

Preserve the Force; Continue the Mission

For more than 100 years Reserve Marines have gone in harm's way against our nation's threats. We overcome obstacles and we win battles. Our latest challenge with COVID-19 will be no different.

While we are tough and resilient as an organization and as individuals, we are also prudent as we assess the risks. At this moment in our history, our top priority is the preservation of our Marines and our families so we're ready if called upon to respond to another crisis around the globe. While we develop and execute our contingency plans to address the growing COVID-19 threat, we will continue to demonstrate our resolve to mission accomplishment and devotion to one another and our families.

Marine Corps leadership at all levels is committed to protecting our Marines and families as best we can during this challenging time. Effective immediately, we are restricting official travel to that deemed mission-essential only, canceling/rescheduling drills and related training events, and cancelling other community relations events in which our Marines and Sailors are exposed to public gatherings.

Although we will not drill until further notice, the Corps expects all Marines and their families to maintain individual readiness to respond to the nation's call. If you are not ill, continue with physical fitness to ensure you are ready to Go, Fight, and Win on a moment's notice. We are essential to the nation's naval expeditionary force-in-readiness, and we will continue to be regardless of this current challenge.

I expect leaders at all levels, from commanding generals to enlisted leadership, to take any decisive action you feel necessary within the bounds of published guidance to protect the Force and maintain our operational commitments. Transparency, coordination, and communication are key to our health and safety.

Our nation is now facing a great challenge. The Marine Corps will get through this just as we have over the past 245 years: with strong leadership, resilient Marines, and disciplined service. Semper Fidelis.



D. G. BELLON