

## Commandant's 1970 Armed Forces Day Message

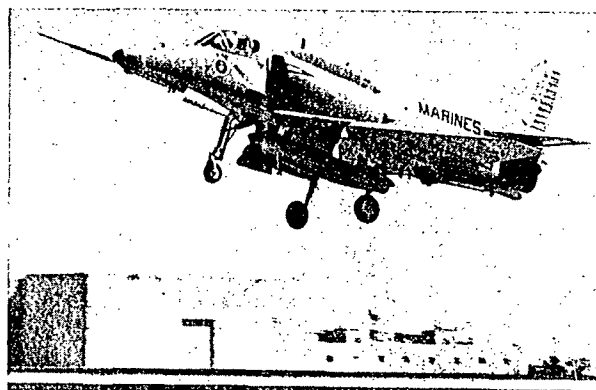
Nearly two centuries ago the American people began to live a hope. It was a hope based on the idea that all citizens could share in the wealth of a peaceful nation if all citizens were willing to accept the responsibility of that nation's defense.

The future of that early hope is now our history. It is a good history, rich in the proof of men and women willing to serve.

Now, on Armed Forces Day 1970, Marines—indeed all servicemen in the uniform of this country—continue in the established tradition of dedicated service. Individually and collectively they accept the responsibility of this nation's defense.

I ask all Americans to carefully inspect this service, to acknowledge this dedication and to demonstrate their belief in the men and women who continue to accept this responsibility.

**L. F. CHAPMAN JR.**  
General, U. S. Marine Corps



The Marine Corps' newest Skyhawk, the A-4M.

## More Versatile A-4M Skyhawk To Enter Corps Inventory

The A-4M, newest light attack aircraft for the U.S. Marine Corps, flew for the first time on 10 April. The small but rugged jet is the most powerful of the Skyhawk series of military aircraft.

During its one-hour maiden flight to checkout characteristics and major systems, the A-4M flew to an altitude of 30,000 feet and reached a top speed of about Mach .9.

Designed for operation from carriers or from forward area bases, the A-4M is 40.3 feet long, 15 feet high and has a wingspan of 27.5 feet. It weighs 10,600 pounds empty, 24,500 pounds loaded and can carry 8,200 pounds of all types of modern tactical armament. Deliveries of the new aircraft are scheduled to commence next fall.

The A-4M contains a number of improvements over its immediate predecessor, the A-4F attack bomber built for the Navy and over other Skyhawk versions in service with the Marine Corps and Navy.

Chief among the advances is a new and more powerful Pratt & Whitney engine—the J52-P-408A—rated at 11,200 pounds of thrust. Engine thrust previously had grown from 7,700 pounds in earlier Skyhawk models to 9,300 pounds in the most recent A-4F. The additional power increases the rate of climb and acceleration, improves combat maneuverability with a full weapon load and enhances the short-field takeoff capability of the A-4M.

Another new Skyhawk feature, a ribbon-type drag chute, combines with wing-lift spoilers to improve short-field landing performance, making the aircraft the first of the series with combat operational capability from 4,000-foot landing fields.

A larger windscreen and pilot canopy provide greater headroom and visibility. These features, combined with the higher performance of the A-4M, are expected to improve its impressive record of combat survivability.

Other A-4M changes include a greater ammunition capacity for the two internally mounted 20mm guns, a more powerful generator and a self-contained engine starter.

Skyhawk attack versions operated by the Marine Corps include the A-4A, A-4B, A-4C and A-4E. In addition, the Marine Corps has used the two-seat TA-4F jet trainer model in both training and tactical configurations. More than 2,400 Skyhawks of all models have been produced since the aircraft was introduced into Navy service in 1956.

## 'Over 20' Policy for Staff NCOs

Staff NCOS, including E-8s, E-9s and temporary commissioned officers reverting to their enlisted grade, who desired to remain on active duty after 20 years of service, must now meet certain prerequisites, according to information released by HQMC.

Personnel applying for duty beyond 20 years must be staff sergeant or above, obtain the approval of CMC and must meet the basic reenlistment prerequisites outlined in paragraph 4001.1 of the Career Planning Guide.

The only exception to this prerequisite is that staff sergeants and above selected for promotion may be reenlisted or extended for a maximum of two years when such reenlistment or extension is a prerequisite for promotion.

Requests for active service beyond 20 years must be received by GMC (Code DHB) not later than three months nor more than six months prior to expiration of enlistment or extension.

## College Degree Selectees

College Degree Program selectees have been announced by HQMC. Twenty-five applicants were chosen to participate in the program, which assists career officers in completing college requirements for a baccalaureate degree.

Selectees are: LtCol John B. Harris; Majs Eric J. Coady, Frederick B. Craig, Gordon P. Emery, Roger A. Fetterly, Henry O. Grooms, Edwin F. Kelly, William E. Loftus, Joseph P. Marada, Thomas P. McBrien, Ralph B. Orey, Lloyd G. Pool, Con D. Silard Jr., Jack D. Waldo, Kenneth D. Waters and Lawrence A. Whipple; Capts William D. Jones, Ronald R. Kendall, William W. Pollock, Paul E. Ring and Stanley M. Zenda; and 1stLts Michael G. Coe, Carson R. Day, Anderson Jones and Wesley D. Lamoureux.