

# CMC Oral Testimony

by Gen Carl E. Mundy, Jr.

*The following remarks were made by the Commandant on 31 March 1993 when he appeared before the House Armed Services Committee to present the Navy Department Posture Statement and testify in behalf of the FY94 Budget.*

As always, it's a privilege for me to represent the Marine Corps before those who raise, provide, and maintain our Armed Forces, and to report to you on the status of your Corps of Marines. It's an equal privilege to join with my naval shipmate, Adm Frank Kelso, in broadening your awareness of the capabilities the Navy and Marine Corps bring jointly to our national defense structure. A joint posture statement of our two Services has already been introduced. With your permission, I will add a few remarks.

In a book about U.S. Marines in Korea, a noted historian recorded this impression:

One who will go where his colors go, without asking, who will fight a phantom foe in jungle or mountain range, without counting, and who will suffer and die in the midst of incredible hardship, without complaint, is still what he has always been, from imperial Rome to sceptered Britain to democratic America. He is the stuff of which legions are made . . . he has been called United States Marine.

Those words characterize, better than any I could offer, what Marines are all about, and what we do in the security interests of our Nation.

When I appeared before you last year, about 20 conflicts, confrontations, or crises of some sort were underway around the world. That number continues today. Also, when I appeared before you, I told you that on a routine basis there are about 22,000 Marines who operate forward around the world, away from their home bases and families for extended periods of 6 months to a year, to keep a lid on or to be prepared to respond to crises.

As I speak today, a year later, there are 30,000 operating forward around the globe. The percentage of our operating forces committed away from home last year at this time was 22 percent; at this moment, it is 30 percent. A year has passed; we have reduced the Corps by 9,000 more Marines, and the number operating forward has increased.

Just over 3,000 remain in Somalia, drawdown from the 11,000 we introduced there 4 months ago. The

first of those units withdrawn back to California in late January is now entering its "lock-on" training period preparing for another 6-month deployment the latter part of this summer.

Another 9,000 Marines are embarked in amphibious shipping for 6-month deployments and are currently located 5,000-strong in the Mediterranean and in the Adriatic off Bosnia-Herzegovina where they have been maintained afloat almost constantly for the past 10 months; 2,000-strong off Somalia; and the unit which opened the door and did much of the work early in Somalia, 1,600-strong, is in the Western Pacific headed toward home bases near the end of its 6-month deployment.

Ten thousand Marines are still withdrawing from an exercise on the Korean Peninsula to their forward operating bases in the Western Pacific—bases that are only a few flying hours, or a couple of days sailing time, away from that volatile region should the need for them to return expeditiously occur.

I told you last year that the 9-1-1 phone rang six times in the previous 2 years in places like Liberia, Mogadishu, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Northern Iraq. It rang four more times this year: in Guam, Somalia, Haiti, and the Chuuk Islands; and while home from deployment at home bases, it rang twice more for 2,500 Marines in Los Angeles and South Florida.

This relatively unchanging commitment of Marines has been a constant over the history of our Nation and most specifically, during the past half century. It is the purpose of Marines, as your predecessors in these Halls defined and assigned our role, to be "expeditionary"—away from home shores and soil, as part of the naval expeditionary capabilities of our Nation.

This is why you have a Marine Corps; this is what its role in the defense of our Nation's interests is; this is why the historian described it as a legion.

Marines are a complementary component of our Nation's joint force team. As a combined arms, integrated, air-ground force capable of operating either from sea-based amphibious ships and aircraft carriers, or ashore, Marines are joined with the Navy to provide the instrument that enables the unified commanders in chief to maintain forces in the littoral regions of the world without relying on overseas permanent bases.

Marine formations blend easily into—or form—joint task forces for any mission required by one of our unified commanders. We have worked hard over the past year to improve even further the interoperability of our sister services with us, and us with them, to

ness, corrosion, and supportability concerns.

*Surface Combatants:* Heavily armed with tactical cruise missiles, antiair missiles, guns, and antisubmarine torpedoes, cruisers and destroyers provide uniquely flexible, extremely capable tools for effective battlespace dominance. Surface combatants will continue to provide protection for carrier battle groups (CVGs) and amphibious ready groups (ARGs). They will also increasingly be used to provide presence in

areas where entire battle groups were used before: e.g., maritime interception operations, economic sanction surveillance, or even limited no-fly zone enforcement with standoff antiair capabilities. The continued modernization of these forces is being undertaken through the evolutionary upgrade of the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer. We will continue to build versions of this ship to replace retiring and less capable platforms into the early years of the next

decade. The Department has also embarked on an aggressive effort to pull together technologies that will have sufficiently matured so that, by the early 21st century, we will be able to introduce a capable and affordable follow-on to the Spruance and Oliver Hazard Perry classes and complement the Burke class.

As a companion piece, several existing shipboard weapons systems are being improved to ensure that resident ordnance-

provide an even more synergistic joint team of national capabilities. The budget before you continues that effort toward increased interoperability between the Naval Services—Sailors and Marines—and the Army and Air Force in the areas of command and control.

With regard to our budget requests, our priorities remain essentially the same as last year:

- People.
- Continued development of a replacement for our aged CH-46 helicopter.
- Improvement of our command and control and intelligence systems.
- Improvement, through modernization, of the war-fighting deficiencies learned from Operation DESERT STORM.
- And strong support for the Navy's ship construction plan that maintains and replaces adequate numbers of amphibious ships for employment of Marines.
- Finally, an O&M level that supports our personnel, training, equipment maintenance, and the other requirements that are vital to maintaining readiness.

Our posture statement addresses these, but let me stress the importance of the first.

The Marine Corps is people; we operate people. We have equipment and systems to help people get there and to support them in doing what they must when they arrive, but in the Corps, it is people that are the capability I described earlier. This is not exclusive to the Corps, and relates to some Army units also, but it is predominant in the Marine Corps more so than in any of the other Armed Services. We are people intensive.

A submarine, a bomber, an aircraft carrier, a strategic transport aircraft, or an armored division is the instrument that provides a capability. It takes people to operate the instrument, but it is the thing—the instrument—that delivers the capability.

The Marine Corps' instrument is a battalion, a company, or a squad of Marines—people! We support the people with systems; but it is the formations of people, not the independent systems, that deliver the capability. The unit of measure for the capabilities Marines deliver is not the number of divisions or aircraft wings we maintain in bases in the United States waiting to be sent to war; rather, it is our ability to generate from those divisions and wings the numbers of battalions and squadrons to maintain the forward operating expeditionary forces for presence and crisis response, and then, to bring them together to fight as divisions or wings when crisis erupts into conflict.

based capabilities keep pace with the threat and ship system improvements. A significant improvement under development is Standard Missile Block IV which greatly improves high-altitude and cross-range capability. It also offers potential integration into a sea-based theater ballistic missile defense (TBMD).

Integral to surface combatant capability are embarked, fully integrated SH-60B LAMPS MK III helicopters. These aircraft

have proven to be vital force-multiplier elements to both ASW and ASUW battlespace dominance missions and provide significant surveillance and coordination advantages in the littoral environment. The Department has included the Block I upgrade, which provides these aircraft with the Penguin air-to-surface missile, for fleet introduction starting toward the end of FY93. The Navy's program also continues development of the Block 2 upgrade which will

Reductions in Marine Corps end strength translate directly to a loss in capability delivered and used on a day-to-day basis—not to reductions in overhead, bureaucracy, or excess capacity in the number of divisions, wings, or brigades in our inventory.

Some 77 cents out of every dollar you provide directly to the Corps is used to buy and support people; 6 cents purchases our ground weapons and equipment; the remaining 17 cents goes toward training, operating, and maintaining readiness and our bases.

Taken together, FY94 procurement funding and operational and maintenance funding are at the lowest point since the 1970s—the days of hollow forces. The Corps' procurement account at \$480 million is one-third of what it was 2 years ago. Our operation and maintenance account is strapped, having fallen over 20 percent in the past 7 years. This decrease has occurred while requirements continue to grow. Virtually all flexibility has been removed from that appropriation.

Any further budget reductions to Marine Corps accounts, now, or as far as I can see into the future, will, of simple arithmetic necessity, come from people—a direct reduction in a vital national capability that is in full use today and for which the demand in the past year has only increased.

As you know, certain appropriations managed for efficiency by the Navy directly support the Marine Corps. For example, all aircraft, aviation weapons, and fuel to fly are managed financially in the Department in a single account. This arrangement is similar to the management of chaplains, corpsmen, and research and development funding. In effect, these are Marine Corps dollars managed for efficiency in Navy accounts.

When all these various accounts are added together, the Marine Corps request and Adm Kelso's request for funds to support Marines total 4.8 percent of the monies requested in the President's budget—a nickel out of every dollar.

In addition, we strongly support the additional one percent—the penny—that will pay for the Navy amphibious force ships and crews. Together, for just under 6 percent of the total defense budget, the Nation will continue to receive the extraordinary national security benefit that comes from the sea in the form of ships, planes, and its legion of Marines.

I appreciate the privilege of reporting to you on the status of your Marine Corps, and even more, the support the Congress has provided for 217 years to maintain us.

I look forward to your questions.



provide significant improvements in both ASUW and ASW capabilities, including an imaging radar and the Airborne Low Frequency Solar (ALFS).

The 170-foot patrol coastal (PC) Cyclone-class ship has been built and is now being introduced to the fleet. These 13 ships, although funded by the U.S. Special Operations Command and part of the naval special warfare community, will be manned by Navy surface warfare qualified