

# Corps seeks new tents for arctic conditions

## 15-man shelters would protect Marines at minus-40 degrees

By James K. Sanborn  
jsanborn@militarytimes.com

The Marine Corps is shopping for new cold-weather tents to replace the model it's used since the Korean War.

"The objective is to replace the vintage 1950s 10-man arctic tent with a free-standing 15-man arctic shelter that uses technologically advanced materials to reduce bulk and weight, while increasing capacity and overall efficiency," said 1st Lt. Jamie Larson, a spokeswoman at Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico, Va.

Officials plan to procure 2,324 new tents and field them within the next three years.

MARCORSYSCOM's request to

the defense industry paints the picture of a robust tent able to keep a rifle squad — plus two — operating even on the coldest battlefield. The wish list includes:

**Temperature range:** From 125 degrees to minus-40 degrees Fahrenheit, making it deployable to the Arctic or the desert.

For comparison, some warmer areas along the Antarctic coast average about minus-18 degrees.

**Size and weight:** About 6 feet tall with 305 square feet of floor space. That's about 2½ feet shorter than the current tent, with about 100 square feet more room overall. It should weigh as little as 51 pounds, but no more than

### 2,324

Number of tents the Corps plans to buy to replace 1950s vintage arctic tents

76 pounds, making it the same or lighter than the current cotton tent.

**Weather resistance:** Robust enough to withstand 55 mph sustained winds with 65 mph gusts; repel up to 2 inches of rain per hour in 30 mph winds for at least 15 minutes; withstand heavy snow, up to four pounds per square foot, without collapsing.

**Setup:** Three Marines wearing cold-weather gear should be able to tackle it within 15 minutes.

**Structure:** Needs to have two doors on opposite sides so it can be attached to other tents for scalability.

While the Arctic may seem far



PHOTO COURTESY OF DRASH

**The Marine Corps is searching for a new arctic shelter to replace the Korean War-era tent still in use today. Marine officials are planning to modify a commercially available product like DRASH's 14-man arctic tent, pictured here with woodland camouflage. DRASH says it intends to compete for the contract.**

removed from the desert battlefields where most Marines have deployed in recent years, the Corps has waged battle in the coldest of temperatures.

During the Korean War, for instance, Marines and soldiers fought with the North Korean and Chinese militaries in temperatures that reached 37 degrees below zero. Many died from exposure because of inadequate equipment and shelter.

MARCORSYSCOM issued a similar request to the defense industry in 2006 and again in 2009 and 2010, but it's not immediately clear why Marine officials never moved forward on the acquisition. Some of the desired specs have since fluctuated over time, however.

Two years ago, for instance, officials asked that the next cold-weather shelter withstand winds up to 70 mph and temperatures down to minus 70. □

# MILITARY IS OUR MIDDLE NAME.

 American Military University

**Cory Will | GySgt, USMC | Student, School of Security & Global Studies**

Our military roots run deep. From Camp Lejeune to Afghanistan, AMU is dedicated to educating those who serve. With access to quality courses, unrivaled support, and a book grant for undergraduates, we stand behind our community—60,000 military members strong.

**Learn More at [www.amuonline.com/marine-times](http://www.amuonline.com/marine-times)**

Some photos courtesy of the DoD.

Art & Humanities | Business | Education | Management | Public Safety & Health | Science & Technology | Security & Global Studies