personnel of Headquarters Marine Corps, thus permitting return of enlisted personnel to general service.

**NAVY TRANSPORTS**

39. As a unit of the Fleet: the Fleet Marine Force requires transports with special characteristics appropriate to the mission of the Force. An essential characteristic of such transport is speed sufficient to keep pace with the Fleet. There are now two Navy transports in commission, the *Henderson* and the *Chaumont*. The *Henderson* was designed and built to accommodate a Marine brigade, but has been altered for the Navy Transport Service. She is now obsolete as to speed and construction, but is usefully employed between the West Coast and the Asiatic Station. The *Chaumont*, an Army transport transferred to the Navy, is inferior to the *Henderson*. I recommend that to meet the needs of the Fleet Marine Force, two transports be built. They should have sufficient speed to maintain position with the combat force of the Fleet and should carry specially designed boats and equipment for landing operations.

**MARINES ON DESTROYERS**

40. At present there are a few detachments of Marines on destroyers in the Special Service Squadron. This has been the case for one or two years. It is my understanding that they were originally placed on the destroyers in order to have a small landing force available on these fast-moving vessels for possible contingencies in the Caribbean area. In practice, such details immediately become part of the deck force of the destroyer and lose many of their qualities as Marines. It is believed that Marines should be put on destroyers only in case of great emergency, and be retained on board no longer than the duration of the emergency.

**DIVERSION OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL**

41. It must be constantly kept in mind that the principal mission of the Marine Corps is to maintain the Fleet Marine Force in readiness to move with the Fleet in a state of war efficiency. The strength of the Marine Corps has been reduced in recent years while its responsibilities and commitments have relatively increased. It is difficult to maintain this present strength to meet the assigned missions. Therefore it is particularly important that no men be diverted from their regular duties, and the Major General Commandant through the

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**IN REPLYING ADDRESS**

THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT
AND REFER TO NO. 1930.10

AG-200-preb

HEADQUARTERS U.S. MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON 10 November 1936.

From: The Major General Commandant.
To: The Officers and Men of the Marine Corps.

Subject: Anniversary Message.

1. During one hundred and sixty-one years our Corps has shown itself faithful to its traditions in sustaining an enviable record in the defense of the nation. On many fields, in many parts of the world, in Tripoli, China, Nicaragua, France, and elsewhere, it has performed distinguished and devoted service to the country.

2. In all the years the bond of mutual confidence between the rank and file has grown stronger and stronger, tending to develop our ideal "esprit de Corps".

3. On this anniversary, and upon the occasion of my retirement 1 December, 1936 from active duty after more than forty-eight years of service, I wish to express my appreciation of your devotion to duty and extend to you my best wishes, knowing that in the future you will add brilliant pages to the illustrious history of the naval service.

[Signature]