

CLAMO Report

Center for Law and Military Operations (CLAMO), The Judge Advocate General's School

The Marines Have Landed at CLAMO

On 1 October 1998, the Army's Center for Law and Military Operations (CLAMO) officially welcomed its first judge advocate member from the U.S. Marine Corps. On that day, the Marines formally assigned Major William F. Ferrell to CLAMO. The Marine representative will enhance CLAMO's role as a land component organization. The CLAMO can now assist and provide training to Army and Marine Corps judge advocates (JAs).

The Primary Mission

The Marine representative's primary mission will be to support and to assist the training of deployed Marine JAs. Because of the forward-deployed, rapid response nature of a Marine expeditionary unit (MEU), and the varying array of missions it is called on to execute, a thoroughly trained and prepared MEU JA is critical. The Marine representative's initial focus will be on how to best train and support MEU JAs.

The Marine Expeditionary Unit

A MEU is a premier crisis response force. It is a forward-deployed, self-sustained, quick response team trained and prepared to execute a wide variety of missions. A MEU is just one example of a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF)—a combined arms team consisting of air, ground, and logistics components tailored to fit a specific mission. The MAGTF concept is a hallmark of the Marine Corps. Marine forces always deploy and fight as MAGTFs. Marine Expeditionary Units that are qualified as "special operations capable" (SOC) are referred to as MEU (SOC). A MEU (SOC) is extensively trained to perform any one of thirty-one distinct missions that cover the full spectrum of military operations.

A MEU is the smallest standing MAGTF and consists of over two thousand Marines and sailors divided into a command element, a ground combat element, an air combat element, and a combat service support element. The MEU command element consists of the MEU commander and supporting staff. The command element is responsible for overall command and control of the MEU and is reinforced with specialized intelligence, reconnaissance, and communications assets. The MEU JA is part of the MEU command element. The MEU ground combat element is a battalion landing team, which consists of an infantry battalion reinforced with light armored vehicles, amphibious assault vehicles, artillery, and engineers. The MEU air combat element is a composite squadron consisting of UH-1N, AH-1W, CH-46, and CH-53 rotary wing aircraft, as well as AV-8B fixed wing aircraft. The MEU combat service support element consists of the MEU service support group, which contains the motor transport, medical, logistics, maintenance, and

engineering functions for the MEU. The specific types of equipment and attachments assigned to a MEU may differ, depending on the specific missions envisioned for the MEU.

A MEU is embarked aboard an amphibious ready group consisting of three Navy amphibious ships. Typically, an amphibious ready group operates in conjunction with a carrier battle group, which provides the national command authority and supported commander in chief with a potent crisis response force. The Marine Corps has seven standing MEUs. The 22nd, 24th, and 26th MEUs deploy from the II Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), located at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The 11th, 13th, and 15th MEUs deploy from I MEF, located at Camp Pendleton, California. The 31st MEU deploys from III MEF, located in Okinawa, Japan. Normally, two MEUs are deployed at any given time, with one generally centered in the Mediterranean and the other in the Western Pacific Arabian Gulf area.

Follow On Missions

Once established, the MEU JA training and support program will be the building block to establish training programs for all Marine operational law judge advocates. The Marine representative is creating a distinct after action report (AAR) format for deployed Marine judge advocates to use. The CLAMO will distribute the AAR to Marine judge advocates to capture all relevant lessons learned from exercises, routine deployments, and contingency operations. The CLAMO database will become the central repository for all these legal lessons learned.

The CLAMO's other members recently visited the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California and the Joint Training, Analysis, and Simulation Center in Suffolk, Virginia to observe the Army's use of judge advocates as Observer/Controllers and Observer/Trainers. These highly skilled, operationally-focused judge advocates train and mentor the training unit, to include the participating judge advocates, and insert realistic legal play into the exercise as part of the operations group. The Marine representative is investigating adopting a similar approach toward the training of Marine operational law judge advocates.

Major Ferrell has also taken the lead in producing CLAMO's next publication, a Rules of Engagement (ROE) vignette "Playbook" that will deal with the full range of military operations. This book will not be a "cookbook" that provides an answer to every possible scenario. Rather, the intent will be that it serve as a training tool to assist units in conducting realistic ROE training.

Conclusion

The CLAMO welcomes the Marine representative to the Center and looks forward to the critical role that he will play in ensuring that CLAMO continues to serve as the premier resource organization for land component operational lawyers.

How Can I Contact CLAMO?

In addition to assisting operational judge advocates, CLAMO invites contributions of operational law materials from the field. Call the CLAMO at DSN 934-7115 ext. 248 or commercial (804) 972-6248. E-mail millejw@hqda.army.mil, randot@hqda.army.mil, or ferrewh@hqda.army.mil. Or write the Center for Law and Military Operations, The Judge Advocate General's School, 600 Massie Road, Charlottesville, Virginia, 22903-1781. Major Ferrell, United States Marine Corps.