

# Intelligence Training

The need for highly proficient and disciplined intelligence Marines is being met

by Col Randy Pugh

The greatest capability the Marine Corps possesses has always been the Marines themselves. Despite changes to missions, enemies, and the rapid evolution of weapons systems, communications technologies, and warfighting concepts, one variable that has never changed is the overwhelming advantage of highly proficient and disciplined individuals and teams. Marines have always epitomized tactical and technical excellence, and for 243 years, the Marine Corps has built and maintained it the same way—through tough and realistic training.

It is very likely that future warfare will look very little like the last 25 years of counterinsurgency-focused

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tested future operating environment. I believe meeting this challenge, however, is less difficult than it seems. The solution is the same as it has been in the past—*invest in the Marines*. The Marine Corps' advantage on future battlefields simply requires providing Marines of the MCISRE the knowledge and skills they need to fight and win Information Age wars. That implies extending old intelligence concepts like intelligence preparation of the battlefield and battle

meet new missions, adversaries, and environments. Courses are being updated to account for peer threats, including the capabilities they bring to the battlefield, such as massed indirect fires, information operations, and a sophisticated ISR system. Marines are also learning how to conduct electronic warfare, shield their forces from detection, and exploit and attack the enemy through cyberspace. All of this training will be supported through modern instruction delivery methods similar to commercial online learning sites. The Marines' skills will be verified through an immersive and realistic virtual training system. These changes are underway and are already producing Marines who bring with them the knowledge and skills required to fight and win in the Information Age.

The future holds tremendous challenges for the Marine Corps. It is also filled with opportunity. Just as Pete Ellis' vision for countering Japanese advances in the Pacific was turned into reality by the extraordinary Marines of World War II, today's intelligence Marines are quickly gaining the knowledge and skills they need to turn the *Marine Corps Operating Concept* and the recently published *Concept for Operations in the Information Environment* into a game-changing capability for modern warfare.




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operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The *Marine Corps Operating Concept* is forcing the Service to deliberately shift to expeditionary operations supporting high-intensity, highly kinetic combat with a near-peer adversary. This new focus will accordingly drive significant changes to what we need to train Marines to do as well as how we train them. No community will be more affected than the Marine Corps Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Enterprise (MCISRE). While intelligence will still guide the application of force in 2025, this task will be exponentially more complex in the chaotic and con-

damage assessment; learning entirely new intelligence skills, such as exploiting social media and conducting cyber ISR; and even mastering tasks not traditionally considered intelligence, including signature management and electronic warfare. Marines must be able to apply these concepts and accomplish these tasks not only within the physical domains of air, land, sea, and space but also in the "ether" of cyberspace, the electromagnetic spectrum, and the information environment.

Marine Corps Intelligence Schools are already aggressively adjusting their approach to ISR training in order to