

The Genesis of LOE 4.

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Background.

- a. Since its inception, the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab (MCWL) has sought to improve the training, manning and equipping of United States Marine Corps (USMC) tactical formations.
- b. As Marines began deploying in support of Operation's Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, MCWL has increased its efforts to incorporate lessons learned from the operating forces into its hallmark "concept based experimentation" program. USMC Vision and Strategy 2025 placed increased emphasis on sea based operations, a traditional Marine Corps core competency. It also gave MCWL an opportunity to integrate previous experimentation into the Marine Corps' long standing capstone operational concept: *Ship to Objective Maneuver (STOM)*, published in 1997.
- c. From 2004-2006, MCWL focused on the individual Marine, the rifle squad and the infantry platoon in its Distributed Operations project. It was a logical starting point and resulted in significant "training and equipping" improvements, not only for the operating forces, but also in the supporting establishment.

The Genesis of LOE 4.

- a. MCWL planners determined that the next logical step was an examination of the Marine rifle company, and in 2007, ECO became the focus of experimentation, commencing with the Company Level Intelligence Cell (CLIC) and followed by the Company Level Operations Center (CLOC) projects. Supporting events occurred with tactical communications, distributed logistics and distributed artillery.
- b. These efforts were entirely consistent with the Commandant of the Marine Corps' signed *Concept for Enhanced Company Operations*, which made the bold statement that "conventional wisdom tells us that the battalion is the smallest tactical formation capable of sustained independent operations, however current operations tells us it is the company."
- c. ECO LOE 4's stated purpose is to pick up the Commandant's challenge and make it a reality, but in the context of a Naval Force conducting a sea based operation in a complex and distributed battle space.

LOE 4 is the capstone event for ECO. This experiment features a Company Landing Team (CLT) formed around a Marine Infantry Company with an experimental table of organization. It features an expanded Headquarters and a scout section. The augmented company will conduct STOM and execute operations within a complex and distributed battle space.

LOE 4 Hypothesis *ECO organization, training and equipment streamline the existing ad hoc solutions and enable a company to better execute its expanded mission.* LOE 4 will attempt to prove or disprove this statement.

LOE 4 Objectives are as follows:

- a. Conduct Marine Corps Experimentation relating to the STOM concept.
- b. Assess the impact of an enhanced company/landing team (CLT) on immediate HHQ, MAGTF/Navy.
- c. Identify capability gaps at all levels, especially in the areas of C2, fires, logistics and training.
- d. Employ and assess an experimental Infantry Company T/O.
- e. Test a prototype C2 suite (CAPSET V) in the context of STOM and ECO.
- f. Evaluate proposed Company C2 TTP's in the area of fires, logistics, operations and intelligence.
- g. Evaluate the contribution and cost of organic Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGV).
- h. Evaluate the utility of a Company Logistics Chief.
- i. Evaluate the contribution and cost of enhanced/organic surface indirect fire support and enhanced infantry weapons capable of providing fire support.
- j. Examine the fire support coordination function/capability within the Company headquarters.

LOE 4 Location and Timings LOE 4 is to be conducted during the Rim of the Pacific 2010 (RIMPAC 2010) exercise on the island of Oahu. The LOE is broken into three phases, these are:

- a. Phase 1 (Training) The Experiment Force (EXFOR) is conducting training in support of LOE 4 from Feb 10 until 25 Jun 10. This training consists of the normal Pre-deployment Training and is augmented with CLIC and CLOC, as well as experimental equipment provided by MCWL to support the experiment.
- b. Phase 2 (Execution) LOE 4 will commence with embarkation of the Experiment Force aboard amphibious shipping on 5 Jul 10, and will consist of 3 days of planning and rehearsals, a 2 days reconnaissance and surveillance period from 9 Jul 10, and a 4 day tactical semi- free play evolution. The EXFOR will conduct STOM on 11 Jul 10 and the LOE will conclude on 14 Jul 10.
- c. Phase 3 (Report) At the conclusion of ECO LOE 4, MCWL will collate the data collected and generate an experiment report no later than 3 months after the conclusion of the experiment.

Post LOE 4 The results that accrue from LOE 4 will inform and shape the follow-on MCWL efforts as we commence the Enhanced Marine Air Ground Task Force Operations (EMO) project beginning in 2011.

LOE4 Project POC Questions regarding MCWL, LOE 4 or future MCWL experimentation can be directed to Major Damian Hill on 703-784-4876 or email damian.hill.as@usmc.mil. Personnel interested in visiting LOE 4 are to contact the POC for availability and comply with RIMPAC 2010 procedures for visitors to the exercise area.