



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CMC-MCRC
11 Dec 1997

WHITE LETTER NO. 12-97

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

Subj: ENLISTED TO OFFICER COMMISSIONING PROGRAMS

1. Enlisted to Officer Commissioning Programs are part of the ethos of our Corps. The Marine "Mustang" is and has been a revered figure across the pages of our storied past. So it is today and so it must be in the future.
2. It is my intent to continue to tap into the rich source of talent that exists within our ranks and increase commissioning opportunities for qualified enlisted Marines. The means to this end is through your renewed support and promotion of our "Grow Your Own" programs.
3. Our enlisted Marines are a successful, diverse and proven source of officers that our Corps cannot afford to overlook. The Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP), Meritorious Commissioning Program (MCP), and Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) are the mechanisms for transforming our hard-charging young Marines into the future leaders of our Corps. Additionally, the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC), and the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) offer outstanding opportunities for commissioning enlisted Marines. These programs require your full support.
4. More importantly those programs afford a substantial improvement in the diversity of our officer corps. Diversity makes us stronger, improves unit cohesion, and enhances combat readiness.
5. Success with the "Grow Our Own" initiative requires a concerted effort on the part of all commanders and leaders throughout our Corps. This is an investment in our future. I charge each of you to fully support this crucial endeavor. Seek out, support, and guide those enlisted Marines within our ranks who have the potential to become officers and meet the criteria of our enlisted to officer commissioning programs.


C. C. KRUEAK