



22 June 2018

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND

Defense systems and Marine Corps acquisition too often come across as a foreign, jargon-loaded activity, generally misunderstood by many throughout the Department of Defense, including many Marines. For this first issue of our Corps' *Gazette* dedicated almost exclusively to Marine Corps systems acquisition, we will do our best to dispel the rumor and mystery behind acquisition, and shed light on where we are, and where we are headed.

The U.S. Marine Corps has a single command for its defense acquisition mission, which is to develop, equip, and sustain the MAGTF with the gear our Marines need to shoot, move, and communicate, and win our Nation's battles. We equip our Marines with the most capable weapons, ground, and IT systems in a timely manner. To do this, we know that we must understand operational necessity—the operational context specific to a material solution, e.g., a weapon. We believe acquisition professionals must speak the operators' language. Acquisition mechanisms, authorities, and regulations are means; our Corps' operational necessity is the end. The gear we produce must serve not only Marines in uniform today but, generally, must stand the test of time as an investment for generations to come.

Our writers are acquisition professionals assigned to MARCORSYSCOM and to the Marine Aviation Detachment, Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, including Marines who hold the acquisition MOS. The acquisition MOS is thirteen years old and thriving. Our cadre of professionals, approximately 100 officers, leads the development of our Corps' most critical and enabling investments across all MAGTF elements. What sets us apart is the operational experience we maintain in our acquisition officers. By design, the Marine Corps does not have an entry-level acquisition MOS. We prioritize strong MOS credibility as a proven-successful prerequisite for our most promising candidates to lateral move into the acquisition field. Foremost, we are MAGTF officers dedicated to producing MAGTF equipment.

Marine Corps acquisition is unique, as it reflects who we serve. Acquisition for Marines, by Marines. Marines in "B-billet" assignments involved in our weapon, equipment, and IT programs reinforce this operational focus. Additionally, our authors reflect the rich diversity and continuity of talent in our civilian workforce.

We hope the wide-ranging topics addressed will introduce the readers to some of the challenges our team covers down on in the day-to-day MAGTF acquisition operations, and the difference they make for all Marines.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AJ Pasagian', written over a horizontal line.

AJ Pasagian
Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command