



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380-0001

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
CMC-MHP-20  
19 Oct 92

WHITE LETTER NO. 15-92

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

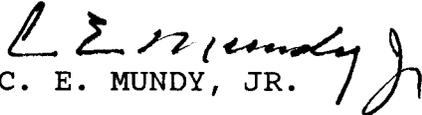
Subj: FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR DEPENDENTS

1. A hallmark of our Corps is that "Marines take care of their own." Unfortunately, this is not always the case when it comes to financial support of dependents. Some in our ranks have elected to evade their moral and financial obligation to provide adequate and continuous support to their lawful dependents, and purposefully ignore the terms of property settlement agreements and court orders. Each Marine has a legal and moral obligation to provide support until the responsibility is terminated by a civil court or by written agreement between the persons concerned. The failure of individual Marines to provide adequate support tends to bring discredit on the Marine Corps, and demonstrates personal irresponsibility.

2. By current laws and regulations, payment of spouse and child support may be accomplished in one of two ways: voluntary allotment or statutorily-required support allotment. All Marines must understand that the preferred method is to pay support through a voluntary allotment.

3. Marines who refuse to support their dependents cannot be forced to provide such support. Nonetheless, upon receipt of a complaint alleging inadequate support, these Marines will be interviewed and counseled on the Marine Corps policy concerning financial support for dependents and informed of the legal actions that can be taken against them to provide such support. They must also be informed that if they continue to neglect this responsibility, their refusal to provide adequate support is justification for administrative or disciplinary action, which may result in forfeiture of pay, confinement, and/or discharge from the Marine Corps.

4. As leaders, I expect you to focus on the seriousness of this problem, and institute a comprehensive information program covering the responsibility of financial support for dependents.

  
C. E. MUNDY, JR.