

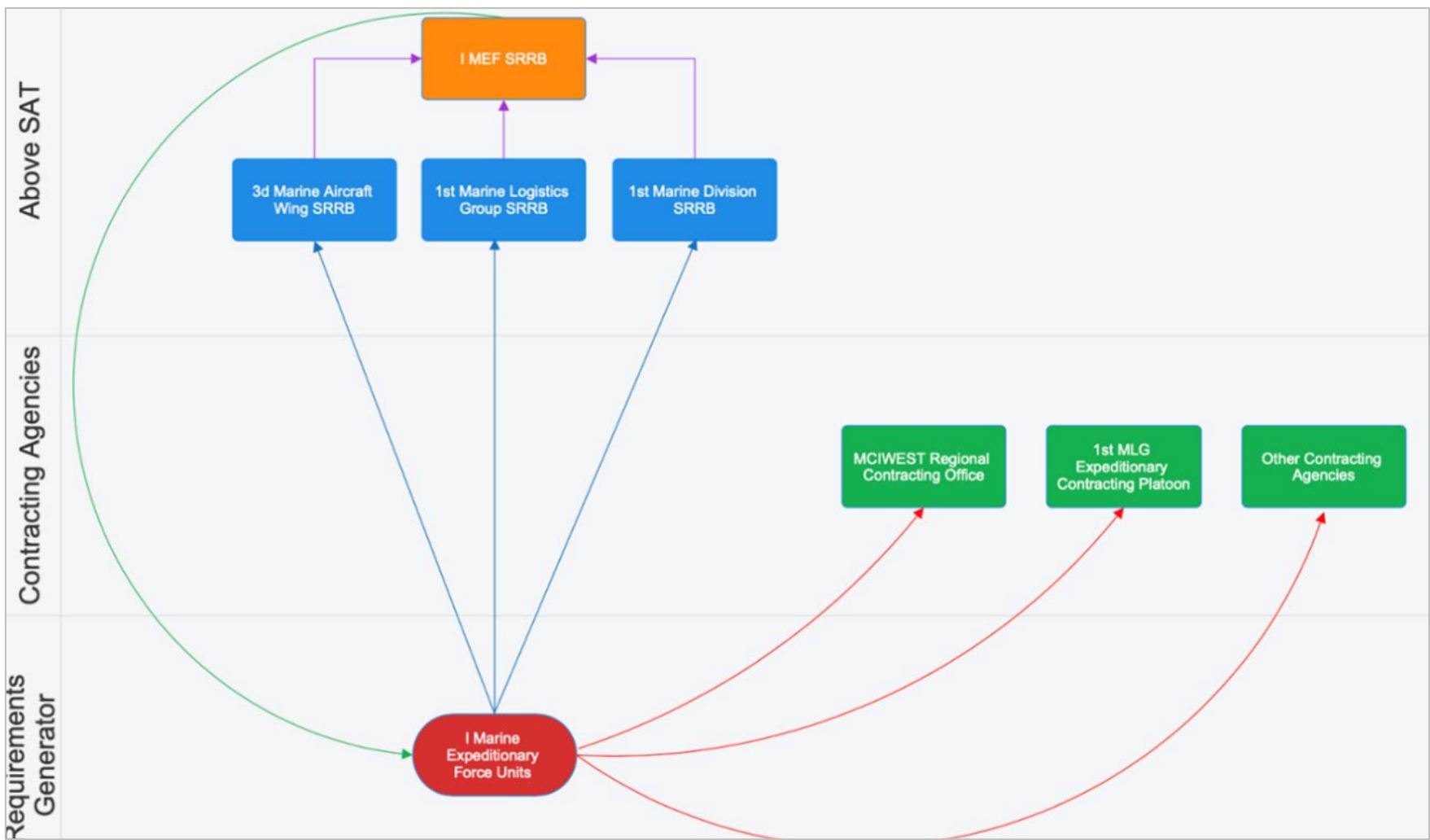
# Optimizing Requirements Definition and Contract Management Processes in I Marine Expeditionary Force



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## Abstract

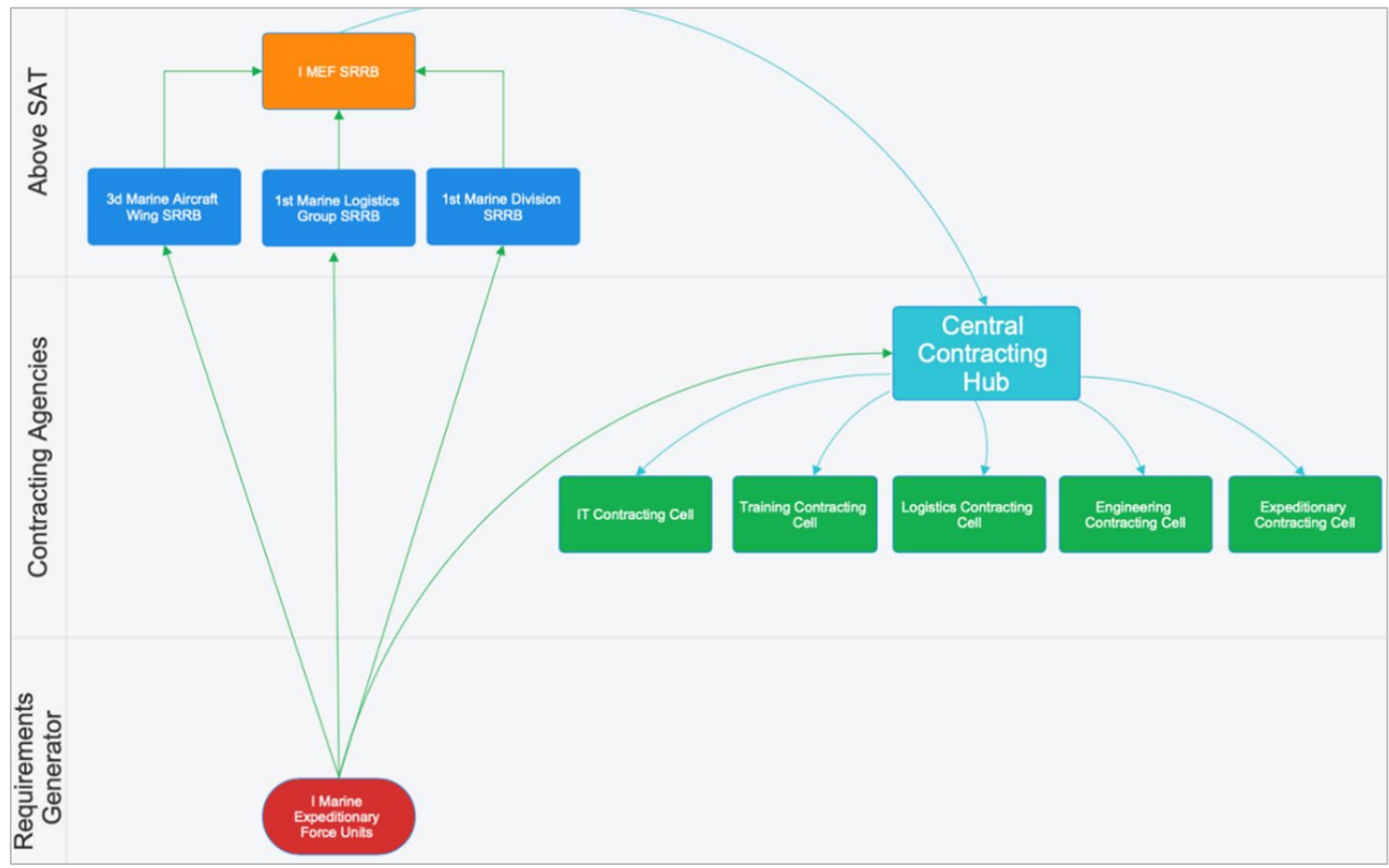
Contracting for services within the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) is a vital force multiplier that enhances I MEF capability to conduct garrison and deployment operations. Due to the similar and recurring nature of requirements across I MEF there exist opportunities to optimize contracting processes to limit redundancy and achieve better contract outcomes. Current processes within I MEF limit the identification of consolidation opportunities, analysis of requirements, best-value contracts, and potential cost savings. This project evaluates existing I MEF contracting processes, focusing on contracts exceeding the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT), through semi-structured interviews with key personnel and analysis of the existing processes using process mapping.



Current I MEF MCFCS Process Map.

## Methods

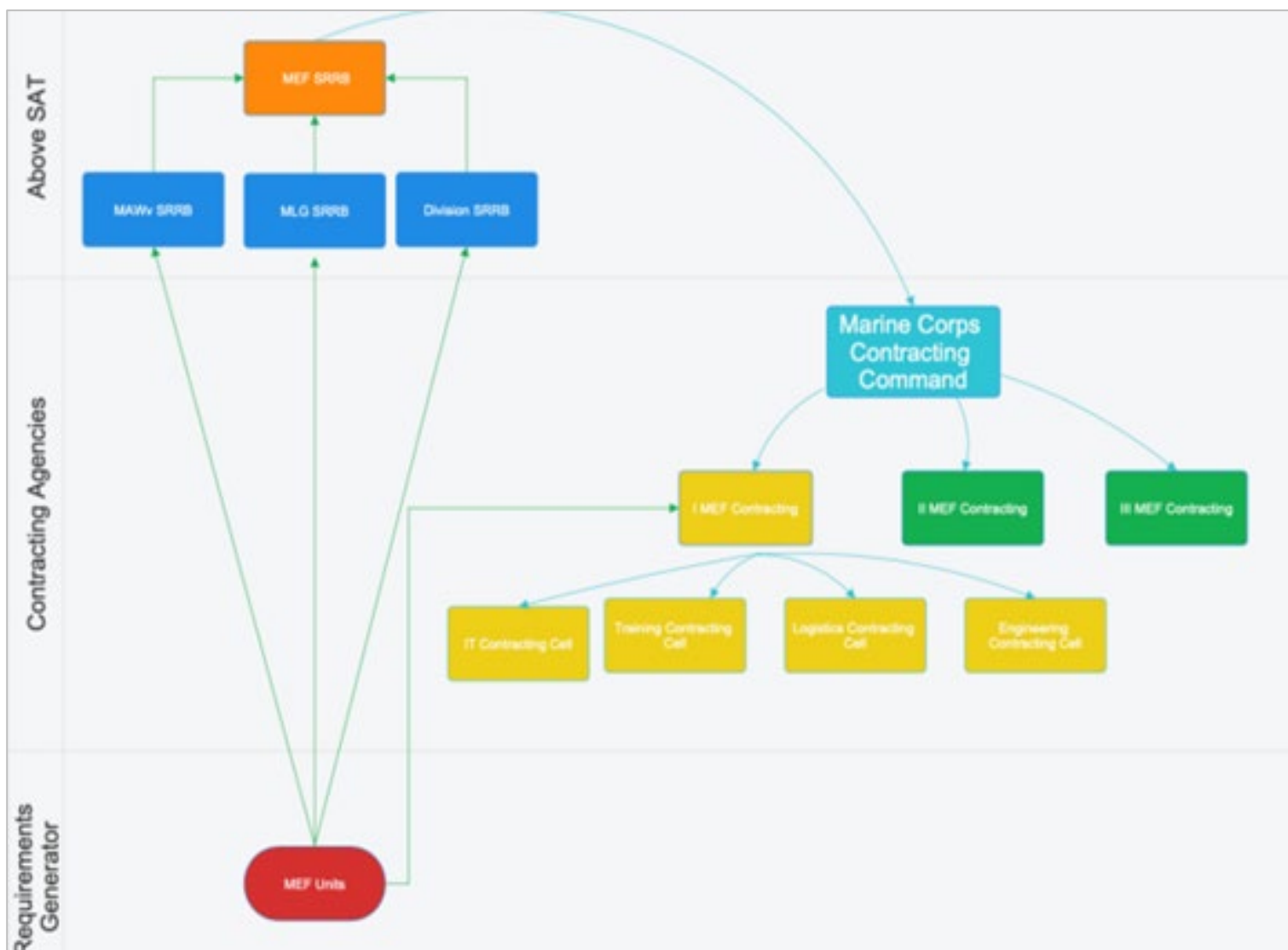
The research used a qualitative approach study including interviews of I MEF contracting members. The first step was conducting interviews and collecting data to include organizational structures, personnel, policies, procedures and responsibilities of each contracting activity within I MEF. Data collection also included historical data from the previous SRRB, and the results of the current SRRB. The next step was an analysis of the interview questions and analysis of contract data.



Recommended I MEF MCFCS Process Map

## Results & Their Impact

The development of a process map identified gaps in the overall reconciliation process of contract requirements across I MEF. Due to the personnel and resource limitations across the contracting agencies, the ability to reconcile and analyze contracting requirements was limited. Additionally, due to the authority limitations and command structure of the Marine Corps, there is no central office with the appropriate authority to manage and reconcile contracting requirements within I MEF or across the force. Contract requirement reconciliation is a major gap in I MEF contracting, limiting the MEF's ability to identify consolidation opportunities and conserve resources. The data exists, but current structures and personnel shortfalls within I MEF do not allow for analysis to create potential consolidation efforts.



Ideal MCFCS Process Map

## Recommendations

The authors recommend that a centralized contracting integration hub within I MEF be established to analyze requirements, identify consolidation opportunities, and develop standardized practices. The authors developed a process map using this recommendation which would enable the contracting integration hub to pursue optimization efforts and provide oversight on all contracting matters in I MEF.

