

## ***Total Force Approach to Readiness***

Our ability to meet future force commitments requires a total force approach to readiness. In the past, our reserve forces provided an institutional shock absorber to meet expanding requirements, particularly in sustained major operations. Looking forward, our reserves may play more of a complementary role in specific areas. To gain the full benefit of a total force approach, we must:

- Develop a total force (reserve and active forces) approach to supporting and sourcing steady-state operations, security cooperation activities, and contingency response missions.
- Maintain one third of the Marine Corps operating forces forward.
- Develop additional opportunities for regional rotational training bases in order to improve interaction with partner militaries, increase regional knowledge, and enhance our ability to keep Marines forward deployed without putting undue burden on partner nations.
- Improve our manpower and training systems to increase the number of deployable Marines available to the operating forces.
- Capitalize on the capabilities our reserves can adequately support by better aligning civilian skills with force requirements.