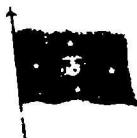


A Message from the Commandant



Fellow Marines...

During the past number of months I have spent a great deal of time visiting various Marine commands at home and abroad. And I have been pleased with the spirit of Marines and their outstanding accomplishments.

Many first-term Marines face the complex decision of what to do once their initial enlistment is over. I recognize that the choice is a most difficult one.

I believe that every Marine owes it to himself to spend some time with his Career Planner prior to making the decision to leave the Corps. The Corps has more to offer a young man than ever before. A challenge, new educational opportunities and job stability are three of the most important advantages.

All Marines know that the career Marine faces a demanding road. He must be one of the very best of those "Few Good Men." But -- for the Marine who wishes to continue his education and contribute to the ideals and goals which have made our country great -- there is no better life vocation and no greater physical or mental challenge.

Whatever your decision -- all Marines are grateful for your service. Make your choice -- but choose only after getting all the facts.

Semper Fidelis!

R. E. Cushman, Jr.
R. E. CUSHMAN, JR.
General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps