



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

IN REPLY REFER TO

CMC

16 Dec 96

WHITE LETTER NO. 16-96

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: All Commanding Generals
All Commanding Officers
All Officers in Charge

Subj: MARINE CORPS VALUES PROGRAM

1. Marines are not complete or "whole" unless physically, mentally, and morally fit. As commanders and leaders we are responsible for the character development of the Marines we lead. The Marine Corps recently implemented enhancements to recruit and officer candidate training that will deepen the inculcation of values in new Marines. The transformation does not end there; indeed it enters a critical phase as Marines arrive at their MOS schools and first units ready to carry on the honor and traditions of the Marine Corps. This phase in the transformation process is where you, the leaders of our Corps, take over.

2. The Marine Corps will provide you tools to assist in sustaining values awareness and commitment in your Marines. Using the foundation set in entry level training, take these tools, your creativity, and knowledge of your unit to craft a program that addresses the unique issues you face. The key to the values program is the enduring nature of the sustainment efforts within your individual commands.

3. Character development through strengthened moral fitness cannot be overemphasized in the challenging times that our young Marines face. We must strive each day to be worthy of General Lejeune's unforgettable definition of a Marine as "... the descendant of a line of heroes, the bearer of a name hailed as foremost in the annals of his country, the custodian of a long cherished reputation for honor, valor, and integrity." Our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment are a continuation -- a logical evolution -- in the direction we have charted for our Corps.

4. As commanders and leaders, we all share responsibility for ensuring that Marines embody those values we have cherished for more than two centuries. Implement and execute!

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. S. J. AK".