answers are thorough and appropriate and that PQS qualifiers are appropriately selected and trained.

c. Unit Commanding Officers will ensure equitable and thorough qualification processes are in place and are standardized to the maximum extent feasible.

d. The FMFQO Program shall be included in inspections and criteria will be entered into the Marine Corps Automated Inspection Reporting System.

7. Qualification Procedures

a. FMFQO PQS will be divided into three parts: Fundamentals, Mission Areas, and Watch Stations. FMFQO candidates will first complete all Fundamental PQS sections before moving on to Mission Areas and Watch Stations. Mission and Watch Station sections are unit specific PQS sections; for example, Division personnel will complete all Fundamental PQS, followed by Mission and then Watch Station PQS for the Ground Combat Element.

b. FMFQO candidates must pass an oral board upon completion of all PQS requirements. The candidate should be prepared to answer questions based on all PQS signature line items. A unanimous vote from the board is required to successfully pass this requirement.

8. Eligibility. FMFQO qualification recognizes Navy officers trained in Fleet Marine Force operations. FMFQO qualification is highly recommended for all eligible officers assigned to a U.S. Marine Corps command. Active Duty officers and Reserve officers may qualify for FMFQO qualification if they meet the eligibility requirements outlined below.

a. Navy Officers assigned to a command of the U.S. Marine Corps operating forces that serve a minimum of 12 months consecutively.

b. Active or Reserve Officers deployed for a minimum of 90 consecutive days in direct support of a U.S. Marine Corps operational command during combat or military operations other than war. Eligibility does not apply to personnel deployed in support of U.S. Marine Corps training exercises.

c. Reserve Officer Full Time Support (FTS) and Selected Reserve (SELRES).

(1) Officer Full Time Support (FTS) personnel assigned to a Marine Forces Reserve unit must serve a minimum of 12 months consecutively.

(2) Officer Selected Reserve (SELRES) personnel must be presently assigned to a Naval Reserve (Program Nine), Marine Forces Reserve, command and serve a minimum of 24 months with satisfactory drill attendance. They must complete two periods of Annual Training (AT) in 24 months, one of which in support of Marine Corps units, or an equivalent period of Marine Corps specific Active Duty Special Work (ADSW).

(a) Personnel who previously served a minimum of 24 months with a Naval Reserve (Program Nine), Marine Forces Reserve command in the past 60 months with satisfactory drill attendance must complete a minimum of 12 consecutive months in their current assigned Naval Reserve (Program Nine), Marine Forces Reserve command. They must complete one period of Annual Training (AT) in 12 months in support of Marine Corps units, or an equivalent period of Marine Corps specific ADSW.

9. Standards. Candidates for FMFQO shall demonstrate effective leadership and directing ability, and:

a. Meet the eligibility requirements in paragraph 8.

b. Complete enclosure (1) Personnel Qualification Standard (PQS) for FMFQO.

(1) Chaplains are waived from completing weapons-related requirements.

(2) The Commanding General of the Qualifying U.S. Marine Corps command shall determine the validity of any PQS Qualifier signatures dated prior to 1 July 2005.

c. Pass oral examination.

(1) The oral examination is designed to allow the candidate the opportunity to display general knowledge of overall Marine Corps organization, mission, assets, employment, combat systems, and basic battle and survival skills.

(2) The oral examination board will be convened by the Major Subordinate Command or CG I MEF in the case of Navy officers assigned to I MEF headquarters staff and the staff and units of I MHG. The board will be comprised of no fewer than three officers, one of whom must be a Marine Corps officer. A senior member will be appointed in writing. Board members will be Navy and Marine Corps officers who have the experience and breadth of knowledge to evaluate a candidate's understanding of the material covered in the PQS. Per Reference (a), after 1 July 2008, all Navy board members must be FMFQO qualified. Smaller units that do not have qualified officers to comprise an oral examination board may request to use another command's board process.

(3) Upon completion of the board process, the senior board member will advise the candidate's Commanding Officer regarding qualification. The Commanding Officer will make a recommendation to the MSC Commanding General, or the CG I MEF in the case of Navy officers assigned to the I MEF Headquarters Group (I MHG) or Marine Expeditionary Units (MEU).

d. Be recommended for FMFQO qualification by their Commanding Officer to the respective MSC Commanding General, or CG, I MEF in the case of Navy officers assigned to I MHG or the MEUs.

10. Approval of Qualification

a. After satisfactory completion of the requirements within this order, the Commanding General of the qualifying U.S. Marine Corps command will determine approval of the FMFQO qualification.

b. Only the Commanding General may approve FMFQO qualification.

c. For SELRES personnel, only the Commanding General of the Marine Forces Reserve Command may approve the FMFQO qualification.

d. When members have qualified for the FMFQO designation, a page 13 entry will be made in their service records as follows:

(1) **"XX XXX XX (Date): Qualified as a Fleet Marine Force Officer (FMFQO) this date."**

e. The appropriate Diary Message Reporting System (DMRS) entry will be submitted at the time of initial qualification.

11. Designation and Authority to Wear the Insignia. The Commanding Officer of the qualifying unit is authorized to present the FMFQO insignia upon approval by the awarding authority. Attainment of the Fleet Marine Force Qualified Officer designation should be recognized appropriately and incorporated in the member's next fitness report.

12. Qualification Continuance. Once qualification has been achieved, re-qualification is not required.

13. Previous FMF Qualifications. Those officers who previously qualified under the FMF Ribbon Qualification Program must meet all requirements outlined in this instruction prior to wearing the FMFQO device. No one will be "grandfathered" to wear this device.

14. Revocation of Qualification

a. A FMFQO will retain such designation unless revoked by the Navy Personnel Command (NPC).

b. A Commanding Officer may recommend revocation of FMFQO designation when an officer's performance of Marine Corps related duties is unsatisfactory.

c. A recommendation for revocation will not be made in lieu of detachment for cause, nor will recommendations automatically be included in cases of detachment for cause. Revocation may be considered and recommended coincident with a detachment for cause, but shall be handled administratively as a separate action by NPC.

15. Review. The FMFQO Manager (HQMC) is responsible for the periodic review and update of references (a) and (b). Requests to waive/modify any part of these references will be submitted to the FMFQO Manager via the appropriate FMFQO Coordinator (I MEF).

16. FMFQO PQS Booklets. FMFQO PQS Booklets may be ordered through Navy Supply Channels per NAVSUP P-2002.

J. A. BRUDER IV
Chief of Staff