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## **U.S. Marines become first federal agency to earn IAS accreditation**

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) recently became the first federal agency to receive a Certificate of Accreditation from the International Accreditation Service (IAS) during a ceremony at their base in Quantico, Va. The Certificate of Accreditation to ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 17020 standard was presented to the Marine's Ground Quality Control Program, the division that helps to keep Marines shooting straight, moving quickly, communicating effectively -- and doing it safely.

On hand to present the certificate was IAS chairman Majed Dabdoub, IAS president Chuck Ramani, IAS lead assessor Hershal Brewer, and ICC Vice President Henry Green.

"Inspections play a critical role in business, industry and national security," said Ramani. "The Marines have proven their competence in conducting inspections by going through the evaluation process and successfully meeting the standards for accreditation. It is an honor for IAS to present this certificate of accreditation to the U.S. Marines."

The Marine's Ground Quality Control Program is a Web-based auditing tool used to verify the implementation, effectiveness and efficiency of quality practices at all Marine Corps calibration facilities. It has reduced administration time by one half and greatly improved the quality programs capability.

IAS accreditation provides proof that inspection agencies operate under a quality system that is fully documented, effectively implemented and regularly monitored to ensure its continuing suitability and effectiveness; employ qualified, experienced personnel with thorough knowledge of inspection requirements; have the proper facilities and equipment so inspection services can be carried out efficiently and that the equipment is properly calibrated and regularly maintained; use approved and documented procedures for its inspections; and comply with ISO/IEC 17020, the internationally-recognized standard for inspection agencies.

## Marines earn IAS accreditation / Add One

The International Accreditation Service, a subsidiary of the International Code Council<sup>®</sup>, assesses and accredits competent inspection agencies, testing and calibration laboratories, building departments and fabricator inspection programs. In operation since 1975, IAS is one of the oldest accreditation bodies of its type and is a nonprofit, public benefit corporation recognized worldwide. To learn more about IAS and its accreditation programs, please visit [www.iasonline.org](http://www.iasonline.org), call 1-866-427-4422, or e-mail [info@iasonline.org](mailto:info@iasonline.org).

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