Experiences as a MEU(SOC) Commander

Brigadier General Ronald J. Johnson, USMC
Assistant Deputy Commandant
Plans, Policies and Operations, HQMC
## Pre-Deployment Training at-Sea Periods

<table>
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<th>Dates</th>
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<td>28 Nov-5 Dec 05</td>
<td>Trident Warrior</td>
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<td>CLNC OP Area, Myrtle Beach, Avon Park, Townsend Range, BOGUE Field</td>
<td>Full Mission Profile Certification, Deep Strike (ISO SOF)</td>
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TRAINING IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT (TRUE)

- Five Maritime Special Purpose Force (MSPF) Raids (BLT Integrated throughout)
- Three Company-Sized Raids (Non Live Fire) (Creeds, VA)
- Medevac / Mass Casualty Exercises First Aid
  - Reception Site
  - Casualty Tracking Procedures
- Simulated IED’s on NOB Norfolk, VA
- Convoy Operations
- Urban Operations (Patrolling / Assaults / Raids / VCP / ECP / Firm Base Operations)
- C2 of Forces in an Urban/Congested Area
- Sustainmnet of the Force
- Firm Base / FOB Security (Fixed Site Security)
- Pre-Combat Actions
- Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel (TRAP)
- HA Projects
- Time Sensitive Targeting

*STRATEGIC INDUSTRIES SPECIAL EFFECTS / ROLE PLAYERS INTEGRATED THROUGHOUT PTP*
### ESGINT/SACEX I

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24 MEU OPERATION / EXERCISES

SUMMARY

IN CHOP DATES
C6F: 12 June
C5F: 4 July
C6F: 8 Nov
C2F: 28 Nov

Click on numbers for detailed information on specific areas
ENHANCED COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

- **TSC 93 D**
  - 2 Mbps vice 1 Mbps
  - New un-taught and unpublished modem settings required when replacing or resetting the modem

- **Trojan Spirit Lite**
  - Secure and reliable access to NSANet and JWICS
  - Provided limited access to SIPR when not available through JTFE

- **AN/MRC 142**
  - “A” model used to provide network services to ACE or BLT up to 30 mi away from CE
  - “B” model required to fully leverage ship-to-shore DWTS connectivity – scheduled for use during next deployment

- **GBS IP** – no issues – provided reliable service
ENHANCED COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

• Blue Force Tracker
  – Used during exercises while deployed
  – No CONUS satellite coverage

• VOIP
  – Used extensively inter-MEU
  – MCNOSC must establish connections to enable MEUs to plug-and-play
  – Shipboard routers unable to support due to outdated operating systems

• Wireless SIPRNET (SECNET 11)
  – Excellent capability used extensively during operations ashore
  – Provides user mobility and flexibility within the FOB
ENHANCED COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

- **EPLRS**
  - Used during every ship-to-shore movement at ranges up to 30NM
  - Provides low cost data capability vs. INMARSAT dial-up including CHAT, COP and limited file sharing
  - Shipboard router operating system upgrades were required for full integration of EPLRS into shipboard SIPRNET
  - Provides path for M-DACT & D-DACT
SHIPBOARD COMMAND AND CONTROL

• Radio equipment maintenance
  – Many single channel radio (SCR) systems aboard Iwo had not been used or tested since last embarked MEU (2003)
  – Impacted ability to train on VHF and HF during PTP
  – HF amplifiers were a problem throughout the deployment – required constant maintenance

• WSC-6 and WSC-8 – Although normally a reliable system, frequent outages caused significant degradation of NIPR, SIPR and POTS throughout the deployment
• POTS
  – Less than 50% availability throughout workups and deployment
  – NCTAMS and Iwo worked the system throughout with extremely limited success

• Network
  – SIPR and NIPR drops inadequate
  – NIPR bandwidth inadequate
  – Wireless SIPR capability a must to rapidly overcome drop shortfalls and allow for flexibility in C2 space configuration
  – Quality of life vs. operational requirements
QUESTIONS?