



A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

On behalf of all Marines, I am honored to welcome you to the 2026 Modern Day Marine Exposition and Honors Ceremony. This year's theme, 'From American Shores: 250 Years of Fighting Forward,' reflects the essence of who we are—our Nation's premier expeditionary force-in-readiness. Sustaining that role requires modernization with purpose—making disciplined choices to balance near-term readiness while investing in the advanced technologies required for future conflict.

Modern Day Marine is a force multiplier for that modernization—bringing Marines together with industry leaders and congressional partners to focus on what matters most: warfighting. The collaboration that occurs here will translate directly into capabilities in the hands of our warfighters. This exposition will feature panels, demonstrations, and discussions across our warfighting functions and domains—shaping how we fight as a Marine Air-Ground Task Force. From acquisitions and capability development to quality of life for our Marines and their families, this venue ensures we are informed, aligned, and ready. The ideas shared here will help drive change and ensure our Corps is prepared for the demands of the future fight.

Thank you to the Marine Corps League, the Marine Corps Association, our industry partners, and members of Congress for your continued support. Your commitment ensures Marines are ready for what lies ahead. Together, we will ensure our Corps remains a globally responsive, resilient, and lethal combined arms naval expeditionary force. I wish you all a productive and insightful exposition as we continue shaping the future of our Corps

Semper Fidelis,

Eric M. Smith
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps