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Supporting the Maritime Strategy through Maritime Civil Affairs

"As part of the maritime strategy, preventing wars is just as important as winning them. The way we are preventing war is by building partnerships with other nations and strengthening alliances."

--Rear Adm. Michael P. Tillotson, Commander, NECC

Maritime Civil Affairs (CA) activities enhance the relationship between military forces and civil authorities and act as a force multiplier for maritime security and safety. The Navy recognized the need for a Maritime CA presence after the stand-up of Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) in January of 2006.

Establishing Maritime Civil Affairs

- Navy's CA Force has developed from a concept into a force that is making significant contributions across the spectrum of operations. The primary mission of Maritime Civil Affairs (MCA) is to assess, plan and execute civil affairs operations in the maritime operational environment using an effects-based methodology focused on achieving the Joint Task Force (JTF), combatant or coalition commander's goals and objectives. Civil Affairs forces can operate in permissive, uncertain, and hostile environments.
- The Navy brought together Sailors from diverse backgrounds to expand maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster response into the littorals and near-coast environments when Maritime Civil Affairs Squadron 1 (MCAS 1) and MCAS 2 were stood up in 2007 and 2008.
- MCA capabilities reside in teams that integrate the civil element into the plans and operations of a supported commander, synchronize military resources with civilian needs in crisis operations; and that conduct civil reconnaissance.

Operational Successes – Maritime Civil Affairs executing the Maritime Strategy

- MCA Sailors assisted in the execution of Africa Partnership Station (APS), coordinating with host nation Customs, Ministries of Health, USAID, and Country Teams in the off-load and delivery of 160 pallets of donated medical material/equipment valued at \$4.5 million to Ghana and Liberia.
- In coordination with Combined JTF Horn of Africa, the Kenyan Port Authority, and the Kenyan Institute of Fisheries and Marine Conservation, MCA forces conducted civil reconnaissance and assessments of the Kenyan coastline identifying short and long-term future development projects.
- MCA teams assisted in the execution of Pacific Partnership, coordinating with Task Force Mindanao, USNS Mercy personnel, school officials and local Armed Forces of the Philippines and Barangay officials in the execution of a MEDCAP at Sultan Kudarat Municipal Hall where 952 patients were seen and treated.

Organizational Structure

- The MCA Team is the basic tactical unit utilized to conduct MCA operations. Each MCAT is comprised of five CA generalists, four from various enlisted ratings and one junior officer. Team composition is based on the "5 Cs"; commander, corpsman, communicator, coxswain, and constructionman.

More information on the Maritime Civil Affairs Group is available at <http://www.necc.navy.mil>.

Key Messages

- Maritime Civil Affairs Group (MCAG) forces conduct CA operations in the maritime environment where non-maritime CA forces are not trained to operate.
- MCAG forces expand the 16 joint CA functional specialties to include three maritime specific functions: commercial port operations, harbor and channel construction, and marine and fisheries resources.
- Expeditionary Sailors – such as those in the MCAG force – fill the gap between the Maritime and Land Component Commanders.

Facts & Figures

- MCAG was established in March 2006, MCAS 2 in November 2007, and MCAS 1 in April 2008.
- Approximately 328 Sailors comprise the MCAG Force; 174 Active Duty, 154 Reserve.
- MCAG forces have supported more than 10 extended CA focused missions covering more than 20 countries on six continents, working with more than 10 NGOs and other agencies.