



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

COMMANDANT'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE - 10 NOVEMBER 1963

Today, 10 November 1963, the 188th anniversary of the founding of our Corps, finds Marines around the world poised and ready as always to perform our traditional role as the Nation's amphibious force-in-readiness.

Our traditions as professional fighting men are founded on a heritage of service, selfless loyalty, and past achievements. While we are justifiably proud of past accomplishments, we realize that the gallant men of yesterday cannot assure our freedom of tomorrow. Therefore, we can be equally proud of our Corps as it stands today, prepared to strike hard and fast when the need arises.

I am confident that Marines will meet the challenges of the future with the same high sense of valor, loyalty, and steadfast determination which has characterized our Corps since its earliest beginnings nearly 200 years ago. A Marine Corps strong in heart, strong in spirit, and strong in arms is the best assurance of preserving the heritage passed on to us by generations of Marines since 1775.

To all Marines throughout the world, and to all Marine families, on the 188th anniversary of our beloved Corps, I extend my heartiest congratulations and my very best wishes.

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