



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
2 NAVY ANNEX
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
CMC-MMSR
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WHITE LETTER NO. 7-93

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: All General Officers
All Commanding Officers
All Officers in Charge

Subj: MARINE CORPS RETIREES

1. Retirees are an important part of our Marine Corps team. As the Marine Corps downsizes, many retirees urge that we not decrease the level of support to their growing population. The Secretary of the Navy's Advisory Committee on Retired Personnel emphasized this point during their annual meeting last March.

2. Many members of the retiree community feel their value to the Marine Corps and our commitment to them erodes rapidly once they take off their uniform. Through faithful service, retirees have earned certain rights, benefits, and privileges--including the same respect and courtesy we show our active duty Marines. Whenever they visit or call the exchange, commissary, special services, personnel offices, finance offices, legal offices, or other facilities and organizations, we need to address them by their retired grade and provide them and their families the same level of consideration and customer service given their active duty counterparts. Regrettably, retirees hear more about congressional budget cutting than they do about what the Marine Corps and Congress are doing to protect those benefits.

3. Retired Marines continue to be an integral part of our Total Force and play a vital role in our mobilization and contingency plans. Their experience and skills are too valuable to ignore. All parts of our Total Force--Regular, Reserve, and Retired--must continue to work together to provide the essential cohesion and combat readiness of our Corps.


C. E. MUNDY, JR.