



Daily Media Report

Headquarters Marine Corps, Division of Public Affairs



US Marines anti-explosives squad team of 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, blow up a roadside bomb after it was found by a sniffer dog, during a 48-hour operation in attempt to hold back insurgency activities in a stronghold Taliban area in Marjah, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, on March 31, 2010. (AFP / Getty Images / Mauricio Lima)

May 18, 2010

Media Summaries:

International/National: Suicide attack in Kabul kills 12, wounds 47: Interior Ministry; Two U.S. senators in jeopardy on big day of voting; BP siphoning off 40 pct of Gulf of Mexico oil leak

Early Bird: Review Cites Flaws In U.S. Antimissile Program; Pentagon To Tape Interrogations; Baghdad To Enclose City With 15ft Wall To Keep Suicide Bombers Out

Daily Media Report: Marine Corps Prepares For Budget Cuts and Uncertain Future; Reports: Hatoyama, Clinton to discuss US base; Military's economic might in Beaufort County just as strong as tourism, report says

*** Compiled and distributed by DivPA for official use only. This document contains material copyrighted by original media sources and copying or dissemination for private use is prohibited without permission of the owners. ***

Do you follow us? www.twitter.com/USMC

Join the conversation at www.facebook.com/Marines

[Early Bird](#)

A daily concise compilation of current published news items and commentary concerning the most significant defense and defense-related national security issues. Available by 0530 hrs EST.

Daily Media Report highlights

Marine Corps Prepares For Budget Cuts and Uncertain Future

nationaldefensemagazine.org
May 18, 2010
By Grace V. Jean

BALTIMORE — For a sneak peek into the Marine Corps' future needs, one can look at the recent past. As 4,000 marines in January were amassing for a large-scale attack on Marja, Afghanistan, another 4,000 marines were sailing to Haiti to assist in relief operations in the earthquake-devastated nation. Thousands more were carrying out other missions around the globe.

[Entire Article](#)

Reports: Hatoyama, Clinton to discuss US base

AP
May 18, 2010
By ERIC TALMADGE

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, who will reportedly meet with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton this week, vowed Monday to do all he can to resolve an impasse over the future of a major American Marine base by the end of the month.

[Entire Article](#)

Military's economic might in Beaufort County just as strong as tourism, report says

islandpacket.com
May 17, 2010
By JOSH McCANN

With jets that scream overhead and throngs of visitors who flock to see new Marines graduate, the military has an impact of \$1.2 billion annually on Beaufort County, according to a recent study by economist Don Schunk of Coastal Carolina University.

[Entire Article](#)

Daily Media Report

Marine Corps Prepares For Budget Cuts and Uncertain Future

nationaldefensemagazine.org

May 18, 2010

By Grace V. Jean

BALTIMORE — For a sneak peek into the Marine Corps' future needs, one can look at the recent past. As 4,000 marines in January were amassing for a large-scale attack on Marja, Afghanistan, another 4,000 marines were sailing to Haiti to assist in relief operations in the earthquake-devastated nation. Thousands more were carrying out other missions around the globe.

Marine officials say that the force in the coming decades will be just as busy, but it will have to do the job with fewer resources.

"We have an expression in the Corps: 'We sometimes have to do more with less,' and I honestly think that's what we face in the not-so-distant future," said Gen. James T. Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps.

Flexibility in equipment, organization and training will be critical, Lt. Gen. George Flynn, commanding general of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command, told industry representatives at a National Defense Industrial Association conference. Marines can expect to prepare for irregular warfare, conventional warfare and terrorism. "We will never know which one we're facing until the game is called," he said.

The Defense Department has adjusted doctrine and strategies to reflect this new "hybrid" reality. Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have helped to expedite changes in force structure and equipment, but they also have drained the treasury.

"As monies get tight, we're going to have to look at equipment sets that are entirely interoperable, lighter, cheaper ideally, but that will nevertheless get the job done to defend this great country," said Conway in remarks at the NDIA annual dinner in McLean, Va.

Though its budget request for fiscal 2011 totals \$26.6 billion with an additional \$7 billion in supplemental war funding, the Marine Corps is fast approaching a crossroads that will force its leaders to make some difficult decisions. Anticipating smaller budgets in the coming decade, officials will have to determine how to modernize war-torn gear while pursuing advanced technologies.

"We will have to balance investment between current and future challenges," Flynn said.

Marine leaders said they remain focused on supporting operations in Afghanistan, and they are planning to stay the course through 2015. But doing so may be compromising the Corps' preparedness for future contingencies.

"It may well be that we don't have everything we want but only what we have to have. And we will have to cut away some capability and do without some things that we think are absolutely essential to the various missions that are out there," Conway said.

To reduce that risk, the Corps is seeking gear that will have applicability across the full spectrum

of warfare. All new equipment will have to have utility in high- and low-intensity conflict, counterterrorism and disaster relief operations.

“If you have something that operates across all four of those mission tasks, we’re really going to be interested,” Flynn said.

Officials insist that vehicles need to be lighter to allow the force to get to the fight and also enhance the Marine Corps’ amphibious capability to maneuver from the sea to the shore. In addition, weapon systems must be affordable and help the service decrease its dependence on fossil fuels.

That wish list is a tall order, officials acknowledged, especially given the exponential growth in the cost of military hardware.

“They have to come in at the amount that we have budgeted, on the schedule we have allotted, with the performance that we have been promised, because there isn’t going to be a second bite of the apple,” warned Brig. Gen. Michael Brogan, commander of Marine Corps Systems Command.

Marine officials are still uncertain whether recent acquisition reforms will help reduce costs.

President Obama last year signed the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 into law. The legislation is meant to fix the Pentagon’s troubled procurement system by giving officials increased oversight of major defense programs.

“It demands more reports going to the Hill,” said Brogan. “A lot of burden flows down to program managers.”

The new law puts more pressure on procurement officials to keep programs on budget, agreed Bill Taylor, program executive officer for land systems, which is the Marine Corps’ largest acquisition portfolio.

“Historically, it’s a fact that our programs come in over budget and years late. Report after report has indicated that the key to successful acquisition programs is getting things right at program inception with sound systems engineering, cost estimation and legitimate developmental testing,” said Taylor.

During the last two decades, however, the Defense Department has downsized its acquisition work force — the very same one held accountable for managing those responsibilities. Taylor said his office is focusing on systems engineering and cost estimation by beefing up staff in both areas.

Though WSARA targets the big-ticket defense programs, there will be a trickle-down effect for smaller ones, said Brogan.

The law requires competitive prototyping as a way to reduce risks and costs on new systems. Companies would be asked to build a first-of-kind system for testing so that the government can better assess the technology before it awards a production contract. It is a procurement model that is playing out on the joint light tactical vehicle program. “We will have to mature that process in the government,” said Brogan.

Another technique is known as build-to-print procurement, which was done in the modular tactical vest and plate program. The government owned a design and it awarded multiple contracts to vendors to build it according to the blueprint. “That won’t be the template for every single acquisition, but it is very much relished on the Hill because we own the technical data package,” Brogan said.

Industry is reluctant to part with data rights and other proprietary information on a technology because it cuts into company profits. But vendors will have to start getting used to the idea.

"We're going to be driven more and more to acquire them," Brogan said. "If we need to buy the technical data package and your price is so expensive that we can't, then it might become difficult for you to win a contract," he warned.

"All of this is driven by statute because the Congress is keen on us competing. Because in their minds, it's going to drive down the overall costs," he added.

The act also includes provisions for giving the government more insight into subcontracting. "We're going to want to know how you're doing in making 'buy' decisions," said Brogan. Program managers will want to know the factors involved in those choices. For example, does a different business unit of a bidding organization have a leg up on those who would be competing for that piece of work? Or will it be fair and open competition as it makes those decisions?

"There will be hooks in the contract that demand government insight and surveillance of that process. We will be expected to assess how you do that. Now is that insight, oversight or intrusion? You'll have to answer that yourselves as we go forward," said Brogan.

The marine personnel carrier has potential to become the poster child for how the Marine Corps implements the latest acquisition reform measures, said Bob Lusardi, deputy program manager for light armored vehicles. The MPC is envisioned as a multi-wheeled, armored vehicle designed to carry an infantry squad. The Marine Corps plans to buy 630 vehicles. A technology demonstrator is being evaluated at the Nevada Automotive Test Center. Pending results, the engineering and manufacturing development phase is scheduled to commence in 2012 with initial operating capability in 2018.

"This whole program is open to industry, particularly at the component level and at the subsystem level, to come in and play," said Lusardi.

One of the programs that has been the guinea pig for acquisition reform is the joint light tactical vehicle. Intended to replace the 25-year-old humvee, JLTV has a V-shaped hull to protect occupants from roadside bombs. The Army and Marine Corps plan to buy thousands in the coming years. Three teams remain in contention for the contract: BAE Systems; General Dynamics Land Systems and AM General; and Lockheed Martin Corp.

Program officials will take a look at what they've learned so far in the first 15 months of the technology development phase, said Lt. Col. Ben Garza, the Marine Corps' program manager on the Army-led project.

"There's still room for improvements," he said.

There are concerns about the weight of the vehicle, estimated at 20,000 pounds. The program office is seeking lighter-weight armor and vehicle components. It also is looking for an innovative blast-resistant hull and blast-mitigating technologies that can reduce injury to vehicle occupants.

"I am absolutely convinced that the U.S. vehicle manufacturing industry can create a survivability capsule that can withstand virtually any blast," said Brogan.

In addition to improved cabins, JLTV program managers want to increase fuel efficiency and are open to considering alternative power sources.

"We're also interested in increasing the off-road capability of the vehicle and improving reliability and maintainability to reduce total ownership costs," said Garza.

After 18 more months of technology experimentation, the program will enter the next phase of engineering and manufacturing development. The request for proposals will be out in the first quarter of fiscal 2012, Garza said. Program managers expect to award two contracts. Full production and fielding is expected to begin in 2015.

Another program that is causing stress is the beleaguered expeditionary fighting vehicle program. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has questioned the Pentagon's need for the 40-ton, \$22 million per copy amphibious assault vehicle replacement. But Marine officials say the vehicle is the linchpin for the force to retain its amphibious ship-to-beach combat capability and they still intend to buy 600 of them.

"We are looking forward to receiving our prototypes this summer and putting them through the paces to see if the design matches predictions," said Tom Stevenson, the logistics director in the program office. "We have worked hard to improve the reliability of the system."

There are areas where science and technology can help. Developers continue to look for ways to lighten the vehicle. "We're not at the 1,500-pound weight margin," said Stevenson. Heavy components, for example, could be replaced with lighter materials. Program officials also seek technologies to increase survivability, cut down on fuel consumption and help crews maintain awareness of their surrounding environment. The vehicle requires a lot of power to plane through the water, so technologies that can increase fuel efficiency and yet provide performance will get a look, said Stevenson. The office also is searching for ways to clean and dispose of hazardous materials that are discharged by the vehicle and to reduce corrosion to the hull.

The ability to reduce energy consumption in the Corps is now becoming the long pole in the tent, said David J. Karcher, director of energy systems. Depending on how one slices the infantry battalion, the number of vehicles has gone up three-fold, fuel usage has increased by 10-fold and the number of radios has jumped by a factor of eight.

"All of those have driven energy usage in areas where we're least equipped to take care of it — battalion and below," he said. Convoys to deliver fuel, water, batteries and other supplies to forward operating bases have been the intended targets of insurgents planting IEDs in roadways. Nearly half of the casualties caused by IEDs were riding in vehicles supporting that logistics train.

Unless something is done, that problem will only grow worse because the Marine Corps will require small units to function as a team while spread out over large areas.

Karcher challenged industry to help reduce the amount of equipment in the Corps. If the medium tactical vehicle replacement (MTVR) could eliminate a trailer by incorporating an onboard power generator into its system, then that would help trim what marines need to haul around. Another challenge is how to increase the fuel efficiency of an up armored MTVR from four miles per gallon to six miles per gallon or higher.

By 2015, officials also want to see a marine expeditionary unit generating all the water it needs ashore. They would like the unit to be 20 percent more fuel efficient and capable of generating 20 percent of its power needs from alternative sources for a duration of five to seven days. These measures will help to take trucks and convoys off the road.

[Back to Index](#)

Reports: Hatoyama, Clinton to discuss US base

AP
May 18, 2010

By ERIC TALMADGE

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, who will reportedly meet with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton this week, vowed Monday to do all he can to resolve an impasse over the future of a major American Marine base by the end of the month.

Hatoyama is under increasing pressure to come up with a plan to move operations off the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on the southern island of Okinawa in keeping with a pledge he made before becoming Japan's leader last September.

He has promised to resolve the issue by the end of this month, though that goal now seems unrealistic because Okinawans oppose his suggested solutions and the United States is holding firm to an earlier agreement that Hatoyama wants to revise.

Hatoyama will meet with Clinton in Tokyo on Friday to discuss the issue, according to reports over the weekend in several Japanese newspapers. Government officials in Tokyo and Washington refused to confirm Clinton's schedule.

"I knew from the start the situation would be tough," Hatoyama told reporters Monday. "I will do all I can by the end of the month."

Apart from the U.S. base issue, Clinton and Hatoyama are likely to discuss the sinking of a South Korean warship in March that killed 46 South Korean sailors, according to Japanese public broadcaster NHK Monday.

A Japanese Foreign Ministry official declined to confirm the report.

South Korea has not directly blamed North Korea for the sinking, and Pyongyang has denied involvement, but suspicion has focused on the North given its history of attacks. The two Koreas remain technically locked in a state of war because their three-year conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, in 1953.

Okinawa hosts more than half the 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan under a security pact. To ease Okinawa's burden, Japan and the U.S. agreed in 2006 to move the sprawling Futenma air field to a less crowded part of the island, and move 8,600 Marines from Okinawa to Guam.

Hatoyama froze the 2006 deal amid local opposition and has been searching for alternatives. He has floated the idea of building a replacement airstrip on raised pilings to reduce its environmental impact on nearby coral reefs, and of shifting training by the Marines to other areas outside of Okinawa.

Opponents on Okinawa want Futenma completely closed down and its replacement built off the island.

Last month, 90,000 Okinawans protested the base and the relocation plan — the biggest demonstration against the base ever. On Sunday, to mark the 1972 reversion of Okinawa from U.S. to Japanese administration, a human chain around Futenma drew 17,000 protesters.

Japanese and U.S. negotiators met last week in Washington to discuss the base, but the talks ended without a resolution.

About 2,000 Marines are stationed on Futenma, which is a hub of helicopter and transport plane operations.

[Back to Index](#)

Military's economic might in Beaufort County just as strong as tourism, report says

islandpacket.com
May 17, 2010
By JOSH McCANN

With jets that scream overhead and throngs of visitors who flock to see new Marines graduate, the military has an impact of \$1.2 billion annually on Beaufort County, according to a recent study by economist Don Schunk of Coastal Carolina University.

The Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce commissioned Schunk to update the Beaufort County section of a statewide study he performed for the S.C. Military Task Force in 2004.

The results show the military rivals tourism, which chamber officials say generates more than \$1 billion in annual revenue for the county.

Unlike tourism, however, the military is not as prone to fluctuation, Schunk and chamber officials said.

The area's trio of military facilities -- Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and Naval Hospital Beaufort -- help insulate the county from economic downturns such as the recent recession, Schunk said.

"(The recession) has been tough for everybody, but it would've been much tougher without our three bases," chamber president Carlotta Ungaro said.

Chamber officials sought to update the statistics in part so they could better educate people about the military's significance before the arrival of the Joint Strike Fighter, a next-generation military jet expected to land in Beaufort in 2014, Ungaro said.

People considering bringing businesses to the area often ask about the military's impact, she said.

Brad Samuel, chairman of the chamber's Military Affairs Committee, hopes the study's findings will build support among people who might otherwise lose sight of the military's importance.

"We just want to remind them of the impact," he said.

[Back to Index](#)

-END-