

Title: Deployable Tactical Printing and Reproduction Capability

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Originator

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Type Of Need

IMPROVE or FIX an existing capability

Description of Need

The Reproduction Equipment Set (RES), TAMCN C5875, has been in the USMC inventory for over 40 years and consists of 5 MILVANS, 8'X8'X20' each with external A/C Units. The current equipment contained in the RES is based on 19th Century analog lithographic printing technologies.

This system is currently assigned to the Tables of Equipment (T/E) of the GCE, and is tasked to provide printing and reproduction for all Marine Forces (MarFors) and Major Subordinate Commands (MSCs). The three most significant deficiencies are: (1) lack of lift capacity required to employ the RES within the GCE: (2) The lack of technology and capability to meet the print production requirements of the MSCs; The RES cannot produce digital products, nor is it interoperable with other USMC systems, and (3) The RES is not a mobile capability. In short, the RES is a standalone, very large footprint, 19th century system with a 20th century mission

The nature of the need has been identified by 1stMarDiv's, OIF Lessons Learned Report of 29 May 03. 3rdBn 7th Marines reports, "As with other logistical functions, the map production and transportation system must have a built-in capacity to surge in the event of a crisis or a major theater war" (G2 Intel / Recon / Surveillance Report, Map Ordering (1.b (2))).

The current RES is too large and not mobile. The RES needs to be replaced with a Deployable Tactical Printing and Reproduction capability that takes advantage of current printing technology, is digital in nature, and is interoperable with other battlefield systems, i.e. Tactical Imagery Production System (TIPS). In reference to the TIPS, the LLR Of 29 May 03 states, "While the digital systems in their current form cannot replace paper copies of imagery, maps and orders, the digital systems, mounted inside combat vehicles, qualitatively improved information dissemination and situational awareness" (Ops and Training, Digital Communications (3a.2)).

Other interoperable battlefield systems include: The Combat Video Acquisition System

(CVAS) and the Combat Still Acquisition System (CSAS) which are currently being fielded to the GCE and MEU's, ACE and CSSE Combat Camera Units during FY05. DTAMS, TPC, UOC are Intel systems that require Deployable Tactical Printing and Reproduction capability, which exceeds the capacity of current TOPO systems.

When Needed

2 Years

Rationale

The existing lithographic and reproduction equipment will have reached service life by 2006. Replacement with similar technologies would not answer the print and reproduction requirements of the MEFs nor the MSCs.

Describe mission or task to be accomplished that is related to the need

The Combat Camera Printing and Reproduction Sections located at MarForPac and all Divisions, is tasked with providing printed hard copy paper products to the MarFors, MEFs and MSCs for combatant, non-combatant, operational, exercises and information operations in support of all levels of the MAGTF. These products include, but are not limited to: Maps, Tactical Print Products (classified and non classified), Rules of Engagement Cards, hard copy intelligence, large format imagery, photographic imagery, psychological warfare products, etc. Additional requirements include VHS, CD-ROM, and DVD duplication. These additional requirements are new to the electronic battlefield. The ability to play, duplicate, and/or reformat international, foreign analog and digitally formatted products to U.S. standards significantly enhance the intelligence and decision making processes at all levels of the MAGTF, and contributes significantly to capabilities required in the war on terror.

How does the need improve your ability to perform the mission or task?

These improvements allow the deployment of the printing and reproduction capability as a tool in the GCE Commanders tool kit that meets the lift, mobility and mission requirements as stated in the 1stMarDiv, OIF Lessons Learned. Improvements required expand the RES's output capacity and it's capability to meet the "surge in the event of a crisis or a major theater war (G2 Intel / Recon / Surveillance Report, Map Ordering (1.b (2)),) and "improve information dissemination and situational awareness" (Ops and Training, Digital Communications (3a.2). This improvement allows interoperability with USMC data and communication systems, enhances the capabilities and capacity of printing and reproduction in support of key decision makers in the Intel, IO AO, and provides the ability to duplicate various types of media such as CD-ROM, DVD, and VHS, which are critical in the decision making process of commanders in today's electronic battlefield. Additionally, these improvements expand the RES's capability to produce color copy.

Also, realigning this capability to the CSE can greatly enhance the GCE Combat Camera Unit's ability to focus strictly on tactical imaging requirements via the TIPS and greatly expand the accessibility to reproduction services in the other MSC's and MEF Headquarters.

If the need is not satisfied, how will it affect your ability to perform the mission or task?

CMC will loose the tactical print and reproduction capability. Based on USMC mission and concept of operation, the Marine Corps is the only service component that was

authorized to maintain their tactical print and reproduction capability DOD wide. If not satisfied the MAGTF will lose capability in such areas as: Operations (combatant and non combatant), Training, Administration, Intelligence, Psychological Operations etc, in strategic, operational, and/or tactical environments. MEF and MSC Commander's have limited access to hardcopy products, which hinder commander's intent, reduce situational awareness, and affect the Marine Corps ability to communicate effectively. Reliance on local printing companies within country or AO is costly, and limits the ability of the Commander to produce classified products. Additionally, reliance on other service components, such as the US Army theater level reproduction systems reduce timeliness of hardcopy products and hinder the tempo of operations and our ability to communicate. Lessons Learned: "During OIF, US Forces did not have the print capability, on the ground, to produce and disseminate the "Executive Order" from the 1stMarDiv Commander. The volume was too large for the small print and reproduction capability that was embarked in country to handle. As stated, the RES is too large and not mobile.