

FROM THE COMMANDER

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



The last few months have brought us many challenges and successes that have yet again proven the steadfast drive and commitment we have to our recruiting mission as a district.

It is no surprise that 12th District leads the nation in recruiting standards in all indicators, which is a direct result of our recruiters' hard work and the support of their families. We would never be where we are without the tenacity and focus of all of our Marines to accomplish our mission.

I'd like to begin by welcoming all the new Marines we've gained this past quarter as we are in the peak turnover season. The district welcomes new recruiting station commanding officers of RS Los Angeles; Maj Dones, RS Salt Lake City; Maj Ankney, RS Portland; Maj Boehlert, and finally RS San Francisco; Maj Frerichs. With large turnover in key leadership positions, I know our dedicated Marine recruiters will help ensure continuity and continued mission success. I'd like to wish our departing veteran recruiters, recruiting station staff, and commanding officers fair winds and following seas in the future - best of luck to those Marines and their dedicated families.

During this summer period, our recruiters have modified their prospecting activities due to schools taking their summer break. This has given us the opportunity to identify high quality applicants who will be seniors next year and strengthen the pool in order to close out the quarter strong and get off to a tremendous start in Fiscal Year 2016.

Our annual (and growing) Teen Summit kicked off this quarter with 30 participants representing RS' SEA, SDO, ORG, SLC, PRT, SFO, and Prior Service Recruiting. Some of the highlight activities were the "College 101" class, Financial Fitness for Teens, and the Habitat for Humanity service project. We certainly hope for even more participation at next year's summit! In addition to teen summit, I'd like to remind spouses of new recruiters to attend our District Spouse Orientation Course (DSOC), which will be held Sep 9-11. Please contact your Deputy Family Readiness Officer to sign up.

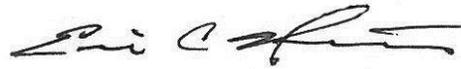
On a more solemn note, four of our own and one sailor were killed in a cowardly act of murder at a recruiting station and reserve center in Chattanooga, TN this July. Our deepest condolences go out to the affected families and Marines around the Corps, and our immediate focus has been on taking care of those Marines and their families throughout this tragedy. We have taken additional force protection measures, coordinated with local law enforcement, and have

implemented procedures from the Joint Terrorism Task Force to ensure our recruiters' safety moving forward.

One of our greatest assets to combat this type of terrorism in the future is our supportive family and community network. I'd like to remind all of our Marines and their families to continue to remain vigilant with a heightened sense of awareness and report any suspicious activity in your area. Remember, no incident is too insignificant to report.

Despite the recent tragedy and heavy turnover this summer, I have no doubt that our team will find healing and focus from our ever important mission. Looking ahead, we aim to close out Fiscal Year 2015 strong and continue to set the example for the rest of recruiting command. Keep taking care of each other, your families and remain Semper Fidelis.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. C. Hastings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

E. C. Hastings
Colonel, USMC
Commanding Officer