



THE REAWAKENING



16 October 2013

To our Corporals and Sergeants:

We are proud of you! We are privileged to serve alongside you and we are humbled every day by you! Instead of an easy life, you and your families chose a more difficult path – a life of service, challenge and sacrifice. With few exceptions, every one of you enlisted while we were fighting two major wars. In the last 12 years, you have defeated every enemy on the battlefield, and now Sergeant Major and I need your help to reawaken the soul of our Corps against an enemy emerging from within our ranks. By soul, we mean those timeless attributes and habits that have defined our Corps for 238 years: persistent discipline, faithful obedience to orders and instructions, concerned and engaged leadership (24/7), and strict adherence to standards from fire team leader to General Officer. These habits, these attributes, our undeniable belief in “who we are and what we do,” form the soul of our Corps.

We know that 98% of our Marines are doing the right thing, but we also know there are some who aren't living up to our sacred title. We are returning to CONUS to rearm and refit in order to fight again when our nation least expects it. Those who aren't living up to the title Marine within our midst are disrupting the return to immediate readiness, soiling our honor, and causing the American people to lose trust in us! Disregarding orders and standards, substance abuse, sexual assault, hazing, self-destructive behavior, and failure to maintain personal fitness and appearance standards, weakens our Corps and dishonors all who have endured wars' hardships. This insurgency of wrong doing is invading our homes and destroying our credibility.

Sergeant Major Barrett and I are now calling upon the backbone, the main effort of the Marine Corps - our NCOs - to once again advance to the decisive points in battle. Of the 174,046 enlisted Marines on active duty today, 144,570 are Sergeants and below. Fully 83.06% of our enlisted force is led by NCOs. As Non-Commissioned Officers, you have irrefutably proven over the past decade of war that you are the backbone of our Corps. Through your presence, leadership, and conduct we will turn the tide of this battle against the insurgency of wrongdoing, restore our integrity with the American people, and keep our honor clean.

We have always known hardship and challenge; we have never known what it is to lose a battle, because we have always prided ourselves on our devotion to self-discipline and combat excellence. This is who we are as Marines and we must never allow it to slide. **Discipline today leads to victory tomorrow.** You truly are strategic Corporals and Sergeants!

Sergeant Major Barrett and I need every one of you in this fight. No greater a compliment can be bestowed to a fellow Marine than to say, *I can count on you always!* Never forget **who we are** and **what we do** for our country. Move to the decisive point in this battle and through your presence, professionalism, and tenacity...turn the tide of this fight for the sake of Corps and country.

Semper Fidelis!

SgtMaj Micheal P. Barrett
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

Gen James F. Amos
Commandant of the Marine Corps