

## BIRTHDAY MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL

The United States Marine Corps is **the finest fighting force in the history of mankind**. We fight out of love for the United States of America...for our ideals, for who we are, and for what we stand for – Freedom and Liberty. We remain the first to fight to protect America’s global interests and **to defend our most precious American “Way of Life.”** We fight fiercely for our friends and allies, too. Simply stated, the United States Marine Corps guarantees Victory on current and future diverse battlefields. Our 240<sup>th</sup> Birthday commits us to remember and reflect.

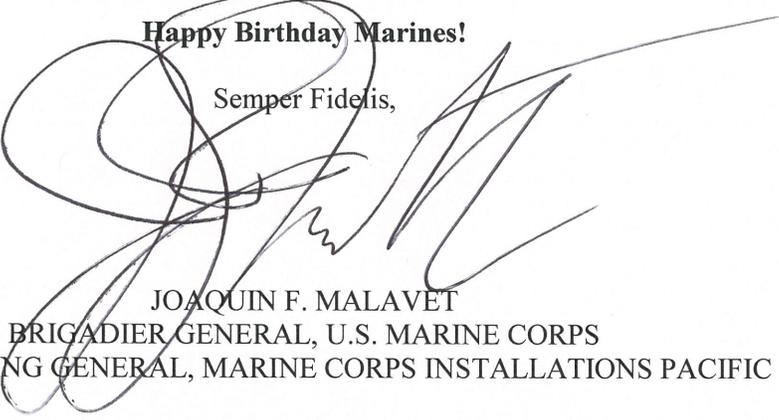
For over 70 years, the United States of America, with our allies and partners, **has guaranteed the essential Peace, Stability and Security in the Indo-Asia-Pacific**. Our principles, partnerships, presence and power projection capabilities have saved lives and underpinned the unprecedented regional economic growth. Our alliances with Japan, Korea, Australia, the Republic of the Philippines and Thailand have been the absolute cornerstones for assured strength and deterrence. **Our people-to-people ties and our futures are inextricably linked.**

The past is prologue. **For 240 years, the United States Marine Corps has served to embody Honor, Courage and Commitment.** We represent the greater good of humanity. Our reputation has been earned...it is proven. Our historical successes are immortalized through the bloodlines of the many Marines who have gone before us, and those Marines who have given the ultimate sacrifice – for love. **We own our history and heritage – it has been earned, and we must protect it, together.** The global strategic landscape is growing more uncertain and lethal today. There is certainty, however – you, us. **Our service and sacrifice today is essential.**

We must remember and reflect upon these fundamental truths. Know too, that our MCIPAC team is an extraordinary force – the first essential element for Marine Corps readiness and power projection in the Pacific. As we celebrate our beloved Marine Corps’ 240<sup>th</sup> Birthday with our friends and allies today, let’s always remember, reflect and remain faithful...let’s celebrate and enjoy our incontrovertible spirit and familial strength...and, **let’s always win for our strategic interests and our most noble causes, together.**

Happy Birthday Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

  
JOAQUIN F. MALAVET  
BRIGADIER GENERAL, U.S. MARINE CORPS  
COMMANDING GENERAL, MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS PACIFIC