

FROM THE COMMANDER

Marines, sailor, civilian Marines, and families of the 12th MCD,

January marked the beginning of a new year of taking on the largest share of the load for the Marine Corps' recruiting mission. As we welcome 2015, we continue to lead the nation in accomplishing our important mission of finding the next generation of Marines.



We came out of the gate strong in January, which had the largest contract and shipping mission outside of the summer season. The District performed exceedingly well through the subsequent months, and continues to set the bar for finding the highest caliber young men and women to send to recruit training.

The readiness of our families and recruiters continues to be a top priority. This quarter we performed a Mid-Year Review of our fiscal allocations and responsibilities, which ultimately resulted in additional funding for TAD, new equipment, and gear in order to support the recruiting effort more effectively. This March, we held a successful District Spouse Orientation Course (DSOC) for 18 spouses who are married to first-year recruiters. The DSOC helps spouses manage expectations and prepares them for the challenges they will face while on recruiting duty. This especially important program's next iteration is scheduled for September 9-12 here at the District. Being fully informed of the rigors of recruiting duty can help bolster family resiliency while assigned to challenging duty. Spouses in their first year on recruiting duty are strongly encouraged to attend the next DSOC in September.

Since assuming his post this past spring, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, placed important emphasis on the effort to which we are committed. His planning guidance for this year expressed how important our mission is and reflected his commitment to support the recruiting force. Posters with excerpts from his planning guidance were sent out to each substation highlighting his guidance. Take notice and continue to take what you do to heart.

Looking ahead to next quarter, we will host this summer's Educator Workshops. Western Recruiting Region has improved the program based on feedback from both educators and Marines involved in the program at all levels. We're excited to bring 30 educators per recruiting station this year, and continue one of the most beneficial programs we have which provides long-term recruiting benefits. Our district has historically brought some of the most influential educators and community leaders to this program, which has garnered immense support for the Marine Corps in high schools in our area. I recognize the work it takes each Marine recruiter to identify attendees and I look forward to seeing the quality educators and influencers you send this Educators Workshop season.

Also in the near future, I'd like to highlight the 2nd Annual Teen Summit from June 11-13. This summit is designed to provide teens with useful information about resources available to them as dependents, scholarship opportunities, volunteer work and leadership development. One parent is also invited and it's a great chance to strengthen relationships with your teen. I encourage you to earmark these dates and take advantage of Teen Summit and DSOC opportunities. Please contact your Deputy Family Readiness Officer for more details.

Your hard work never goes unnoticed and reflects greatly upon our unit's legacy and high standards. Continue to take care of each other, your families, and to support our ever-important mission.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. C. Hastings".

E. C. Hastings
Colonel, USMC
Commanding Officer