INTRA/INTERSERVICE POLITICS

Six services at least: USA, USN, USMC, USAF, USCG, Spec-Ops

I. Let’s start with USMC because I am trying to live my life according to real Marine Motto - Read less/Run more

No one else has an USMC

It is hugely successful politically – you have to admire if you believe in bureaucratic competition. National institution like Notre Dame (FBI). Success is largely due to US Army.

Founded November 10, 1775 (Congress voted to create 2 battalions of Marines to invade Nova Scotia — it didn't happen).

USMC Missions

1. Ship Guards 1789 - to protect ship officers from men
2. Guard Naval Installations 1800 - rational for barracks system, shore jobs
3. Expeditionary Infantry — 1900 our colonial enforcers - first in the Philippines; 4th Marines left Shanghai in 1941
4. Amphibious Assault Force — 1910 advances bases for Navy, FMF in 1930s, WWII

Still linger
1. Naval Reformist tried to kill. T. Roosevelt tried to kill in 1908, Congress reversed. finally off in 1990s
2. Shipyards opposed; came off gates in 1990s, but FAST
3. Colonial troops - State Dept. falls in love; embassy guards
4. Amphibious - army tries to kill after WWII; force structure written into law 1952; Inchon last opposed and done with only 1/3 of a division plus Army

USMC is Creation of US Army

⇒ WWII more than 40 Army division and two Brigades of Marines
⇒ WWII Army keeps USMC out of Europe; does more landings; develops combat engineer brigades
⇒ post WWII Truman says its just Navy's police force but with a propaganda machine exceeded only by Stalin
⇒ Korea MacArthur again/ Douglas Mansfield Act (3 plus 1). Histories imply USMC did better, but not so.
Vietnam - Army sends to border as far from HQ and press as possible; AF tries to take air component away. Marines generate a story that they had the answer but Army ignored them.

Gulf - 80K Marines, 275K soldiers
- 293 TV broadcasts versus 271 for Army
- 75 broadcasts in WP versus 61 for Army
- 37 on ABC versus 19 for Army

Medal for a soldier who took film back; Army refused to let reporters along; Boomer put in HQ. Truman said Marine Squad 10 riflemen and a PR agent

Currently argument that 20% of capability at 3% of cost - but V-22; F-35B, AAAV, lightweight 155; LHAs, LPHs

II. US ARMY

Lots of rivals, but internally focused. Operational success depends on combined arms effort. The Brotherhood of combat arms. No one out in front/showing off. Status within. No branch insignia for general officers. Decisions by committee.

Happy to rid itself of USAF - taking glory and money. Never protests relationship as Marines always do with Navy

Bad relations with Guard (Congress/amateurs), USMC (Congress/PR), Spec Ops (Congress) but doesn't care.

Broke back of support corps in WWII and Cold War. Corps of Engineers only one left — got Environmental and Army green.

Cares mostly about numbers, not equipment (USAF eats its $)

Likes faithful servant notion but its internally focused - operational army tries to get away from Congress — HQ in late 19th Century.

PR examples - CofS runs during lunch hour; Vice refuses to go to Capitol Hill; Singing sergeants. Pride in its awkwardness.

III. US Navy
A separate DOD - own Air Force and Army, nuclear weapons, auxiliaries. Own language and ranks. Own enemies - Royal Navy, Japanese in WWII. Contrast with Soviets - their 5th service (air was under general, small naval infantry), USN built it into global menace.

Decentralized - really three parts: air, surface, submarine. Lives with balance fleet - everyone gets share; internally competitive.

Decentralization kept aviation in and attached.

Fights unification and jointness.

No single officer in charge until WWII. One Navy pennant. Baronies were nearly killed by Admiral Owens, but they can't be killed.

Everyone belongs to the same Church — literally. Dominated by USNA. Only one CNO not from USNA and he killed himself.

No competition today; 10x next fleet which is its faithful companion. Contest in the past with Royal Navy from birth, 19th Century, Hero Teddy Roosevelt, WWI, Naval treaties in 1920s (1 to 1 ratio), WWII, founding of NATO. Now Royal Navy is a part of fleet. Everyone speaks USN.

No rival except USAF. Like USAF has big contractor following. Seapower is all maritime industry, works together to support USN. No ship less than $1 billion. Carriers $5.

Accepts politics. Kills traditions for ships. Battleships for states, but then SSBNs, CGNs, SSNs. Never an admiral to run for president (12 generals) but many served recently. But all except naval aviator since 1920s have built carriers.

Lehman forces goal of 600 after retirement of WWII fleet, but actually more because Navy counts funny. Bid out ports. Webb quit when 600 ships Navy stopped at 594.

Seabased strike big challenge for USAF.

**IV. US Air Force**

Has answer - avoid slog through enemy on ground. Costly in lives, but it is the answer. WWI - source of faith, but only USAF and Royal try. In WWII 8th AF lost tens of thousands, killed hundreds of thousands. Korea. Vietnam. But Still it was the answer - Gulf War, Serbia/Kosovo, Gulf War II.
Pilots - really Bomber generals in charge, but now fighters. Vietnam made fighter pilots out of all but then really still bombers. Missile guys used to drop out at MG. The C-141 Weapon System.

Lives well.

Likes technology. Aviation industry until recently was 50% dependent upon government (military). Big ticket projects. F-35, FA-22, C-17 plus space.

Most purple, likes jointness. Lots of staff officers. Has centralizing intent. Air Component Commander.

Challenges are Space/ UAVs but are they really? → Same idea.

V. US Coast Guard

5th largest fleet; 12th largest AF

50 Frigates. The Navy’s little brother. Happy to go to whatever war Navy fights. WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf. But now Navy doesn't have much else to do.

VI. Special Operations

Has own budget; Secretary. R&D

How big 30K?

JOINTNESS

Like the United Way - no choices.

Neglected missions. No end to servicism. No problem except for civilians.