25 May 2010

Dear Senator McCain,

During testimony, I spoke of the confidence I had as a Service Chief in the DoD Working Group that Secretary Gates laid out in the wake of President Obama's guidance on "Don't Ask – Don't Tell." I felt that an organized and systematic approach on such an important issue was precisely the way to develop "best military advice" for the Service Chiefs to offer the President.

Further, the value of surveying the thoughts of Marines and their families is that it signals to my Marines that their opinions matter.

I encourage the Congress to let the process the Secretary of Defense created to run its course. Collectively, we must make logical and pragmatic decisions about the long-term policies of our Armed Forces – which so effectively defend this great Nation.

Very Respectfully,

James T. Conway
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510