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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
6th Marine Regiment
2d Marine Division, FMF
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542-5507

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IN REPLY REFER TO
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S-3
10 Aug 87

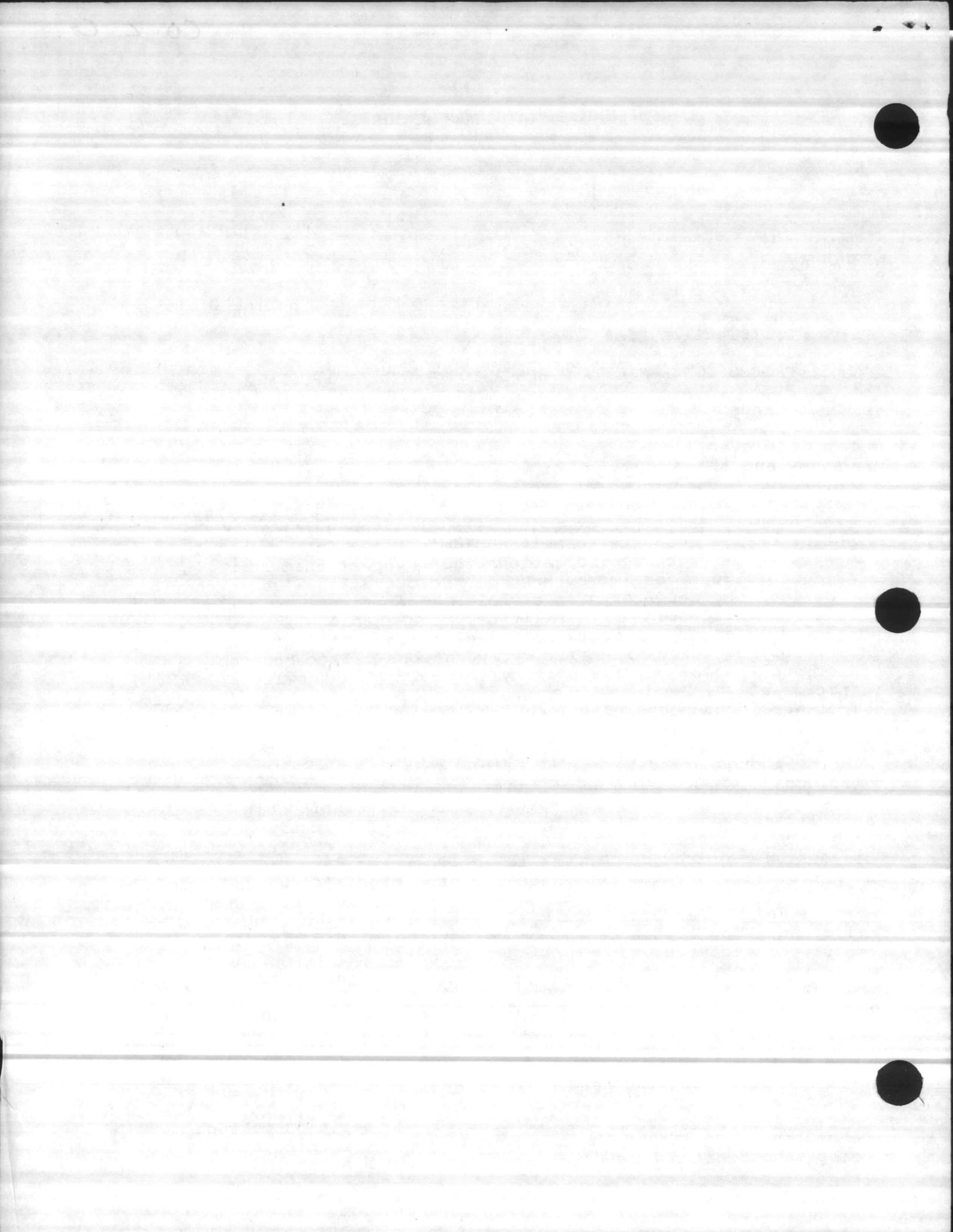
MEMORANDUM

From: Commanding Officer, 6th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division, FMF
To: Distribution List
Subj: PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION/TRAINING PROGRAM

1. Background

a. The ever increasing complexities of modern warfare and weaponry and the prospects for expeditionary service worldwide, combined with the rigors of managing the peace time establishment and the demands placed upon our officers by society, dictate that today's officers must strive harder (with less time to do it) to obtain war fighting skills adequate to meet and defeat any international competition. There are indications that suggest that there is considerable room for improvement of the operational competency of our officer and SNCO corps as a whole. Operational competency is defined as those soldierly qualities which enable a Marine to successfully employ elements of the division-wing-logistics team or joint/combines forces in military operations. It comprises operational knowledge, the ability to apply that knowledge, and skill in rapid analysis and action in the face of uncertainty. Operational competence focuses exclusively on the demands of expeditionary service and battle.

b. Although several reasons exist that tend to explain why such deficiencies exist, limited FMF time in one's MOS, limited formal PME opportunities etc, there are several options, within our capabilities, available for improving our professional competence. One of these options is the Commanding Officers Training Option. This option requires commanders to actively and personally train their subordinate commanders/leaders, utilizing officer and SNCO school while employing various techniques such as TEWTS, Staff Rides, Tactical Walks, Sandbox Exercises, Battle Studies, Battle Reaction Drills, Wargames either manual or computer assisted (TWSEAS), symposiums, lectures etc. Implementation of this technique has been used with great success in the past. In addition to providing an opportunity for tactical analysis, development of operational concepts and decision-making without the expense in time and effort of a full-blown field exercise, it also provides a means for addressing tactical problems (e.g. river crossing operations, MOUT operations) in terrain where full FEXS/CPXs are impractical. It also provides a means for the conduct of exercises at levels where frequent exercises are impractical. Not only do they provide the participating officers/SNCO's practice at the decision-making process, but also afford the commanders the opportunity to actively develop subordinates as well as reinforce his own knowledge.



2. Guidance. The focus of a Professional Military Training Program for officers and SNCOs within the regiment should concentrate only on those mission essential tasks, skills, areas or topics critical for success in combat. The 6th Marines program will specifically contribute towards achieving the goal and objectives outlined below. Nice to know topics, general information or basic appreciation information are inappropriate.

a. Goal. Enhanced operational competence of officers and SNCO's.

b. Objectives

(1) Military Fundamentals. Essential Subjects, Terrain Appreciation, Land Navigation, etc.

(2) TACTICS. Acquire a fundamental understanding and practical knowledge of the doctrine, tactics, techniques, procedures, essential to the employment of a reinforced infantry battalion/reinforced infantry regiment, as appropriate, operating over a range of conditions, environments, conventional, arctic, desert, jungle, NBC, day and night, etc.

(3) Fire Support/Fire Support Coordination - Acquire a fundamental understanding and practical knowledge of the planning considerations and execution of tactical maneuver with fire support in combat operations that are essential to the prosecution of a successful amphibious operation and subsequent land campaign.

(4) Threat - Acquire a fundamental understanding and awareness of threat (Soviet, Warsaw Pact, 3rd World) doctrine, tactics, organization, equipment, strengths and weaknesses.

(5) Weapons - Acquire fundamental understanding and working knowledge of all the weapons organic to the infantry regiment to ensure the correct employment of those weapons and other weapons likely to be found attached or in direct support of an infantry battalion in both offensive and defensive combat operations.

(6) Operations - Acquire a fundamental understanding and working knowledge of the fundamentals, principles, essential to the planning, coordinating, training and conducting of amphibious and MPF operations at the MAU and MAB level.

(7) Command Staff - Acquire and apply sound principles and practices of command and staff action with emphasis on the operational planning for and tactical employment of command, control and communications within the GCE and the MAGTF.

(8) Training Management - Apply principles and practices of sound training management for a battalion-sized unit and subordinate elements.

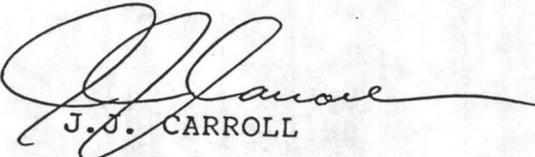
(9) Leadership - Acquire or enhance unit leaders ability to discharge his duties as a Marine Officer or SNCO.



3. Action

a. Regimental S-3 Design a Commanding Officers Professional Military Education/Training program for all officers of the regiment in accordance with the guidance provided above and draft an applicable Regimental Bulletin. Training/education sessions will focus on the topics previously discussed, be approved in advance by the regimental commander and convene once a month for a period of approximately three hours. The program will be fully integrated with the mid/near term training plan and completely coordinated with subordinate units. The responsibility to host the monthly sessions will rotate among battalions and Regimental Headquarters. The first session should be scheduled for September 1987.

b. Battalion Commanders/CO HQCo Design a similar program within your units and coordinate individual unit programs with the Regimental S-3. Let your imagination be your guide regarding how you design your separate programs, but ensure you don't waste time. A regimental bulletin will be published ASAP that delineates topics, attendance and schedules etc. covering the next several months, until such time as the mid-range training plan is approved.


J.J. CARROLL

of Distribution:

Battalion Commanders
Regimental Executive Officer
Regimental Sergeant Major
Regimental S-3

