

COMMANDER'S MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY MESSAGE AND VETERANS DAY MESSAGE

Commanders, Marines and Civilian Marines,

This weekend we celebrate our Marine Birthday and Veteran's Day. On 10 Nov, our 238th Birthday, we recognize the actions of Marines from 1775 to the present. As a Nation, on 11 Nov, at the 11th hour we pause for two minutes to recognize not only Marines but every citizen that has earned the title, Veteran. These two days focus on how the challenges of warfare were encountered and triumphantly overcome.

Currently, we face some of the same but less recognized challenges of each previous era; fiscal constraint, reduction in force size and the transition from sustained combat. The task before us is how to provide, train and preserve the Force. We can plan and make good decisions for the material elements of this equation but the most critical component is the Marine. The most deadly challenges during the coming months facing the most susceptible Marines (E5 and below) are suicide, motor vehicles, alcohol and weather.

The most effective method to address these challenges is through education and Command action. We must take every opportunity to increase risk education, communicate identifiable indicators of at risk individuals, and provide the tools so fellow Marines and Leaders can apply guidance and resources as necessary.

I don't want anyone in the command to become part of a holiday statistics. As I've stated before, leaders will establish a command climate where safety, both on and off duty, is paramount. I want MCICOM's leadership to personally ensure our Marines, Sailors and Civilian Marines appreciate the importance of incorporating safety into their holiday plans.

Most importantly, I want to see all of you back from the holiday as you are an extremely valuable part of Marine Corps Installations Command.

Have a Safe and Happy Birthday and Veteran's Day weekend.

Semper Fidelis,

MajGen Juan G. Ayala
United States Marine Corps
Commander, Installations Command
Commanding General Marine Corps National Capital Region
ADC Facilities (LF)