

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1971

# No-Nonsense Marine General

Robert Everton Cushman Jr.

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30— At a time when the other military forces are relaxing their training and discipline in an effort to attract more recruits, the man named today to become Commandant of the Marine Corps is likely to remain the corps's Spartan atmosphere. Lieut. Gen. Robert

Man  
in the  
News  
Everton Cushman Jr., who was nominated by President Nixon this morning would not consent to an interview today. A friend said he was "following protocol" and would not "become accessible until he is confirmed by the Senate."

But a statement that General Cushman issued gave a broad hint that he would not go the route of the other service chiefs, who have taken such steps as doing away with reveille, permitting beer in the barracks and allowing longer hair and sideburns.

## Voices Enthusiasm

"I look forward with enthusiasm to taking over the ask of maintaining our highly professional standards," General Cushman declared. Then he added, "It is my opinion that the present course charted for our corps is a correct one."

To some officers at the Marine Corps headquarters, General Cushman's nomination was initially a surprise, although they had realized he was in the running for the top position in the corps.

These officers had expected the President to name Lieut. Gen. John B. Chaisson, the Marine Chief of Staff, a Harvard graduate who has the reputation of being the "brightest man in the corps." Or, perhaps, the headquarters officers thought the President might promote Gen.

Raymond G. Davis, now the Assistant Commandant, who has four stars to General Cushman's three.

But, in retrospect, these offices said this afternoon, General Cushman was the natural choice for the job. He has been personally close to President Nixon since the late nineteen-fifties, when he spent the last four years of Mr. Nixon's Vice Presidency as his chief adviser on national security affairs.

In March, 1969, shortly after he became President, Mr. Nixon made General Cushman Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, a position he still holds.

Upon becoming Commandant, General Cushman will be given a fourth star.

## Born on Christmas Eve

General Cushman was born in St. Paul, Minn., on Christmas Eve, 1914. He went to public schools there and then to the United States Naval Academy, where he graduated 10th in his class of 1935. Classmates at the academy remember him as a fine lacrosse player.

In South Vietnam from 1967 until he returned to Washington in 1969, he was commanding officer of 163,000 Army and Marine troops in the northernmost provinces. No other Marine officer has ever commanded so many battlefront troops.

General Cushman has the physique and demeanor of a storybook marine. He is barrel-chested and 6 feet tall, with closely cropped hair and a ramrod posture. His glasses, which he wears nearly all the time these days, give him something of a scholarly look.

According to his colleagues, he is an extraordinarily articulate and forceful speaker, the kind of person who commands immediate attention when he begins to speak. He is anything but flamboy-

ant, but a friend said it would be a mistake to describe him as colorless.

"Bob is strictly a no-nonsense man on the job," this friend said, "but he's a great guy to be at a party with. He's quick and sharp and a good joke teller."

General Cushman's wife is the former Audrey Boyce of Portsmouth, Va. They live in McLean, Va., and have two grown children and two grandchildren.

General Cushman used to be a regular golfer, but he has played infrequently since going to Vietnam. He gets his exercise now from daily jogging and regular swimming. In his spare time, he enjoys playing chess and working in the woodworking shop in his basement.

In Vietnam, General Cushman gained a reputation for independence, especially after he privately took issue with his superiors over the static defense concept employed at Khesanh, the American bastion that was besieged by the enemy for months.

General Cushman was said



Associated Press

Close to the President

to have argued that the Americans at Khesanh were sacrificing their greatest advantage, the ability to maneuver infantry and artillery rapidly by helicopter.

His opposition to the Khesanh strategy, however, did not keep him from being an effective commander. "After all," a friend who was in Vietnam at the same time remarked today, "he is a marine."