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From: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
 To: Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet

Subj: Semi-annual Readiness Report (U)

Ref: (a) CINCPACFLT INSTN 5440.3
 (b) NWIP 10-1

1. In compliance with references (a) and (b), this report is submitted for the six month period ending 30 September 1960.

2. At the close of this period, this Force continues combat-ready with two Marine Divisions, two Marine Aircraft Wings, a Marine Brigade consisting of air and ground elements, an Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, a Composite Radio Company and supporting Force Troops units.

3. Areas of significance wherein readiness has been effected during this period are as follows:

a. In implementing the unit transplacement program for infantry battalions within this command, the 1st, 2d and 3d Battalions, 7th Marines, and 1st Battalion, 9th Marines deployed from the 1st Marine Division to the 3d Marine Division. The cadred 3d Battalion, 9th Marines with the 3d Marine Division was transferred to the 1st Marine Division. The 1st and 2d Battalions, 1st Marines and 1st Battalion, 5th Marines were returned to the 1st Marine Division from the 3d Marine Division. The return of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines marked the completion of the first transplacement cycle. The replacement of the cadred 3d Battalion, 9th Marines by a full strength battalion brought the 3d Marine Division to six full strength infantry battalions.

b. The training highlight of the period was PHIBLEX 34-60 (Exercise SEA HAWK) conducted in the vicinity of POHANG, KOREA during the period 6-21 June 1960. This exercise employed RLTF-9 and one regiment of the ROK Marine Corps. SEA HAWK involved approximately 6700 U. S. and ROK Marines, further improving our ability to plan and conduct operations jointly with the Koreans. One of the high lights of the exercise was the helicopter assault lift of 4600 troops which included three ROK Marine Battalions and two U. S. Marine Battalions. One lift was made under conditions of

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very low visibility (fog) and two of the movements were made during the hours of darkness. Exercises of Marine Expeditionary Brigade and Marine Expeditionary Force size scheduled for subsequent quarters precluded holding larger exercises during this period.

c. Since 3 August 1960, a Battalion Landing Team with supporting helicopter lift has been stationed afloat with elements of the 7th Fleet. This has materially increased the ability of 7th Fleet and this command to respond to contingency/emergency conditions.

4. The following major air units were rotated during this period:

- a. HMR (L)-163 from 3d MAW to 1st MAW
- b. HMR (L)-362 from 1st MAW to 3d MAW
- c. VMP (AW)-115 from 2d MAW to 1st MAW
- d. VMP (AW)-531 from 1st MAW to 2d MAW
- e. HMR (L)-261 from 1st MAW to 2d MAW
- f. HMR (L)-162 from 2d MAW to 1st MAW

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5. PERSONNEL.

a. The personnel situation in this force during the period was adequate to support our force-in-readiness mission.

6. TRAINING.

a. ✓ In addition to PHIBLEX 34-60, the following significant exercises were conducted during this period:

✓(1) PHIBLEX 33-60, a Brigade size exercise conducted at Camp Pendleton during the period 4-8 May 1960.

✓(2) HELILEX 32-60 a Battalion size exercise at Camp Pendleton during the period 4-8 April 1960.

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✓(3) PACNARMIDLEX-60, a two battalion exercise at Camp Pendleton during July and August 1960 provided amphibious assault demonstrations and training for midshipman cruises.

✓(4) JCOC #31, a two battalion amphibious assault demonstration held at Camp Pendleton during September 1960.

✓(5) PHIBLEX 39-60, ^(HELIXES) a battalion exercise conducted at Camp Pendleton during September 1960.

✓(6) PHIBLEX 38-60, ^(BCT-LEXES) a battalion size exercise held by each of four battalions at Fuji-McNair during period 6 August to 28 September 1960.

7. MATERIEL.

a. All ground units of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific with the exception of certain units in a cadred status and elements of the 1st Antiaircraft Group have on hand sufficient materiel to mount out and engage in amphibious operations or undertake assigned missions.

b. Cadred units which are to be reactivated at normal strength during the present Fiscal Year will have adequate equipment to accomplish their assigned missions.

c. All the subordinate elements of the 1st Antiaircraft Group are established as missile battalions. Authorized equipment is not completely available, however, the receipt of major items is about equal to the input of trained personnel.

E. W. JOHNSTON
CHIEF OF STAFF

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CNO
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