

MARINE CORPS RESERVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

From immediate support on September 11, 2001 to combat operations in Afghanistan in 2002 and Iraq in 2003, the Marine Corps Reserve has demonstrated its ability to rapidly mobilize combat ready Marines to augment and reinforce the active component. Four thousand four hundred sixty-three Reserve Marines were on active duty in March 2002 in support of Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom. Activations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom began in January 2003 and peaked at 21,316 Reserve Marines on active duty in May 2003 representing 52% of the Selected Marine Corps Reserve (SMCR). Marine Reserve units and individuals were ready and rapidly integrated into gaining force commands, demonstrating a key core competency emphasized in *Marine Corps Strategy 21*.

A strong Inspector-Instructor (I&I) system and a demanding Mobilization and Operational Readiness Deployment Test (MORDT) program ensured Marine Corps

Reserve units achieved a high level of pre-mobilization readiness. Marine Reserve Units continuously train to a C1/C2 readiness standard, eliminating the need for post-mobilization certification. Ninety-eight percent of SMCR Marines reported for mobilization and only .4% requested a deferment, delay, or exemption.

The Marine Corps Reserve executed a rapid and efficient mobilization with units averaging six days from notification to being deployment-ready and 32 days from deployment order to arrival in theater. Many Marine Reserve units activated were ready to deploy faster than strategic lift could be provided.

Marine Reserve mission accomplishments during Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom included:

- >> Company B, 1st Battalion, 23d Marine Regiment provided security in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba



- >> 2d Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment and 2d Battalion, 23d Marine Regiment both served as Quick Reaction Forces in support of Homeland Security
- >> Both reserve KC-130 squadrons, VMGR-234 and VMGR-452, were activated and conducted assault support missions during Operation Enduring Freedom
- >> Both reserve CH-53E squadrons, HMH-769 and HMH-772, were activated and supported Enduring Freedom missions

Marine Reserve mission accomplishments during Operation Iraqi Freedom included:

- >> 2d Battalion, 23d Marine Regiment was the lead element for Regimental Combat Team (RCT) 1, 1st Marine Division for several days and was involved in the operation to secure the UN Compound in Baghdad
- >> 4th and 8th Tank Battalions, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) Battalion and 4th Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV) Battalion fought from crossing the Kuwait/Iraq border to the securing of Tikrit
- >> B Company, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) Battalion made the first two kills of Iraqi armored vehicles
- >> 6th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB) constructed the largest tactical fuel farm in Marine Corps history, operated the V Corps Tactical Petroleum Terminal and constructed a 90-mile long hose-reel fuel system from Kuwait to Iraq in the heart of enemy territory

- >> Bridge Company A, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, built a 155-meter long improved ribbon bridge spanning the Tigris River, the longest such bridge in Marine Corps history
- >> Both Marine Reserve KC-130 squadrons, VMGR-234 and VMGR-452, had their mobilization orders extended and conducted assault support missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom
- >> Marine Reserve CH-53E from HMH-772 flew over 500 hours in support of the operation
- >> During Phase IV of Iraqi Freedom, 3d Battalion, 23d Marine Regiment and 2d Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment conducted independent operations in Al Kut and An Nasiriyah provinces
- >> During Phase IV, 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment conducted convoy security
- >> 60% of the personnel in the I MEF Combat Operations Center were Marine Corps Reservists

The Marine Corps is considering several transformations to enhance the Marine Corps Reserve's capabilities as a ready and able partner of the Total Force Marine Corps:

- >> Establishing two additional Reserve Military Police (MP) platoons at a new reserve site in North Dakota, resulting in an increase of 58 Reserve MPs. We may increase MP manning by 20 Reservists at the MP Company located in Minneapolis, MN. Both initiatives are pending finalization of Reserve force structure

- >> Establishing a Reserve Intelligence Support Battalion (ISB) that will enhance command and control of Reserve Component (RC) intelligence assets while simultaneously establishing additional RC intelligence structure and capabilities. This initiative places Reserve Marine intelligence detachments at Joint Reserve Intelligence Centers (JRICs) throughout the continental United States, providing enhanced “reach back” through JRIC connectivity. Additionally, the ISB will enhance the capability to provide task-organized, all-source intelligence detachments to augment forward-deployed MAGTFs. Establishment of the ISB is pending finalization of Reserve force structure
- >> Evaluating options to create active component Civil Affairs structure to provide planning capabilities for operational and Service headquarters. The goal is to increase active component integration into Marine Reserve Civil Affairs Groups (CAG)

- >> Initiating two programs to manage ongoing and growing Joint and internal Individual Augment (IA) requirements. The first program is to identify and prioritize IA requirements and the other is to review and realign Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) structure and manning to meet those requirements

Even as these initiatives are being implemented, the Marine Corps Reserve is again preparing to mobilize combat ready Marines to augment and reinforce the active component in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

MAGTFs provide combatant commanders with forces that are tailored to meet specific mission requirements. When called, the Marine Corps Reserve is ready to augment and reinforce MAGTFs. Our Reserve Marines are a vital and critical element of our Total Force. The training, leadership, and quality of life of our Reserve Component is a significant Marine Corps priority.