



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
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WHITE LETTER 3-20

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: All Commanding Generals
All Commanding Officers
All Officers-in-Charge

Subj: PRESERVING THE FORCE AND EXECUTING PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION MOVES

1. The Marine Corps is the Nation's naval expeditionary force-in-readiness, and we operate and thrive in uncertain conditions - both on the battlefield and, as we are experiencing with COVID-19, at home as well.

2. To this point, you and your families have responded decisively and effectively to COVID-19. All of you have shown the resourcefulness, resilience, and discipline the Nation expects of its Marines - and the families that support us. Thank you for your efforts during this challenging period.

3. As the Marine Corps and the rest of the Nation seek to safely normalize operations in a COVID-19 environment, we need to ensure that our Marines, Sailors, and their families can safely execute permanent change of station (PCS) orders. In accordance with guidance provided by the Secretary of Defense and along with our sister Services, the Marine Corps is developing a PCS Health Screening Protocol Checklist and Guidelines for Safely Moving in a COVID-19 Environment to ensure the safety of all involved. While the details of these documents will be published separately, I remind everyone that the responsibility for the health and well-being of Marines, Sailors, and families lies with each Commander.

4. Therefore, until otherwise directed, all commands will ensure that a command representative visits transitioning Marines and Sailors during move-in/move-out periods at their residence. In cases where geographic distance makes this impractical, telephone contact is acceptable. The purpose of this visit is to ensure an understanding of health safety protocols and remind our Marines, Sailors, and families that if they observe something that is unsafe or unhealthy, they are empowered and encouraged to immediately address the issue and, if necessary, contact their Distribution Management Office and/or the chain of command to resolve the issue to their satisfaction.

5. Throughout these challenging times, I expect Commanders of both the separating and gaining commands to go beyond the requirements of the Command Sponsorship Program and take an even more active role in every Marine's and Sailor's move. Our Marines, Sailors, and family members need to know that their leaders care for them and are ready and willing to help - it is the least we can do for those of whom we expect so much.

D. H. BERGER