

National Defense Equals Increased Training

Subject Area Training

EWS 2006

National Defense Equals Increased Training
Contemporary Issues Paper
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to
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February 7, 2006

Report Documentation Page

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

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1. REPORT DATE 07 FEB 2006		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2006 to 00-00-2006	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE National Defense Equals Increased Training				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) United States Marine Corps, Command and Staff College, Marine Corps University, 2076 South Street, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, VA, 22134-5068				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

Transforming America's national security institutions to meet the challenges and opportunities of the twenty-first century is one of the United States' (US) national strategic goals.¹ To meet this goal, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) must apply new thought to and introduce new techniques in the way Marines are trained. Innovative training must be developed that can address national interests here and abroad. The former requires that the military focus its attention on threats to domestic security, with speed and proficiency being critical elements for a disciplined response. Consequently, the USMC must be continuously employed in relief efforts abroad following natural disasters, must train with U.S. law enforcement agencies, must develop additional coastal quarantine units, and must be integrated into a joint plan established by the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Employment in Relief Efforts Abroad promotes Domestic Security

"Our primary concern is to prevent further loss of life and to conduct sustained disaster relief operations."

--Lt. Gen. Robert R. Blackman, Commander III MEF,
On Indian Ocean Tsunami Relief Efforts (2005)

The tsunami that affected Southeast Asia in 2004 resulted in US relief efforts to the region, and as part of Combined Support Force 536 (CSF-536), Marines from III Marine

Expeditionary Force (III MEF) assisted in these efforts. As a result of this experience, the Marines learned first hand what is needed to provide assistance following a natural disaster. To ease human suffering, assistance entailed the provision of food, water, and rescue aircraft. In addition, III MEF worked in conjunction with an information technology service named Internosis to provide command and control during the operation.² III MEF's relief efforts and collaboration with a non-military organization illustrates the experience gained from a real world situation that training cannot simulate. This experience is valuable to the Marine and essential for USMC planning purposes in addressing relief effort problems. Experience gained from tsunami relief efforts would later be demonstrated in domestic relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina.

Joint Task Force (JTF) Katrina assisted in disaster relief efforts following the hurricane that struck Louisiana. The hurricane crippled a key port of entry into the US, which adversely affected the nation's economy and border security. With domestic agencies being ill-equipped to handle a natural disaster of such magnitude, the military was called upon. As part of this JTF, a special purpose Marine air ground task force (MAGTF) from Camp Lejeune was assigned to assist with humanitarian and disaster relief.³ The Marines that formed part of JTF Katrina, "[provided] Marine Corps assets, [to include]

medium and heavy lift capability [aircraft], to deliver supplies, assist in site assessment, search and rescue operations, [and to assist with the] evacuation of individuals in hard to reach locations."⁴

Therefore, continued USMC involvement in relief efforts here and abroad, are necessary in order to gain experience to support homeland defense. Experience gained will prepare Marines to cope with associated tasks and carnage that training can only simulate. Applied knowledge will assist towards successful mission accomplishment for the future.

Training with US Law Enforcement Agencies essential for MOOTW

"If you concentrate exclusively on victory, with no thought for the after effect, you may be too exhausted to profit by the peace..."

--B.H. Liddell Hart,
Strategy, (1967)

Military operations other than war (MOOTW) are actions that promote stability in a region and represent concerns for both US and foreign governments. Actions associated with MOOTW sometimes require the training of a foreign police force, a foreign military force, peacekeeping, and peace enforcement. For decades, the USMC has trained to conduct large-scale conventional wars. Today, MOOTW presents a unique challenge for the USMC because it is an effort to promote peace rather than

war. MOOTW requires a different thought process, and Marines must be trained to apply this way of thinking.

Writing on post-conflict success, William Flavin states, "The best way to understand the skills, knowledge, and capabilities of international organizations and NGOs, as well as US government agencies, is to establish and maintain relationships with them before embarking on a mission."⁵ In developing USMC training, US law enforcement agencies can provide assistance. Law enforcement agencies are trained to handle domestic situations and have been sensitized to protecting civil rights and, therefore, should be integrated as participants in joint field exercises. In working with US law enforcement agencies, Marines will gain experience needed to deal with peacetime situations abroad. This type of training should be developed with as many US law agencies as possible before deployment into a potential MOOTW situation.

Training with civil authorities is important for winning the hearts and minds of a foreign populace. Every situation requires a different approach in terms of force-on-force technique. With introduction of co-training, Marines would be better prepared to apply levels of force more appropriate to civilian populations. In addition, the USMC would establish itself as a credible foreign force capable of promoting both international and US policy goals and values.

Countering Disease by Increasing USMC CBIRF Units

"In Africa, promise and opportunity sit side by side with disease, war, and desperate poverty."

--US National Security Strategy
September 17, 2002

From a geo-strategic perspective, Africa is of little significance strategically; however, it should not be discounted as a threat to US security. As the second largest continent on the planet with a population of 733 million, Africa accounts for one-tenth of the world's population.⁶ A plethora of diseases has plagued Africa for decades and should be a cause for U.S. concern. Diseases such as Ebola and the Bubonic plague are some of the leading killers of the African people, while HIV and AIDS are the top killers affecting 25 million people.⁷

Diseases from Africa have often found their way to the US. For example, AIDS is an epidemic that originated in Africa and has affected the US population since the 1980's. Most recently, the West Nile virus, also from Africa, has impacted the health of the US population.⁸ Although the West Nile virus is not as severe as AIDS, both cases illustrate how easy it is for a disease originating in Africa to be transferred to the US, thus presenting a biological threat to national security. While countering a biological threat might seem like a task for US disease control agencies, it is something the USMC is equipped to support.

The USMC's Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF) based in Maryland, is equipped to respond to chemical and biological incidents. In addition, "CBIRF also assists federal, state, and local response forces in developing their own training programs on how to manage the consequences of a chemical or biological incident."⁹ Furthermore, CBIRF is capable of responding to chemical and biological incidents anywhere in the US. When considering CBIRF's participation with US agencies, CBIRF capabilities are valuable for national defense and its structure should be expanded upon to better serve the nation.

Therefore, additional CBIRF units should be created, and based on the west coast of the US and in Europe. In doing so, valuable training would be gained from interaction with both domestic and foreign disease control agencies. A CBIRF unit based in Europe would be introduced to diseases not present in the US and would gain exposure to foreign disease control measures that could be applied in quarantining the spread of a disease not yet present in the US. Similarly, with directed unit deployments to Africa, CBIRF teams could be introduced to biological threats that could someday present themselves in the US. CBIRF could share the knowledge it gains overseas with domestic agencies and provide valuable tools that would ultimately benefit homeland defense.

Finally, additional US coastal CBIRF units would lessen the response time needed to counter incidents in the US and reinforce domestic security at two major ports of entry into the country. Therefore, by increasing the number of CBIRF units and by employing units in disease control measures abroad, tactical experience could be used to counter future biological threats to the nation.

DoD vs. DHS: "A Joint Operation"

"Homeland security is the prevention of attack, invasion, conquest, or destruction of a state's territory, and it is the prime directive of any grand strategy."

--Robert J. Art
International Security, (1998)

The DoD and the DHS are two different US departments working towards one objective--defense of the nation. Each department is budgeted separately, and each is governed by different rules about the use of federal troops in foreign and domestic affairs, rules that are constitutionally based and can only be countered or amended by a presidential or congressional decision. Presented material has suggested that the use of the military (the USMC) in domestic affairs is essential for national defense given the dangers the nation faces today. Consequently, to best serve the nation, USMC training must involve integration between both federal and domestic agencies. By merging the capabilities and experience of these agencies,

national defense would be strengthened. Therefore, DoD and DHS planning must address this issue and work towards policy changes that would legitimize greater military involvement in domestic actions.

Conclusion

The nation's enemies are not only individuals with hostile intentions, but also anyone or anything that threatens American interests. Situations brought on by natural disasters and world health problems are considerations that must be addressed in defense planning. The USMC must be prepared to meet the challenges presented by these problems if and when ordered to do so. In addition, while the USMC's purpose is to fight battles and win wars, Marines today fight "battles" that focus more on peace operations than on traditional warfare. Similarly, Marines must be prepared for these operations by training to handle foreign-domestic situations, in which interaction with civilian populations raises new questions, such as the application of the appropriate level of military force. Only through increased interaction with US law enforcement agencies can the US military gain needed insights. Only with proper training can the US military gain the credibility necessary to promote US interests. Therefore, the USMC must increase its involvement in relief efforts, disease control measures abroad,

and joint exercises with US agencies "to support and defend...against all enemies, foreign and domestic."¹⁰



Notes

1. President George W. Bush, *The National Security Strategy of The United States of America*, (The White House, 2002), 1-2.

2. Throckmorton, Lisa, (2004) *Internosis Press Release: Internosis Selected by Marine Expeditionary Force to Implement Tsunami Relief Portal*, http://www.internosis.com/press_releases/pressrel_tsunami.htm.

3. United States Marine Corps, *Press Release: Marine Corps aids relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina*, <http://www.okinawa.usmc.mil/Public%20Affairs%20Info/Archive%20News%20Pages/2005/050106-relief.html>.

4. United States Marine Corps, *Press Release: Marine Corps aids relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina*.

5. Flavin, William, "Planning for Conflict Termination and Post-Conflict Success," 110.

6. UNAIDS, "A Global View of HIV Infection," <http://www.unaids.org>.

7. UNAIDS, "A Global View of HIV Infection," <http://www.unaids.org>.

8. Lanciotti, R.S., In *Science*, 2333.

9. MOUT/OBUA/FIBUA Units-Training Facilities, *CBIRF*, <http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/6453/unitsimagesa.html>.

10. United States Constitution: *Oaths for the Armed Services*, <http://www.conservativeusa.org/oathsofoffice.htm>.

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