Sustaining the Nation’s Force in Readiness

Major General James Kessler, USMC
Commanding General
Marine Corps Logistics Command
The return to our expeditionary nature requires our Corps to become:

- Lighter
- Forward
- Integrated
The Marine Corps has grown heavier and bigger in Iraq and Afghanistan

- Larger sustainment footprint, forward and rear
- Increased infrastructure and contracted support
- Bigger mix of legacy and new equipment
Marine Corps Reset Operations: Equipping a Balanced Force

There are challenges and opportunities to resetting the Marine Corps:

• Sustain the readiness of the equipment in Afghanistan now

• Fix and buy for the future

• Surge and adjust
Expeditionary Sustainment Challenges: How Do We Allocate Our Capabilities

“Light and lethal” comes at a price

- Sustainment for a “non-expeditionary” mission
- Forward deployability
- Austerity of the operating environment
Expeditionary Sustainment Challenges: Where Do We Put Our Investment?

“Light and lethal” comes at a price

- Technology insertion
- Additional skill set development
- “Infrastructure” for expeditionary operations
Balancing sustainment strategies and expeditionary imperatives

• Keeping pace with Marine Corps strategic concepts

• Partnering with industry and acquisitions to develop maintenance concepts early

• Innovate, innovate, innovate
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