



26 February 2002

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

The strength of America's Armed Forces lies in the varied and unique contributions of each Service and the skill with which all the Services operate together as a Joint Force.

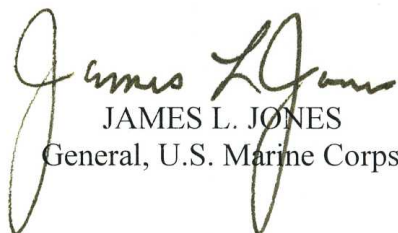
The differences among our Armed Forces are to be celebrated and preserved because they ensure that the Nation possesses an array of warfighting capabilities necessary to defeat the myriad threats and challenges to our security and interests. Equally important, however, is the integration of Service capabilities through Joint doctrine and training, as well as shared information systems.

The Marine Corps' aptitude for Joint Operations is due to our longstanding partnership with the Navy and the emphasis that Marines place on teamwork. Indeed, Navy and Marine Corps' teamwork is the principal reason for the superb performance of America's Naval Forces in the war against terrorism — a source of pride and inspiration for all Americans. Today's accomplishments, however, have their origins in yesterday's visions and innovations.

The Marine Corps has long been an adaptive and innovative force. Our innovation reveals itself in a continuous transformational process that helps maintain our preparedness for future conflicts. Our current transformation efforts focus on the development of new warfighting concepts, the acquisition of equipment and weapons systems to fully realize these concepts, and organizational restructuring and improved business practices.

We have always embraced tradition, but just as fundamental to our Service culture is the cultivation of both a prescient view of future battlefields and the flexibility required to adapt to the unexpected. With the continued support of the American people, the Corps' acclaimed military prowess will endure as will our success in protecting and promoting the Nation's interests.

Semper Fidelis,


JAMES L. JONES
General, U.S. Marine Corps



A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

As we observe the 225th anniversary of the United States Navy, we commemorate the tremendous achievements and enormous sacrifices made by the many thousands of Americans who have proudly worn the Navy uniform in the name of freedom.

For more than two centuries, men and women have stepped forward and answered our nation's call to become part of America's "Service of the Sea." Our country's Naval service is rich with tradition and filled with exploits of heroism and unyielding sacrifice. From good-will port visits to combat operations, the United States Navy can be found throughout the world, demonstrating our country's resolve and projecting our military strength.

Today's Navy-Marine Corps team provides the underpinning to our nation's interests around the globe. Our forward presence brings the stability necessary for freedom and democracy to flourish on foreign shores.

As we enter the dawn of a new millennium together as one, I offer my congratulations and best wishes to our Navy shipmates. We will always be proud to serve with you. Happy birthday, United States Navy.

Semper Fidelis,

JAMES L. JONES
General, U.S. Marine Corps