

BACKGROUND

A. Enhanced Company Operations (ECO)

In 2004, MCWL began experimenting with Distributed Operations; centered on the idea of improving the capabilities and equipping individual Marines and small units up through the rifle platoon. This concept evolved into Enhanced Company Operations, which centered on the infantry company and focused on enhancements to company level command and control, intelligence, fires, and logistics.

B. Enhanced MAGTF Operations (EMO)

The EMO concept is “evolutionary in design” as it seeks to push the MAGTF to “adapt ahead of any enemy.” It directly charges “all elements of the MAGTF to become lighter, more adaptable, more resourceful, and faster in relation to the enemy.” MCWL designed and is executing a family of experiments to examine the viability and feasibility of the EMO concept.

Limited Objective Experiment One (EMO LOE-1)

Examined the ability of a sea-based MAGTF to command and control a force from a distance in excess of 165 nautical miles. The 24th MEU inserted, supported, and extracted a mostly foot-mobile force over a four day period. The landing force used experimental communications and logistics equipment designed to enable sustained operations ashore via long-range C2 and reduction of requirements.

Limited Objective Experiment Two (EMO LOE-2)

EMO LOE-2 was executed in three parts, was primarily logistics focused. LOE 2.1 addressed digitally-aided logistics. LOE 2.2 was a live-force experiment using emerging sustainment technologies and a mobile logistics headquarters to plan and execute sustainment while interfacing with net-centric logistics systems directly from the field. LOE 2.3 focused on ship to unit distribution from USMC T-AKE.

Limited Objective Experiment Three (EMO LOE-3)

A live-force experiment that examined digital fires request processes, while providing improved situational awareness throughout the chain of command. It examined how digitally aided fires can improve the responsiveness of the fires process. It also introduced armed UAS operations in support of company landing teams and the processes involved in their employment.



ADVANCED WARFIGHTING EXPERIMENT

MISSION

Explore and analyze Marine Corps service concepts using an integrated combination of research, modeling and simulation, wargaming, experimentation, Science & Technology discovery and integration, and analysis in order to better understand how these concepts expose gaps and create opportunities for future force development.



Shaping tomorrow's Marine Corps today

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OBJECTIVES

1. Assess a sea-based SPMAGTF's ability to command and control multiple CLTs dispersed across a maritime area of operation.
2. Assess logistics requirements for multiple distributed CLTs.
3. Assess a SPMAGTF's ability to provide fire support for distributed sea-based operations and sea control, as part of a naval campaign.
4. Assess the impact of experimental capabilities on SPMAGTF and CLT operations.
5. Examine SPMAGTF and SOF integration.



CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

The AWE focus will be on a crisis response SPMAGTF employing multiple CLTs conducting distributed operations across the Hawaiian archipelago in conjunction with RIMPAC 2014. The intent is to command, control, and sustain the forces from a sea base aboard traditional amphibious platforms. The AWE will include two CLT headquarters organized and trained in accordance with the latest infantry rifle company Table of Organization and Equipment. One additional CLT will be organized around an artillery battery HQ functioning as a Fires XLT with infantry platoons and HIMARS platoon attached.

Tactical activities ashore and afloat will be controlled by a MCWL/RIMPAC integrated MSEL in a twenty-four hour, live force-on-force, semi-free play scenario.

SOF integration will include planning and coordination between the Combined Forces Special Operations Component Command and SPMAGTF. Tactical operations integration will include operations where the landing force is supported by SOF teams and where SOF is supported by the landing force.

By nesting the AWE in a scheduled naval exercise, MCWL gains the ability to leverage highly trained operating forces without unnecessarily increasing their operational tempo.

The AWE directly supports Expeditionary Force 21 and the Commandant of the Marine Corps' intent to provide the right force, in the right place, at the right time.

The AWE will demonstrate potential solutions to future Marine Air Ground Task Force challenges.

It brings together the "Enhanced MAGTF Operations" (EMO) series of experimentation into a single live-force experiment as part of the RIMPAC 2014 exercise. The AWE is the culmination of a decade of progressive experimentation conducted by the Warfighting Lab.

It will encompass the results of previous experiments, highlight selected technologies, and include the integration of Special Operations Forces (SOF) in amphibious operations.

Concurrently, the AWE serves as a bridge to its follow-on program of wargaming, experimentation, and capability development.

HYPOTHESIS

A sea-based Special Purpose MAGTF (SPMAGTF), organized, trained, and equipped to conduct distributed operations, can simultaneously command and control, sustain, and support by fires multiple widely dispersed Company Landing Teams (CLT).