



A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

On behalf of all Marines, it is my distinct privilege to welcome you to the HMM-265 Veterans Association reunion as you celebrate the squadron's 50th anniversary. Your commitment to making this event a success is a testament to your dedication and fidelity. As we continue to commemorate the first century of Marine Aviation in 2012, as well as the first half-century since the establishment of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265, it is important to recognize the contributions of all Marines in achieving these significant milestones. I offer my personal thank you to all HMM-265 Marines for your outstanding service to the Nation and the Marine Corps.

Our Corps' illustrious history is rich with the exploits of Marine Aviation. From HMM-265's days flying the UH-34D at Marine Corps Air Facility, New River in 1962 to becoming the first operational Marine squadron equipped with the CH-46A in 1964, the "Dragons" have continually set the pace for Marine rotary wing aviation. With landing zones in every clime and place, from the pine forests of North Carolina and the volcanic mountains of Hawaii to the dense jungles of Vietnam and disaster-stricken beaches of Japan, HMM-265 has been there leading the way in support our ground forces and our international partners. Our legendary heritage is a function of not only our traditions and esprit de corps, but also the skill, determination and aviation acumen of the countless Marines and Marine aviators who have filled the ranks of HMM-265 through the years. You have all repeatedly answered our Nation's call and should be proud of your accomplishments.

Reunions such as yours play a vital role for our Corps by highlighting and strengthening the bonds between Marines, active and reserve, past and present. Whenever Marines gather in any number or location to celebrate our heritage, these acts of fraternity and camaraderie bolster our ethos and support our customs, courtesies and traditions. As the squadron again approaches the transition to a new aircraft, you should reflect on the storied history of our Corps and the "Dragons" of HMM-265. It is also fitting to pause and remember those who have gone before, particularly those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation's freedoms. Thank you for your service and fidelity and best wishes for a very memorable reunion.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. Amos", written over a circular stamp or seal.

JAMES F. AMOS
General, U.S. Marine Corps