



## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

COMMANDER, MARINE FORCES RESERVE  
4400 DAUPHINE STREET  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70146-5400

IN REPLY TO  
5800

CMD  
NOV 23 2005

### FORCE POLICY LETTER 11-05

From: Commander, Marine Forces Reserve  
To: Distribution List

Subj: FORCE FUNDRAISING POLICY

1. The American people have an illustrious history of charity and compassion for those in need. Fundraising is one means for us to "do our parts" in caring for those less fortunate, helping them improve their lives, and assisting them in achieving their goals. On a personal level, I am constantly inspired by the considerable acts of generosity that our Marines, family members, and civilian Marines - along with members of the local community - provide to the countless worthy causes and charities that exist to effect these objectives.

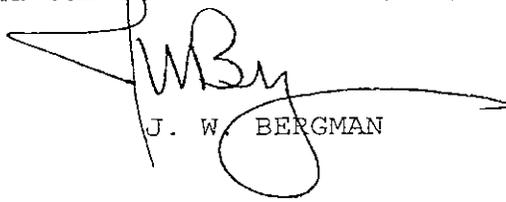
2. By its nature, however, the act of fundraising oftentimes places undue pressure on our Marine Corps Community to volunteer, contribute, and otherwise support these causes. Inasmuch as I have always extolled the virtues of initiative and ingenuity in discharging our duties as Marines, when it comes to fundraising, we must remain vigilant to ensure that we strictly obey and uphold all applicable laws and regulations. These rules ensure contributions remain voluntary and are not used for an inappropriate purpose. As Marines, we hold unique positions of trust as employees of the Federal Government. Fundraising rules protect Marine Corps units and the local communities from those who may attempt to inappropriately influence their subordinates, improperly augment appropriated funds, or unlawfully solicit or receive gifts from members of the public.

3. Unfortunately, it has been brought to my attention that a few members of our Marine Forces Reserve Community have been abusing established fundraising rules by improperly representing themselves to the local communities as Marine Corps representatives while "off-duty," by raising funds during duty hours, by not properly accounting for the funds raised, and by inappropriately "sponsoring" events with local businesses in order to raise funds. Such actions are illegal and punishable under both the UCMJ (for military members) and Federal law (for civilians and dependents). Let me assure you, if any person is suspected of violating these laws, I will fully investigate the allegations and ensure those responsible are held strictly accountable. I also expect all commanders and supervisors to

Subj: FORCE FUNDRAISING POLICY

accountable. I also expect all commanders and supervisors to set a personal example of integrity and ethical conduct, to encourage those they lead to emulate these traits, and to ensure their units do not participate in any fundraising activity that might cause embarrassment to the Marine Corps.

4. It is our responsibility as leaders of Marines to ensure fundraising is accomplished properly, ethically, and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. To this end, Counsel, Marine Forces Reserve has extensive guidance on proper fundraising techniques and processes. Counsel's Office can likewise answer any specific questions relating to fundraising activities and can be reached at (504) 678-8016.

  
J. W. BERGMAN

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Approved for public release;  
distribution is unlimited.