

29 June 2020

III Marine Expeditionary Force

Welcome Letter

Marines, Sailors, Civilians, and Family Members,

Welcome to Japan! You are now serving in our nation's priority theater at a pivotal time in history. As our Commandant has stated, service in the Western Pacific is an imperative for Marines. As a member of III Marine Expeditionary Force or Marine Corps Installations Pacific, you play an important role in deterring our nation's adversaries, assuring our allies, and when necessary, responding to crisis.

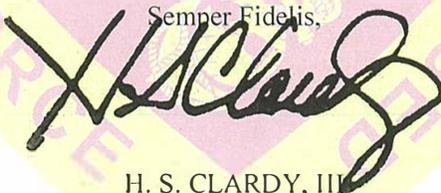
From combat operations to disaster relief, Marines in the Western Pacific are often the first to deploy, the first to respond, and the first to demonstrate that there truly is no better friend, and no worse enemy than United States Marines. Your assignment will be challenging, professionally rewarding, and interesting. Moreover, I'm confident that you will find duty in Japan to be personally enriching. You will have opportunities to travel here in your new home, and you'll find the Japanese people to be some of the most welcoming in the world. As individuals, our day-to-day actions underpin our critical alliance with Japan. Please treat the Japanese people as you want to be treated, with dignity, courtesy, and respect.

Transferring to an overseas command is never easy. The threat of infection from Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), a five-month backlog of orders, and host-nation quarantine requirements make this year's moving season particularly challenging. Regardless of those challenges, we'll do what United States Marines have always done. We will remain focused on our mission and keep faith with one another. Your assignment to Restriction of Movement (ROM) is an important part of combatting the COVID threat. To that end, I ask the following of you:

- Adhere to the requirements which have been explained to you. Monitor your health and unless an emergency occurs, do not leave your quarantine location.
- Use the 14-day quarantine period to stay physically and mentally fit. Read the materials you've been provided and exercise daily within the confines of ROM. Take time to learn about Japan's language and customs.
- Maintain contact with your sponsor and gaining command. Raise concerns and ask questions. Your sponsor is poised and ready to help address your concerns.

I am counting on your selfless commitment and discipline to protect the force from COVID-19 and to maintain our readiness. Together, we'll maintain our Corps' shared tradition of *being most ready when the nation is least ready*. I'm confident that having you join our ranks will add to our strength, and I am proud to stand with you Forward, Faithful, and Focused.

Semper Fidelis.



H. S. CLARDY, III
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force
Commander, Marine Forces Japan