



7 Sept 2000

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS**

Every unit experiences personnel turnover. Often, it seems that just about the time a Marine gets really good at his job, the Corps sees fit to move him or her on to the next assignment. General Terrence Dake, however, set a new standard: he was great from the very moment he became Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.

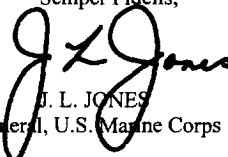
Representing the Corps on the Joint Requirements Oversight Council, General Dake brought his leadership and wisdom to the group responsible for reviewing and prioritizing the requirements of all of the services. He provided continuity and stability as our Corps changed Commandants. He was instrumental in standing up our Marine Requirements Oversight Council, thus giving our Corps a better method to validate requirements, force structure and resource allocation decisions. Most recently, he chaired the Marine Corps Executive Safety Board (ESB), an organization designed to provide safety guidance and policy for the 21st century and whose first product was the recently released Marine Corps Safety Campaign Plan. He also chaired the General Officer Futures Group, an organization chartered to assess the current state of the Corps, conduct future research to anticipate challenges and opportunities, and recommend a coherent, unified vision for the future Marine Corps. In all of these endeavors, he provided sage advice and counsel—traits that are a product of experience gained over a remarkable career.

General Dake saw combat in two wars. He logged over 6,000 hours in military aircraft (including many as a Presidential pilot), he served in various command and staff billets both within our Corps and in the Joint community and, over the past 34 years, he stood witness to remarkable change, in our Corps, in our nation and around the world. Through all of this, he has remained ever the consummate Marine, providing an example of calm, caring and thoughtful leadership that inspires us all. His wife, Sue, has been a staunch partner during this remarkable career, contributing her time, knowledge, caring and compassion, on behalf of our Corps and the Marine family. This exceptional couple will be sorely missed.

General Michael J. Williams will assume duties as our new Assistant Commandant. His experience as a MAGTF officer, having served in Division, Wing and FSSG billets, is superb preparation for his new duties, as is his recent experience as Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources. Further, he has the advantage of Joint experience, having served on the Joint Staff and as Commander, Joint Task Force 160 in Cuba. His wife, Barbara, brings her own considerable talents as an energetic and dedicated advocate for our Marine families. From any perspective, their qualifications for this important position are beyond question and the Corps will benefit immensely from their insight and judgment.

Both of these officers and their spouses represent Marine leadership and the Marine Corps family at their finest. As we celebrate General Dake's contributions to our Corps and welcome General Williams to his new post, let us all use this as an opportunity to renew our commitment to the goal of providing the best possible leadership and support for our Marines and their families. This will ensure the readiness of the Corps for the 21st century.

- For General and Mrs. Dake — Thank you and "well done."
- For General and Mrs. Williams — "Welcome aboard."

Semper Fidelis,  
  
J. L. JONES  
General, U.S. Marine Corps