

# MARINE CORPS WARFIGHTING LABORATORY

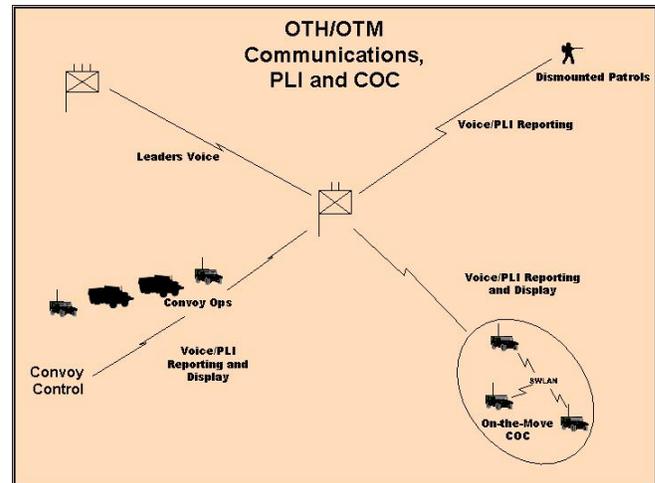
**Sea Viking 04** was based on Commandant of the Marine Corps guidance and his desire to use experimentation to make informed programmatic decisions. As initially planned, SV 04 represented a combined arms attack on Naval transformation, along two coordinated axes or “pathways.” The convergence of these pathways was scheduled to take place in a two-part advanced warfighting experiment (AWE) in late 2004. The Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC) was charged with coordinating the overall effort. Sea Viking 04 has evolved in response to real world requirements; however, its current focus reflects the inherent flexibility of Marine Corps Service experimentation and its absolute relevance to the operating forces.

**Description:** As originally planned, the **Concept Pathway** will culminate in AWE 1 on the East Coast. It will develop concepts of operations that examine command relations, seabased organizations and advanced “capability sets” that will be assessed in modeling and simulation command post exercises. Principal participants include II Marine Expeditionary Force, the U.S. Second Fleet and Joint Forces Command. The MCCDC lead for this pathway is the Director, Expeditionary Force Development Center.

The Marine Corps Warfighting Lab is responsible for planning and executing the **Prototype Pathway**. It was initially designed to occur on the West Coast, assess surrogate and prototype equipment, and develop tactics, techniques and procedures to support 2015 Marine Expeditionary Brigade required capabilities. Principal participants were I MEF and its major subordinate commands, and the U.S. Third Fleet. Objectives, preliminary events and Marine Corps-specific resource requirements were identified and agreed upon. Late in 2003, however, I MEF was assigned the mission of returning to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom II (OIF II). The scope of I MEF’s deployment precluded West Coast experimentation in 2004. However, the Lab’s development of experimental technologies that enable today’s commander to develop future operating

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### *fact sheet*



concepts led to an intersection of current requirements and future capabilities. As a result I MEF requested that experimentation continue, but in Iraq.

**Focus/Objectives:** The focus of AWE 2 has not changed. It is still tactical-level “on the move/over the horizon” (OTM/OTH) communications with the embedded position location indication (PLI) required to build a common tactical picture. The Lab’s experimental Expeditionary Tactical Communications System (ETCS) will provide the technical backbone of this system. I MEF requested ETCS to augment legacy systems in Iraq. Additionally, I MEF (rear) and MCWL continue to develop and will carefully assess a true OTM battalion combat operations center capability. The willingness of Marine operating forces to support the Sea Viking experimentation campaign in the face of challenging “real world” commitments underscores the ethos that led to development of amphibious assault and helicopterborne operations.

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