

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
FIELD MEDICAL TRAINING BATTALION-EAST  
PSC BOX 20042  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0042

MCECST

**2401-MGTF-1001/2/3 MISSION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE USMC**

**TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. Without the aid of reference, identify the mission of the Marine Corps without omitting key components.  
(2401-MGTF-1001)
2. Without the aid of reference, identify the location of major Marine Corps units without omitting key components.  
(2401-MGTF-1002)
3. Without the aid of reference, describe Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) organizations without omitting key components.  
(2401-MGTF-1003)

**ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. Given a list of choices, identify the elements of the National Security Act of 1947 (revised 1952), in accordance with the reference, National Security Act of 1947 (revised in 1952).  
(2401-MGTF-1001a)
2. Given a list of choices, identify the mission of the Marine Corps, in accordance with the reference, National Security Act of 1947 (revised in 1952). (2401-MGTF-1001b)
3. Without the aid of references, given a list of choices, identify the location of the three Marine Expeditionary Forces without omitting key components. (MCRD-MGTF-1002a)
4. Without the aid of references, given a list of choices, identify the location of the four Marine Divisions without omitting key components. (2401-MGTF-1002b)

5. Without aid of references, given a list of choices, identify the location of the four Marine Air Wings without omitting key components. (2401-MGTF-1002c)

6. Without aid of references, given a list of choices, identify the location of the four Marine Logistics Groups (MLG) without omitting key components. (2401-MGTF-1002d)

7. Without aid of references, given a list of choices, identify components of the MAGTF without omitting key components. (2401-MGTF-1003a)

8. Without the aid of references, given a list of choices, identify the type missions of a Special Purpose MAGTF without omitting key components. (2401-MGTF-1003b)

1. **MARINE CORPS MISSION:** President Harry S. Truman and the National Security Council signed the Security Act into Public Law on July 26, 1947.

Public Law 253, Section 206, Paragraph (c) states: "THE MARINE CORPS SHALL BE ORGANIZED, TRAINED, AND EQUIPPED TO PROVIDE FLEET MARINE FORCES OF COMBINED ARMS, TOGETHER WITH SUPPORTING AIR COMPONENTS, FOR SERVICE WITH THE FLEET IN THE SEIZURE OR DEFENSE OF ADVANCED NAVAL BASES AND FOR THE CONDUCT OF SUCH LAND OPERATIONS AS MAY BE ESSENTIAL TO THE PROSECUTION OF A NAVAL CAMPAIGN."

On June 28, 1952, the National Security Act was amended to read as follows: "THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY, SHALL BE SO ORGANIZED AS TO INCLUDE NOT LESS THAN THREE COMBAT DIVISIONS AND THREE AIR WINGS, AND SUCH OTHER LAND COMBAT, AVIATION, AND OTHER SERVICES AS MAY BE ORGANIC THEREIN, AND EXCEPT IN TIME OF WAR OR NATIONAL EMERGENCY HEREAFTER DECLARED BY THE CONGRESS THE PERSONNEL STRENGTH OF THE REGULAR MARINE CORPS SHALL BE MAINTAINED AT NOT MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND."

2. **MARINE CORPS ORGANIZATION:** General James F. Amos, 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, defined Marine Corps Organization as: "The Marine Corps is America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness - a balanced air-ground-logistics team. We are forward deployed and forward engaged: shaping, training, deterring and responding to all manner of crises and contingencies. We create options and decision space for our Nation's leaders. Alert and ready, we respond to today's crisis with today's force....TODAY."

Marine Corps Publication MCRP 5-12D, Page 1, Paragraph 1 reads: "The Marine Corps, within the Department of the Navy (DON), is organized as a conventional force in readiness to support national needs. Deploying for combat as combined arms Marine Air-Ground Task Forces (MAGTFs), the Marine Corps provides the President and Secretary of Defense (SecDef) with a responsive force that can conduct operations across the range of military operations."

3. **MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE (MAGTF):** MAGTF is the Marine Corps' principle organization for the conduct of all missions across the range of military operations. MAGTF's provide combatant commanders with scalable, versatile expeditionary forces. There are five types of MAGTF's;

**Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) - Largest**

**Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) - MEF(Fwd)**

**Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB)**

**Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU)**

**Special Purpose MAGTF (SPMAGTF) - Smallest**

**Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF)**: The MEF is the largest and most powerful of the MAGTFs and is the principal Warfighting MAGTF in the active force structure. The nucleus of the MEF is built around at least one Marine Division with a supporting Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Logistics Group, and a Command Element that exercises command and control of the entire MAGTF. The MEF is normally commanded by a Lieutenant General.

**Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward)**: A MEF(Fwd) is normally the lead echelon of a MEF or, for some contingencies, it can be a standalone MAGTF capable of sustained expeditionary operations. A MEF(Fwd) is normally smaller than a MEF and larger than a MEB. For example, a MEF(Fwd) commanded by a Marine major general deployed on a rotational basis to execute combat operations in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The GCE of the MEF(Fwd) normally consists of a division (-) or multiple regiments, the ACE a Marine Aircraft Wing (-) and the LCE a Marine Logistics Group (-).

**Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB)**: The MEB is mid-sized MAGTF. The nucleus of the MEB is a reinforced infantry regiment, with a supporting aircraft group, a Combat Logistics Regiment (CLR), and a Command element. A Brigadier General normally commands the MEB. As an expeditionary force, it is capable of rapid deployment and employment via amphibious shipping, strategic airlift, marrying with Maritime Pre-positioned Force (MPF) assets, or any combination thereof.

**Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU)**: The MEU is a MAGTF built around the nucleus of a reinforced infantry battalion landing team, a reinforced composite squadron, a task-organized logistics combat element, and command element. A MEU is commanded by a Colonel and is embarked aboard a Navy amphibious ready group (ARG). The ARG/MEU provides a continuous, forward naval presence in key regions to conduct steady-state security cooperation, military engagement, and deterrence, as well as immediate response to episodic crises and contingencies.

**Special Purpose MAGTF (SPMAGTF)**: When situations arise for which a MEU or other unit is either inappropriate or unavailable, a SPMAGTF is formed. It may be of any size, but normally no larger than a MEU - with tailored capabilities required to accomplish a particular mission. A SPMAGTF may deploy using commercial shipping or aircraft, intertheater airlift, amphibious shipping, or organic Marine aviation. It is specially designed for specific missions such as humanitarian assistance and noncombatant evacuation.

4. **MAGTF ELEMENTS**: There are four Elements within each MAGTF;

<b>Command Element</b>	<b>(CE)</b>
<b>Ground Combat Element</b>	<b>(GCE)</b>
<b>Aviation Combat Element</b>	<b>(ACE)</b>
<b>Logistics Combat Element</b>	<b>(LCE)</b>

**Command Element (CE)**: Provides a single headquarters for command, control and coordination of the MAGTF. The CE is the brains and controlling agency of the MAGTF. If your Student Training Company were a MAGTF, your Company First Sergeant and Company Commander would be its Command Element.

**Ground Combat Element (GCE)**: May range in size from an infantry battalion to one or more divisions. It may include artillery, tanks, amphibious assault vehicles (AAV), reconnaissance teams, and combat engineer units. Again, comparing a MAGTF to your Company, the GCE would be the individual platoons.

**Aviation Combat Element (ACE)**: May range in size from composite helicopter squadron, to one or more aircraft wings. It may include offensive air support, assault support, air reconnaissance, anti-air warfare, electronic warfare, and command and control. If your company were deployed to combat, the aircraft that supported you would be the ACE.

**Logistics Combat Element (LCE)**: May range in size from a MEU service support group to a Marine Logistics Group tailored to provide for the total range of logistics support, including supply, maintenance, engineer, and motor transport, medical and dental services. Your company's LCE is the various supporting agencies that ensure you have the resources and material to complete your mission: Student Training.

5. **UNITS WITHIN EACH MAGTF ELEMENT**: Within each MAGTF Element is a correlating Unit. The four MAGTF Elements and their associated Marine Units are as follows;

**MAGTF ELEMENTS**

**MARINE UNITS**

Command Element (CE)	/	Headquarters (HQ)
Ground Combat Element (GCE)	/	Division (DIV)
Aviation Combat Element (ACE)	/	Marine Air Wing (MAW)
Logistics Combat Element (LCE)	/	Marine Logistics Group (MLG)

**MARINE DIVISIONS (DIV)**: There are three active duty Marine divisions and one reserve division. A division is a self-contained military unit capable of sustained operations, including a headquarters and two or more regiments. The four Marine Divisions (MARDIV) and their locations are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division (1<sup>st</sup> MARDIV) Camp Pendleton, California
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division (2<sup>nd</sup> MARDIV) Camp Lejeune, NC
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division (3<sup>rd</sup> MARDIV) Okinawa, Japan
- 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division (4<sup>th</sup> MARDIV) New Orleans, La. (Reserves)

**MARINE AIR WINGS (MAW)**: Whether it is a fighter jet, a helicopter, or transport plane, Marine Corps Aviation is structured to provide close air support for infantry troops on the ground during conflict. The four Marine Air Wings (MAW) and their locations are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing (1<sup>st</sup> MAW) (Okinawa, Japan)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing (2<sup>nd</sup> MAW) (Cherry Point, NC)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing (3<sup>rd</sup> MAW) (Miramar, California)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing (4<sup>th</sup> MAW) (New Orleans, LA)  
(Reserve unit)

**MARINE LOGISTIC GROUPS (MLG)**: The mission of the Marine logistics group is to provide general and direct support and sustain combat service support for the Marine Air-Ground task force (MAGTF) in amphibious assaults and subsequent operations ashore. The four Marine Logistic Groups are located in:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Logistic Group (MLG) (Camp Pendleton, CA.)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Logistic Group (MLG) (Camp Lejeune, NC)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Logistic Group (MLG) (Okinawa, Japan)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Logistic Group (MLG) (New Orleans, LA)

**Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters (HQ) Locations:** There are three Marine Expeditionary Forces (MEF) Headquarters (HQ) and one Marine Corps Reserve Headquarters. These MEF's are located at:

- a. I MEF (Camp Pendleton, CA)
- b. II MEF (Camp Lejeune, North Carolina)
- c. III MEF (Okinawa, Japan)
- d. Marine Corps Reserve Headquarters (New Orleans, LA)

**SUMMARY:**

We have just discussed the mission and organization of the Marine Corps, the location of Marine divisions, aircraft wings, logistic groups and expeditionary forces. We also talked about the components of a MAGTF, types of MAGTF's and the nucleus for each MAGTF's component.

While the Marine Corps may operate on and from the sea, in and from the air, and on the land, it is not optimized to dominate any of them. Rather, the Marine Corps is optimized to be expeditionary - a strategically mobile middleweight force that can fill the gaps created by the size/speed tradeoff. While the general public may not be fully aware of all the Marine Corps is or does, they display an intuitive understanding that whenever and wherever crises arise, the Marines stand ready to get there fast and do whatever it is that needs to get done.

**REFERENCE (S) :**

Marine Corps Manual  
MCRP 5-12\_: Organization of the Marine Corps  
MCO 3120.8: Policy for the Organization of the Fleet Marine Forces for Combat