



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
2 NAVY ANNEX  
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
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WHITE LETTER NO. 2-00

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

Subj: COMBATTING RACISM

1. We as leaders are blessed to have inherited the finest Marine Corps in the history of our great nation and institution. Every day, Marines stationed at home or forward based throughout the world make sacrifice after sacrifice for our Corps and for our Country, and most importantly, for each other. Our Corps is built upon trust. As such, Marines deserve the very best in leadership - we as leaders must ensure that trust remains unquestioned.

2. Unfortunately, there are a few - a very few - who have not fully shed their distrust of others based on race. When these few commit acts of misconduct based on race, the adverse consequences to our war fighting readiness, to mission accomplishment, and to our cherished institution are exponential. But foremost, it's repugnant and just plain wrong.

3. Said simply, we will not tolerate racists or racist behavior. Marines who commit race-based misconduct will be held accountable. As a reminder, our regulations also mandate separation processing for those who commit racist misconduct.

4. In my Planning Guidance, I discussed the Sustainment phase of the Transformation Process. As you well know, this continuous application of leadership is the most challenging aspect of the Transformation. This is where you, our leadership, have the most impact on all Marines, both newly minted and career, in strengthening our bedrock values - and thus defeat racist attitudes that weaken our Corps. Accordingly, my charge to you, as we begin a new year, is to press ahead with Sustainment, eliminate these destructive attitudes, and to continually reinforce General Lejeune's imprimatur of who we are as Marines: the "highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue."

  
J. L. JONES