

# **MCUP** Call for Submissions **Enlisted Essay Contest:** **Aspects of Leadership**

MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY PRESS

Marine Corps University Press invites all enlisted Marines to submit essays for the upcoming Aspects of Leadership Essay Contest. This is your opportunity to reflect on your experiences, share your insights, and contribute to the ongoing conversation about what it means to lead as an enlisted Marine. Leadership is at the core of everything we do. From fireteam leaders to sergeants major, the strength of the Marine Corps has always depended on the quality and character of those who lead. As enlisted Marines, you have seen leadership in action—good and bad—up close and personal. Select essays will be included in a new published volume of [\*Aspects of Leadership\*](#).

## **Essay Prompt:**

What are the most important qualities of an enlisted leader, and how have you seen them demonstrated—or had to develop them yourself—during your time as a Marine?

## **Who Can Submit:**

All active-duty, Reserve, and veteran enlisted Marines, from Private to Sergeant Major.

## **Essay Requirements:**

- Length: 750–1,200 words
- Original, unpublished work
- Clear, focused reflection on leadership traits, experiences, or lessons learned
- Submitted in a .docx file; properly formatted footnotes accepted
- Include your full name, rank, and mailing address in the body of the email

**Submission Deadline:** 1 September 2025

**Submit to:** [mcu\\_press@usmcu.edu](mailto:mcu_press@usmcu.edu)

**Subject Line:** Leadership Essay Contest Submission – [Rank and Name]

## **Awards:**

The top 3 essays will receive \$1,000, \$750, and \$500 cash awards, respectively, provided to the winners by the Marine Corps University Foundation.

## **Why Submit?**

Leadership is at the core of who we are. Whether in combat or garrison, on the first enlistment or after 20 years, Marines lead from the front. Your perspective as an enlisted Marine matters. Ideas from top essays will help inform curriculum development for the enlisted PME learning continuum through the College of Enlisted Military Education at Marine Corps University/USMC Education Command.

**Lead. Reflect. Inspire.**