

a message from the Commandant of the Marine Corps



10 November 1971

Nearly two centuries ago our Corps was formed—formed to render faithful, honorable, and professional service in fighting our Country's battles.

Since then many generations of Marines have given that service around the world, in peace and war. In war it has been tenacious and courageous service, accomplishing every mission assigned. In peace it has been ever faithful to our purpose, constantly ready to meet any situation and carry out any duty.

This November 10th, after more than six years of combat in Vietnam, we can look with great pride on the accomplishment of one of the toughest missions ever assigned Marines. And now, once again, we are engaged in the demanding and never-ending tasks of peacetime readiness.

We are on the right course. Everywhere Marines are training, building and increasing the military professionalism of our Corps. We are reaching for the highest standards of discipline, loyalty, integrity, honesty, fairness. We want our Corps to be lean and tough. We are succeeding. But these, after all, are our traditions. We are Marines—we shall continue to be Marines.

On this special day, the 196th anniversary of the birth of our Corps, I wish you all—regular and reserve, active and retired, family and loved ones—a happy Marine Corp Birthday. And may we enjoy many more.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L F Chapman".

L. F. CHAPMAN, JR.
General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps