

Light and Heavy Forces

To perform the full range of our statutory and directed roles and responsibilities, we must be able to tailor MAGTFs to achieve a mission-specific emphasis without compromising the balance of the organization across the warfighting functions. For example, a MAGTF composited for an HA/DR mission might have a larger, more capable Logistics Combat Element (LCE), whereas a MAGTF composited to defeat an A2AD threat could see greater emphasis on its Aviation Combat Element (ACE). A MEF-level force, division reinforced, requires certain systems that are appropriate for sustained, large-scale combat operations but are not required in a crisis response or security cooperation mission. To ensure we have both “light” and “heavy” capabilities, we must:

- Maintain sufficient protected mobility to support division reinforced and MEF requirements.
- Provide armored reconnaissance and armored firepower to meet requirements for both crisis response and major sustained operations.
- Develop fire support systems providing the range, precision, and agility to survive against peer fires systems.
- Ensure our materiel decisions take into account the highest-risk challenge against peer or near-peer competitors in urban littoral environments.
- Through a deployment, employment, and sustainment lens, tailor current and develop future forces and equipment that can readily deploy (to include at-sea arrival and assembly and at-sea reconstitution) aboard amphibious warfare ships, Military Sealift Command vessels, strategic airlift, and organic MAGTF aviation assets.
- Continue to exploit large-scale MEF and MEF (Fwd) exercises, MPF exercises and MEB amphibious exercises such as BOLD ALLIGATOR, DAWN BLITZ, and SSANG YONG, to refine the appropriate light-heavy equipment mix.