

10 November 1979

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

Today we celebrate our 204th year of dedicated service to the nation. Since our Corps' founding in 1775, Marines have been in the forefront of our nation's defense, during periods of peace and war. On every occasion, we have demonstrated our readiness to fight, to take on the difficult task, and to carry out the mission.

The Marines who preceded us were distinguished—even identified—by a unique spirit and discipline. They met the trials of Iwo Jima, Chosin, and Khe Sanh, and it was their spirit and discipline that enabled them to defeat determined foes.

While it is appropriate to look to the past and take pride in our accomplishments, we must prepare for the future. I ask all Marines, during this coming year, to commit themselves to excellence and exert that extra measure of effort that has been the trademark of Marines for so long. No matter the task, let's get on with it and get the job done.

Our responsibilities are great, the challenges formidable. But with responsibility comes satisfaction; with challenge comes opportunity. The reputation and future of the Corps are in our hands. I am confident that we will perform our duties as those distinguished Marines before us did theirs.

To all Marines, their families, and friends, I wish a joyous and memorable 204th birthday.



R. H. BARROW
General, U. S. Marine Corps