Today Marines throughout the world celebrate the 183d
anniversary of our beloved Corps. Today we honor the long line of
Marines who have preceded us. Today we reflect with pride upon
the heritage they have bequeathed to us -- a name high in the annals
of our nation's history and in military history throughout the world.

The past year has been an eventful one for the Marine Corps.
On more than one occasion Marine units have been deployed on short
notice to distant places. As always, the Marines were ready to move
immediately, ready to perform any task assigned to them. This
instant readiness is at once our responsibility and our pride. While
our past accomplishments have been enviable, we must never be
content to rest on our laurels. In an uneasy world threatened by
ruthless aggression we must, in the years to come, not only maintain
but further develop the readiness which characterizes our Corps. We
must strive constantly to improve our weapons and techniques -- we
must continue our rigorous and relentless training. And above all
else we must cherish and keep alive the indomitable spirit that has
been the hallmark of the Marine Corps since the first recruits were
enlisted at Tun Tavern in 1775. I have full confidence that we will do
so, that all of us will meet the challenge of the future in a manner
which will add lustre to the high name we have inherited from those
Marines who have gone before us.

It is therefore with real pleasure that I extend my personal
congratulations and best wishes to all Marines -- throughout the
world, at home and abroad, regular and reserve -- and to all Marine
families on this significant occasion, the 183d birthday of the United
States Marine Corps.

R. Mcc. Pate
General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps