

NEWS



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Gen L. F. Chapman, Jr. Named Commandant

A WWII artillery officer who has kept pace with the expanding technology of waging war, particularly in the field of automation, is the 24th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Gen Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. moves into the Corps top management billet and a seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff from the post of Assistant CMC. He was Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr.'s Chief of Staff for 3½ years and was the motivating force behind the Corps' front-running position in automated military management. His views on the subject and its application to Marine Corps operations appeared in the October 67 issue of the GAZETTE.

Congress confirmed the President's nomination without pause for the traditional four-year term (unique among the four services). Senator Mike Mansfield, a former Marine, said the President made "the best possible choice which time will prove wise."

Senator Thurmond expressed his confidence that "he will make one of the finest Commandants the Marine Corps has ever had."

Senator Smathers noted that he and the new CMC attended the same school at the same time: the University of Florida.

The new Commandant was the recipient of the Armed Forces Management Association Merit Award in 1967 for "outstanding accomplishment in professional management."

Named to Assistant CMC was LtGen Lewis W. Walt. His successor as Deputy CofS for Manpower has not been named.

Gen Greene who leaves the Corps after 37 years service received the Distinguished Service Medal from President Johnson prior to his retirement.

Grace Period For Insurance

Servicemen now being discharged from active duty have the protection of their National Servicemen's Group Life Insurance policies extended for 180 days at no cost to them. During that period they are entitled to apply for and receive their private life insurance at regular rates, regardless of any disabilities they have incurred in the service. They may apply to any of more than 500 commercial insurance companies which participate in the program.

Message From 24th CMC

As we enter the new year, our Marine Corps is meeting one of the greatest combat challenges of its 192 years. And each of us is faced with a great personal challenge, no less demanding.

This is not new for our Corps, nor is it new for Marines who give it life.

Since 1775 Marines have been characterized by a drive to get ahead with the job at hand. Perhaps this attitude is best expressed by the purpose of the Marine Corps Association, which is to consider thoughtfully "matters which will advance knowledge, interest and esprit in the Marine Corps."

As there is courage in thoughtfulness—in honestly seeking knowledge—so we see in freedom's purpose in Vietnam today, one of history's best examples of thoughtful courage. Never have Marines been sent to fight in a more complex and difficult situation and environment. And never have Marines fought with more professionalism, courage and esprit.

Challenge stimulates us and change intrigues us. This is the hallmark of our Corps. Tradition is the firm foundation on which we build.

I assume the duties of Commandant of the Marine Corps with the full confidence that we shall continue to build together—with boldness and with thoughtfulness—in this strong and spirited Marine Corps in which we serve.

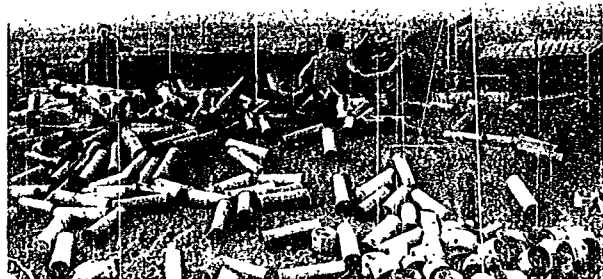
/s/ L. F. Chapman, Jr.
General, U.S. Marine Corps.

Retroactive Pay Raise

The 5.6% military pay raise bill, retroactive to 1 Oct, was signed into law by President Johnson on 16 Dec 1967 in time for the "bonus" to be distributed prior to Christmas.

Anticipating the formal approval, SecNav authorized Naval Service disbursing offices to prepare to distribute the checks before the actual signing, enabling them to make the distribution immediately following the official approval.

Sen W. Morse (D-Oreg.) commented on the raise, indicating he felt that even with the raise the military was underpaid.



Battery E, 2/12 provides fire support for 1/1 near Con Thien. A former 12th Marines Commander is the new Commandant of the Marine Corps.