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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 31 March 1962.

2. At the close of the reporting period this command was capable of providing the following units:

- a. 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMP.
- b. 3d Marine Division (-)(Rein), FMP.
- c. 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.
- d. 3d Marine Aircraft Wing.
- e. 1st Marine Brigade, FMP (consisting of a Regimental Landing Team and Marine Aircraft Group).
- f. 1st Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, FMP.
- g. 1st Composite Radio Company, FMP.
- h. Supporting Force Troops Units.

3. Areas of significance wherein readiness was affected during the reporting period were as follows:

a. All personnel of Marine Air Base Squadron 16 (Rein) were returned from UDORN, Thailand to MAG-16, MCAF, Futaba by the end of October 1961.

b. VMF-323 deployed aboard the USS Lexington with 12 F8U-2 aircraft in November 1961 for a West Pac CVA tour.

c. The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing received the first six of a scheduled 12 GV-1 aircraft during the period and all R4Q aircraft were transferred from the Wing to COMUS.

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d. During the period three battalions rotated from the 1st Marine Division under the transplacement program, replacing three battalions of the 3d Marine Division in Okinawa.

e. VMF(AW) 513 rotated from the 3d MAF to the 1st MAF, replacing VMF(AW) 314 which returned to the 3d MAF.

f. VMF(AW) 451 rotated from the 3d MAF to the 1st MAF, replacing VMF-312 which returned to the 3d MAF. This squadron, with 18 F8U-2N aircraft, became the first U. S. Marine Corps aviation unit to transpac from El Toro, California to Atsugi, Japan. Marine OV-1 aircraft were used for in-flight refueling enroute.

g. VMA-211 rotated from the 3d MAF to the 1st MAF. This squadron, with 18 A4D-2N aircraft also flew across the Pacific, using the same transpac procedures established by VMF(AW) 451.

h. The 3d 155 Howitzer Battery, the 4th 8" Howitzer Battery and the 1st 155mm Gun Battery were deactivated during the period.

4. Personnel.

a. All major subordinate commands, both aviation and ground, have been at or near their authorized strengths during the period although significant shortages in critical skills, (ie., communications, electronics and ordnance) have been prevalent throughout the Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. Continuing on-the-job training and formal schools are being employed to assist in alleviating these shortages.

b. The task organizations involved in several current contingency plans utilize major elements of Division/Wing commands which necessitate the activation of provisional staffs to command these elements in the event of commitment. Marine personnel are also required for assignment to joint and combined staffs. The personnel requirements for staffs in contingency plans are considered excessive when related to combat elements assigned. Such commitments would seriously affect the combat capability of the remaining uncommitted Fleet Marine Force, Pacific forces during periods of contingency operations.

5. Training. Training conducted during the period ranged from individual and small unit training to major amphibious exercises. Guerrilla warfare training received increased

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emphasis in all units. Three exercises worthy of note were:

a. Operation "SILVERSWORD", a BrigLex conducted by the 1st Marine Brigade on Maui. This exercise, the largest held on Maui since World War II, consisted of an amphibious assault and a night helicopter landing and contributed substantially to the readiness posture of the 1st Marine Brigade.

b. SEATO exercise "TULUNGAN", a Div/Wing landing exercise conducted in West Pac on the island of Mindoro. This exercise consisted of an amphibious, helicopter and fixed wing assault. Counter-guerrilla operations were also conducted during the exercise.

c. AAWEX/STRIKEX/MEBLEX 3-62, exercise "POT SHOT" was conducted in East Pac by the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing and the 1st Marine Division.

✓ 6. Material. All major ground units of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, with the exception of the 3d and 4th LAAM Battalions of Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific have on hand sufficient materiel to mount out and engage in amphibious operations or undertake assigned missions.

a. The 3d LAAM Battalion has completed the transition from the TERRIER system but lacks the initial issue of HAWK system spare parts.

b. The 4th LAAM Battalion is in a cadre status.

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