



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

SECNAVINST 3000.5

OP-06/PP&O

30 July 1992

SECNAV INSTRUCTION 3000.5

From: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: MARITIME PREPOSITIONING FORCE (MPF) PROGRAM

1. Purpose. To provide Department of the Navy policy and assign Service responsibilities for the MPF Program.

2. Definitions

a. An MPF consists of one or more Maritime Prepositioning Ships (MPS), a Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) or other appropriately task-organized Marine force, a Naval Support Element (NSE), and a Navy commander designated as Commander Maritime Prepositioning Force (CMPF).

b. The 13 Maritime Prepositioning Ships are organized into three Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadrons (MPSRONS) that are strategically based for rapid response. The ships are civilian-crewed under Military Sealift Command (MSC) charter. Each MPSRON carries the equipment and 30 days of sustainment for a Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB).

3. Background

a. In 1979, the Secretary of Defense approved the creation of the Maritime Prepositioning Ship program in the Department of the Navy Program Objective Memorandum. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps signed a Memorandum of Agreement on 14 April 1983 to establish the concept of operations for maritime prepositioning, command relationships, and the terms of reference for describing this strategic deployment option and capability to the Unified Combatant Commanders.

b. The maritime prepositioning concept has been validated during employment in war and peace in support of national security policy and objectives.

c. Both the Navy and Marine Corps have individual and joint Service responsibilities for the MPF Program. In 1991, the Naval



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30 JUL 1992

Services instituted a joint project to identify those areas which required review and analysis and to establish a Department of the Navy policy.

4. Discussion

a. The capabilities provided by an MPF contribute principally to two of the four foundations of the National Military Strategy, forward presence and crisis response. In a broad sense, they also contribute to deterrence. The Naval Services must ensure that those capabilities which contribute to the National Military Strategy are effectively planned, managed, and articulated.

b. The MPF Program provides the National Command Authorities and the Unified Combatant Commanders options for the rapid deployment and employment of Marine Air-Ground Task Forces across the entire operational continuum. As a result of the configuration of the equipment and supplies on the ships of the three MPSRONS, MPFs can be flexibly sized to meet a wide variety of mission requirements. The maritime prepositioning force modules for each MPSRON provide a range of self-sustaining force options from a Marine Expeditionary Unit to the full Marine Expeditionary Brigade, and could also support smaller task-organized Marine forces as the situation requires.

c. An MPF requires a secure environment, to include an airfield and a port or anchorage, to facilitate the arrival and assembly of the Marines and the NSE with their prepositioned equipment and supplies. These forces, though not capable of forcible entry, can conduct independent operations or augment forces afloat or those established ashore.

d. MPFs complement, but are not a suitable alternative or a substitute for, amphibious forces. Each type of force possesses capabilities and limitations which must be factored into the planning for operational employment. Like amphibious forces, MPFs must be fully capable of operating within joint, combined, and coalition arenas.

5. Responsibilities

a. The Chief of Naval Operations is responsible for:

(1) Establishing, educating, training, and maintaining

30 JUL 1992

those Navy forces (active and reserve) required to conduct and support MPF operations.

(2) Planning, programming and budgeting for:

(a) Operations and maintenance of the MPS and ship alterations in support of military characteristics required for naval operations, e.g., security modifications.

(b) Acquisition and attainment of prepositioned NSE equipment and supplies, MPF aviation ground support equipment, and aviation ordnance.

(c) Logistic support and maintenance of NSE prepositioned equipment and supplies.

(3) Developing, in coordination with the Marine Corps, the Required Operational Capabilities (ROC) and Projected Operational Environment (POE) for the MPS.

(4) Developing, in coordination with the Marine Corps, the schedule of the MPF Maintenance Cycle (MMC), to include the arrival and download of the ships at the maintenance site, departure of the ships for ship maintenance, and subsequent backload of the ships and departure from the MMC site.

(5) Coordinating cargo bulk fuel (JP5/MOGAS) requirements, and maintaining and reporting cargo bulk fuel inventories, quantities and transactions.

b. The Commandant of the Marine Corps is responsible for:

(1) Establishing, educating, training, and maintaining Marine Corps forces required to conduct and support MPF operations.

(2) Planning, programming, and budgeting for:

(a) Acquisition and attainment of prepositioned Marine Corps equipment, to include: containers, ground ordnance, consumable supplies, rations, spare parts, and other sustainment.

(b) Logistic support and maintenance for Marine Corps prepositioned equipment and supplies.

SECNAVINST 3000.5

30 JUL 1992

(c) Ship alterations for specialized equipment required for performance of specific Marine Corps missions, e.g., MPS machine shop modifications used to support cargo.

(3) Developing, in conjunction with the Navy, the MPF Maintenance Cycle schedules, and acting as the coordinator for the maintenance of all embarked equipment and supplies.

(4) Determining and publishing the prepositioning objective (PO) for Marine Corps equipment and supplies and cargo space allocation aboard the MPS.

c. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps are jointly responsible for:

(1) Developing MPF plans, procedures, and doctrine.

(2) Establishing a standing committee to coordinate Service actions and resolve issues related to the MPF Program.

(3) Coordinating and consolidating, to the extent possible, training and education requirements.

6. Action. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps will publish implementing directives which support Department of the Navy policies and responsibilities for the MPF Program outlined in this instruction.


Sean O'Keefe
Acting

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SECNAVINST 3000.5
30 JUL 1992

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