



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20318-9999

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY 2005

For 230 years, the Marine Corps has defended the United States with great distinction and honor. From Trenton to Belleau Wood to Iwo Jima, from the Chosin Reservoir to Khe Sanh and Somalia, the storied history of the Marine Corps has been forged in the crucible of the heroic campaigns of the Nation.

That rich legacy continues today. In Afghanistan, Iraq and all corners of the world, Marines defeat our enemies, protect our loved ones, and extend freedom and democracy to others. Whether engaged in combat operations or lifesaving humanitarian missions, you repeatedly demonstrate the professionalism, resolve and selflessness that are Marine hallmarks. Americans everywhere take comfort in the knowledge that their Marine Corps remains always faithful in the defense of our way of life.

On behalf of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the men and women of the Armed Forces, congratulations to the Marine Corps on its 230th birthday. I salute all Marines, past and present, for their proud and dedicated service to the Nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Pace".

PETER PACE
General, United States Marine Corps
Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff