DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

IN REPLY REFER TO:
CMC
2 Mar 13

WHITE LETTER NO. 1-13
From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: All Marines

Subj: SEQUESTRATION

1. Marines and Civilian Marines…the sequestration provision under the Budget Control Act is in effect as of today. In short, this means a reduction of roughly $1.4 billion dollars to the Marine Corps for the remainder of the current fiscal year, with reductions of slightly more than $2 billion occurring in each of the next nine years. As I testified before Congress last month, cuts of this magnitude, due to their timing and methodology, will significantly impact Marine Corps readiness, both short and long term.

2. The Marine Corps plays a special role in protecting our Nation - we are America's Crisis Response Force, the Nation's insurance policy; we have a statutory responsibility to be the most ready when the Nation is least ready. As such, we will preserve the readiness of our Marines engaged in combat, we will keep deploying units fully manned, trained and equipped, and we will do our best to ensure that units preparing to deploy have the resources and training necessary for their next mission. The Marine Corps will remain ready to meet today's crisis, with today's force…today!

3. In order to ensure our continued readiness, we must make sacrifices in other areas. As we adjust to the realities of sequestration, I am very concerned about the impact of such cutbacks on our active duty and reserve Marines, our civilian Marines, and our Marine families. While we are working hard to balance our myriad requirements, I want each of you to know that keeping faith with you and your families is a top priority of mine - I consider this a sacred responsibility. We are already a lean and frugal Service, thus every reduction that we make from this point forward will cut into bone - we are beyond muscle.

4. I want to assure each of you that despite today's fiscal challenges, we will remain the Nation's "911 Force." I ask that you stay focused on the mission while we work our way through the uncertainties of the future. Sergeant Major Barrett and I will release a short video next week with the latest and most up to date information available. In the meantime, I thank you for the sacrifices you and your families make every day on behalf of our Nation and our Corps. In its truest sense, I remain…

Semper Fidelis

JAMES F. AMOS