



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS (20350-3000)  
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS (20350-2000)  
WASHINGTON DC

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12 Jun 24

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JOINT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE SHIP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Ref: (a) CJCSI 3401.02B  
(b) Global Force Management Implementation Guidance  
(c) COMUSFLTFORCOMINST 3501.6  
(d) MCO 3120.13  
(e) MCO 3502.3C  
(f) MCO 3502.11

Encl: (1) Amphibious Warfare Ship Terms of Reference

1. This joint memorandum of understanding (MOU) codifies new Terms of Reference for the readiness and availability of Amphibious Warfare Ships (AWS). Above all else, these new terms are intended to aid in better joint risk decisions between Naval and Marine Corps commanders.
2. The Navy and Marine Corps lack a common lexicon to discuss AWS readiness, both internal and external to the Department of Navy. The Navy and Marine Corps require clearly articulated readiness terms to understand the availability of amphibious ships for training and operations.
3. Existing readiness reporting criteria and instructions, covered in references (a) through (f), remain applicable. These new terms serve as supplemental guidance to ensure consistency and uniformity in Navy and Marine Corps amphibious force planning, assessment, and operational mission execution. These terms do not relax any criteria, alter any formats, or modify any directions contained in references (a) through (f). These new terms provide a common way to describe the availability of amphibious ships to support operations and training, and do not reflect their readiness in accordance with references (a) and (c). The use of these terms will prevent conflicts in data reporting to senior Department of the Navy leaders, external commands and leadership, and Congress.

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4. There are two broad AWS availability categories: Available and Not-Available. Enclosure (1) further defines the common terms of reference as described in subparagraphs 4a and 4b.

a. Available ships are those capable of supporting the spectrum of Navy and Marine Corps training and operations across varying degrees of readiness. Available ships can be sub-categorized as Available for Training and Available for Operations.

b. Not-Available ships are considered unable to support Navy and Marine Corps training and operational requirements. Not-Available ships are those in emergent maintenance, planned Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) maintenance availabilities, newly delivered ships conducting post-delivery testing and trials, and ships conducting pre-decommissioning actions.

5. All Navy and Marine Corps personnel will implement these new terms immediately to ensure our Amphibious Warfare Ships remain the centerpiece of our naval expeditionary warfare presence, forcible entry, and sea basing capabilities.

6. Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy and Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies, and Operations in collaboration with key stakeholders will assess the terms' utility and effectiveness annually. The CNO and Commandant of the Marine Corps are the approval authorities for modifications to this joint MOU.



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**AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE SHIP TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Table 1. Available Ships**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Can Support</b>	<b>May Support</b>
<b>Fully Mission Capable (FMC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ships able to support the full range of naval operations, from presence to major combat.</li> <li>This includes the ability to fully integrate as part of an Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and support Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) or larger USMC formations.</li> <li>Deployment Certified (Combat Ready).</li> </ul> <p>Note: Temporary mission degrading condition does not remove a ship from this condition if it can be rectified within reference (b) guidelines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Training:</b> No restrictions.</li> <li><b>Operations:</b> No restrictions.</li> <li><b>Joint Force:</b> No restrictions.                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Force Generation Forces (FGF)</li> <li>Follow-on Forces (FoF)</li> <li>Contingency Response Forces (CRF)</li> <li>Immediate Response Forces (IRF)</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No restrictions.</li> </ul>
<b>Mission Capable (MC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ships at minimum Basic Phase Tier One complete, but may be in Advanced or Integrated Phase.</li> <li>May include ships otherwise considered FMC except for one or more temporary resource restriction(s) such as training, manning, or materiel.</li> <li>MC ships may support some or all Marine Corps mission essential tasks depending on the resource restriction.</li> </ul> <p>Note: Temporary mission degrading condition does not remove a ship from this condition if it can be rectified within reference (b) guidelines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Training:</b> No restrictions.</li> <li><b>Operations:</b> May have some restrictions based on training or materiel.</li> <li><b>Joint Force:</b> Some restrictions. FGF and FoF</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Echelon II Fleet Commander is certifying authority.</li> </ul>

<p>Partial Mission Capable (PMC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ships that do not have any critical limiting restrictions, such as a CAT4 CASREP, which would inhibit the Marine Corps' ability to train or conduct events at sea.</li> <li>Materially available ships with crews not yet Basic Phase Tier One certified, but can otherwise support basic training needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training: Some restrictions.</li> <li>Joint Force: Limited. FGF and FoF</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operations permissible provided ship capabilities and certifications sufficiently meet specific assigned mission requirements.</li> <li>Potential surge candidate.</li> </ul>
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**Table 2. Not Available Ships**

Term	Definition	Can Support	May Support
<p>Non Mission Capable (NMC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ships that:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a temporary critical limiting restriction preventing the Marine Corps from conducting training and operations</li> <li>In maintenance phase</li> <li>Conducting post-delivery test and trials</li> <li>Preparing to decommission.</li> </ol> </li> <li>NMC ships include an estimate of days required to return to an available status (ex. NMC XX) for those ships falling into lines 1-3 above.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restricted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restricted.</li> </ul>