



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

MARINE FORCES RESERVE  
2000 OPELOUSAS AVENUE  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70114-1500

IN REPLY REFER TO

4000

G-4

23 Sep 2013

FORCE POLICY LETTER 12-13

From: Commander  
To: Distribution List

Subj: EQUIPMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Purpose. To share my perspective on equipment accountability with my Commanders and Inspector-Instructors at all levels within Marine Forces Reserve (MARFORRES).

2. Background. While a decade of war and an abundance of funding have allowed the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Reserve to achieve a tactical competence unmatched in our history, it has also fostered some poor habits when it comes to equipment accountability. Additionally, the introduction of new equipment accountability systems and the overall increase in the scale of what today's units are accounting for has compounded this problem and highlighted the need for immediate and focused action to correct this trend. Effective equipment accountability requires our leaders to have a mindset of responsibility for all equipment, which has been procured with dollars earned by the taxpayer and loaned to us with the trust and confidence that we will be good stewards of their generosity. Selected Marine Corps Reserve (SMCR) units present unique challenges, but these challenges should not be used as excuses. Although the future is uncertain, I can assure you that knowing what we have, ensuring it is reflected in the correct accounting systems, and maintaining it in the most efficient manner is what the Nation expects of us. It is what I expect of you.

3. New Systems. Modern supply and maintenance systems are more complex, but also provide incredible capabilities. Global Combat Support System-Marine Corps (GCSS-MC) combined the functionality of many legacy logistics systems. Like any new system, it has its shortcomings, but it also has great potential. GCSS-MC provides property record visibility of a Table of Equipment (T/E) asset from the moment it enters the Marine Corps' inventory until its disposal. The system also allows the entire chain of command the ability to see when something was shipped to your site and added to your property

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Approved for public release;  
distribution is unlimited.

records. Additionally, the system makes it almost impossible for duplicate serial numbers to exist in the inventory records, and has the capability to effectively monitor, filter, and produce information to better support user requirements. A second system, the Defense Property Accountability System (DPAS), is new only to the Marine Corps Reserve. DPAS is the system of record for non-standard equipment and accounts for what was previously termed "garrison" property. For the active component, DPAS is managed by Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM). Since reserve sites do not fall under MCICOM, this too falls on the shoulders of our Inspector-Instructors. Commanders and Inspector-Instructors must ensure their Marines are trained and know how to use these systems.

4. The Role of the Field Supply and Maintenance Analysis Office (FSMAO). The FSMAOs are back and operational. They are getting back to their roots of ensuring procedural compliance. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2015, they will conduct analysis inspections of MARFORRES units instead of assistance visits, with reports being forwarded to my level for review. You will know well in advance when the FSMAO team will be headed your way. Recent trends have shown that Commanders must place a greater emphasis on training to ensure their unit's Supply and Maintenance functions are being conducted accurately. One of your top priorities must be ensuring your unit is ready for FSMAO. Conduct a self-analysis, and ask for help where you need it. The MARFORRES G-4 has several programs in place to provide your units with training and analysis in preparation for your FSMAO.

5. Setting Priorities. In case there is any doubt, second only to the accountability of personnel is the accountability of weapons, optics and communications security items. I expect these areas to have your full attention. These items have multiple accounting systems that must match. For weapons it is GCSS-MC and CRANE, while communications security equipment must be accounted for in GCSS-MC and the Electronic Key Management System. The relationships between your armorers/custodians, communicators, and your supply personnel must be fostered within your units to ensure 100% accountability of assets. There is no excuse for these items not being properly accounted for within all the required systems.

6. Training Allowance. Unlike our active component counterparts, MARFORRES units can establish a Training Allowance (T/A). A T/A allows unit commanders to have enough equipment

FORCE POLICY LETTER 12-13

on-hand to train to Mission Essential Tasks (METs), but recognizes the reality that SMCR units have limited manpower, facility space, and fiscal resources, as well as competing operational and individual training requirements that can prevent them from effectively maintaining, managing, and accounting for a full T/E. Use this tool wisely and carefully examine your requirements. Maintain on-hand only those assets required to accomplish Individual Training Standards and core MET training.

7. Responsibility. In the event of the physical loss of government property, Commanders are expected to initiate the appropriate Missing, Lost, Stolen, or Recovered report as well as conduct a thorough Command Investigation. Equipment accountability is a basic leadership responsibility that falls directly on all unit leaders to manage. Commanders and I-Is at all levels must ensure that they know what equipment their unit has, that their equipment is properly accounted for within the appropriate systems, and that the equipment is ready for training or operational use.

8. Certification. This policy is applicable to all MARFORRES military and civilian personnel.



RICHARD P. MILLS

DISTRIBUTION: D

Directives issued by this Headquarters are published and distributed electronically