



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

IN REPLY REFER TO

MC-MHP
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WHITE LETTER NO. 10-97

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

Subj: FUNERAL SUPPORT

1. This past January, I signed ALMAR 003-97 which emphasized the Marine Corps' commitment to funeral support. Properly laying a fallen Marine to rest is one of the final tributes that the Marine Corps can render to our own. This service provides comfort to grieving families and demonstrates our wholehearted and enduring commitment to those who have earned the title "Marine." Unfortunately, I continue to receive letters and E-mails from family members, disappointed that the Marine Corps failed to support them during their hours of need. I am appalled, dismayed, and outraged that I continue to receive these letters. Failing to provide funeral support to a Marine, for whatever reason, is completely contradictory to our ethos and diminishes the value of our fallen comrades' service.

2. Specific guidance for funeral support is contained in MCO P3040.4D, The Marine Corps Casualty Procedures Manual, and reemphasized in ALMAR 003-97, Military Funeral Support. While I understand that an individual unit may not be able to support every funeral request, I cannot imagine our precious Corps ever turning down the request to properly bury a fellow Marine. If your unit cannot provide a funeral detail, find one that will.

3. I want my intent and guidance to ring loud and clear concerning funeral support to families of Marines and former Marines--it is our duty and we would have it no other way! Anything less is UNACCEPTABLE. I expect this guidance to be disseminated to every Marine Corps command, inspector-instructor staff, recruiting station, and administrative detachment. Ensure that all units are fully aware of my feelings on this matter and they uphold the long tradition of properly honoring a fallen Marine.


C. C. KRULIAN