MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND
AND THE
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
REGARDING THE
INITIAL MARINE CORPS FORCE CONTRIBUTION
TO THE
UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

1. **PURPOSE**: This Memorandum of Agreement establishes an initial Marine Corps Force Contribution to the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) and the conditions under which the United States Marine Corps (USMC) will provide, and the USSOCOM will employ, the Marine Corps' initial contribution of forces, hereinafter referred to as the USMC/USSOCOM Detachment (MCSOCOM Det). The MCSOCOM Det shall be employed in such a manner as to fully evaluate the MCSOCOM Det and its potential value to USSOCOM.

2. **MISSION**: The MCSOCOM Det augments a deploying Naval Special Warfare (NSW) squadron's capability to conduct special reconnaissance, direct action, coalition support, limited foreign internal defense and other missions as required in support of joint and fleet commanders in order to test the Initial Marine Corps Force Contribution to the United States Special Operations Command.

3. **COMMAND AND CONTROL:** The MCSOCOM Det is established under the combatant command (command authority) of the Commander, United States Pacific Command (CDRUSPACOM) who exercises that command through the Commander, U. S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific (COMMARFORPAC). Six months prior to deployment, the CMC and COMUSSOCOM, in coordination with CDRUSPACOM, will request via a coordinated message, that SECDEF transfer the MCSOCOM Det to COMUSSOCOM and establish an operational control (OPCON) command relationship in order to facilitate joint pre-deployment training, deployment/redeployment and employment operations. COMUSSOCOM will exercise OPCON over the MCSOCOM Det through Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command (COMNAVSPECWARCOM), until the conclusion of the deployment of the Naval Special Warfare Squadron to which the MCSOCOM Det is attached.

4. **ORGANIZATION**: The MCSOCOM Det will initially be commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel in order to facilitate standing up the organization within the Marine Corps. On deployment, a Major will command the MCSOCOM Det. The remainder of the Table of Organization and Table of Equipment will be established and sourced by the Marine Corps. The MCSOCOM Det will include a Headquarters Section capable of battle staff

functions supporting the MCSOCOM Det and NSW Squadron while facilitating interface with higher and adjacent headquarters. The remainder of the MCSOCOM Det will consist of a reconnaissance detachment, intelligence detachment and fire support detachment that provide the elements of task-organized teams capable of conducting assigned missions.

5. **CONCEPT OF EMPLOYMENT**: During the Initial Marine Corps Force Contribution to USSOCOM, MCSOCOM Det integrity will be maintained to the maximum extent possible consistent with operational requirements in order to fully evaluate utility as an integrated capability vice a collection of detachments or individuals operating separately. However, the nature of special operations may require task organization into smaller elements. The Commanding Officer, NSW Squadron has the authority to task organize based upon operational requirements.

6. **SUPPORT**: During the Initial Marine Corps Force Contribution to USSOCOM, the Marine Corps will bear all personnel, equipment, facilities, training, deployment and operational expenses required to support the MCSOCOM Det.

7. **PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE:** The public affairs posture for this detachment is passive, respond to query only (RTQ). Information concerning this issue is sensitive and in some cases, may be classified. Once transferred OPCON to COMUSSOCOM, all parties agree that all media queries shall be referred to the COMNAVSPECWARCOM Public Affairs Officer (PAO) to ensure message alignment and protection of sensitive/classified information. In consultation with the USSOCOM PAO and HQMC PA, the COMNAVSPECWARCOM PAO will coordinate and approve all media information/interview requests and public affairs releases.

8. **AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION**:

a. Except as otherwise provided, this MOA may be amended by the mutual written consent of the Parties or the authorized representatives.

b. This MOA may be terminated unilaterally by either Party after the written notification of termination to the other Party. The Parties agree to consult with each other prior to any termination of this MOA.

9. **ADMINISTRATIVE AND DISCIPLINARY MATTERS:** Administrative and disciplinary authority shall be exercised concurrently by the Commanding Officer, NSW Squadron and the Commander, MCSOCOM Det. Normally, disciplinary authority shall be exercised by the Commander of the MCSOCOM Det.

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Agreement Between the United States Marine Corps and the United States Special Operations Command Regarding the Initial Marine Corps Force Contribution to the United States Special Operations Command

10. **FUTURE CONTRIBUTIONS**: COMUSSOCOM in coordination with the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) shall be responsible for determining the measures of effectiveness to use during the period of initial contribution, the viability of the force contribution and the optimal conditions for future force contributions with respect to command relationships, location, organization and operational employment. COMNAVSPECWARCOM, as directed by COMUSSOCOM, is the SOCOM executive agent for this initial force contribution.

11. **DEFINITIONS**:

a. Party or Parties. As used in this MOA, the term Party or Parties refers to USSOCOM and/or the USMC.

b. Initial Marine Corps Force Contribution to USSOCOM. As used in this MOA, the term "Initial Marine Corps Force Contribution to USSOCOM" refers to the period of time between D-180 days and the end of the deployment.

12. **MOA FORCE AND EFFECT**: This MOA, consisting of twelve sections, enters into effect when signed by the Deputy Commander, USSOCOM, and the Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps for Plans, Policies and Operations and terminates upon completion of the initial deployment.

E. R. BEDARD
Lieutenant General, United States Marine Corps
Deputy Commandant, Plans, Policies and Operations
United States Marine Corps

Date: 20 FEB 03

BRYAN D. BROWN
Lieutenant General, United States Army
Deputy Commander
U. S. Special Operations Command

Date: 20 FEB 03