



9 September 2002

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

This is truly a time of change for the Marine Corps. Throughout the development of new policies and emerging doctrine, our Corps continues to innovate, experiment, and modernize while maintaining our posture as the Nation's force-in-readiness. In the midst of these changes, today we also say farewell to Gen Michael J. Williams as our Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Gen Williams began his military service as a sailor 42 years ago. As a Marine he saw combat in 2 wars, logged over 3,500 hours in military aircraft, served in various command and staff billets both within our Corps and in the joint community, and stood witness to the innovative nature of our Corps in the face of constant change. Through all of this he remained focused on his commitment to excellence. His straightforward, results-oriented, no-nonsense leadership approach has inspired the highest respect and admiration from all who have worked with him.

In his most recent assignment, Gen Williams was responsible for bringing the Marine Requirements Oversight Council into full maturity, facilitating the efficient transformation of our warfighting capabilities to support the requirements of expeditionary maneuver warfare. Gen Williams also provided firm leadership in support of the Marine Corps Heritage Center and the National Museum of the Marine Corps and, as a result of his personal efforts—that museum is much closer to a reality today. In these, and countless other examples, Gen Williams has been vital to the many successes our Corps has shared throughout his tenure as Assistant Commandant. In his role as a "Vice-Service Chief," Gen Williams made significant contributions on a host of issues that ranged far beyond Marine Corps matters. As a member of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC), he was instrumental in focusing the process on integrating requirements with joint operational concepts and architectures. He played a key part in expanding the role of the Senior Warfighters' Forum in conducting independent analyses of alternatives and program evaluation for issues coming before the JROC.

Gen Williams' many accomplishments and distinguished career have directly contributed to our ability to respond effectively in a world of constant change. For over 40 years, in peacetime and in war, and at every level of command, he has been a consummate leader, warrior, and professional. His wife, Barbara, has been a dedicated partner during this remarkable career, contributing her considerable talents as a staunch advocate for Marine families as well as for the National Military Family Association. This exceptional couple will be sorely missed.

Gen William L. "Spider" Nyland's experience as a joint officer, a Marine air-ground task force officer, and as a commander at all levels of command is superb preparation for his duties as our new Assistant Commandant. We will all benefit from his recent experiences as Deputy Commandant for Aviation and for Programs and Resources, as well. His wife, Brenda, brings her own considerable talents as a dedicated supporter for Marine families. Their qualifications and enthusiasm for this important position will benefit the Corps immensely.

Both of these officers and their spouses represent Marine leadership and the Marine Corps family at their finest. As we celebrate Gen Williams' legacy to our Corps and welcome Gen Nyland to his new responsibilities, let us all use this opportunity to renew our commitment to the goal of providing the best possible leadership and support for our Marines and their families, for in them resides the future success of our Marine Corps.

For Gen and Mrs. Williams: Thank you for a job well done.

For Gen and Mrs. Nyland: Welcome aboard.

Semper Fidelis,

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