

## ***MV-22 Osprey***

### ***Discussion***

Today the Marine Corps stands on the threshold of a revolutionary capability employing 21<sup>st</sup> century technology. Recognizing the tremendous operational advantages of tilt-rotor technology, the Corps has championed the development of this innovative aircraft. The impact of this capability will be as far-reaching as was the Marine Corps' introduction of helicopters on the battlefield of the Korean War. In December 1994, the Secretary of Defense announced the decision to replace the CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter with the MV-22 Osprey. The new tilt-rotor aircraft has greater speed, range, and payload. It will carry 24 combat-loaded Marines, enabling the MAGTF to exploit its combat power and effectively execute EMW well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Strategically mobile, the Osprey is capable of global self-deployment with its aerial refueling ability. The combination of range, speed, and payload of the MV-22 nearly triples the depth of a MAGTF's present day area of influence. This significantly complicates an enemy's defensive requirements and inhibits the enemy's opportunity to concentrate forces. The superior combat radius of this aircraft allows Navy ships to maintain adequate standoff distance from enemy anti-ship missiles, enhanced observation devices, underwater mines, and other developing threats. In today's volatile environment, the expeditionary Marine Corps is the most capable and cost-effective option among deployable conventional forces. The arrival of the MV-22 in the Marine operating forces will provide the flexibility needed to prevail against the increasing uncertainty of future aggressors.

### ***Marine Corps Position***

The acquisition of the MV-22 represents a tremendous improvement in the Corps' ability to project power from over-the-horizon to inland objectives. The MV-22 remains the Marine Corps' number one aviation acquisition priority.

