

COSC Challenges Unique to Marine Forces Reserve Units

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Marine Forces Reserve (MARFORRES)

- HQ in New Orleans
- 4th Marine Division (20,500)
- 4th Marine Aircraft Wing (10,000)
- 4th Marine Logistics Group (10,000)
- Force Units: 3rd and 4th Civil Affairs Groups; 3rd and 4th ANGLICO
- 40,000 Marines and Sailors spread over 49 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico in 186 Reserve Centers
- Mobilization Command (MOBCOM): Kansas City

OIF/OEF Participation

- One infantry BN (1,100+) each rotation
- Truck company, CEB's, arty battery, AA company
- Civil Affairs Dets to OIF and OEF
- Squadron or partial squadron
- MLG units: detachments of MLG battalions (e.g. 4th Medical BN STP's and FRSS's)
- Circa 1,500-1,800 Marines and Sailors for each OIF rotation

Individual Ready Reserve (IRR)

- MOBCOM parent organization for the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR). Marines do not belong to a battalion/squadron; do not drill or receive pay. An IRR muster is held annually.
- No medical structure exists at MOBCOM.
- Marines who have served < 8 yrs. of active service are sent to the IRR upon discharge to complete a total of 8 yrs selective service obligation.
- Almost all have deployed 1-3 x's.
- Most have been discharged prior to completion of the Post-deployment Health Assessment (PDHRA).
- PDHRA is done only at the annual muster, or upon re-mobilization. If Marines are found unfit for re-mobilization due to physical or mental health reasons, they are not eligible for military healthcare (but most are eligible for VA care).
- During a recent IRR mobilization, 20/347 IRR Marines were disqualified for PTSD.

Selected Marine Corps Reserve

- Marines belong to a battalion/squadron
- Drill 2 ½ days/month and 2-3 weeks/yr when not mobilization
- Have 1:5 dwell time (e.g. mobilization every 5 years for 12 months)
- High training and exercise op-tempo when not mobilized (OCONUS theater security exercises)
- MFR has mobilized >100% of its forces since 2001

Demobilization of an MFR Battalion/squadron

- Demobilization at an RILOC on a Marine Corps base (usually 29 Palms, Camp LeJeune, MCAS Miramar, MCAS Yuma)
- RILOC last 7-10 days. Rush to demobilize and to return members to home
- Post-deployment Health Assessments (PDHA) usually done in theater, in a poorly air-conditioned tent, in a hurry, with inadequate computer resources. Marines minimize complaints to avoid delays in demobilization.
- Post-deployment Health Re-assessments (PDHRA) required at 90-180 day mark.
- MFR units do not drill for 90 days after demobilization.
- Anecdotal evidence suggest PDHRA's reveal additional mental health and orthopaedic issues not raised on the PDHA.

Suggestions for Improvement

- All IRR Marines should be screened with the PDHRA at the annual muster.
- A civilian contractor (e.g. LHI) could be used to screen, but, need for “consults” must be confirmed by a **credentialed military provider**. MOBCOM must request support from MFR G-4/HSS **at least 90 days in advance** of the IRR muster in order to get reserve medical officers/PA’s/NP’s to Kansas City
- The VA must be involved with the screening (many IRR Marines have no health insurance). If members bring their DD-214’s, the VA can enroll local Marines on the spot. Marines who live in other geographic areas must enroll at a local VA.

Suggestions for Battalions/squadrons

- Each returning company-sized unit should retain one reserve HM on ADSW (or ADT) for 6-9 months as case manager for Marines on Medical Hold or provided Line of Duty (LOD) benefits after demobilization.
- RILOC should be 14 days in length to allow for all medical, dental, and mental health issues to be addressed. DVBIC must be engaged to do TBI screening at RILOC
- At the 90-day mark, on the first drill after demobilization, LHI should be contracted to perform the PDHRA screening.
- A reserve medical officer, PA or NP should be present to interview and examine each Marine identified by the civilian contractor as requiring a “consult”. A short history and physical should be documented on an SF-600, placed in the medical record and used by the I-I HM to document the issue and transmit to HQ USMC in support of an LOD package.
- COSC briefs and family briefs should be provided at this drill.
- A Family Day could be conducted at the same drill
- The local VA representatives should be invited and bring the computer resources to enroll all Marines in the local VA (Marines need to bring their DD-214's).

Discussion/Questions

