

THE COMMANDANT'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

Since 1775 the Marine Corps has been America's fighting force of choice. We have earned this distinction by winning battles where Marines succeeded by trusting and depending upon each other at critical moments on the battlefield.

This trust is instilled in Marines from the earliest moment we begin training. It is no secret that our Corps succeeds as the individual Marine succeeds. Every leader must therefore create an environment that molds individual Marines into a unit. Every level of leadership must afford the individual Marine the opportunity to be successful by creating an environment that fosters trust, unit cohesion, and victory on the field of battle.



Leaders will instill the stamina and toughness in each individual Marine while creating an environment that values honor, integrity and caring for their fellow Marines. This desirable environment, free of prejudice, disrespect, and mistrust, exists when we treat each other with dignity and respect. Therefore, I charge every member of our Corps to hold each other accountable for adherence to these standards.

I will not tolerate behavior inconsistent with our core values of honor, courage, and commitment. Commitment to equal opportunity enhances unit cohesion and our war-fighting superiority. Most importantly, those individual differences brought together at boot camp and OCS and molded into a common heritage as America's Marines, will make us better and stronger as we continue to win our country's battles at home and abroad.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. W. Hagee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

M. W. Hagee
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps