

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

Marines,

The Long War is a multifaceted, generational struggle, and I believe Iraq and Afghanistan are only the opening battles. We do not know where we will fight next. To fulfill our mandate to be most ready when the Nation is least ready, we must be a “two-fisted” force that can fight both traditional and irregular warfare.

Professional military education offers Marines the opportunity to develop as creative and thinking leaders—which is critical to keeping your warrior blade sharp. Our ability to operate in both our current and future operating environments is dependent on our tradition of progressive and lifelong education.

Professional reading is a significant aspect of our educational journey to become more capable and adaptable Marines. As many Commandants have done in the past, I have selected a list of books which I think are most helpful. These books offer lessons from the past, our doctrine, and stories that directly enhance our ability to make sound and timely decisions on and off the battlefield.

The list for each grade is the bare minimum that I offer to those Marines. Furthermore, I want all Marines to read *First to Fight* by Lieutenant General Victor Krulak—a timeless book that illustrates the Corps’ history of innovation, flexibility, and resolve.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James T. Conway". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James T. Conway
General, U.S. Marine Corps