



HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARINE CORPS AVIATION

On the 50th anniversary of Marine Corps Aviation, all Marines join in viewing with pride the record of progress and solid achievement of Marine Aviation. It is a splendid record and at all times in keeping with the finest traditions of our Corps.

The deeds of Marine pilots during World War I, in Nicaragua, during World War II, and during the Korean conflict are an inspiration to all Marines.

The record shows the evolution of the Marine air-ground team, the development of close air support, the development of air defense capability, the progress in the air control system, the attainment of helicopter assault lift capability, and, most strikingly, the continuing development of all the aviation functions required to support our Fleet Marine Forces. It is a brilliant record of accomplishment, and it is a record that will continue on into the future.

To all who have contributed to the record in the past and to those who have yet to make their contributions, I extend my deepest appreciation and my warmest personal regards.

DAVID M. SHOUP
General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps