Abstract

The United States Marine Corps will bring toughness and lessons learned from a 13-year desert fight into the next major combat operation (MCO) or small contingency. This Marine Corps proclivity for action is reflected in driven Marines, doctrine, the capstone document Expeditionary Force-21 (EF-21), and the personnel carriers or vehicles used by Marines to execute maneuver warfare from the sea. The principal component of the Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) is the Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), which is the smallest sea-based configuration of a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF). The MEU provides rapid crisis response from U.S. Navy ships. This research evaluates the MEU’s expeditionary amphibious assault capability and the use of ship-to-shore connectors (SSCs). It further analyzes potential tactics, techniques, and procedures in order to achieve increased operational effectiveness, while employing less operational energy.