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How are Marines assigned their RCLF region?

ENLISTED. RCLF region assignments for Active Component Sergeants began on 1 October 2012 and for the Reserve Component on 1 May 2013. Due to the number of Marines promoted to Sergeant each month, CAOCL coordinates with Marine Corps Total Force Structure (MCTFS) and Manpower Information System Support Activity (MISSA) in Kansas City, Missouri, to develop an automated process to ensure all newly promoted Sergeants are assigned a RCLF region. This process assigns RCLF regions based on an algorithm which factors the current, mid-range, and long-term Marine Corps operational commitments and contingencies. This algorithm was first developed in the spring of 2013 and is updated on a biennial basis.

OFFICER. CAOCL provides allotments for all RCLF regions to The Basic School (TBS) for each company. The TBS Company staff assigns each Lieutenant and Warrant Officer a region IAW the allotment provided, and returns the roster to CAOCL Admin for assignment in MCTFS.

CAOCL understands that the nature of RCLF region assignments for Sergeants cannot take into consideration personal knowledge, skills, or experience found in many of our Marines. Therefore, CAOCL developed a process that helps to assign Marines the most compatible RCLF region while still meeting the operational needs of the Service. The *Change of Region Request Form*—which can be found on the CAOCL website <https://www.mcu.usmc.mil/caocl/SitePages/rclf.aspx> -allows a Marine to justify why he or she should be re-assigned to a particular region. For example, if a Marine was assigned to the South America region but that Marine spent several years living and working in North Africa prior to entering the Marine Corps and is fluent in Modern Standard Arabic, then the Marine could complete a *Change of Region Request Form* and submit it to CAOCL Admin if he or she wishes to continue to build upon that previous experience instead of learning about another region. MARSOC Critical Skills Operators may use their MOS designator as justification for a RCLF region change request.

CAOCL reviews all Change of Region Requests on a monthly basis alongside current assignment numbers across the Marine Corps, and strives to “right-size” Marine assignments across all 17 regions by rank. CAOCL considers the strength of the justification alongside service-wide assignment numbers and attempts to facilitate a “win-win” scenario by granting each Marine’s request when practicable, while also considering the needs of the service. This means however, that there are times when it is not beneficial to the Marine Corps to grant every change requested (as is often the case with the regions of Central and South America). Marines should not assume therefore, that a request submitted has been approved until they see their RCLF region changed in MOL.

For additional information or clarification, contact CAOCL at (703) 432-1504 or CAOCLAdmin@usmc.mil.