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Fort Sill, Oklahoma

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March 2004

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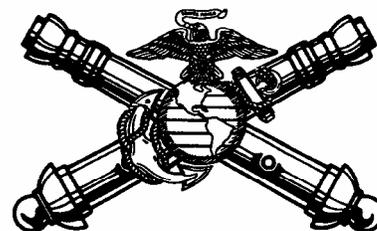
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Marine Corps Fire Support Systems (MCFSS) Section Update

The last update for the MCFSS Section was published in issue 1-01; therefore, this article will be a snapshot of current instruction and issues, rather than an update of everything that has changed since the last update.

The Marine Corps Fire Support Systems (MCFSS) Section is responsible for digital training conducted at the Marine Detachment. This includes, but is not limited to, the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS), Effects Management Tools (EMT), Light Weight Technical Fire Direction System (LWTFDS), and the procedures to make these systems interoperate with all other digital systems. Additionally, the MCFSS section has provided remote training to units from 14th Marines and the Expeditionary Warfare School (EWS), in Quantico, VA.

AFATDS instruction is currently in the Program of Instruction (POI) for the Marine Corps Field Artillery Fire Controlman's Course (MCFAFCC), Marine Artillery Operations Chief Course (MAOCC), MAGTF Fire Support Chief's (FSC) Course, Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC), Warrant Officer Advanced Course (WOAC), Field Artillery Officer Basic Course (FAOBC), Field Artillery

Captain's Career Course (FACCC), Pre Command Course (PCC) and the AFATDS Operators Course. The Marine Artillery Scout Observer Course (MASOC) does not have AFATDS instruction in the POI yet. When classrooms and instructors are available, the MCFSS Section will provide a limited amount of instruction to those 0861s awaiting training. This will remain in effect until the new POI is sent to and approved by Training and Education Command (TECOM).

AFATDS version 6.3.2 was implemented DOD wide on 15 Feb 2004. The Schoolhouse is in the process of updating all the associated lesson plans. The MAGTF FSC Course 1-04 is the first class to receive instruction on the current version of AFATDS Software. (6.3.2) Concurrently, MAOCC 1-04 is receiving AFATDS version 6.3.1 training. This is the last MAOCC class that will receive instruction on AFATDS version 6.3.1. MCFAFCC will begin receiving AFATDS version 6.3.2 starting with class 6-04. FAOBC will receive instruction on version 6.3.2 starting with class 2-04.

The EMT is the AFATDS client that provides many AFATDS functions to a Windows environment. This allows for

additional personnel to input, extract, view and evaluate information in the AFATDS database. This software does not have to be loaded on a system with C2PC; however, when used in conjunction with C2PC it can provide a more accurate picture of the current situation. This should be employed down to the Artillery Battalion FDC and Maneuver Battalion FSCC. As a result, the EMT is currently being taught to MAGTF FSC Course, MAOCC, AFATDS Operators Course, and PCC. Starting with FACCC Class 3-04, they will receive instruction on the EMT.

The LWTFDS, or CENTAUR (as referred to by the Army), is replacing the Back Up Computer System (BUCS). Consequently, the Army will begin replacing the BUCS instruction with LWTFDS training for FAOBC and FACCC starting in the third quarter of FY04. However, the Marine Corps System Command (MARCORSYSCOM) is not planning on fielding this system until the communications package and survey package are added to the system. As a result, this instruction is not planned for implementation in MAOCC and MAGTF FSC Course until the system is fielded to the Marine Corps.

The AFATDS Operators Course at Fort Sill is in the process of being revamped. Below is the information regarding this course:

RMKS/1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO INFORM ALL APPLICABLE UNITS ABOUT THE SEAT AVAILABILITY AND THE NEW COURSE SCHEDULE FOR THE AFATDS OPERATORS COURSE. (CID: A20ANWI) THAT IS TAUGHT AT FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA. THIS COURSE IS NOW TAUGHT IN THREE PHASES. PHASE ONE IS FOR ARMY PERSONNEL ONLY. PHASE TWO COVERS BASIC AFATDS OPERATIONS AT A FIRING BATTERY LEVEL. PHASE THREE BUILDS ON PHASE TWO AND COVERS ALL OTHER BASIC AFATDS OPERATOR FUNCTIONS, TO INCLUDE THE EFFECTS MANAGEMENT TOOL. THESE DATES SUPERCEDE ANY DATES PUBLISHED PREVIOUSLY AND ARE APPLICABLE IMMEDIATELY.

CLASS	REPORT	END	SEATS		
006	17 MAR 04	23 APR 04	8		
CLASS	PHASE II REPORT	PHASE II END	PHASE III REPORT	PHASE III END	SEATS
007	05 MAY 04	21 MAY 04	24 MAY 04	03 JUN 04	8
008	03 JUN 04	21 JUN 04	22 JUN 04	01 JUL 04	8
009	06 JUL 04	22 JUL 04	23 JUL 04	03 AUG 04	8
010	04 AUG 04	20 AUG 04	23 AUG 04	01 SEP 04	8
011	07 SEP 04	23 SEP 04	24 SEP 04	05 OCT 04	8

2. THIS COURSE IS OPEN TO ALL MARINES FROM UNITS THAT WILL RECEIVE AFATDS. THE POINT OF CONTACT FOR THIS COURSE AND OTHER AFATDS MATTERS IS CAPT J. A. MCSHEA, OIC MCFSS, DSN 639-6526, COMM: 580-442-XXXX,

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

EMAIL: JIM.MCSHEA@SILL.ARMY.MIL

3. ADMIN/REPORTING INSTR: GOV QTRS PROV AT COST (EST.) \$29.00 - 39.00 PER DAY AND GOV MESS NOT AVAILABLE. ALL STUDENTS WILL NEED TO MAKE THEIR BILLETING RESERVATIONS AT LODGING FACILITY; COMM (580) 442-5000. MARINES REPORTING MUST COME WITH A GOV TRVL CHARGE CARD OR SUFFICIENT PER DIEM ADVANCE FOR ONE MONTH. THERE IS NO LOCAL DISBURSING FACILITY TO SERVICE MARINES AT FORT SILL. ALL MARINES NEED TO REPORT IN WITH THE MARINE CORPS ARTILLERY DETACHMENT, BLDG 759 BROWN HALL, FORT SILL, OK WITH ORDERS. AFTER HOURS CONTACT THE SDNCO AT (580) 442-5615/2467. REQUIRED UNIFORMS: UNIFORM OF THE DAY IS CAMMIES. SEASONAL SERVICE UNIFORM REQ FOR FRIDAYS AND GRADUATIONS. POC FOR ADMIN MATTERS IS GYSGT VILLARREAL AT DSN: 639-6187/6199, COMM: (580)442-6187/6199, OR EMAIL AT JOE.VILLARREAL@SILL.ARMY.MIL. POC FOR QUOTAS IS MSGT BELL AT DSN: 222-4301, COMM: (703)692-4301, OR EMAIL AT BELLWA@HQMC.USMC.MIL.

The Marine Detachment is still seeing problems with Marines that are reporting for this course. Students must call billeting at (580) 442-5000 in advance and reserve lodging on base. Additionally, because of the duration of the course, lack of transportation and lack of available government messing, it is recommended that at least one Marine per class be authorized a rental vehicle.

The MCFSS Section has developed a Web Site [<http://sill-www.army.mil/usmc/mcfss>] where we are posting information regarding digital procedures and instruction. There are links to all AFATDS related sites (NIPR). This site is under construction and will be updated regularly. If there are any comments or information to add, please send this information to Capt McShea or MSgt Morton.

AFATDS Current Issues

The Supporting Arms Coordination Center (SACC) on board the Amphibs are being upgraded under the SACC-A (Automated) initiative. This coincides with the MEUs being designated as Expeditionary Strike Groups (ESGs) The systems in the SACC space will be upgraded and C2PC, EMT, AFATDS, IOS (Intelligence and Operations Server), GCCS (Global Command and Control System) and TBMCS (Theater Battle Management System) will be integrated at this level. There have been at least two ESGs that have been fielded with these systems and recommendations are being implemented in a spiral technology.

AFATDS has an improved IOS / GCCS interface. Additionally, AFATDS now has the ability to clear the IOS / GCCS tracks from the database, in order to re-synchronize the track information.

Once AFATDS Version 6.3.2 is loaded on to the Compact Computer Unit 2

(CCU2), the JAZ drive becomes inoperable. To allow AFATDS to recognize the JAZ Drive, remove one Removable Hard Disk Drive (RHDD) prior to applying power. (More information is posted on the webpage.)

EMT software must be removed and the new version (EMT 6.3.2a) installed in order to operate properly.

At the artillery battalion, EMT should have been issued with the Intelligence and Operations Workstations (IOW) systems. At the maneuver battalion, only the EMT software is being issued because maneuver units already have the IOW. As a result, this software should be run on the FSCCs IOW systems or if deemed crucial individual units must purchase their own system (Commercial Off The Shelf [COTS]).

AFATDS now has the capability to record all information for up to a period of 72 hours. Once recorded, this file can be replayed on the EMT.

With AFATDS 6.3.2 it is mandatory that the hostname for the Permanent LAN (assigned when loading software) be eight (8) characters or less. If the hostname is longer, AFATDS will always go into OPFAC Reconfig ten to fifteen times and force a shutdown. This can be corrected by reloading software, or by logging in as the System Administrator and editing the host information.

Road Ahead

The AFATDS Hardware refresh will begin in the 3rd quarter of FY04.

All CCU2's will be replaced with the Laptop version of AFATDS.

The CCU2's will then be issued to different training facilities, to include Expedi-

tionary Warfare Training Groups (EWTG), Artillery Training Schools (ATS), MAGTF Integration Systems Training Centers (MISTC), TTECG and the Marine Artillery Detachment.

As units are fielded the Universal Operation Center (UOC), their AFATDS will be used to refresh the training centers. For more information on the UOC, see https://www.mccdc.usmc.mil/CEAB/AUG%2003%20CEAB_files/Briefs/Tab%2023%20Unit%20Operations%20Center.ppt or <https://www.mccdc.usmc.mil/CEAB/files/OCT02CEAB/1>. ■

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WHY THE REALIGNMENT OF MAINTENANCE?

Capt Krohmer, M. R.
CWO3 O'Keefe, T. O.

For years, the Marine Corps has been structured to perform five Echelons Of Maintenance (EOM) on its ground equipment. The initial intent was to increase maintenance effectiveness at the lowest unit level, however five EOM approach actually reduces maintenance effectiveness. This is due primarily to duplication of effort throughout the various EOM levels, and a lack of process ownership throughout. After extensive analysis, the logistic community has determined that three Levels Of Maintenance (LOM) vice five echelons is the most effective approach to ground maintenance in support of the MAGTF.



Current maintenance functions are based on MCO 4790.2C and other rules and regulations defined by logistics doctrine and structure. Within Organizational Maintenance (OM) there are currently two levels of maintenance. Maintenance actions taught to and performed by the equipment operators are identified as 1st echelon and actions taught to and performed by the maintenance community are identified as 2nd echelon actions. Within the Intermediate Maintenance Activity (IMA) or 3rd echelon, many processes and functions are identical to those performed by maintenance personnel within OM. Mechanics assigned to OM often have the same training, technical skill level, and in some cases the same

tools as the mechanics found within the IMA. The current maintenance process highlights the fact that material requiring corrective maintenance at the IMA will have several of the same tasks performed on it at both the OM and IMA levels. These redundancies add to the length of time an item of equipment stays in the Maintenance Cycle and waste valuable resources that could be applied towards other tasks or missions.

The duplication of effort that is found throughout the various EOM has created the need for additional resources without regard to efficiency or effectiveness. The current system also imposes an additional management burden on the using unit whose primary mission is not logistic support.

It also creates additional confusion by involving multiple personnel and various units in the process of conducting a single repair.

Significant changes with regard to going to a three EOM approach will be a lack of multiple maintenance layers (echelons) within a level of maintenance and

there are no redundant functions/activities within the maintenance process. The process supports the concept of the CSSE Commander becoming the single process owner for Maintenance within the MAGTF. The CSSE Commander will now have the resources necessary to perform the processes that are under his/her control and there will be more flexibility to make adjustments to support efficiencies and effectiveness based on mission needs.

Maintenance level definitions were developed to support the vision of maintenance on the battlefield. They are designed to support the overall modernization objective of Realignment of Maintenance

(ROM) - increasing operational availability by improving ground maintenance effectiveness. ROM are identified as:

Organizational level. Organizational level maintenance includes expeditious assessment and maintenance conducted under battle-field conditions. Organizational level maintenance normally entails inventory, cleaning, inspecting, preserving, lubricating, and adjusting and testing as well as replacing parts and components with common shop tools.

Intermediate level. Intermediate level maintenance includes inspection/in-depth diagnosis, modification, replacement, adjustment, and limited repair or evacuation/disposal of principal end items and their selected repairables and components/sub components. Intermediate level maintenance also includes calibration and repair of test, measurement and diagnostic equipment (TMDE) as well as fabrication of items, precision machining and various methods of welding.

Depot level. The intent of depot level maintenance is to sustain equipment throughout its life cycle by performing major repair, overhaul, or complete rebuild of parts, subassemblies, assemblies or principal end items to include manufacturing parts and conducting required modifications, testing, calibrating, and reclaiming. Marine Corps multi-commodity maintenance centers, other service depots, commercial industrial facilities, original equipment manufactures or combination thereof may perform depot level maintenance. Depot level maintenance also supports lower level maintenance by providing overflow maintenance services, and by performing on site maintenance services including technical assistance when required.

The Marine Corps transitioned to three LOM began with the publication of MARADMIN 581/03. The transition will occur in four

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phases: Planning, assessment, conversion and MEF implementation and project completion is scheduled for FY 2005.

ROM is intended to streamline maintenance processes, increase effectiveness and expand operational capability. This realignment requires the Marine Corps to redefine what tasks are accomplished at each level of maintenance. Maintenance that can be safely and effectively performed by operators under battlefield conditions will populate the Organizational Level. Maintenance that can be safely and efficiently performed by trained mechanics and technicians in a field will populate Intermediate Level. Maintenance which is more economically performed by contractors/supporting establishment or which require too great a level of support to be efficiently performed in a field environment will populate Depot Level. The difficulty in establishing ROM is identifying those tasks that both "could be" and "should be" at each level.

There are inherent risks involved with the ROM of selected maintenance functions (2nd EOM) from the OM to the IMA. The risk to transfer selected 2nd EOM from the OM level to the IMA and meet the requirements of complete EOM realignment is substantial due to the tougher decisions relative to the utilization of resources and unit capabilities. As the Marine Corps transitions to the three LOM the details of how this will affect T/Os and T/Es will be carefully evaluated to ensure that the end stated is consistent with our warfighting mission. End results should be improved equipment availability and improved turn around times.

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Marine Corps Cannon Crewman Course Update

GySgt McNamara, S. J.

The mission of the Marine Corps Cannon Crewman Course (MCCCC) is to provide Fleet Marine Forces with Marines proficient in the Individual Training Standards set forth in MCO 3501.26A Training & Readiness Manual For Artillery Units. MCCCC is tasked with providing entry level Marines formal instruction in the emplacement, operation and displacement of the primary artillery weapon system. The course is five weeks in duration and trains Marines to entry level "standards."

MCCCC is looking for highly motivated, well-qualified Marines to become instructors. The following items are forwarded for selection as an instructor: promotion type photo, independent duty-screening checklist, letters of recommendation, (preferably from your Battery GySgt and/or Battalion Field Artillery Chief), a copy of pages 3, 11, and 12 of the SRB, and have a security background investigation started or completed prior to arrival. Setting the example for young Marines is your primary duty. Your physical condition and personal appearance will emulate the standards set forth in MCO 1020.34F.

MCCCC instructs two classes per quarter. The course is broken down into 5 weeks of instruction for a total of 25 training days. The first week consist of Introduction to Marine Artillery, Advance Party, Ammunition, Fire Commands/DA 4513 (Recorder Sheet), and familiarization with the M198 on Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS), nomenclature, characteristics, and functions. Students are assigned to a section and learn all of the duties necessary to emplace, fire, and displace the weapon. The second week consist of written test #1 and Duties of the Cannoneer. Students begin the continuous process of remediation during this period. During the third week, the class takes written test #2 and conducts Reconnaissance, Selection, and Occupation of Position (RSOP) procedures. The students practice the skills they have learned in a non-fire environment. In the fourth week, the students take written test

#3, the technical manual test, conduct their first field firing exercise (day/night), and are evaluated using Individual Training Standards. Also, Marines are officially assigned orders to their new duty station. The fifth week is their second field firing exercise (day). The Wednesday prior to graduation, final grade point averages are computed and departing flight schedules are determined. The new cannoneers usually graduate on a Friday morning keeping with the 25-day training cycle. The Marines depart to their new duty stations as early as Saturday morning of the fifth week.

On 19 March 2004, the Marine Corps Cannon Crewman Course graduated 90 Marines from class 4-04. The class was broken down into two platoons, with each platoon having 5 sections. Each platoon completed two days of RSOP and field fire exercises. The Marines fired a total of 537 projectiles during the two field firing exercises. The next MCCCC will graduate class 5-04 on 30 April 2004.

General Information:

Note to all Marines: Base housing on Fort Sill is available, however, the waiting list for base housing is approximately 23 months. Marine Staff Sergeants are assigned housing in accordance with Department of Defense regulation vice Marine Corps regulation. Private through Staff Sergeant are assigned the same housing areas. Families with 1 child are assigned a 2-bedroom home and 2 or more children are assigned quarters depending on the age/sex of the children and available quarters. The average off base home rents for \$500.00 to \$750.00 a month for a 3-bedroom home and \$650.00-\$850.00 for a 4-bedroom home. ■
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Marine Corps Cannon Crewman
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Survey Update

CWO3 X. Herrera

MASC students have a new student handbook. It contains all the student hand-outs and will provide Real Time Kinematic On The Fly GPS surveying procedures. The handbook can serve as a quick reference emphasizing methods to conduct RTK OTF for battalion level operations. The FY04 MASC course dates are as follows:

MASC 041-F10 (OS) class dates:

CLASS	REPORT	CLOSE	SEATS
1-04	05 Oct 03	04 Nov 03	1
2-04	01 Feb 04	02 Mar 04	1
3-04	11 Apr 04	10 May 04	1
4-04	25 Jul 04	23 Aug 04	1

The Marine Artillery Survey Course needs your support. Understanding, high operational tempo has kept student enrollment low, but we must continue to train our Marines to be ready for tomorrow's battles.

Anyone having recommendations, suggestions, or comments please forward them to us here at the schoolhouse. Finally, CWO4 Conklin will fill the survey billet until this June when my replacement arrives. Please make note of the new contact information.

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Artillery Internet Met (AIM)

CWO4 M. Conklin

The Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA), located in Offutt, Nebraska is the USAF strategic weather center, which operates the Joint Air Force and Army Weather Information Network (JAAWIN). JAAWIN is a Department of Defense (DoD) computer system. Access is restricted to members of the United States military (active duty, Guard, or Reserve), U.S. Government, or contractors that do business with the government and require weather information.

AFWA currently provides numerous global weather products available to military users over the SIPR/ NIPR Nets. AFWA's Interactive Gridded Analysis Display System (IGrADS) currently has Field Artillery Forecasted Met applications available online. Artillery users of AFWA data must understand that this is a forecasted met message.

The Metrological Branch at Fort Sill is currently working with AFWA and USAFAS in obtaining an artillery safety certification. A preliminary ballistics analysis conducted at Fort Sill shows very promising results.

The Marine Corps Metrology Section will remain proactive in our pursuit of

improving and refining the procedures for collecting meteorological data throughout the world, in order to increase the accuracy of artillery fires. An AFWA capability would permit artillerymen to project MET data up to 72 hours into the future and to remove the balloon/radio-sonde from the battlefield. The Marine Corps MET Section's intent is to continue to support MCSC and the testing of AFWA's data to ensure it is accurate, relevant, and improves the artillery communities ability to support maneuver. An AFWA capability has the potential to revolutionize our tactics, techniques, and procedures for obtaining meteorological firing data in the future.

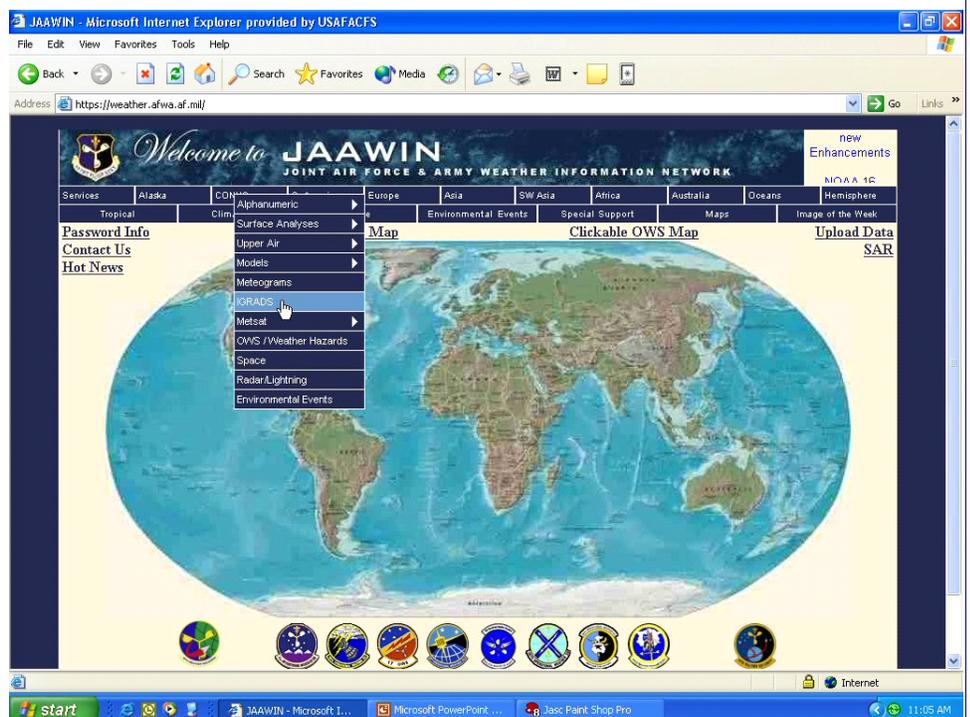
The JAAWIN-SIPRNET URL: <http://weather.offutt.af.smil.mil>.

The JAAWIN-NIPRNET URL: https://www.login.afwa.af.mil/front_door/knock.cgi

Point of Contact:

CWO-4 Mark Conklin
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HIMARS: Soup to Nuts

Leo S. Gregory
Captain, USMC
OIC HIMARS Test Unit

The rumors are true: Marine Artillery is finally delving into the formerly Army exclusive sphere of rocket artillery. Morphing from the current fleet of stone hurlers, archers, and cannoneers will appear a new breed of Marine: rocketeer. The Marine Corps is accomplishing this through the acquisition of the XM-142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Launchers, Resupply Systems (RSS), and portions of the Multiple Launch Rocket System Family of Munitions (MFOM). In this article I will briefly describe the system itself, the tools and people involved with acquiring it for the Marine Corps, and a short introduction to the Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTP) involved with operating a HIMARS unit.

HIMARS is a C-130 transportable, wheeled, indirect fire system capable of firing all the rockets and missiles in the current and future MFOM. It is the expeditionary cousin to the Army's M270 and M270A1 tracked launchers, but weighing in at a svelte 34,800 lbs when fully com-

bat loaded and rigged for air transportation. The launcher chassis is a variant of the Army's Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV). The weapon system portion of the HIMARS consists of a number of subcomponents the most important of which are the Launcher Module and the Fire Control System (FCS). The FCS includes the man-machine interface and allows the Marine crew to access everything from navigation functions within the launcher, to fire mission processing, to computerized built-in testing (CBIT).

Maintenance with the launcher is designed to ease its impact upon the Operating Forces. In order to facilitate ease of repair and minimize launcher downtime the crew has the ability to use the CBIT functions of the FCS to troubleshoot faults within the launcher to a number of line replaceable units (LRU) that are modular in design. Once one of these LRUs is found to be defective the crew simply removes a few cables, unscrews four bolts, removes the defective unit, and replaces it with a new unit. A contractor Field Service Representative (FSR) will actually repair the line replaceable units, or ship it back to Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control Systems for depot

level repair.

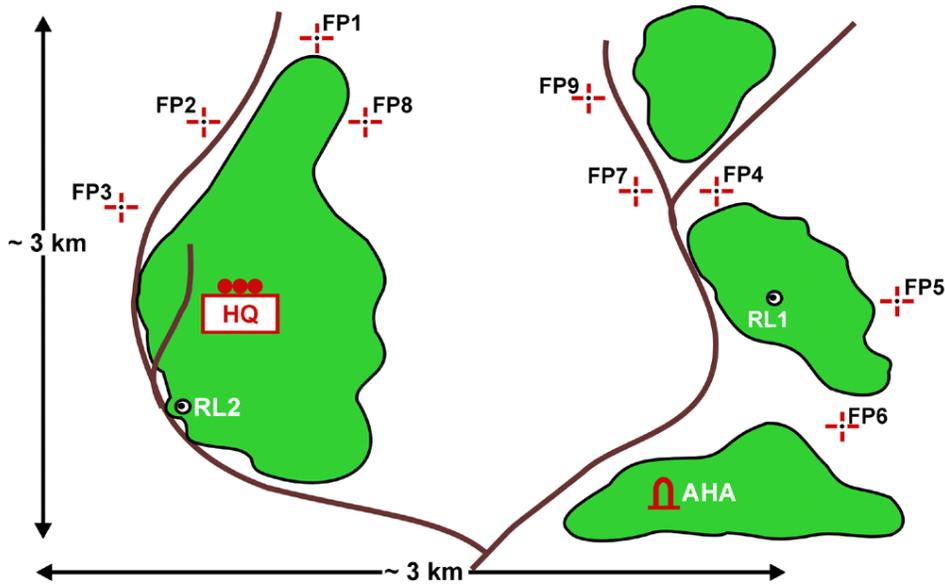
The use of a FSR is another fairly new concept to Marine Artillery. The FSRs will be civilian contractors (most are former Army mechanics) who will be stationed with each HIMARS unit and perform intermediate level maintenance, and coordinate depot maintenance. Each battalion will have six or seven FSRs giving each battery two FSRs and a senior FSR to oversee and coordinate maintenance efforts on the launchers at the battalion level.

The resupply system is a variant of the MTRV family of vehicles that are currently being utilized throughout the Marine Corps modified with a material handling equipment (i.e., crane) attached, and a specially designed trailer. The resupply system will carry two rocket pods on the bed of the truck, and two more on the trailer for a total of four pods per system. Each resupply system will also come with a weapons station and vehicle mounted radio, giving it the ability to communicate during long ammo routes and within platoon and battery operations areas.

The last portion of what makes up HIMARS is the MFOM. The current rockets available are the M26 rockets that have a range of 32 km bearing 644 M77 DPICM submunitions each. Firing a M26 rocket is a ballistic shot. Once fired, there is no in flight course corrections, and the warhead event is triggered by an electronic time fuze set to function by the fire control system depending on the trajectory and ideal dispersion pattern on the ground. This height of burst is normally between 400-900 meters above ground level. Only a limited number of these rockets are being purchased by the Marine Corps, and only for an interim capability. Our go to war munition will be the M30 rocket. This rocket, set to go into production in FY05, is a GPS and inertial-aided munition that will extend the range to well over 60 km and vastly improve accuracy. The M30 increases range and accuracy at a minor decrease in payload, as it only carries 504 submunitions.

Other rockets to be purchased include the Reduced Range Practice Rocket, also known as the "flying telephone pole", designed for peacetime live fire. The Unitary rocket is being designed for the Army and is virtually the same as the M30, but has a variable setting fuze with a high





a platoon of HIMARS launchers was deployed by the Army in support of special operations.

State of the Program

Currently, the HIMARS Program Office, as part of Marine Corps Systems Command, is involved with operational and developmental testing of the equipment as required under current acquisition processes. Along with this effort are numerous groups of subject matter experts: the operating forces, HIMARS Test Unit, TECOM, MARCORSYSCOM, and others working on putting together tables of organization and equipment, writing Marine TTPs, and working on how to teach and train what will be a relatively small number of Marines in the intricacies of HIMARS operations.

In the end only two battalions will make the switch from cannon to HIMARS. HIMARS will be fielded to Battery F, 2/14 in FY05; then to 5/11 in FY07, and finally to the rest of 2/14 in FY08. This will place a grand total of 36 launchers in the operating forces with four launchers going to the supporting establishment.

We still have a long way to go to get HIMARS into the operating forces, and there are a number of issues still to be worked out. Questions that we are still trying to answer are how, when, and where to train 0811s in the HIMARS skill set, whom will be given a skill designator of 0814? How will we train mechanics and drivers on the FMTV chassis since there are only 40 launchers in the Marine Corps? How will we plan/integrate/coordinate use of rockets into the fire support plan? These are all questions that are being discussed and evaluated by an extensive cross-section of Marines in an attempt to come to the best solution for Marine artillery prior to HIMARS fielding. ■ [▲TOP](#)

explosive warhead for point targets.

The Army is updating its main doctrinal publication involving MLRS Operations (dated 23 April 1996), which is the FM 6-60. The new edition is to be released in July 2004.

Current doctrine states that an MLRS battery operates in two platoons of three launchers each. These platoons operate in 3 km by 3 km operation areas. Each operation area consists of nine firing points, nine hide locations, two reload points, an ammunition holding area, and a platoon FDC. The reason for so many different points within the operation area is that the launchers are soft skin vehicles and survive on the battlefield by following “shoot and scoot” tactics. Once a launcher fires a rocket there is no hiding in that location as it is an obvious event due to the report left by rockets heading downrange. In order to survive after firing, that launcher needs to move to another point outside of counterfire range, which is normally considered to be 500 meters, to either reload or to accept another fire mission. Each of the launchers has three firing points associated with it, though a launcher can fire

from any location.

Platoon Operation Area

On the fire direction side of the house, things have changed dramatically for the Marine Corps. A HIMARS FDC is only responsible for tactical fire direction. All technical fire direction is done on the launcher and, more specifically, by the fire control system. There is no manual method of computing a firing solution for the rockets, or a manual way to fire the rockets on the launchers themselves. The battery FDC processes fire missions from battalion, and verifies and communicates MET messages to the platoon FDCs and launchers. HIMARS is compatible with AFATDS.

In supporting the maneuver commander, the Marine Corps’ intent is to use the HIMARS battalions in GS and GS/R roles. It is envisioned that the active duty HIMARS Battalion will be a Division asset, while the reserve HIMARS Battalion will be a MAGTF asset. It is possible to employ HIMARS down to the platoon level independently for short durations. This was actually accomplished in OIF as

	RRPR	M26	GMLRS	Unitary*
Range	8 - 15 Km	8 - 32 Km	60+ Km (Exceeds MNS)	60+ Km (Exceeds MNS)
Target Set (Warhead)	Practice Rocket (None)	Soft Area (DPICM)	Soft Area/Point (DPICM)	Area/Point (HE)

Marine Artillery Detachment S-1 / CONAD

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Unit Diary	6199	Service Records	6199
Orders	6188	FAX	5127
SDNCO	2467/5126	Marine Btry	2467/5126
Lodging	5000	Lodging Toll Free	1-877 902-3607
Housing Office	4647		

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Working Hours 0730-1630	Mon-Fri	Report to	"Brown Hall" Bldg 759 McNair Ave. Ext 6188
After Working Hours/ Holidays		Report to	Staff Duty NCO/"Marine Btry" Bldg 6007 Sturgis Ave. Ext 2467/5126

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3 JESUS HERNANDEZ JR.



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TAD To Fort Sill:

1. Ensure you have your Record Book & Orders prior to departing your Permanent Duty Station (PDS).
2. Ensure you have a Government Travel Charge Card (GTCC) or sufficient monetary advances to meet lodging and meal expenses for the first month. Showing up with no GTCC

and or advances is the #1 problem experienced by Marines sent TAD to Fort Sill.

3. In most cases "No cost" lodging exist only for entry-level students. Government lodging rates range from \$30-\$45. For lodging info call # listed above.

4. Government messing is only available for entry-level enlisted students.

5. All Orders should read, "Government quarters directed if available. Messing not available."

6. Reservist, ensure your reserve unit transfers you to active duty. The Marine Detachment, Fort Sill **cannot join or pay you** until your Unit Diary Section successfully transfers you to active duty. The latter, along with Marines having no GTCC and or advances is the #1 problem experienced by reservist sent TAD to Fort Sill.

Recently Transferred from Fort Sill to your New PDS:

1. Ensure you complete a travel claim at your new PDS within 3-5 working days.

2. You are welcome to call me should you have questions about your final travel settlement, but ultimately your local admin center will be responsible for ensuring you get your travel settled properly. We have recently been receiving calls for Marines who have had problems settling their travel claims at their new duty station. Every time we have looked into the matter, we have found that the problems were created because of failure to accomplish simple things, such as completing a travel claim on time or failing to communicate with your DPAC/RAPAC/IPAC/GPAC.

3. If you were issued a GTCC at Fort Sill, ensure your account is transferred to your new command's hierarchy. Checking-in with your GTCC Area Program Coordinator (APC) at your new command should be part of your check-in process.

Field Artillery Officer Basic Course (FAOBC) Students:

CO, Marine Artillery Detachment encourages you to bring your family to Fort Sill while attending FAOBC. Although you will not rate dependent travel, you will rate Per Diem (\$31 a day), Lodging (not to exceed \$36 a day), and BAH at the Quantico rate (\$1387 for a 2ndLt w/depns) while at Fort Sill, OK. You can also talk to TMO about "Non- Temp Storage" of household goods and a 600 lb ditty move. Also keep in mind that the possibility to obtain a furnished apartment in Lawton is high.

Field Artillery Captains Career Course (FACCC) Students:

CO, Marine Artillery Detachment encourages you to bring your family to Fort Sill while attending FACCC. Attending FACCC constitutes a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move. This affects your BAH entitlement. You will rate BAH at the Fort Sill rate (\$801 for a Capt w/depns) while attending the course. If you choose to leave your dependents at your old duty station and there is a difference between the BAH rate and housing cost to house your dependents, you will have to bare the difference out of your own pocket.

For further information or clarification on any item above, please contact my staff or myself by using the numbers listed above.■

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Electronic Mechanical Meteorological Theodolite (EMMT)

The New Equipment Training Team has just completed the active duty units training on the EMMT. The EMMT replaces the older ML-474, which is currently still being used for visual balloon observations. Marine Corps Logistical Base, Albany GA, will soon begin it's shipping of EMMT's to the units.



Each Metrological Measuring Systems (MMS) will receive two EMMT's per system to support an Artillery Meteorological Team. The EMMT features both mechanical and electronic azimuth and elevation scales to ensure uninterrupted data acquisition.

Maintenance Concept. Maintenance of the EMMT will be simplified. Organizational (O) maintenance (1st and 2^d echelons) will be performed at the unit level. Intermediate (I) (3^d echelon) level maintenance to limited 4th and 5th echelon or Depot (D) level will be performed at Marine Corps Logistics Bases (MCLB) at Albany, GA. A vendor Contractor Logistics Support (CLS) contract (full 5th echelon) will support the Marine Corps D maintenance facilities. The EMMT will require calibration every 18 to 24 months.

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AN/TPQ-46A Upgrade

BACKGROUND

The Marine Corps has generated a requirement for a Ground Weapons Locating Radar (GWLR). The GWLR hardware solution will be a one for one replacement for the current AN/TPQ-46A Firefinder Radar within the Artillery Regiments. Early research by Marine Corps Systems Command shows that a material solution to answer the current draft requirements will not be realized for six to eight years. As an interim solution to the user need for longer-range ground radar, a plan was devised to procure two of the US Army AN/TPQ-47 Radars to augment the AN/TPQ-46A. As the cost and schedule of the AN/TPQ-47 program grew, it became apparent that an interim solution sooner than the Q-47 was needed. MARCORSYSCOM generated studies and information requests for the feasibility of an up-grade to the AN/TPQ-46A as the interim solution to the Ground Weapons Locating Radar requirement. The intent of the up-grade is to enhance and sustain the current system out to FY13, at which time it will be replaced by the end state GWLR solution.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICS

Requirements for this up-grade are in the form of a statement of continued need to the current AN/TPQ-46A requirements documents.

US ARMY PM Firefinder is the Principle Item Controlling Authority (PICA) for the Radar Control shelter and trailer. The Army is presently performing a re-capitalization effort on the radar to address diminishing manufactured stock hardware issues and to perform re-build of the Radar electronics. As part of the AN/TPQ-46A up-grade, the Marine Corps will join the Army re-cap effort and fund the 22 USMC systems into the schedule. The Army has performed live-fire testing on the hardware and results will be reviewed by the Marine Corps program office. In addition to the re-cap hardware, which is primarily receiver/exciter components, the Army and Marine Corps team has determined that the current Radar Processor is both un-supportable and a performance limitation for the system. Army PM Firefinder and Marine Corps PM Radar are in the process of solidifying a Memorandum

Of Agreement (MOA) to procure, test and field a processor replacement. The radar's operator interface is the Lightweight Computer Unit (LCU) this device has also been determined un-supportable and will be replaced.

Along with the noted hardware replacements, the Marine Corps will conduct a software up-grades. This will allow the Radar to take full advantage of the new hardware and to add flexibility in the system parameters allowing greater range capabilities for specified missions. Initial modeling indicates a maximum range of 36-45km may be attainable for certain target types and scenarios. Although this is primarily a Marine Corps undertaking, recent Army requirements indicate that software enhancement would benefit the Army capabilities as well. It is expected that upon successful testing, the Army will embrace the Marine Corps up-grade and implement it into a future formal software release.

Marine Corps specific portions of the up-grade will include replacement of one vehicle per team with a ring mount hard-back security vehicle. This will allow team security during road marches, during emplacement, and while conducting radar operations. Dual digital network capabilities will be realized by the addition of the EPLRS protocol to the software and procurement of the EPLRS hardware. These requirements were noted as critical needs from Operation Iraqi Freedom after action reports and lessons learned.

To address the end state GWLR requirements, MARCORSYSCOM will conduct a joint acquisition with Marine Corps Aviation and Ground Combat Elements. The Aviation community is procuring a Multi-Role Radar System (MRRS) that will become the baseline for the next generation ground weapons locating radar. This allows the ground community to take advantage of the MRRS research and development effort. The MRRS procurement criteria will state that the MRRS platform must be able to show a growth to the GWLR requirement to be competitive.

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CWO-4 Mark A. Conklin Target Acquisition, Fort Sill DSN 639-6111■

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Improved Position Azimuth Determining System (IPADS):

The IPADS will replace the Position Azimuth Determining System (PADS) as the primary means of establishing Survey control for both Army and Marine Artillery units. Each Marine Artillery Battalion survey section will receive two IPADS, and the Artillery Regiment's survey section will receive four systems.

IPADS utilizes Ring Laser Gyro technology to achieve a ten-fold increase in reliability, while at the same time achieving increased accuracy over PADS. Currently the IPADS is in Developmental Testing (DT) to determine the system's technological maturity. Upon successful completion of DT, the Operational Test (OT) will begin, and is currently scheduled for 5-16 April 2004 at Fort Sill.

The Marine Corps is scheduled to receive its first deliveries in 2nd Quarter FY05, and will receive a total of thirty systems next year. An additional 30 systems will be purchased and fielded in FY06, to complete the Approved Acquisition Objective (AAO).

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Meteorological Measuring Set-Profiler (MMS-P):

The MMS-P is an Army program, currently in Developmental Test (DT), which will replace the current MMS. Profiler utilizes "meso-scale" modeling and a suite of meteorological sensors, and computers to derive upper air data. The Army is pursuing an "Evolutionary Acquisition" approach, which means that the system will evolve through a number of "blocks" of increasing capability as technology, and climatology models become mature. The end state in this evolution will result in the balloon being removed from the battlefield, and an embedded Profiler being resident in individual firing platforms, and fire support systems (e.g. Fire-Finder Radar).

Profiler Block I will look much like the current MMS, with a significant reduction in the frequency of flights required, (i.e. every six hours vice every four hours), and will be fielded to the Army in FY05.

Profiler Block II development is scheduled to begin in FY06, with fielding expected in FY08. Block II will see a reduction in footprint from three vehicles to one, reduced crew size, and removal of the balloon.

Profiler Block III development will

begin in FY09 with fielding expected in FY12.

Marine Corps Systems Command is submitting a request for Program Objective Memorandum (POM) funding in FY06 to upgrade and sustain the MMS, and procure Profiler at whatever stage of development is available in FY08 in order



to support High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), and the Expeditionary Fire Support System (EFSS).

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TO SEE A LIST OF ALL COURSES SCHEDULED AT FORT SILL, VISIT THE S3 PAGE ON THE FORT SILL WEBSITE.

<http://sill-www.army.mil/usmc/s3>

Back-Up Computer System- Replacement (BUCS-R):

The HP-71B and HP 200LX will both be replaced by a Ruggedized Personal Digital Assistant (RPDA) that the Marine Corps is also procuring as the Dismounted Digital Automated Computer Terminal (D-DACT). Marine Corps Systems Command is coordinating between the Program Manager C4I and the Program Manager Fire Support Systems, to integrate the D-DACT hardware with software for Survey, Meteorology, and technical Fire Direction.

The Survey and Meteorology versions of the BUCS-R will be fielded in 2nd Quarter FY05.

The same hardware will be integrated with the Mortar Ballistic Kernal, for use as a Mortar Ballistic Computer, which will provide infantry mortarmen the primary means of determining mortar-firing data, and replace their plotting boards, and Tabular Firing Tables (TFT).

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Marine Detachment Website

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[Director of Combat Development](#)

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[Enlisted Instruction Section
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Pocket-sized Forward Entry Device

Capt Gaje, G.
USMC AFATDS NETT

With the U.S. Marine Corps' inventory of Digital Communications Terminal (AN/PSC-2) continuing to diminish, Marines in the Operating Forces have been asking for a replacement device. The Pocket-Sized Forward Entry Device (PFED), a ruggedized version of the Series 3900/5500 Compaq Ipac which currently being fielded by the Army might provide a viable interim solution until a permanent device can be acquired. This device has a 400MHz processor, 64MB RAM, and 48MB of ROM. The operating system is Windows-based and features a Touch Sensitive Transflective LCD screen. It also comes with an internal Lithium Polymer battery which is recharged using an external well or AC/DC charger. The PFED has an operating temperature from -4 degrees Fahrenheit to 131 degrees Fahrenheit and meets specifications of MIL-STD-810F and MIL-STD-461D for EMI. The software for this interim device was developed by the Army and the hardware is capable of running multiple software applications.

The PFED allows Forward Observers (FOs) to request and coordinate fire missions, provide combat information, and receive orders and information from controlling headquarters. It allows the FO to communicate digitally with its controlling headquarters or its allocated fire unit. It also provides the required functionality for FOs to compose, edit, transmit, receive, restore displayed messages, and process data to conduct Fire Support operations. Currently, the PFED cannot conduct suppression of enemy air defense (SEAD) missions, pass target lists, or pass fire support coordination measures (FSCMs). What it does provide the observer is target planning/firing capabilities. These include adjust fire missions, fire for effect missions, smoke mis-

sions, and limited illumination missions.

The PFED interfaces with the Digital Mini-Eyesafe Laser Infrared Observation Set (D-MELIOS), the Leica Vector/Viper, standard Sensor Link Protocol (SLP) lasers, AN/PSN -11 Precision Lightweight GPS Receiver (PLGR), the Advanced Lightweight Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCGARS) Improved Program (ASIP), Icom SINCGARS radios, and 2-pair field wire. The PFED interface with laser range finders feed direction, distance, and vertical difference inputs to automatically calculate target location. Future devices will include an internal GPS.

In December 2003, the U.S. Marine Corps AFATDS New Equipment Training Team (USMC AFATDS NETT) provided PFED training to members of 1st Battalion, 11th Marines out at Camp Pendleton, California. One day of classroom training was followed by hands-on application by Marines. Periods of instruction covered loading of software, functionality of the system, and interfacing between AFATDS, SINCGARS, the PLGR, and the Leica Viper. The following week, forward observer teams from Battery A, and Battery B, 1/11 used the PFED to process fire missions and digitally communicate with the Fire Support Center and higher headquarters. The FOs were able to process thirty missions during this time. Up to nine active missions were accessible on a single PFED device. The Marines articulated their surprise and appreciation at the simplicity of operating the PFED

device in comparison to the Digital Communication Terminal. The ability to send calls for fire in a timely manner caused the Marines at the FSC to become more cognizant of fire mission processing capabilities of the AFATDS. Marines in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina are starting to express interest in the interim device and have also requested for PFED training in preparation for their upcoming exercise at Fort Bragg.

As technological advances continue to provide us with more capabilities to shape the battlefield, the implementa-



tion of a universal observer/spotter is becoming a more viable option for the future. With one day of training, the Marines of 1st Battalion, 11th Marines were able to effectively employ the PFED device and provide the necessary fire support to accomplish the mission. As more Marines become familiar with PFED and become digital proficient, transition to a follow-on system, such as the THS-X, will be much easier. The idea of having a fully digital chain from sensor to shooter will become a reality. ■

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Selkey, S. B.	Scott	SSgt	Instructor	5811/2501	scott.selkey@sill.army.mil

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(Comm: 940-676)

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Gregory, L.S.	Leo	Capt	Himars Test Unit	3654/5573/5345	Leo.Gregory@sill.army.mil
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Hail and Farewell

NEW ARRIVALS:

Col	Pace	20030903	9906
LtCol	Rogers	20031228	0802
Sgt	Rakestraw	20040221	0151
Pfc	Guerrero	20031231	0121
Pfc	Rangel	20031231	0121
SSgt	Selkey	20031231	0844
Sgt	Buck	20040128	0613
Sgt	Worthington	20040308	3521
SSgt	Love	20031231	2887
Sgt	Raetz	20040125	2887
SSgt	Lawson	20040118	0848
SSgt	Ashlock	20040108	0811
SSgt	Hedge	20040226	0811
Sgt	Finnegan	20040205	0811
Sgt	Hillary	20040302	0811

OUTBOUNDS:

GySgt	Cullen	20040204	0861
Maj	Crockett	20040401	0802
MSgt	Houston	20040331	0848
MSgt	Wilson	20040430	0848
MSgt	Altman	20040904	9999
CWO3	Herrera	20040531	0803
GySgt	Villarreal	20040630	0193

PROJECTED INBOUNDS:

CWO3	Rivera	20040930	0170
Capt	Washington	20040801	0802
Capt	Peery	20040615	0802
Capt	Noyes	20050303	0802
GySgt	Anderson	20040531	0193
GySgt	Cuomo	20040814	0861
GySgt	Simas	20040331	9999
SSgt	Haugh	20040609	0811
SSgt	McCall	20040425	0811
SSgt	Hill	20040516	0811
Sgt	Hall	20040702	0811
Sgt	Johnson	20040414	0811
Sgt	Eddy	20040315	0811
Cpl	Leroy	20040614	0848

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