



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
U. S. MARINE FORCES PACIFIC
BOX 555300
CAMP PENDLETON, CA 92055-5300

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I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE ORDER 3120.1

From: Commanding General
To: Distribution List

Subj: I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE RECONNAISSANCE ORDER

Ref: (a) CG I MEF MSG 252233Z OCT 06
(b) CG I MEF MSG 221551Z NOV 06
(c) CMC MSG 211227Z JUN 07, MCBUL 5400
(d) CMC MSG 161433Z SEP 08, MCBUL 5400 Change 1
(e) CG I MEF and CG 1st MARDIV MOU of 17 Nov 11
(f) CMC MSG 061200Z FEB 09
(g) HQMC TFSMS Force Recon Co I MEF (1R4) TO&E Report
(h) I MEF CAPSOP of 22 Apr 15
(i) MCO 3500.55b Reconnaissance T&R Manual
(j) MCRP 2-10A.6 Ground Reconnaissance Operations
(k) CMC PPO POG MSG 251428Z FEB 15
(l) I MEF Policy Letter 5-16 (AHAHO Training Policy)
(m) HQMC TFSMS 1st Reconnaissance Battalion (1R1) TO&E Report

Encl: (1) Reconnaissance Company Minimum Capability Standards

1. Situation

a. Purpose. This Order establishes policy for the organization, staffing, training, equipping, and employment of 1st Reconnaissance Battalion (1st Recon Bn), 1st Marine Division (1MARDIV), I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF). It further deconflicts responsibilities between the I MEF and 1MARDIV staffs and replaces the previous Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the Force Reconnaissance Company (FORECON CO) organization and employment.

b. Background. 1st FORECON CO (under I MEF Headquarters Group) was deactivated in October 2006 and the preponderance of its personnel were transferred to Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC). At that time, CG I MEF directed 1st FORECON CO to transfer two platoons to 1st Recon Bn prior to deactivation. These personnel were used to establish Delta Company, a deep reconnaissance company in direct support of I MEF. The Commandant officially activated Delta Company in 2007 per reference (c) and designated it as the FORECON CO, I MEF, in 2008 per reference (d). Reference (d) also designated the Monitored Command Code (1R4) and Reporting Unit Code (11060) for the FORECON CO. CG I MEF generated a MOU with CG 1MARDIV per reference (e) to guide the employment of the I MEF FORECON CO in November 2011. The policy established in reference (e) resulted in one company (FORECON) solely dedicated to I MEF reconnaissance requirements under operational control of the I MEF and administrative control of 1MARDIV. This updated Order is designed to support improved readiness of I MEF ground

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reconnaissance capabilities by utilizing a "whole of Reconnaissance Battalion" approach to I MEF ground reconnaissance manpower and mission requirements. With analogous training and readiness standards across the Recon Battalion companies, I MEF will maximize current 1st Recon Bn capacity and talent by developing scalable, task-organized reconnaissance detachments that rotate through phases of direct support to the MEF. 1st Recon Bn is composed of four operational reconnaissance companies, each having two reconnaissance platoons. Each reconnaissance company within the battalion will have a lifecycle consisting of five phases: an Individual Training Phase, a Unit Training Phase (UTP), a MEF Force Reconnaissance Phase, a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Pre-Deployment Phase, and a MEU Deployment Phase. Each phase will last approximately 6 months. Under this model, each company within the battalion will have the opportunity to rotate through a "MEF Force Recon" phase providing dedicated support to I MEF's ground reconnaissance needs. During prior and subsequent phases, each company will receive Expeditionary Operations Training Group (EOTG) training, Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation (MCCRE) certification, and MEU pre-deployment training. This model also enables all of the battalion's companies to participate in deployments during their MEU Phase. During crisis and/or contingency operations that exhaust allocated MEF Force Recon Phase assets, I MEF may utilize forces within the Individual Training Phase, UTP, or MEU Pre-Deployment Phase, understanding that these units will have disparate levels of training, readiness, and force generation.

2. Cancellation. CG I MEF and CG 1MARDIV MOU of 17 Nov 11.

3. Mission. Conduct amphibious reconnaissance, ground reconnaissance, surveillance, battlespace shaping, and specialized raids in support of the Marine Division, MEF, other Marine Air Ground Task Forces (MAGTFs), or the Marine component of a Joint Force or Joint Task Force.

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent

(a) Purpose. To codify and standardize the manning, training, equipping, employment, and command relationships of designated Reconnaissance Forces in support of MEF requirements.

(b) Method. Develop task-organized deployable forces that possess the capabilities to execute the reconnaissance core Mission Essential Task List (METL) and fulfill other requirements as directed by CG I MEF.

(c) End State. Provide the CG I MEF with fully trained, certified, scalable, and combat ready reconnaissance detachments for worldwide employment. Per the Marine Corps Forces, Pacific (MARFORPAC) Campaign Plan and I MEF priorities, support MEF access to relevant countries during the Shape (0), Deter (I), Seize Initiative (II), and Dominate (III) phases with a force capable of opening and shaping the battlespace, and providing the Commander with an enhanced understanding of the areas of operation and influence through ground collection, conducting intelligence-driven operations, and as required, supporting the special operation forces-to-MAGTF transition on the battlefield.

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(2) Concept of Operations

(a) 1st Recon Bn will provide CG I MEF and subordinate commanders with task-organized detachments to support reconnaissance requirements.

(b) When required, companies or detachments may be placed in direct support of, or attached to, smaller MAGTFs or to MEF elements other than the Command Element (CE).

(c) A Reconnaissance Operations Center (ROC), when directed, will co-locate with the I MEF Combat Operations Center (COC) during training, exercises, and operations. A Surveillance and Recon Coordination Center (SARCC) liaison officer will be provided as required.

(d) A fully staffed, trained, equipped and certified reconnaissance company headquarters and two reconnaissance platoons will be available for MEF tasking, Force Recon Phase operations, or directed deployments at all times.

(e) 1st Recon Bn will provide task-organized forces focused on the following employment priorities for the MEF:

1. Support to I MEF ground reconnaissance requirements, to include 1MARDIV and designated MAGTFs, in Major Combat Operations (MCO).

2. Support to Global Force Management requirements.

3. Assigned Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) events and exercises as directed.

(f) 1st Recon Bn will support, as directed, experimentation in advanced concepts related to the Marine reconnaissance role in Amphibious Advance Force Operations (AAFO). They will identify and develop reconnaissance tactics, techniques and procedures to support MAGTF employment in the future operating environment, reporting results and coordinating their efforts through the I MEF G-2/G-3/G-7 staffs.

(g) When required for operations or exercises, 1st Recon Bn will provide a detachment to serve as the lead element for I MEF reconnaissance and when directed, will deploy forces.

(h) The future operating environment and future employment of the I MEF and Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) will require the development of AAFO. To meet these emerging requirements, 1st Recon Bn will participate in the following:

1. MCT 1.6.10 Conduct AAFO.

2. Development/integration of advanced sensors and technologies.

3. Continued support of Integrated Survey Program

4. Conduct special reconnaissance.

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(i) 1st Recon Bn will support I MEF efforts when directed to integrate and operate with Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental and Multinational (JIIM) Organizations.

b. Subordinate Element Tasks

(1) I MEF Assistant Chief of Staff G-1. Ensure 1MARDIV G-1 coordinates with Manpower Management Officer Assignments (MMOA) and Manpower Management Enlisted Assignments (MMEA) to stabilize personnel upon unit transition to the UTP.

(2) I MEF Assistant Chief of Staff G-2

(a) Coordinate with the I MEF and 1MARDIV Special Security Officers (SSOs) for the submission, adjudication, and maintenance of Top Secret (TS) clearances and Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) eligibility for reconnaissance billets coded "I" in reference (g) to ensure planning and support to intelligence-based operations, sensitive raid and reconnaissance missions, Joint and Combined interoperability. Facilitate TS/SCI clearances at appropriate team billets within 1st Recon Bn to support integration of Radio Reconnaissance Marines and other assets.

(b) Ensure 1st Recon Bn representatives are integrated into the recurring MEF Intel Summits.

(c) Solicit 1st Recon Bn inputs to the semi-annual Intelligence Operational Advocacy Group (IOAG) to ensure continued integration of reconnaissance into the Marine Corps Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Enterprise (MCISRE).

(3) I MEF Assistant Chief of Staff G-3

(a) Validate and assign Core-plus Mission Essential Tasks (METs) for the MEF reconnaissance detachment training in accordance with (IAW) I MEF mission requirements.

(b) Ensure 1st Recon Bn receives air support IAW established MEF priorities through I MEF G-3 Air, as required, to support training requirements IAW I MEF mission requirements.

(c) As needed, integrate 1st Recon Bn representatives into G-3/5 Operations Plan/Contingency Plan reviews and revisions to ensure the planned employment of reconnaissance units in support of I MEF and 1MARDIV is aligned to current capabilities. Identify capability and resource shortfalls associated with reconnaissance support to existing OPLAN/CONPLANS.

(d) Include the 1st Recon Bn Operations Section in MEF Training and Exercise Employment Plan (TEEP) reviews to ensure training alignment with I MEF exercise priorities.

(e) Validate unfunded specialized requirement requests to meet specified MEF missions and requirements.

(f) Provide engagement tasking and priorities for MEF reconnaissance elements.

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(g) Retain primary tasking authority on behalf of CG I MEF for the phased Force Reconnaissance Company.

(4) I MEF Assistant Chief of Staff G-4

(a) In coordination with 1MARDIV G4, facilitate special allowance requirements (SAR) for 1st Recon Bn detachments in support of I MEF G-3 validated requirements that exceed annual allotments from 1MARDIV.

(b) Coordinate with 1MARDIV to identify Class IX non-standard or specialized repair part blocks required in advance of a I MEF deployment.

(c) When required, coordinate between 1MARDIV and the supported MAGTF commander for the Joint Limited Technical Inspections (JLTIs) of reconnaissance detachment's equipment deploying in support of a MEF deployment, operation or exercise.

(d) When required, coordinate with 1MARDIV, to support movement of reconnaissance detachment equipment from the 1st Recon Bn compound to Point of Embarkation (POE) and return from Point of Debarkation (POD) for deployment and exercises.

(5) I MEF Assistant Chief of Staff G-6

(a) Coordinate and support communications planning, frequency requests, Exercise Support Requests (ESR) and other required services and equipment for reconnaissance detachments when required to support I MEF designated operations or exercises.

(b) Ensure compliance with appropriate MEF Staff elements, coordinate Exercise Support Requests to support MEF-designated operations or exercises.

(c) Coordinate with 1MARDIV on all communication support requests, to include but not limited to personnel, equipment, and spectrum, requiring action from a higher headquarters.

(6) I MEF Assistant Chief of Staff G-7. Coordinate with 1st Recon Bn to execute EOTG required training support during UTP of designated reconnaissance detachments and prior to assuming I MEF Force Recon Phase, to address assigned MET training that exceeds 1st MARDIV's capacity to provide.

(7) I MEF Assistant Chief of Staff G-8. Ensure MEF reconnaissance detachments operations and maintenance funding to support operations, training and sustainment is incorporated into the MEF budget. Validated deficiencies will be routed via the 1MARDIV Comptroller to the I MEF G-8.

(8) Commanding General, 1MARDIV

(a) Provide scalable task-organized reconnaissance detachments as required for I MEF operations and exercises comprised of a deployable company HQ and a minimum of (2) fully staffed reconnaissance platoons.

(b) Conduct a MCCRE during the force generation process of all units before entering the Force Recon Phase and report MCCRE results to CG I MEF.

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(c) Exercise administrative oversight of budget execution and resource management procedures IAW I MEF fiscal guidance.

(d) When not executing MEF specified tasks, all recon detachments will be tasked/employed by 1MARDIV.

(9) CO, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion

(a) As required, provide planners for I MEF planning in support OPLANs, MCOs, MEF/MEB training, operations, and/or deployments.

(b) As required, provide task-organized reconnaissance elements (Detachment or Company) for the conduct of MEF/MEB training, operations, and/or deployments.

(c) Force Recon Phase detachment will support CG 1MARDIV when not executing MEF-directed tasks.

(d) Utilize U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) and U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) Area of Responsibilities (AOR) as your focus for language/cultural training.

(e) Staff, train, equip and certify designated detachments to minimum capability standards IAW Encl (1) in order to assume Force Recon Phase and subsequent MEU deployment.

(f) Provide a brief to I MEF G-3 via 1MARDIV G-3 prior to designated reconnaissance detachments assuming Force Recon Phase role. Include current personnel staffing, training readiness, past operations and exercises, planned operations and exercises, force generation, and any resource shortfalls.

(10) CO, I MHG. Provide administrative and logistical support to reconnaissance detachments when attached per designated command relationships, for exercises or operations.

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) MEF Reconnaissance Element Required Core Marine Common Tasks:

(a) MCT 1.1.2 Provide Task-Organized Forces.

(b) MCT 3.2.7 Conduct Battlespace Shaping Operations.

(c) MCT 2.7 Conduct Ground Recon and Surveillance.

(d) MCT 2.1.2.8 Conduct Amphibious Recon and Surveillance.

(e) MCT 1.9 Conduct Specialized Insertion and Extraction.

(f) MCT 1.8 Conduct Specialized Limited Scale Raids.

(g) MCT 5.3.2 Establish Means for Command and Control.

5. Administration and Logistics

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5. Administration and Logistics

a. Fitness Reports/Performance Evaluation. The Commanding Officer (CO) 1st Recon Bn serves as the reporting senior for any Reconnaissance Company Commanders and the Reviewing Officer for all reports written by the Company Commanders. 1MARDIV maintains reporting senior responsibility for the CO 1st Recon Bn.

b. All Force Recon Company Commanders; Executive Officer and Platoon Commanders shall maintain current government passports.

6. Command and Signala. Command Relationships

(1) The I MEF Commanding General retains primary authority for mission tasking for Force Recon Phase Reconnaissance elements. This tasking authority is executed through the Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations.

(2) Direct liaison authority is granted between designated 1st Recon Bn ROC personnel and their MEF staff counterparts for the purposes of planning, coordinating support and execution of validated I MEF tasks to designated Force Recon Phase detachments.

(3) 1MARDIV retains day-to-day tasking authority for all reconnaissance assets not employed by CG I MEF.

(4) In support of I MEF training, operations, and deployments, 1st Recon Bn will request DIRLAUTH from G-3 I MEF prior to coordinating with other Services, agencies, units, and/or nations.

b. Signal. This Order is effective the date signed.


LEWIS A. CAPAROTTA

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Recon Company Minimum Capabilities Standards

CAPABILITY/SCHOOL	MINIMUM STANDARDS
EOTG CQT COURSE	0321'S, 8427's, PLT CMDR,
EOTG COMMUNICATION COURSE	0321'S, 0621'S, PLT CMDR
MILITARY FREE FALL COURSE	1 TEAM PER PLATOON
ADVANCED HIGH ALTITUDE HIGH OPENING	1 TEAM PER PLATOON
*AIR DELIVERY SPECIALIST (RIGGER)	2 PER COMPANY
COMBATANT DIVE COURSE	1 TEAM PER PLATOON
SLJM / FFJM	3 PER PLATOON
DIVE SUPERVISOR	2 PER PLATOON
SCOUT SNIPER	1 PER TEAM
JFO	1 PER TEAM
JTAC	1 PER TEAM
BREACHER	1 PER TEAM
HRST MASTER	5 PER PLATOON
UAS OPERATOR	1 PER TEAM
TS/SCI	CO CDR, CO XO, CO OPS CHIEF, PLT CDR, PLT SGT, TL'S, ATL'S

* This includes a Radio Battalion rigger for MEU deployments.

Additional capabilities are required by Company/Platoons to maintain independent operations including, but not limited to, driving and licensing courses for military vehicles and boats, mountain leaders, and medical classes.