

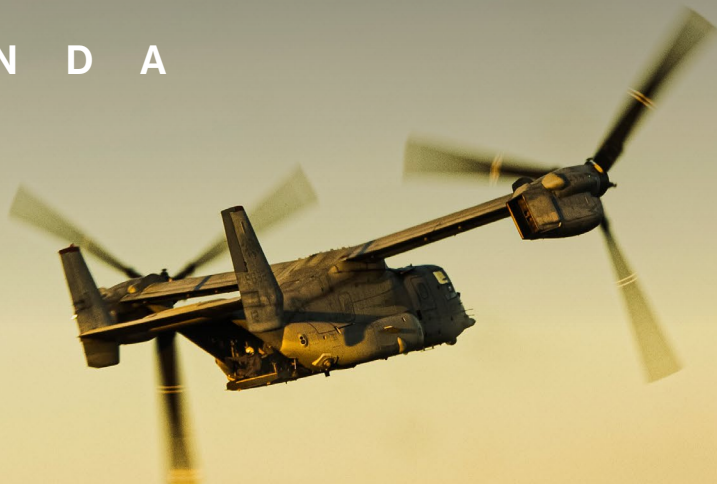
MARINE CORPS RESERVE ASSOCIATION

20

LEGISLATIVE

26

A G E N D A



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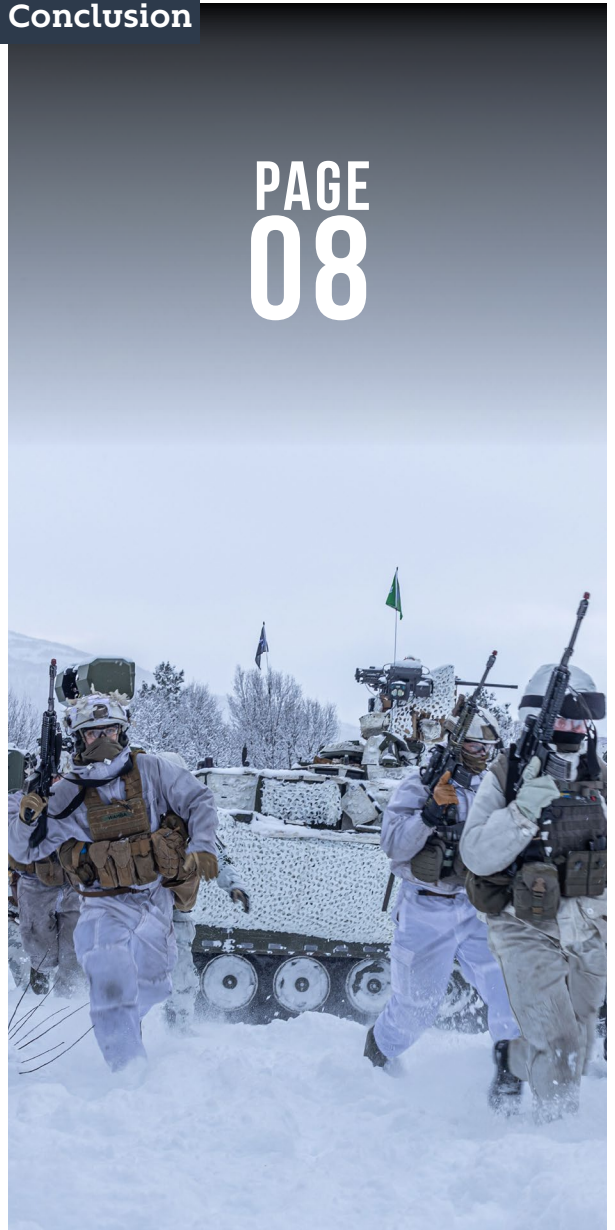
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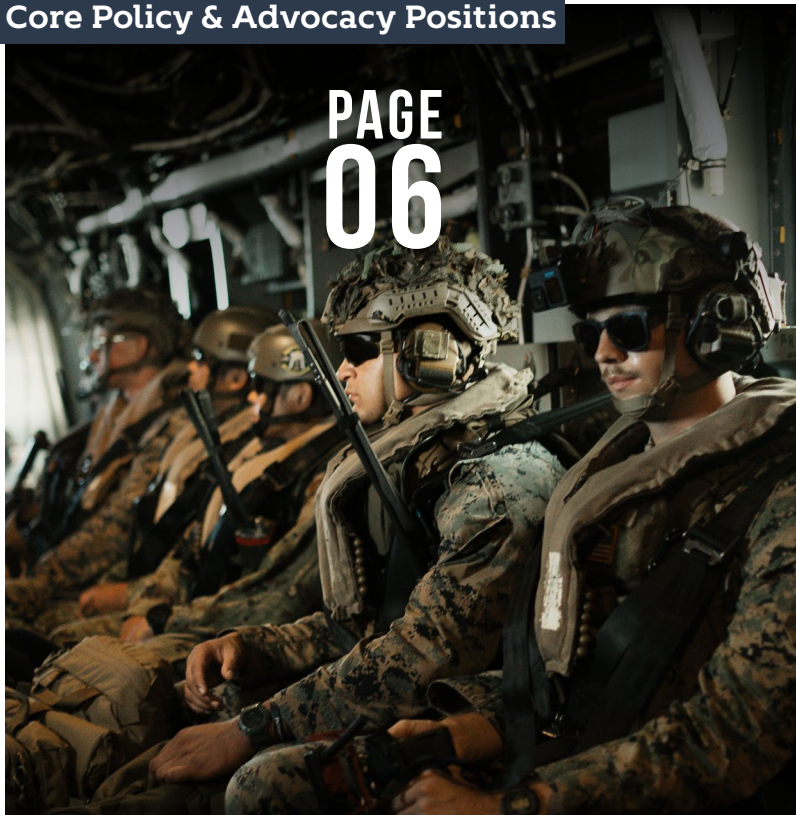
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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As we stand on the threshold of November 10, 2026, we do more than celebrate a century of the Marine Corps Reserve Association; we honor a century of unwavering advocacy for the 'Citizen-Marine'. Since 1926, this Association has been the voice in Washington ensuring that our Reserve Component remains the lethal, integrated, and strategic depth our Nation requires. Our 2026 Legislative Agenda—Comprehensive Readiness—is the culmination of this hundred-year legacy. By aligning our advocacy directly with the MARFORRES Campaign Plan, we ensure that today's as well the next century of Reserve Marines are equipped with the modernization parity and policy authorities necessary for peer conflict. We remain, as ever, Semper Fidelis to the Total Force.

”

Paul "Chopper" Hopper
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps (Ret)
President, CEO



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

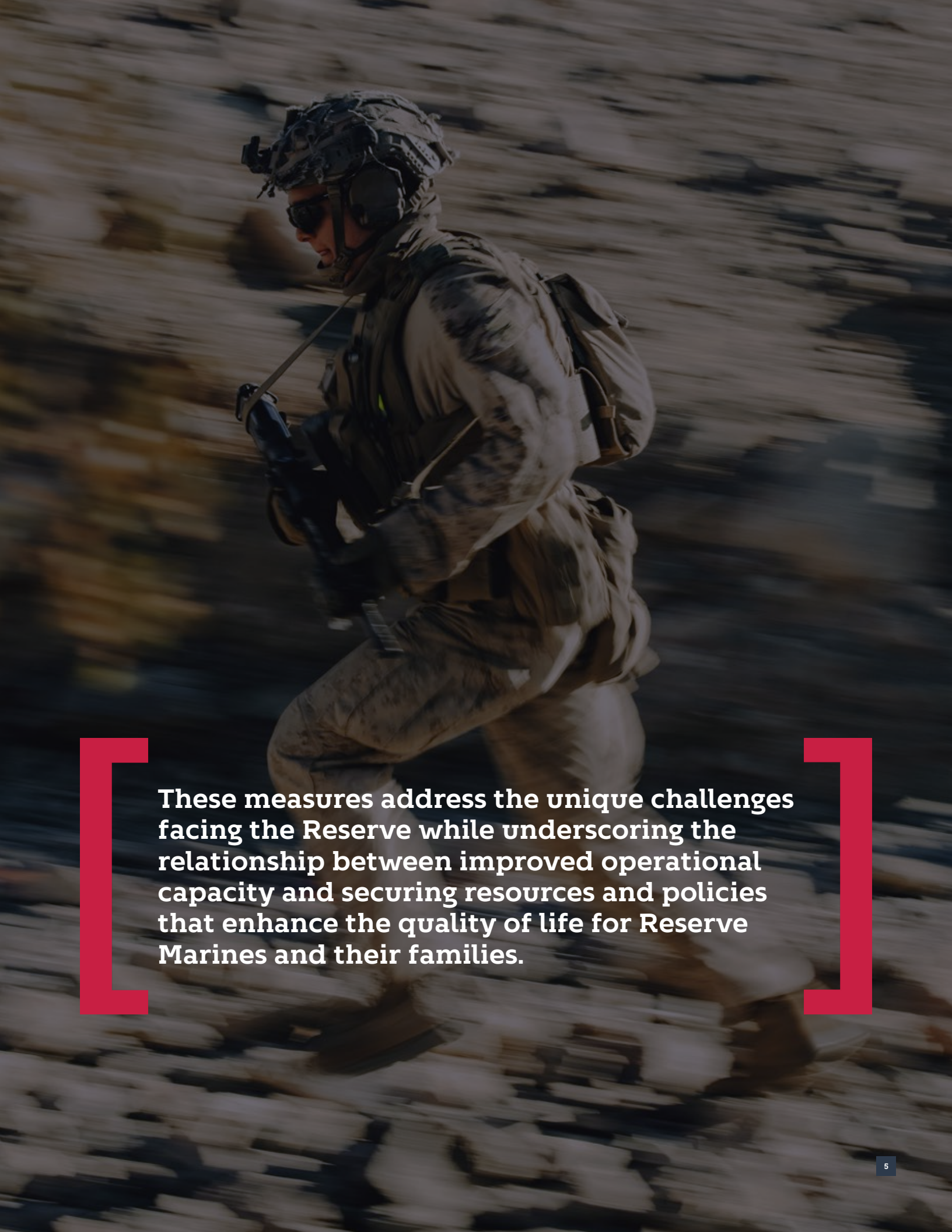


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The 100th Anniversary of the MCRA marks a pivotal moment in our mission to bridge the gap between policy and the 'Ready Edge'. This year, our focus is clear: we must reform outdated mobilization authorities and restore equipment funding to historic levels to ensure our Reserve Marines never enter a contested environment with inferior technology. The priorities outlined by Lieutenant General Anderson in the Comprehensive Readiness plan are not merely goals—they are requirements for national security. As we enter our second century, the MCRA remains committed to securing the resources for the 39 days of 'ruthless efficiency' that define the Reserve experience. We look forward to working with our legislative partners to sustain this lethal force for another hundred years.

”

Jeremy R. Williams, MPA.
U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)
Vice President of Legislative Affairs

A full-page background image showing a Marine in profile, running towards the left. The Marine is wearing a helmet with various attachments, goggles, and a tactical vest. The terrain is rocky and uneven, with a blurred background suggesting motion. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark layer, and a large red bracket on the left side frames the text.

These measures address the unique challenges facing the Reserve while underscoring the relationship between improved operational capacity and securing resources and policies that enhance the quality of life for Reserve Marines and their families.

CORE POLICY &

01 02

STRATEGIC READINESS AND MOBILIZATION REFORM

The MCRA advocates for a transition from a static reserve to a “Relevant-Ready-Responsive” force capable of immediate integration into the Total Force.

- **Title 10 §12304b Reform:**

Seeking policy adjustments to remove duration restrictions on Reserve deployments to increase operational agility.

- **Predictable Resourcing:**

Supporting the Commandant of the Marine Corps’ (CMC) triennial employment model to ensure a budgeted and repeatable “ready edge” for peer conflict.

- **Mobilization Agility:**

Advocating for streamlined staff processes and authorities to reduce the traditional 60-day mobilization delay, which is no longer viable in the modern threat environment.

TALENT MANAGEMENT AND END STRENGTH

Personnel readiness is identified as the primary detractor from comprehensive readiness.

- **End Strength Targets:**

Championing the resources required to reach a target end strength of 33,600 to 36,800 Marines.

- **Direct Affiliation Program (DAP):**

Seeking expanded funding to ensure Marines transitioning from Active Duty can seamlessly join the Reserve, retaining critical experience.

- **Retention Incentives:**

Advocating for increased affiliation bonuses and a culture of mentorship to mitigate attrition.

ADVOCACY POSITIONS

03

TRAINING EFFICIENCY AND MODERNIZATION

With only 39 days available annually for training, the MCRA supports “ruthless efficiency” in resource allocation.

- **IDT Travel Stipends:**

Pushing to increase the Inactive Duty Training travel stipend from \$500 to a minimum of \$750 to reduce out-of-pocket costs and improve retention.

- **NGREA Parity:**

Seeking a return to historic National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation (NGREA) levels (approximately 7%) to ensure equipment parity with the Active Component.

- **Force Design 2030 Alignment:**

Emphasizing flexibility in funding to acquire advanced platforms, such as Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), essential for modern maritime conflict.

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QUALITY OF LIFE

- **Family Support:**

Supporting legislation that ensures continuity of mental health resources and healthcare for Reserve Marines and their families during the critical transition from active service to civilian life.

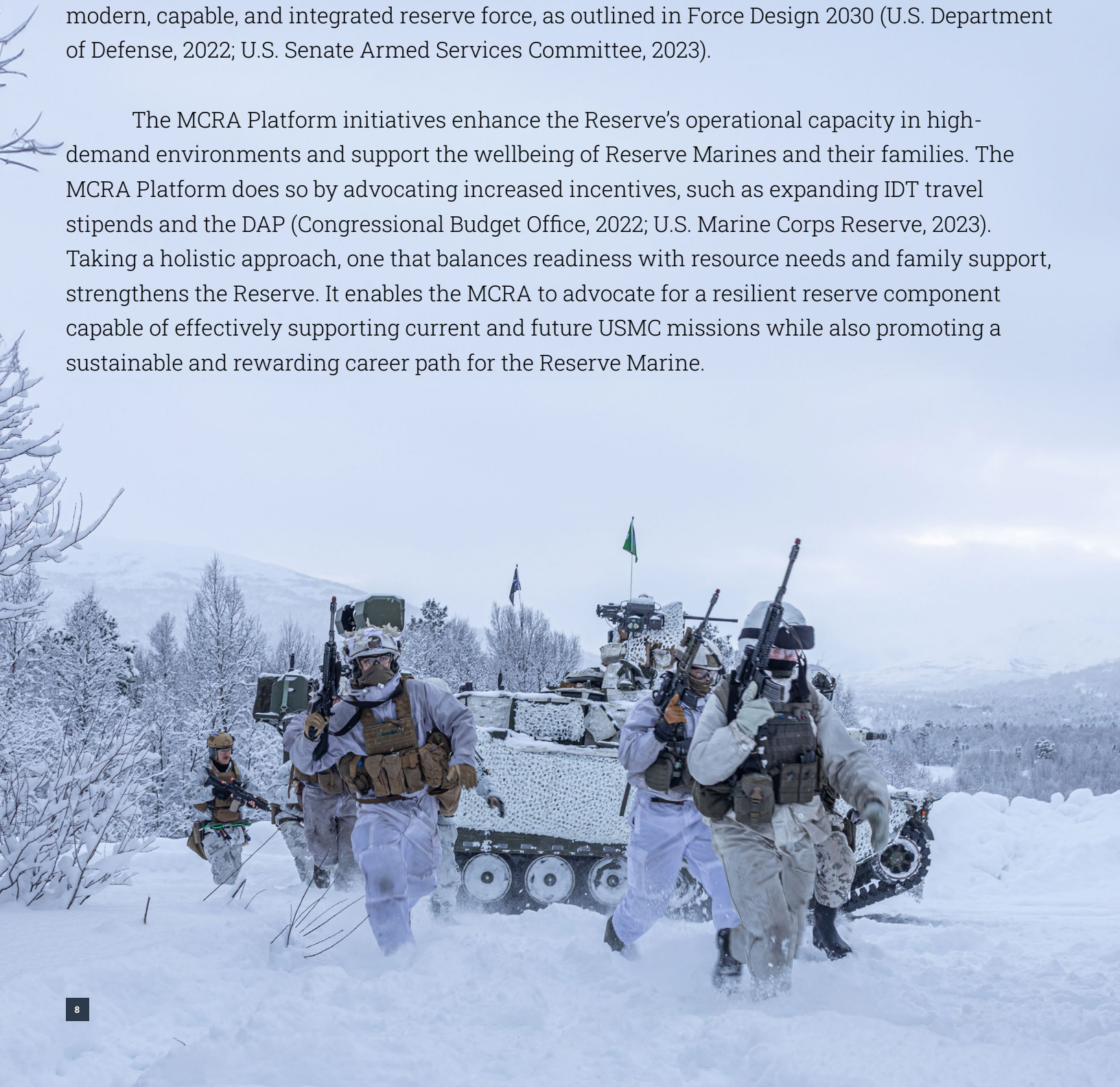
- **Technological Integration:**

Encouraging the exploration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to modernize staff workflows and maximize limited training time.

CONCLUSION

The MCRA 2026 Legislative Advocacy Platform aims to strengthen the Reserve by addressing key resource, recruitment, and readiness challenges. Through targeted advocacy for increased NGREA funding, flexibility in equipment acquisitions, and essential policy adjustments for reserve mobilization, the MCRA Platform aligns with the CMC's vision of a modern, capable, and integrated reserve force, as outlined in Force Design 2030 (U.S. Department of Defense, 2022; U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, 2023).

The MCRA Platform initiatives enhance the Reserve's operational capacity in high-demand environments and support the wellbeing of Reserve Marines and their families. The MCRA Platform does so by advocating increased incentives, such as expanding IDT travel stipends and the DAP (Congressional Budget Office, 2022; U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, 2023). Taking a holistic approach, one that balances readiness with resource needs and family support, strengthens the Reserve. It enables the MCRA to advocate for a resilient reserve component capable of effectively supporting current and future USMC missions while also promoting a sustainable and rewarding career path for the Reserve Marine.



The MCRA 2026 Legislative Advocacy Platform aims to strengthen the Marine Corps Reserve by addressing key resource, recruitment, and readiness challenges.



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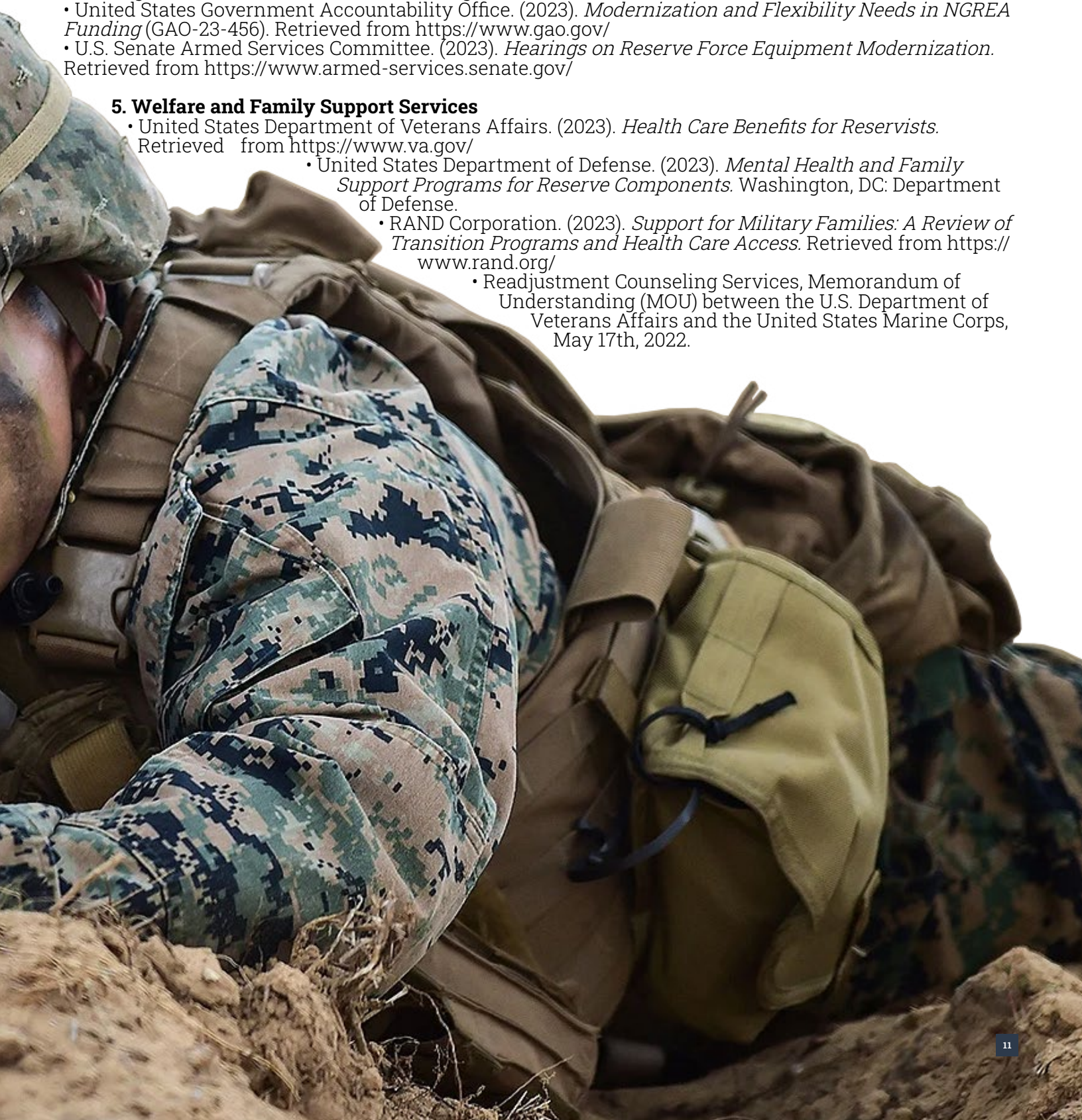
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