

10 November 1973

Our 198th Anniversary is the first one in over a decade which has not seen Marine units committed to combat. Another chapter in our illustrious history has closed, and we stand poised between our vivid experiences of the past and the challenges of the future—a Corps in transition.

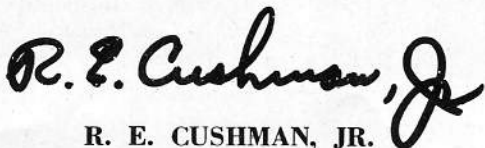
This is a time of innovation . . . in the best Marine “between-wars” tradition, where fresh ideas can really get their day in court.

This is a time of newness . . . as we test new equipment, new tactics, and new techniques, and we build new capabilities on the bedrock of the tried and true.

Above all, this is a time of preparation—by individuals and by units—for the next time we must answer the call to protect our Nation’s interests.

The future of our Corps is already being determined, in part, by the quality of our efforts right at this moment. Every skill we polish, every potential leader we identify and develop, and every future requirement we anticipate today will eventually work to our advantage. We can round out our second century of service in the best shape ever.

For the foresighted and the innovative, it’s an exciting time to be a Marine. My birthday wishes to all Marines go out with the hope that each of you will be caught up in that spirit.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "R. E. Cushman, Jr." with a prominent flourish at the end.

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