

FROM THE COMMANDER

Marines, Sailor, Civilian Marines and Families of the 12th MCD,

I would like to begin with wishing all of you a very Happy New Year. The New Year provides us an opportunity to look at the successes of the past year and set new goals for the future.

We welcomed FY14 in October after a successful closeout of FY13. The District has remained successful in FY14 and I expect nothing less as we continue through 2014. With this New Year comes new and unprecedented challenges for us ahead.

This year our Marine Corps and the recruiting force in particular are faced with unprecedented budget cuts that make your already challenging job even more challenging. I recognize that you are being asked to accomplish your mission while doing so with less. As Marines we pride ourselves on our ability to do more with less and these times are no exception. I appreciate the efforts you are putting in everyday to ensure that even with less we continue to be successful in making our FY14 mission.

From the top down, I am keenly aware that despite the lower shipping and contracting missions for FY14 the job of our recruiters and support staff is no easier. In fact, in many ways these are the most challenging times for the recruiting force as the quality standards for joining the Marine Corps are as high as ever. I understand the tremendous challenges you are faced with every day and myself and the District team stand ready to support you and your families.

This District is a team that relies on the dedicated service of each and every member in order to successfully carry out our mission. A very important aspect of our team are the families of 12th MCD, whose sacrifices allow for and contribute to our continued success. I recognize that the sacrifices and hardships of recruiting duty extend well beyond the individual recruiter on the street and into your homes. The support of our families is what enables us to continue to find those highly qualified individuals to raise their right hand and take on the challenge of becoming a United States Marine. I continue to be impressed by your resiliency and dedication to our mission. Thank you for all that you do to support your Marine and the 12th MCD mission.

As we welcome 2014, we are already looking ahead to posture the 12th MCD for continued long-term success well into the future. The 2020 Census data shows that out of the entire United States the Southern California region will grow faster than any other region. To prepare for this we will implement structure changes in FY15 that will allow for growth and account for the dense population in the Southern California AO for years to come.

Our success as a District in the future relies on your hard work, dedication and success today. Thank you for all that you do for the 12th MCD team and continue to remain Semper Fidelis.



Semper Fidelis,

E. C. Hastings

Colonel, USMC
Commanding Officer