



## Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion

### Commander's Priorities

28 October 2019

Marines,

Over the past 90 days, I've had the opportunity to visit many of our 13 locations across eight states and five countries. During my interactions with each of you, I've been in awe of your professionalism, technical proficiency, foreign language expertise, and the high impact roles you play in the nation's most critical national security programs. I've observed first hand that you truly represent the premier Service Cryptologic Component at the National Security Agency (NSA). As our Service enters a historic phase of force design and modernization, our special relationship with NSA will serve an increasingly important role. These are my priorities:

1. **Optimize USMC Billets at NSA.** Since the formation of our unit in 1956, our value proposition has remained unwavering: we deliver advantage to the joint force and we prepare Marines to compete, deter, and win in all operating domains. We will continue to deliver on that value proposition by responding to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) planning guidance. We will continue to challenge ourselves to rethink the old ways of doing business and take a bottom up look at every single billet. We will aggressively pursue recommendations that meet shared priorities of the Director of the NSA and CMC.
2. **Expand National SIGINT Support to the USMC.** We will innovate, leveraging our unique placement and access within NSA to bring high-end national Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) and Technical SIGINT (TechSIGINT) capabilities to the tactical edge of Fleet Marine Force operations. We will demonstrate the value of the Marine Cryptologic Support Element, serving as the Service gateway to national SIGINT analysis, analytics, tools, tradecraft, and training.
3. **Retain Talent.** Our Marines are operationally engaged 24/7 across the spectrum of information environment activities. From Chinese and Russian language analysis, enabling cyber operations, tracking illicit cryptocurrency transactions, expeditionary emplacement of sensors, and TechSIGINT enabled targeting, Marines working alongside our interagency partners gain game-changing expertise in the most challenging intelligence disciplines. We will prioritize talent management and seek innovative ways to retain our best and brightest.

It is an exciting time to be a U.S. Marine at NSA. Each of you plays a critical role as our Service transitions to outpacing near peer adversaries.

Semper Fidelis,

LtCol Arlon Smith  
Commanding Officer