

➤ Maritime Prepositioning Force (Future)

DISCUSSION

The Maritime Prepositioning Force (Future) – MPF (F) – will be the true enabler of primarily sea-based operations. When it becomes operational, the MPF role will expand beyond that of today, which is to provide the equipment to prepare a fly-in force for combat. MPF (F) will serve four functions that the current MPF cannot: (1) at-sea arrival and assembly of units; (2) direct support of the assault echelon of the ATF; (3) long-term, sea-based sustainment of the landing force; and (4) at-sea reconstitution and redeployment of the force.

The Naval Services are exploring several new technology areas during the development of MPF (F). These include selective on-load and off-load, internal ships systems (i.e., automated warehousing, item/pallet/

container operations, RO/RO systems, and flow patterns), external ship systems (i.e., ramps, lighterage, and other craft interfaces), modular system/sub-system concepts, and aircraft interface technologies.

Currently, the MPF (F) Program is authorized to analyze alternatives to meet approved requirements.

MARINE CORPS POSITION

The combination of MPF (F) and amphibious warships will form the foundation of a highly capable, sustainable force able to support itself from the sea base almost indefinitely. MPF (F) promises to revolutionize Marine Corps and joint-force deployment and employment. The Marine Corps supports ongoing studies to refine requirements for a family of ships to realize this capability.