



“Other services may recruit and offer themselves as a means of something else or something better, saying, ‘We’ll get you a college education,’ ‘We’ll get you financial stability,’ or ‘You’ll improve your lot in life,’” Milstead said. “But the Marine Corps offers itself as the destination. We don’t talk college, we don’t talk money, and we don’t talk anything else [to recruits]. We only make one promise: that you’ll be a United States Marine. ”

The Marine recruiting message is dynamically different from that of other services, Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Robert E. Milstead Jr. said as he discussed the current state and contemporary challenges in recruiting Marines. Even without offering big cash bonuses, promising opportunities for college or assuring a better life after service, the Marine Corps anticipates meeting its five-year force-growth goal two years early, the commander of Marine recruiting said via teleconference from his headquarters in Quantico, Va.

Source: By Army Staff Sgt. Michael J. Carden, American Forces Press Service

“They are the ones who put their lives on the line,” Gates said. “We’ve lost a lot of lives, but it’s really been really an extraordinary translation of a great strategy into a great success in a very difficult circumstance. ”

CAMP SPEICHER, Iraq, Sept. 15, 2008 - Tomorrow's Multinational Force Iraq change of command also signifies a shift in the coalition mission in the country, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said while en route to Iraq to participate in the ceremony. Though this does not signal the end of U.S. involvement in Iraq, he said, “the areas where we are seriously engaged will continue to narrow.”

Source: Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

“General David Petraeus was asked to do a very difficult job, and he did it with distinction and honor,” Bush said. “He implemented the surge, along with a lot of other brave people. And the United States and the world is better off because of it. ”

After meeting with the general at the White House, President Bush credited Gen. Petraeus with helping to plan and implement a 33,000-troop surge that started in January 2007 and has been cited as a key factor in Iraq's improved security. Petraeus, who commanded the forces in Iraq since February 2007, turned the reins over to Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno. Petraeus and became commander of U.S. Central Command on Oct. 31.

Source of (President Bush quote): John J. Kuzel, American Forces Press Service