ABOUT THE CORPS
You may hear the calling. You may seek the challenge. But few have what it takes to earn the title United States Marine. To become a Marine, you will be tested as you have never been tested before. You will want to rest. You will want to quit. But you will find a way.

In 12 weeks, you will stand tall with your fellow Marines in perfect formation. You may never experience anything that equals this moment. You will know you can overcome anything that stands in your way. You have earned the title Marine.

THE TITLE IS EARNED, NEVER GIVEN

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WE WILL DEFEND OUR NATION, WE WILL DEFEAT ITS ENEMIES

From the day the United States Marine Corps was formed, its purpose has been simple: fight and win this nation’s battles no matter where they occur. It is what we do best, and Marines hold the responsibility to keep our nation safe and free. Our country has been tested many times and Marines of every generation have risen to the challenge. In doing so, they have made lasting contributions to the war and history of the nation and its people.

EXEMPLARY WARRIORS OF EXEMPLARY CHARACTER

To be a Marine is to be an upstanding citizen. You must possess outstanding discipline and unparalleled character. Marines set an example on the battlefield and beyond. No Marine passes through our gates without being instilled with our core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. These values will stay with you for a lifetime. To earn our title is to carry a lifelong pride. But also will pass, yet you will always remember the day you first stood shoulder to shoulder with your peers and became something more, a United States Marine.

HONOR

MUST BE EARNED. THERE IS A REASON THE NOBLE PATH IS THE ONE LESS TRAVELED. TO SERVE SOMETHING GREATER THAN YOURSELF IS A CALLING NOT MANY WILL HEED. FEW HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME SOMETHING MORE. WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE FEW.
RECRUIT TRAINING: 12 WEEKS, ONE PURPOSE

Marine Corps Recruit Training consists of 12 consecutive weeks at one of two Marine Corps Recruit Depots (MCRD). MCRD Parris Island, S.C., serves as the training location for all male recruits from east of the Mississippi River and all female recruits. Male recruits from west of the Mississippi undergo training at MCRD San Diego, Calif. Training is extremely rigorous. It is designed to develop the mental, physical, moral and spiritual qualities required of a Marine. You must complete every phase of recruit training to become a Marine.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

All new recruits are required to meet minimum standards for strength and fitness, making it very important that you make good use of the time before you leave for recruit training. You should start physical training and conditioning before Marine Corps Recruit Training even begins. If you are unsure of your level of fitness, you may want to learn about the Marine Corps Delayed Entry Program, which allows you to enlist and then take up to a year to prepare for recruit training.

INTELLECTUAL QUALIFICATIONS

As important as physical conditioning is in the Marine Corps, you must also possess equally strong intelligence. Grades in school are important, and all new recruits are expected to have graduated high school. A good Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) score will qualify you for a wider selection of Military Occupational Specialties (MOS).

LIFE AS A MARINE

During recruit training, you will wear no rank. Marine recruits are paid at the grade of private or private first class. But you will not need money during recruit training, since all meals, clothing and medical care are furnished. Although both male and female Marine recruits are trained at Parris Island, S.C., the training occurs separately. Female recruits are assigned female Drill Instructors, and male recruits are assigned male Drill Instructors. Though male and female Marines serve side by side, fraternization during recruit training is strictly prohibited. When you arrive at recruit training, your civilian clothing and possessions will be placed in secure storage, to be returned to you upon completion of your training. Males receive close-cropped haircuts, and females must wear their hair no longer than shoulder length. During recruit training, females may also pull their hair up into a bun.

MORAL STANDARDS

Good moral conduct is essential to becoming and being a Marine. To become a recruit, you must have a history free of problem behavior or substance abuse. Marines live by our core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. You will be expected to do the same.

THE CRUCIBLE

The final stage of recruit training is known simply as The Crucible. This is a 54-hour field immersion designed to test everything you have learned as a recruit. To succeed, each platoon must work together. Only recruits who complete The Crucible will be awarded the title Marine.
NEVER WAVERS. NEITHER DO MARINES. WE ARE AMERICA’S EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IN READINESS. READY AND ABLE TO FIGHT OUR NATION’S BATTLES WHEREVER AND WHENEVER THEY OCCUR.

BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES
From the day you first earn the right to wear the Eagle, Globe and Anchor, you will take your place in an esteemed pride tradition and will remain part of it forever. Marines receive an impressive array of benefits worthy of those who serve our nation. These include:

• Military pay graded according to your rank
• Full medical benefits for you and your family
• Free on-base housing or a housing allowance
• Thirty days leave each year
• Shopping privileges at post exchanges and commissaries all over the world

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES
Every Marine is encouraged to continue his or her education and is given the opportunity and financial means to do so. The moment you become a Marine, many doors to higher education will open, and government Tuition Assistance (TA) becomes effective after completion of 2 years of service. Privy for 100% of your tuition, you’ll need to maintain a ‘C’ average. Should you leave the Corps after completing your enlistment, you can still continue your education through the GI Bill. It will pay for the vast majority of your education expenses.

EARN THE TITLE, EARN THE RESPECT
When you earn the title Marine, you will not only have the respect of your peers, you will have the respect of our nation. You will forever carry with you a unique pride you’ll never have to relinquish. Because if you are ready to earn the title Marine, you will be ready to accomplish anything. You will be a part of an elite organization older than the nation it defends. You will be superbly trained, extremely disciplined, sharp-witted, even stern—ready to think quickly, act decisively and lead others. You will be a Marine.

AMERICA’S FORCE IN READINESS
As America’s expeditionary warriors, the Marines are this nation’s first line of defense. Fluid and flexible, we pull from every discipline in the Corps to create exactly the right combination for each mission. The need for the Marine Corps’ quick-strike capabilities is greater now than ever. Marines stand ready to deploy anywhere in the world at a moment’s notice.

COMMITMENT
MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

The most important title you earn will be Marine. It will mean you have the singular determination and utter strength to stand among our nation’s finest. To be the very best at whatever you attempt. In addition to this, you will have a Military Occupational Specialty, or MOS. This will comprise your regular job duties, and your MOS training will represent some of the finest vocational training in the world.

ENLISTED AVIATION

By sea. By land. By air. The Marine Corps is prepared to strike at any time from anywhere. The Marine Corps air mission supports Marine Corps ground troops by providing close air support. The aircraft we fly are specially equipped for our purposes, and highly skilled teams of Marines must not only put them in the air, but operate them. With an Enlisted Aviation MOS, you might be assigned to Marine Corps F/A-18 fighters, AV-8 Harrier jets, Cobra attack helicopters or any number of other aircraft. You could be in aviation operations, aviation electronics or aircraft maintenance and repair. You could even become an aircrew member.

COMBAT LOGISTICS

The Marine Corps is a well-oiled machine. The Marine Corps is flawless in its deployment and incredibly effective at its mission. Much of this is due to the extensive layer of support personnel who consistently place Marine Corps firepower in the right place at the right time. Those with a Combat Logistics MOS might be involved with transportation, equipment and vehicle repair, logistics, nuclear or biological/chemical defense, combat engineering or public affairs. Combat Logistics is the lifeblood of the Corps, and more Marines have an MOS in this category than in any other.

COMPUTERS/COMMUNICATIONS/INTELLIGENCE/ELECTRONICS

Much of the Marine Corps’ advantage in battle comes from our sophisticated communications network. MOS designations in computers, communications, intelligence and electronics are suited for Marines with a talent for technology. With an MOS in any of these areas, you might be involved in advanced firing systems, aviation electronics, satellite field communications or cryptography (codes and decoding).

MARINE CORPS RESERVE

The Marine Corps Reserve is the additional depth of force the Marines turn to in times of war, national emergency and when national security demands it. Reserve Marines are as trained and battle-ready as any other Marine and share many of the same MOS designations. When not mobilized in support of the active-duty component of the Marine Corps, you will generally be offline one weekend per month and two weeks during the summer. The primary goal of your unit is to be ready at all times.

EARN THEIR TITLE.

OUR MOTTO, SEMPER FIDELIS, MEANS “ALWAYS FAITHFUL.” ONCE YOU BECOME A MARINE, YOU ARE FOREVER A MARINE—PART OF A BROTHERHOOD OF WARRIORS STRETCHING FOR MORE THAN 240 YEARS.
At the rank of Private, Private First Class and Lance Corporal, Marines train in their Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), study leadership and take on initial assignments. After at least six months, qualified Marines can advance to Private First Class. After at least another eight months, qualified Marines can advance to Lance Corporal.

**JUNIOR MARINE RANKS**

**Corporals and Sergeants lead junior Marines to ensure the mission is accomplished. NCOs are the first line of leadership and the largest leadership contingent in the Marine Corps. Promotions to Corporal and above are highly competitive, since the Marine Corps limits the number of Marines in these leadership ranks.**

**STAFF NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER (NCO)**

Marines who have earned the rank of Staff Sergeant or higher are the senior enlisted leadership, responsible for supervising the NCOs and advising officers in command. With this rank you might serve as an instructor, a recruiter or an embassy duty. Staff Sergeants generally have served eight or more years in the Marine Corps. In addition, First Sergeant and Sergeant Major are command leadership roles, while Master Sergeant and Master Gunnery Sergeant provide technical leadership in their occupational specialty. Marines in these ranks generally have served 15 to 30 years in the Marine Corps.

**SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS**

The Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps is the senior enlisted Marine, selected by the Commandant of the Marine Corps to advise on all matters affecting enlisted Marines.

**INITIAL TRAINING**

Marine Corps Recruit Training comes first. This is the proving ground—the toughest 12 weeks you have ever faced. It’s where you become a Marine. After recruit training, you’ll receive Military Occupational Specialty Training. These hands-on schools give you training in your Marine Corps job or field. They last many weeks or months. After MOS Training comes your first billet, when you get orders to report to a base, a detachment, a Marine Expeditionary Unit, deployment overseas or other duties.
The information in this booklet is designed to help you understand the basic requirements, responsibilities and benefits associated with becoming a United States Marine. Becoming a Marine is challenging, but being a Marine will be one of the most rewarding things you ever do. There is much more to learn about the Corps, and your recruiter will explain everything in detail. Semper Fidelis.