

Distributable Forces

The ability of virtually every adversary to leverage surveillance, IW, and lethal fires exposes our forces – more so if they are massed – to detection, targeting, and attack. MCDP 1, *Warfighting*, notes this challenge: *“Military forces will mass to concentrate combat power against the enemy. However, this massing will also make them vulnerable to the effects of enemy fires, and they will find it necessary to disperse.”* To prosecute maneuver warfare in the 21st century, we must have forces that can avoid the disadvantages of mass when required and employ the benefits of mass when operationally favorable. This requires a MAGTF capable of fluidly distributing and concentrating as opportunities arise or circumstances dictate. This should not be seen as a collection of small teams or confused with the SPMAGTF-Crisis Response (CR) units we have in AFRICOM and CENTCOM, which, while valid for their current role, are the product of focused, deliberate force planning and designed to certain mission sets. To create MAGTFs that are effective in the future operating environment, we must:

- Develop a blend of 21st century warfighting capabilities to enable the MAGTF at any scale to conduct maneuver warfare.
- Develop the capabilities across all warfighting functions that enable the MAGTF to operate in a distributed posture in a complex non-permissive environment.
- Recognize that units with a smaller size and footprint would allow us to engage forward in more locations than would be possible with larger units and are meeting significant portions of our current forward posture requirements afloat and ashore.
- Explore the extent to which smaller units will require situational awareness, fires, logistics, communications, and maneuver assets to secure landing sites or maneuver to objectives deep inland.
- Leverage the Navy’s Capabilities-Based Medical Treatment Facility concept to deliver rapidly deployable, task-organized and scalable expeditionary health service support in the afloat or ashore environments.
- Examine the additional medical and casualty evacuation/medical evacuation assets required to treat, stabilize, and move affected personnel to the requisite level of medical care in a fluid maneuver environment.

