



28 July 2021

Marines and Sailors,

I want to take this opportunity to recognize the great work of LtGen Lori Reynolds. I had the honor to succeed her at U.S. Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command where she left a fully-armed, fully-fueled warfighting machine. The same is true here on the Commandant's staff executing his guidance and intent for *Force Design*. The Nation owes her a great debt of gratitude for the ground breaking, foundational work in the information environment.

As I start this journey I do so with an appreciation of the capability and opportunities presented to the joint force. My recent experience working within U.S. Cyber Command provided insight into what is possible when the joint force combines with all elements of national power. The Commandant has often referred to the Marine Corps as a Service which will "enable" the joint force. In his words, "a major role for Marine Corps forces in critical future scenarios may revolve around enabling naval and joint force commanders as a dedicated reconnaissance and counter reconnaissance force." This very statement portrays a significant opportunity for the MAGTF to act as the sensing force, if we organize appropriately.

As an extension of the fleet and the Nation's stand-in force, the Marine Corps is the physical manifestation of the United States' commitment to international order. The Marine Corps facilitates strategic deterrence and provides situational awareness. The MAGTF operates as an integrated maritime force providing the joint force and our inter-agency partner's geographic and philosophical placement and access. In the right location and with our ability to sense and make-sense, the Marine Corps can become the preferred service to act on behalf of the joint force. The Marine Corps provides the ultimate opportunity of convergence where authorities, approvals, and capabilities are aligned with placement, access, and opportunity to generate the appropriate outcomes to support the Combatant Commanders' objectives. Maneuver matters when we can generate opportunities to deliver effects of any kind to include those in the information environment. Just like our forward observers and forward air controllers have unique perspective and opportunities based on their placement and access in the kinetic fight, the same opportunity presents itself today in the information environment.

As the stand-in force, it is the role of Marines to effectively compete and conduct preemptive counter-actions to expand the maneuver of the naval service and joint force. Forward-postured Marines must stand ready to execute information-focused missions on a short fuse to attain joint objectives. As we continue towards the realization of *Force Design*, it is an imperative to achieve synergy with our joint and interagency partners to deliver the asymmetric advantage required in today's operating environment. Our ability to deliver outcomes is as much about our organic lethality as it is about our geographic and philosophical placement and access to bring to bear the strength of the joint force within the information environment.

Marines owe it to the nation to engage in persistent learning. This Operations in the Information Environment (OIE) edition of the *Gazette* articulates the importance of Intelligence-driven OIE, epitomizing the demand to learn, and I commend the authors. As I work to help the Commandant achieve his vision, I look forward to sharing my ideas and hearing yours in our conversations and within the pages of the *Gazette*.

Semper Fidelis,

M.G. Glavy
Deputy Commandant for Information