



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. 09-95

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

Subj: MAINTENANCE OF GROUND EQUIPMENT

1. As our resource outlook declines in the future it should be apparent to leaders at all echelons that the equipment we are driving, shooting, and communicating with today will be the equipment that we fight and train with for many years to come. To maximize our readiness and combat capability, we must preserve our equipment through prudent management of these scarce and expensive resources with programs such as mileage reduction, administrative deadline, administrative storage, and professional quality maintenance.

2. The essential ingredient to the proper preservation of our assets is a solid and proactive program of preventive and corrective maintenance. The proper use of equipment begins with trained operators attentive to their maintenance obligations for the equipment which is entrusted to them--but it hardly ends here. It ends with a supervisor or quality control inspector checking the final outcome of any item in the maintenance cycle to certify the item is mission capable. It is not enough to simply send a Marine to perform the required preventive maintenance on a section or company vehicle or radio. Leaders at every level must all take positive actions to ensure the equipment is combat ready when the time arrives for its use. Equipment readiness demands the attention every officer, staff noncommissioned officer, and noncommissioned officer. Education on all aspects of maintenance must continue at every echelon of command.

3. As our resource funding declines, the expense of operating a state-of-the-art, tactically mobile, fighting force continues. As an example, the costs associated with operating an M1A1 tank company in the field is \$18,000 per day. The normal cost to rebuild the M1A1 is \$377,000. Add to these normal wear and tear costs, any additional costs incurred due to inadvertent damage or negligent operations, and it is easy to see how expensive equipment maintenance can become. All of us must constantly seek effective and efficient means to reduce our operating and maintenance costs while still retaining realistic training. The attitude that maintenance is simply a garrison activity cannot be accepted. We must pay attention to our equipment responsibilities and provide for proper maintenance during periods of training and operations in the field, as well as when in garrison. We must remember that it is a continuing

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challenge for all of us to promote responsible equipment use and preventive maintenance practices. We should not always expect funds to be made available to "fix" our problems, or miracles from the hard-working mechanics and technicians who continually try to keep our equipment in good repair in the most harsh and trying of conditions. Each of us must act responsibly in meeting this challenge.

4. Because we have become leaner and more streamlined, we must ensure that we continue to use our manpower and financial resources to attain the highest equipment readiness possible. I expect commanders and supervisory personnel at all levels to take an active role in their unit's maintenance programs. We at the Headquarters and in the Marine Corps Systems Command are closely monitoring the equipment information reported in SORTS and in the Marine Corps Logistics Bases Quarterly Equipment Readiness Report, which is derived from the MARES system as reported by units throughout the Corps. For those of you with reporting obligations to be particularly attentive to the content of your submissions.


C. E. MUNDY, JR.