



7 June 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND

Force Design 2030 modernization continues the legacy and builds on the foundation cemented by generations of Marines before us. With an eye to the future and an understanding of the ever-evolving threats before us, the Marine Corps is deliberately pursuing new capabilities and concepts to ensure we remain a capable naval expeditionary force in 2030 and beyond. As the acquisitions command for the Marine Corps, Marine Corps Systems Command and the program executive offices we support are executing Marine Corps modernization. We are completely synchronized with our closest teammates at Combat Development and Integration, who are leading our Corps' *Force Design 2030* analytical framework and disciplined prioritization of our work.

MARCORSYSCOM plays a critical lead role in equipping Marines with the next-generation, modernized capabilities needed to meet and defeat the evolving threat. The key component of this is having a robust acquisition team to execute this vision. At SYSCOM, the Marine is at the center of everything we do—we equip the Marine, not the machine. We ensure our Marines have the latest technology readily available and are comfortable when they are operating in the fleet. This includes us looking at the form, fit, and function of the gear they wear as well as adapting the equipment and technology to perform in any clime and place.

The individual Marine will persist as the center of gravity for our Corps, well into 2030 and beyond. Modernization looks to 2030, but we are well underway by enhancing our infantry Marines right now, for the fight tonight. Providing the Marine Corps infantry with the best capabilities remains an integral, ongoing priority for the Corps. Our most recent efforts have focused on improving the lethality, mobility, and survivability of each individual Marine and overall increased interoperability with the joint force. The M27 rifle increases Marines' lethality by offering greater accuracy while shooting at further distances, all while weighing less than its predecessor—the M249. The updated plate carriers we have fielded reduce weight and bulk while providing superior form, fit, and protection to our warfighters. We have been modernizing their communications systems, not only their handhelds but also the networks over which they communicate, so they are able to remain securely connected with each other on the battlefield.

Like the Marine Corps itself, our acquisition workforce is incredibly diverse and brings an enormous collection of backgrounds, experience, and insights to SYSCOM. This diversity of thought is also evident in this year's *Gazette* submissions; in this month's edition, you will hear from our experts in IT, engineering, testing, facilities, and program management. You will also learn about many of our upcoming efforts, including lightweight ammunition, unmanned aerial systems, augmented reality, and the new Ultra Light Tactical Vehicle.

The common thread weaving all these articles together is the shared desire to modernize and develop the force of the future, ensuring we give Marines the unfair advantage they deserve. I hope these articles make you think, question, and challenge the institution in order to improve our Corps and the future force.

Force modernization is perpetual. While the Marine Corps must invest in new capabilities and commit to new strategies, the hallmarks of the Marine Corps and the individual Marine remain the same. The Marine Corps remains the Nation's naval force-in-readiness and premier crisis response force. We also remain committed to the capabilities, organization, and training that will be required to compete and win against any adversary in future contested maritime environments. As the Corps modernizes and evolves, so should our acquisition framework. So, how do you evolve the framework of acquisition? You can start by reading the following articles and continuing to challenge the status quo. Enjoy.

Semper Fi,

A large, stylized black ink signature of A.J. Pasagian, written in a cursive style.

A.J. Pasagian
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Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command