

Train and Fight as Distributable Forces

The ability of virtually every adversary to leverage surveillance, information warfare, and lethal fires exposes our forces to detection, targeting, and attack, especially if our forces are massed. MCDP 1 *Warfighting states, "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 conduct 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 with the agility and mobility to distribute and concentrate as opportunities arise or circumstances dictate. Training and fighting as distributable forces does not imply a collection of small teams and should not be confused with the SPMAGTF-Crisis Response (CR) units we have in AFRICOM and CENTCOM. While valid for their current role, they 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.
- Explore the extent to which distributed MAGTF elements will require situational awareness, fires, logistics, communications, and maneuver assets to secure landing sites or maneuver to objectives deep inland.
- Employ units with a smaller size and footprint when appropriate.
- 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.