



It has been a consequential year for our nation. Despite a debilitating global pandemic and more sharply focused attention to great power competition in all its forms, the Marine Corps continued to distinguish itself as the most innovative, expeditionary force in readiness—always ready to defend the Constitution and to find new ways to solve new problems.

Throughout, the Corps has also continued to lead the joint force in thinking through the power of information across the competition continuum.

Today, we have two mandates. We must be prepared to act globally with lethality and determination as the Nation’s crisis response force. We must also adapt our culture to compete daily—in a campaigning construct—ready to use the power of the MAGTF as part of the naval force to assure allies and partners, create confusion and dilemmas for our adversaries, and strengthen the ability of the joint force to deter malign behavior. These two mandates are not mutually exclusive.

Central to meeting both mandates is a lethal force, capable of succeeding in both global competition and conflict, and our deliberate and unyielding drive to excel in operations in the information environment (OIE). When combined with operations in any domain, OIE provide new ways to project power and influence, and to build resilience in new domains of warfare and against harmful narratives and disinformation. The information environment—including space, cyber, the electromagnetic spectrum, and the environs where inform and influence happens—is a new medium to maneuver against our adversaries and shape the strategic landscape. In it, we can directly target an opponent’s will by manipulating their confidence and ability to endure in competition or win in battle.

Our challenges are similar to those of the past—we must understand the adversary and the environment. But today, there are new attributes in the information environment, including the speed of communications globally, the impact of malign behavior and disinformation, the rate of technological change, and the power of data. Information is ubiquitous. It does not respect borders on a map or echelons of command. That is both a challenge and an opportunity. One thing is sure: we have to think differently, and we have to start now.

I am proud of the leadership role the Marine Corps has taken to evolve Information as a warfighting function and to conduct OIE. But while much has been done, there is much more to do. As Marines have done in every clime, place, and domain, we must continue to work together to meet the demands of our time. As we implement the tenets of force design to meet our Nation’s challenges, we need every Marine to contribute effectively in the information environment with an understanding that information is combat power.

Semper Fidelis,

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