



Marines seek to own the operational environment. We plan, adapt, innovate, and train rigorously and realistically. When it comes time to fight, we are poised to outcycle the enemy because we understand the challenges and opportunities posed by the environment.

In today's interconnected world, we have to think beyond the physical environment. Narratives can travel the globe at a rapid pace, influencing governments and threatening or shoring up democratic processes. Our formations rely on navigation from satellites and can be targeted by the emissions from their equipment. A single user's carelessness on the network can provide an opening for hackers to take down our weapons systems. A single social media post can give away a unit's movements.

All of these components—the Internet and its infrastructure, the devices we use to communicate, our data, the narratives we share, the electromagnetic spectrum, the space and cyber domains—form a multi-layered and complex information environment. We live in the information environment all the time, and actions taken in the information environment can have physical effects. Just as we have done for 244 years, the Marine Corps will adapt to this new environment faster than anyone else to protect our nation, which is now under persistent attack.

To that end, the Commandant established information as a warfighting function in February of 2019. It is now up to us to understand information—how to both defend against it and leverage it to best impose our will on the enemy—and the new operating environment.

We own the battlespace when we're fighting in the air, on land, or at sea. We have to adapt so we can own the information environment, too. Adaptation requires innovation. The articles in this issue of the *Gazette* are meant to spark ideas and conversation. We need Marines of every rank and community engaged from competition through conflict; this is a fight for everyone.

Our challenge is to take these concepts and either find a way to operationalize them or counter them with a better idea. Through constant adaptation, rigorous preparation, and aggressive maneuver our Corps has established a formidable reputation and track record of success. With your help, we will continue to fight and win.

Semper Fidelis,

L. E. Reynolds

Deputy Commandant for Information