



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

IN REPLY REFER TO  
CMC-L/CL  
MAY 22 1997

WHITE LETTER NO. 04-97

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

Subj: POLLUTION PREVENTION

1. The two most important things the Marine Corps does for our Nation are to make Marines and to win battles. Our environmental compliance and protection programs are an integral part of this mission and must be incorporated into whom we are and what we do as Marines. To do this cost effectively, we must shift our focus from traditional "end-of-pipe" pollution control methods to those of prevention.

2. The President has issued several Executive Orders requiring the Federal Government to promote pollution prevention as the primary means of achieving and maintaining compliance with environmental requirements. I expect the Corps to be at the forefront in meeting this challenge.

3. We must take advantage of pollution prevention opportunities in everything we do, through every phase of acquisition, including design, test, and maintenance, to the management of our installations and facilities. Initiatives to incorporate pollution prevention in our acquisition process, for example, to include training our acquisition workforce to minimize the use of hazardous materials, will reduce the life-cycle costs of our weapons systems. Innovations to centrally control and manage the distribution and use of hazardous materials not only reduce waste, but also ensure a safer working and living environment for our Marine Corps family and our neighbors.

4. The Marine Corps is committed to ensuring pollution prevention is the preferred "first choice" in demonstrating environmental stewardship.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. C. KULAS".

C. C. KULAS