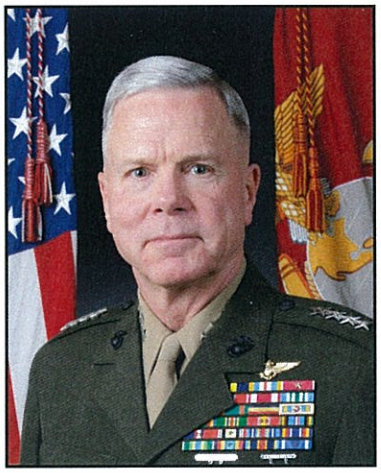
COMMANDANT'S POLICY STATEMENT ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY



Equal Opportunity is not a new idea or concept. Rather, it is a belief as venerable and important to us as our 14 Leadership Traits, guiding how we expect to be treated as Marines.

Our Core Values of Honor, Courage and Commitment are central to our service to the Nation. Likewise, Semper Fidelis — "Always Faithful" — is more than just our motto. It is a foundation for living that expresses our dedication to the Corps and the respect we must demonstrate toward our fellow Marines.

Every Marine, Sailor and Civilian Marine has an absolute right to be treated with dignity and respect — regardless of race, color, gender, religion, age, or national origin. Discrimination and harassment, in any form, are violations of who we are and what we stand for as a Corps. These negative behaviors diminish us as an institution and tarnish our concept of fidelity. Ultimately, they damage our ability to accomplish the mission by reducing effectiveness, eroding trust and degrading readiness.

All in our Corps deserve an opportunity to achieve their full potential. I direct leaders at all levels to ensure that a proper and professional climate exists for them to do so. Furthermore, I will hold all leaders fully accountable to my policy that all in their charge be treated with the utmost fidelity and respect, consistent with our Core Values. It is imperative that we leverage all our individual differences to achieve the strongest Corps of Marines as we continue our service as America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness.

JAMES F. AMOS
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps