



## Commanding General, Training and Education Command

Fellow Marines and Sailors,

As we look around the world at the current and anticipated future challenges facing us, we understand that we need to be better prepared to deal with them. With technology changing the character of conflict at ever increasing rates due to it becoming more capable, cheaper, and much more widely proliferated, our ability to count on the technological dominance we have enjoyed in the past is gone. Clearly, we need to be concerned about what our opponents will do with developing technology, but that is not all. As a service, we adhere to the adage that we “equip the Marine,” vice “man the equipment.” If this is to hold true given the rate of change highlighted above, we must be intellectually capable of rapidly adapting to new technology and using it to our best advantage. Compounding these challenges is the fact that developments are moving so fast, the procedures we have used to train and educate Marines for the past 20-30 years are becoming increasingly irrelevant. There are few constants in life, but one of them is change. If we cannot adequately anticipate the effects of change and rapidly adapt, we may prove unable to accomplish whatever mission we are assigned.

The result of what is described above is that the need to better train and educate our personnel is more imperative now than it has ever been. We have to enable our Marines and Sailors to understand that to continue to be effective warfighters, all of us have to develop and continually hone the intellectual edge that enables us to out think any opponent and win *no matter what the conditions!* The Industrial Age processes at our schools and training venues that have predominated to date are designed to train large numbers of personnel quickly, which was certainly needed for past conflicts. We also know that, though efficient for pushing numbers, these same processes are the least effective way to actually train and educate adults. All this needs to change, and our mission here at TECOM is to ensure that happens.

The first element of that change came about when the Commandant approved and signed the first new *MCDP* since 2001: *MCDP 7, Learning*. It makes the case for why learning is so important to our ability to live up to our maneuver warfare philosophy and the absolute requirement for all of us to be career long learners who keep that intellectual edge sharp every day. But this is only the start of laying the foundation for the shift to Information Age training and education. This edition of the *Gazette* contains a series of articles from this command that lay out various portions of our overall approach to what we are calling 21st Century Learning. Once fully implemented, it will change the learning culture of the Marine Corps and will impact each and every one of us, as well as generations of Marines to come. The keys though will be for all of us to first, understand why this is so important, and second, ensure we dedicate ourselves to keeping our intellectual edge sharp. We are all part of the most intellectually and physically demanding profession on the face of the earth, so the imperative to be lifelong learners is critical to our continued success.

Semper Fidelis,

MajGen William F. Mullen III  
Commanding General  
Training and Education Command