



The Commandant's Statement on the National Security Act

"I want to make it entirely clear that I, personally, am committed to making the unification of the armed forces work, and that the officers and men of the Marine Corps are likewise so committed.

"In the planning of any operation or course of action there is room for healthy differences of opinion. My staff officers have often disagreed in a planning stage. Once a final decision has been reached, however, it becomes the duty of each member of the staff to carry out wholeheartedly the course of action decided upon. Likewise, it now becomes the duty of each member of every service to carry out the decision reached in this matter to the best of his ability.

"Marines opposed the original provisions of the bill which they thought allowed elimination of the Marine Corps by unreviewed administrative action. They did not oppose the basic principle of unification.

"The Congress has made it clear that the Marine Corps will continue in its mission under unification, and that is all we ever asked. The planning stage is past and the final decision has been made.

"It is now the duty of every Marine to carry out not only the letter but the spirit of the unification law. By virtue of the extensive experience we have had in joint operations, the Marine Corps has a unique and valuable background for cooperation with all services. We are prepared to cooperate to the utmost, and intend to do so wholeheartedly."

A. A. VANDEGRIFT
General, U. S. Marine Corps,