



MULTI NATIONAL FORCE – WEST FACT SHEET

OIF 09-01

(Accurate as of 30 June 2009)

MNF-W OVERVIEW

The II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., deployed as the command element of Multi National Force - West to Iraq's Al Anbar Province in early 2009. MNF-W is supporting Iraqi civil authorities and Iraqi Security Forces in creating a secure Anbar Province, providing basic services, fostering economic opportunity and providing for the protection of human rights and the rule of law, in order to enable Anbar Province to be a productive partner in a peaceful and sovereign Iraq.

MNF-W is organized as a Marine Air-Ground Task Force, a Marine-unique warfighting organization that places a command element, ground combat element, aviation combat element, and logistical combat element under the operational control of a single commander and his staff. There are approximately 18,000 Marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen serving with MNF-W.

The commanding general for MNF-W is MajGen R. T. Tryon and BGen John E. Wissler serves as deputy commanding general.

COMMAND ELEMENT (CE)

II MEF Headquarters Group (Forward) serves as the command element and provides administrative and logistical support functions for the command and supported units to enhance the warfighting capabilities of MNF-W.

The II MHG (Fwd) consists of the following units:

H&S Company

1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment

1st Intelligence Battalion

1st Radio Battalion

8th Communications Battalion

II MHG (Fwd) is commanded by Col Scott D. Aiken.

Additionally, Task Force Military Police falls under the control of the command element providing general convoy security in support of MNF-W convoys. TFMP is comprised of Marines from the Hawaii-based 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

GROUND COMBAT ELEMENT (GCE)

Regimental Combat Team 6:

Marines and Sailors from 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, headquartered at Camp Lejeune, N.C., deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to relieve forces in Al Anbar province, Iraq as part of a scheduled rotation.

Regimental Combat Team 6 is conducting security and stability operations in support of MNF-W and the Iraqi Security Forces.

The main elements of the combat team include:

1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, headquartered at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, headquartered at Pasadena, Calif.

This is the regiment's second deployment as a headquarters unit in support of OIF. The first tour included a six-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to Afghanistan in 2004.

The combat team is commanded by Col Matthew A. Lopez and is headquartered at Camp Ramadi in Al Anbar province.

Regimental Combat Team 8:

Marines and sailors from 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, headquartered at Camp Lejeune, N.C., deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to relieve forces currently in Al Anbar province, Iraq, as part of a scheduled rotation.

Regimental Combat Team 8 is conducting security and stability operations in support of MNF-W and the Iraqi Security Forces.

The main elements of the combat team include:

2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, headquartered at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, headquartered at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, headquartered at Camp Lejeune, N.C..

This is the regiment's second deployment as a headquarters unit in support of OIF and third deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The first tour included a six-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to Afghanistan in 2004.

The combat team is commanded by Col John K. Love and headquartered at Al Asad Air Base in Al Anbar province.

AVIATION COMBAT ELEMENT (ACE):

2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) deployed in January on its third deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in order to provide aviation support to Coalition Forces in the Al Anbar province.

The main elements of 2nd MAW (Fwd) are:

Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 2

Marine Air Control Group 28

- Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1
- Marine Wing Support Squadron 271
- Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 28
- Marine Air Support Squadron 1
- Marine Air Control Squadron 2

Marine Aircraft Group 26

- Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 167
- Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169
- Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 26
- Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361
- Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268
- Company C, 2nd Battalion 211th Aviation Regiment "Dustoff"
- Company B, 1st of the 214th Aviation Regiment
- Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252
- Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352

- Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362
- Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 4
- Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314
- Electronic Warfare Squadron 142 (U.S. Navy)

2nd MAW (Fwd) is headquartered at Al Asad with detachments at Korean Village, Al Taqaddum, Al Qaim and other locations throughout the Al Anbar Province.

2nd MAW (Fwd) is supporting MNF-W by providing command and control of aircraft, close air support, assault support, aerial reconnaissance, medical and casualty evacuations, logistical and engineering support and electronic warfare. 2nd MAW (Fwd) maintains assets to meet its own engineering, logistical and administrative needs.

2nd MAW (Fwd) is commanded by BGen Robert S. Walsh.

LOGISTICS COMBAT ELEMENT (LCE):

The 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Fwd) deployed to Iraq in early 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They are headquartered in Camp Al Taqaddum with detachments in Ramadi, Baharia, Al Asad and Sahl Sinjar.

The main elements of 2nd MLG (Fwd) are:

Combat Logistics Battalion 4

Combat Logistics Battalion 7

2nd Supply Battalion

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 24

The 2nd MLG (Fwd) provides vital combat service support to Coalition forces and ground units of MNF-W. Some of the services they provide include, maintenance, supply, engineering, transportation, medical, dental, disbursing, exchange, postal and military police assets. The 2nd MLG (Fwd) is commanded by BGen Juan G. Ayala.

AL ANBAR OVERVIEW

- Al Anbar is the western-most province in Iraq.
- It contains roughly 1.2 million people and at approximately 138,000 sq. kilometers (nearly 54,000 sq. miles), is about the size of North Carolina.
- 95% of the population is Sunni.
- 95% of the population lives within 5 miles of the Euphrates River.
- Roughly 80% of the people live in the Ramadi-Fallujah corridor.
- Nearly 25% of the population of Anbar lives in the provincial capital of Ramadi.