



Commander's Deployment Guidance



This is a combat deployment. All of our individual and collective actions, mindsets, and daily practices will be guided by the fact that we have deployed into harm's way in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and other emerging contingencies as may be directed by the Commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM). The following deployment guidance highlights the nature of our operational environment, the framework to our success of the task force, and my baseline expectations.

The CENTCOM region in which we operate is quite tumultuous. It is characterized by geographical vastness, conflict, turmoil, political complexities, and widespread human suffering. Moreover, the rise of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has emerged as a threat to regional stability and a growing menace to the struggle for the future of Iraq and Syria. As a crisis response force, we must be able to operate comfortably and effectively in this wildly dynamic region. Our workups in CONUS, as well as the individual and collective training I expect us to regularly conduct in theater, will ensure our mission readiness and ability to respond to a range of crises and other contingencies while forward-deployed.

In the campaign against ISIL, the overarching U.S. objective is to degrade and ultimately defeat this adversary. To this end, the Special Purpose MAGTF 16.2, which principally serves as a crisis response force and supporting effort throughout the CENTCOM area of responsibility, will execute its mission with a bias for action, discipline, unity of effort, and intellectual acuity.

The specifics of our mission and my intent are outlined in our deployment base order, which I expect all of our leaders to read, understand, and discuss with their personnel. The framework for our mission success, however, is firmly nested in my Cornerstones for Combat Readiness--a mission first focus, engaged leadership, pursuit of excellence, and values orientation. Key excerpts from my published Cornerstones include the following:

- Each of us must develop a combat mindset and think "mission first". We must develop and maintain our professional competency in our respective trades, demonstrate brilliance in the basics, exhibit physical and mental toughness, tenaciously pursue and execute quality training, and exercise active and positive leadership.
- Leading by example is one of the core tenets of our Marine ethos, and I expect all leaders of Special Purpose MAGTF 16.2 to remain deeply engaged with their personnel and to maintain the high standards for which our Corps is widely known.
- As Marines we are expected to excel in all that we do. Our legacy in the Corps is built on this expectation. Striving for excellence will ultimately lead toward greater professional competency and a dedication to our mission success.
- Outstanding warfighting organizations actively maintain a values system and practice the principles of that system. Our personal and professional character and conduct will be guided by our Corps' core values of honor, courage, and commitment. I expect us always to do the right thing and never anything illegal, immoral, or unethical. I expect our conduct while forward-deployed to enhance, not tarnish, our reputation.

The Marines and Sailors of Special Purpose MAGTF 16.2 are among the finest in our Corps. Showcase that pride, embrace your duties, and diligently work to make our team a better warfighting organization. Within our ranks, develop a tradition of excellence, discipline, and high standards. Communicate clearly and concisely. Be responsible for your actions and serve as a contributing member of our task force. Victory is the end to which our operational focus, engaged leadership, pursuit of excellence, and values orientation are harmoniously and energetically unified in order to successfully complete our assigned missions. I'm proud to serve with all of you.



K. R. KASSNER
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Commanding Officer