

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

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Congratulations to the Marine Corps Association on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the *Marine Corps Gazette*! For a century, this journal has served as a premier forum for the free exchange of ideas about military art and science within the Marine Corps. The Gazette has expertly guarded the discussion space necessary to grow the professionalism of the Corps, and it has served us well. Bravo Zulu!

I congratulate you, the reader, as well for being part of that tradition. By virtue of what you hold in your hands today, you are an important part of maintaining a culture of intellectual energy and an open exchange of ideas within our Corps. The ongoing debates that occur within these pages are healthy and necessary, and the robust exchange of ideas makes us better as professionals and as an institution.

Going forward, please remember that we get no credit tomorrow for what we did yesterday. Given what has been described as the most volatile and complex security environment since World War II, it has never been more important for us to have a healthy debate about the future of the Corps. The United States Marine Corps must adapt and innovate in order to win in the future, and the stakes could not be higher.

We must jealously guard this tradition of free thinking and open dialogue by actively fostering a culture that not only tolerates, but actually encourages informed and constructive criticism of the institution. We must protect and promote this exchange of ideas and those who contribute to the conversation. This strengthens the Marine Corps as an institution, and each of us has an obligation in this effort.

Accordingly, I challenge you to engage in the debate. Read. Write. Make it a priority to dedicate time to regularly think and form new ideas—build it into your battle rhythm. Challenge your assumptions, and dare to challenge others' assumptions. Have the courage to write, publish and be heard, and equally have the courage to hear and consider views that differ from your own. In the end, this makes us stronger as Marines, as a Corps, and as a Nation.

Semper Fidelis,

A large, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph F. Dunford, Jr."

JOSEPH F. DUNFORD, JR.  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff