MARINE CORPS MANUAL

W/CH 1-3

Approved for Release

1980

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Headquarters United States Marine Corps
Washington, D.C. 20380

PCN 50100342500

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c. Military command and management control, as separate channels of oommand, are not present in the exercise of command within Marine Corps operating forces which are not part of a naval shore activity. The usiness administration functions of command are limited by the overriding considerations of operational missions. All matters, including such aspects of business administration as may be involved, are exercised through the chain of command established for the operating forces.

d. These are inherent features in the office of command:

(1) Precedence over all persons commanded.

(2) Power to enforce the official will of the commander through the issuance of necessary directives.

(3) Authority to make inspections to ensure compliance with such directives.

(4) Authority to initiate or apply authorized disciplinary measures.

2. Command Responsibility and Authority

a. The responsibility of the commanders for their commands is absolute except to the extent that the commander is relieved of responsibility by competent authority or by regulations. While the commander may delegate authority to subordinates for the execution of details, such delegation of authority does not relieve the commander of responsibility for the safety, well-being, and efficiency of the entire command. The commander shall ensure that the delegated authority is properly exercised and that orders and instructions are properly executed.

b. The authority of the commander is equal with the commander's responsibility, subject to the limitations prescribed by law and regulations.

3. Eligibility to Command

a. Any commissioned, warrant, or noncommissioned officer of the Marine Corps is eligible to command activities of the Marine Corps subject to limitations imposed by the Commandant of the Marine Corps or higher authority.

b. Command is exercised by virtue of office or by special assignment. Officers without orders from competent authority cannot assign themselves to command by virtue of their commission alone. Marine commanders are assigned to command, or they succeed to command.

c. An officer under arrest or suspended from duty cannot exercise command of any kind, and that officer is deprived of all authority to give orders or exact obedience from junior personnel or to perform any other duties that go with the exercise of command.

4. Limitations on Assignment to Command. The officer assigned to command a Marine Corps aviation activity on shore (base, station, facility, auxiliary landing field, aviation detachment, aviation Reserve training detachment) or a Marine Corps air unit organized for flight tactical purposes, shall be an officer of the Marine Corps qualified as a naval aviator or a naval flight officer. Command of Marine Corps air units organized for administrative and/or support purposes and which are not directly responsible for the operation of assigned aircraft, may be assigned to officers not qualified as a naval aviator or naval flight officer.

5. Chain of Command. The chain of command varies with the component of command involved. All orders and instructions from higher echelon tolower echelons should be issued through the chain of command, as far as practicable. An individual or unit must have but one immediate commander from who all orders and instructions related to a given function are received.

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