



## Green IT

### What is it?

On 13 August 2009 at the USMC Energy Summit, the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) declared “energy” a top priority for the Marine Corps. As the nation’s Expeditionary Force in Readiness, the Marine Corps must train, equip, and deploy forces that are agile and self-sufficient. With the growing use of Information Technology systems during deployment, our reliance on energy resources has increased. Tethering our operations to vulnerable supply lines in order to satisfy this need degrades our expeditionary capabilities and puts the warfighter at risk. Green IT significantly mitigates the possibility of degradation by reducing logistical requirements. Green IT is technology that increases energy efficiency and uses renewable energy sources, which extends a Marine unit’s sustainability in an expeditionary environment, making for a leaner, lighter force.

### Why is it important for the Marine Corps?

The Marine Corps is evolving in response to an operating environment characterized by declining budgets and widening battle-spaces (including cyberspace). To address these requirements, the Marine Corps must continue to find efficiencies within the Supporting Establishment while continuing to deliver services vital to the warfighter’s ability to effectively execute mission requirements.

Thoughtful and disciplined application of environmental practices, energy efficiency, renewable energy resources, and waste reduction can lower the cost of Information Technology (IT) and communication operations at the enterprise level, make us lighter and more agile by reducing our logistical footprint, demonstrate the Marine Corps commitment to good environmental stewardship, and comply with Federal, Department of Defense (DoD), and Department of the Navy (DON) policies and regulations regarding energy. Achieving these goals at the enterprise level as well as in the tactical environment requires an investment in and implementation of cost-effective technologies and processes to decrease overall energy consumption and deliver energy-efficient IT systems, products, and services to all Marine Corps users.

### What is the current status?

The USMC is identifying and evaluating energy efficient capabilities that can reduce risks to Marines and increase our combat effectiveness. The USMC is implementing several green initiatives including the use of alternative energy such as solar and wind that could save millions, lighten the load of forward deployed forces, reduce our environmental foot-print, and sustain the growing energy requirement for communications equipment. Technologies demonstrated at the Experimental Forward Operating Base (ExFOB) hosted in Twenty-nine Palms has been deployed to Afghanistan in support of forward deployed forces. One notable example is the Solar Portable Alternative Communications Energy System (SPACES). SPACES is a portable solar energy converter designed to tactically charge batteries and communications equipment like man portable radio systems as well as some systems within the Combat Operations Center (COC). In-theater success highlights over a seven month deployment included two patrol bases powered exclusively by solar power and a foot patrol operated for three weeks without battery resupply, due to solar powered battery rechargers that reduced their load by 700lbs. HQMC C4 is coordinating with Marine Corps Systems Command to deliver these capabilities to more forward deployed forces.

### What is next?

HQMC C4 will publish the Marine Corps Information Enterprise Roadmap. This document will detail specific implementation requirements, tasks, and policies needed to achieve MCIENT objectives. The roadmap will layout the Marine Corps’ way ahead for the Marine Corps Enterprise Network to include a cloud computing concept, data center consolidation, collaboration, cyber security, and Green IT.