

> Marine Corps Reserve Contribution to the War on Terror

DISCUSSION

After the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the Commandant of the Marine Corps was authorized to recall to active duty 7,500 members of the Marine Corps Ready Reserve. Within days, numerous Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA) reported to their gaining active-component commands. Soon after, volunteers from the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) were in receipt of orders directing them to their active-duty assignments with their gaining commands. These mobilized Reservists assisted with force protection, intelligence, and other staff augmentation duties and served on Marine and joint staffs.

In addition to these efforts, the Commander Marine Forces Reserve was directed to activate units to reinforce and augment Marine component commanders supporting the global war on terrorism. These units included:

- >> Two infantry battalions
- >> Two CH-53E squadrons
- >> Two VMGR (Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron) detachments

- >> A detachment from both I and II MEF Augmentation Command Elements
- >> Civil affairs and intelligence detachments
- >> An Early Warning and Control (EW/C) detachment from Marine Air Control Squadron (MACS)-24.

Units and individuals were swiftly and seamlessly integrated into their gaining units, demonstrating a core competency emphasized in Marine Corps Strategy 21. The entire process highlighted how the Marine Corps Reserve continues to support, participate, and plan for future operations as a ready and able partner of the Total Force Marine Corps.

MARINE CORPS POSITION

Time and again, the Marine Corps' experience has demonstrated that every Marine is prepared to meet the challenges of a dangerous and uncertain world. Maintaining our expeditionary readiness depends upon high-quality Marine Reservists as a key part of our Total Force. Reservist training, leadership, and quality of life will continue to be of the utmost importance.

