



10 November 1995

A Message From the Commandant of the Marine Corps

During the past year, the American people have commemorated pivotal events in the history of our nation that have spotlighted why we make Marines and how we win battles. We honored nations, and alliances that dared to act. We honored units and remembered the battles they won. However, the most powerful remembrances honored people -- their devotion, and their many selfless acts of valor. People -- individual Marines -- have, and always will be, the strength of our Corps. This year we stood in awe of their valor and determination. We saluted their courage and commitment. We remembered with reverence their sacrifice and accomplishment. But most importantly, we acknowledged their timeless virtues -- virtues that mold our Corps today. This was truly a year to reflect on the accomplishments and contributions of generations of Marines -- true American heroes -- who, through their actions, emblazoned forever the name "United States Marine" across the campaigns of the Pacific and Korea.

Our warfighting legacy is one of duty, strength, sacrifice, discipline, and determination. These themes are cornerstones of the individual Marine and of our Corps. Indeed, they are woven into the very fabric of our battle color. However, while we reflect on our past, let us also rededicate ourselves to a future of improvement. For, as good as we are now, we must be better tomorrow. The challenges of today are the opportunities of the 21st century. Both will demand much of us all.

As we close on the 220th year of this faithful Corps of Marines, I have complete confidence that each of you -- the Marines, Sailors, civilians, and the families who support us and make up our Corps -- is up to the challenges that lie ahead. Today, as we celebrate our proud history, enjoy our rich traditions, and honor those who have gone before us, let us also look ahead -- to a Corps the nation will turn to when she needs a force first on the scene, first to quell disturbances, first to fight, first to help -- to a Corps that we build for our nation's future -- to a 21st century Corps that stands ready when the nation, as she always has, says, "SEND IN THE MARINES."

Happy Birthday Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. C. Krulak".
C. C. KRULAK
General, U.S. Marine Corps