

Dear Parents, Families, and Friends of Recently Enlisted U.S. Marine,

As the Commanding Officer of the 6th Marine Corps District, I want to personally congratulate you on the significant decision your loved one made recently by volunteering to become a U. S. Marine. The All-Volunteer Force has given our country the best military in the history of the world, and it is due to the values, courage, and commitment of those like your loved one that we are able to sustain and continuously improve upon it. This commitment in our country's youth to serve is truly admirable, and we are all very appreciative of it. I want you to know that every Marine in the 6th Marine Corps District (which is responsible for all Marine Corps recruiting in the southeast United States) is equally committed to the success of your loved one in boot camp and during their time in the Marine Corps. You should feel justifiably proud of your future Marine's decision to serve our country in the most challenging of the services.



By volunteering to serve in the Marine Corps, your loved one will soon become a part of the Nation's "Crisis Response Force," which is forward-deployed and forward-engaged around the world. The Marine Corps prides itself on being "most ready when our Nation is least ready," reflecting a proud tradition of readiness going back to the earliest days of our Republic. This commitment to readiness starts with our Marine Recruiters preparing their young applicants for the rigors of boot camp and service as a Marine. Success in recruit training is a team effort: from the applicant, the Marine Recruiter, and the support of an applicant's family and friends. Like readiness, teamwork is also a hallmark of the Marine Corps, and I intend for us Marines to honor your future Marine's commitment with an equally strong commitment to get them ready.

I have served more than 22 years as a United States Marine. Throughout my time in uniform, I have always focused on the welfare of the proud young men and women who serve in our ranks. I have found that keeping them and their families informed improves morale and readiness. In that spirit, I encourage you to communicate with the chain of command your future Marine recently became a part of. This chain goes from your applicant to the Marine Recruiter, the Recruiting Sub-Station Staff Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge, the Major Commanding the Recruiting Station in your major geographic area, and then to myself. Please learn who these Marines are and communicate with them. My Headquarters is at Parris Island, South Carolina and if you would like to contact me for any reason, my information is as follows:

Office Phone Number: (843) 228-2726

E-mail address: William.bowers@marines.usmc.mil

Website: <http://www.marines.mil/unit/mcrc/6mcd/Pages/welcome.aspx>

The 6th Marine Corps District and its subordinate Stations and Sub-Stations also maintain websites to help keep applicants and their families informed, so please use them to gain important information. Finally, please feel free to submit any ideas or recommendations you may have to make our website more useful or to share anything else you would like for me to know. It is a distinct honor and privilege to serve as your future Marine's Commanding Officer and Congratulations again!

Warmest Regards and Semper Fidelis (Always Faithful),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Bowers".

William J. Bowers
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding