Do you have the fight in you to stand up for what's right?
To stand against that which is wrong?
To stand alongside those who live by our core values and are determined to win for the people, places and ideals that make this country worth fighting for?

MARINES

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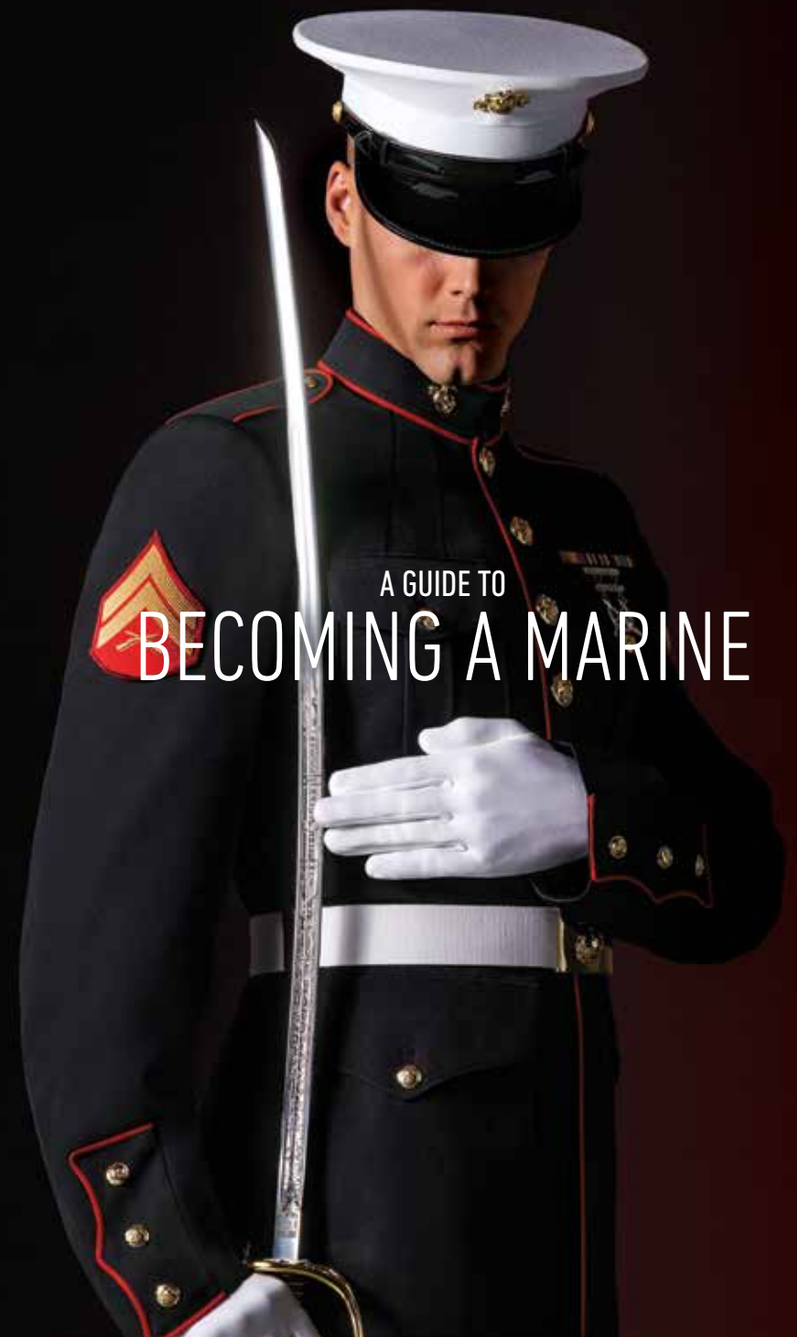
MARINES



A GUIDE TO

BECOMING A MARINE

VIEW PROCESS TO BECOME A MARINE

TO FIGHT TO WIN

In our world, in ourselves and in our way, there are conflicts, challenges and obstacles that must be fought confidently and defeated convincingly. These looming battles come in many forms and occur on many fronts, but each comes down to a critical choice: to demand victory or to accept defeat. It is a decision that has already been made—by what we are made of. To dig in or cave in. To give all or give up. To overcome or succumb.

The day young men and women earn the right to call themselves Marines, their decision is confirmed. To fight through everything—with everything. With honor and without fail. To rapidly adapt to the demands of ever-changing, hostile battlefields. Do you have it in you, to win for us all?

INNER DRIVEN PURPOSE LED

Marines represent the face of our Nation because they come from all parts of this Nation, but make no mistake: Marines are, in fact, different from the civilian peers they defend. Driven by an innate desire to answer the call and an unwavering commitment to emerge victorious, Marines win the battles in front of them with an inner fight that runs through them. When it is impossible to quit, it is impossible to lose, and it is our Marines who will fight—and keep fighting, until our Nation wins.

I'VE NEVER SEEN A MARINE WHO WASN'T PROUD TO BE A MARINE. IT MADE ME THINK, 'I COULD HAVE THAT, I COULD BE PART OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT.' THE WAY THEY WORKED AND WENT ABOUT THINGS WAS MOTIVATING. IT SHOWED THAT THEY KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING, AND I WANTED THAT.

—Recruit Sean L. Ontiveros,
Platoon 2129, Fox Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion

THE MARINE

EXECUTING EACH MISSION WITH INTENSITY AND INTEGRITY

Faithfully, courageously and decisively, Marines execute each mission, leading with honor to win battles in combat, in communities and where help is needed most. Enlisted Marines make up the majority of the Marine Corps and are trained to respond appropriately and convincingly when called upon. With the will to fight, Marines win.

YOU HAVE TO BE THAT YOUNG MAN OR WOMAN WALKING THROUGH THE AIRPORT WHO JUST LOOKS LIKE A MARINE. BUT IT IS MORE THAN LOOKS; IT IS CHARACTER. THE MARINES' HYMN IS THE ONLY SERVICE SONG THAT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONS A VALUE. I FIND THAT TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, THAT YOU TAKE IT UPON YOURSELVES TO COMMIT TO KEEP YOUR HONOR CLEAN. WHAT DO I EXPECT OF THE MARINE CORPS? I EXPECT YOU TO BE MARINES.

U.S. Army General (Retired) Martin Dempsey,
Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

A HISTORY OF FIGHTING TO WIN FOR A NATION

There are few reputations more deserved or legacies more storied than that which our brave Marines earned valiantly, many times when all they had left to fight with—was their all. From the naval actions of the American Revolution to the mountains of Afghanistan, on the hallowed grounds of Iwo Jima and Chosin Reservoir, Marines have fought in every one of our Nation's conflicts with an uncommon willingness and determination necessary to win.

Since the founding of the Marine Corps at Philadelphia's Tun Tavern in 1775, Marines have adapted to overcome the ever-evolving threats facing our Nation and world in the form of many types of battles. Ours is a legacy established by the Marines at Belleau Wood, Guadalcanal and Inchon, but there is much more to our history than our successes in combat. From the first integration of African-Americans and women into our ranks to the first female Marines to fight in our Infantry, the Marine Corps is defined by the way in which we continually advance to win, both on battlefields abroad and in communities at home, paving the way for future generations of Marines to make even greater strides.

The Continental SHIP
PROVIDENCE,
ABRAHAM WHIPPLE, Esq; Commander,
now lying at Boston,
IS bound on a short Cruize, immediately; a few good Men are wanted to make up her Complement. All Persons, whether Seamen, Marines or Landsmen, that incline to enter, are desired to repair on board said Ship, or to the Subscriber, at Providence, within Twelve Days from the Date hereof, and they will receive further Information.
WM. JONES, Capt. Marines.
Providence, March 20, 1779.

To be SOLD,
A FARM, lying in Woodstock, in

"The Continental ship Providence, now lying at Boston, is bound on a short cruise, immediately; a few good men are wanted to make up her complement."
— First Marine recruiting poster, 1779

TIMELINE OF MARINE CORPS MILESTONES

1775 Founding of the Marine Corps

1805 Battle of Derma; To the shores of Tripoli

1847 Battle of Chapultepec; From the Halls of Montezuma

1918 Devil Dogs at Belleau Wood

1945 Battle of Iwo Jima; Planting of the flag

1950 Battle of Inchon Amphibious Landing

1968 The Battle of Hue

1991 Operation Desert Storm

2001 Operation Enduring Freedom

2003 Operation Iraqi Freedom

2010 Pakistan Flood Relief

2012 Hurricane Sandy Relief

2014 Operation Inherent Resolve

2021 Haiti Earthquake Relief

A TRADITION EARNED A CULTURE LIVED

The traditions born from our Corps were born from the battles our Marines have fought and won, reflecting a proud legacy of more than two centuries of trial and triumph, pointing to the manner in which we make Marines, win our Nation's battles and develop quality citizens. From our music to our mantras, from our cadences to our creed, these are the traditions of a proud and distinguished Marine Corps. If you have the toughness in you to take the next step for our Nation, these traditions can be earned.

RIFLEMAN'S CREED

Every Marine is first and foremost, a rifleman. This becomes evident the first days of recruit training and Officer Candidate School, as all who will earn our title will learn to recite the Rifleman's Creed:

(Excerpt)

THIS IS MY RIFLE. THERE ARE MANY LIKE IT,
BUT THIS ONE IS MINE.
MY RIFLE IS MY BEST FRIEND. IT IS MY LIFE.
I MUST MASTER IT AS I MUST MASTER MY LIFE.
WITHOUT ME, MY RIFLE IS USELESS.
WITHOUT MY RIFLE, I AM USELESS.
I MUST FIRE MY RIFLE TRUE.

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY

Marking the birth of our Corps and honoring the proud lineage to which all Marines belong, November 10th is a celebratory occasion throughout our ranks. Since the official order that established this hallowed day as a Marine Corps holiday in 1921, the Marine Corps birthday has been a yearly reminder of the brave and persevering spirit that has compelled young men and women to fight for our Nation and its interests since 1775. Whether serving on a stateside base or on a remote post abroad, on this day, every Marine who serves or who has ever served is entitled to a piece of birthday cake, and the words, "Happy Birthday, Marine."

THE MARINES' HYMN

The most recognizable military hymn and the oldest official song in the U.S. Armed Forces, the Marines' Hymn is a reminder of the sacrifice, courage and determination Marines have shown in every battle. It is an important part of our culture, one that every Marine holds close to their heart.

1st Verse:

"FROM THE HALLS OF MONTEZUMA
TO THE SHORES OF TRIPOLI;
WE FIGHT OUR COUNTRY'S BATTLES
ON THE LAND AS ON THE SEA;
FIRST TO FIGHT FOR RIGHT AND FREEDOM
AND TO KEEP OUR HONOR CLEAN;
WE ARE PROUD TO CLAIM THE TITLE
OF UNITED STATES MARINE."

THE "PRESIDENT'S OWN"

The presidential inaugurations of George Washington and John Adams are the only two in our Nation's history that did not feature the musical performances of the United States Marine Band. Established on July 11, 1798 by an Act of Congress, the United States Marine Band is our Nation's oldest, continuously active, professional music organization. On March 4, 1801, Thomas Jefferson became the first President of the United States to be greeted by the band at his inauguration and is credited with giving it the name, "The President's Own."

FROM OUR MOTTOS TO OUR MANTRAS. A TIMELESS TRADITION.

Born from an eternal fighting spirit passed on from generation to generation is a lore as storied as the battlefields we've conquered. If you possess that same fight in you that has fueled every Marine in history, you can become a living, breathing, fighting embodiment of every battle won.

LEATHERNECKS – A reference to the leather collars seen on the uniforms of Marines who fought during the Revolutionary War, designed to protect against slashes from swords or sabers during a naval boarding action.

"NO MARINE LEFT BEHIND" – A mantra that speaks to the teamwork, loyalty and bond that exists between Marines.

"OORAH" – A motivational cry that signifies Marines are ready and eager to accomplish the mission before them.

"EVERY MARINE A RIFLEMAN" – A mantra that speaks to the willingness and ability of every Marine to engage the enemy in direct combat, regardless of primary Military Occupational Specialty (MOS).

"IMPROVISE, ADAPT AND OVERCOME" – A mantra that symbolizes the flexibility, resourcefulness and quick decision-making ability found throughout the Marine ranks.

SEMPER FIDELIS – Latin for "always faithful," this became the Marine Corps motto in 1883.

OUR PURPOSE IS OUR PROMISE

We make Marines. We win our Nation's battles. We develop quality citizens. These are the promises the Marine Corps makes to our Nation and to its Marines. They are the reasons for our demanding recruit training and have helped form our reputation as America's force in readiness to win any and all battles.

MAKING MARINES

Only those who can be counted on to prevail will earn the honor of fighting for our Nation as United States Marines—over every adversary faced externally, as well as those such as fear, doubt and exhaustion that come from within. This is the cornerstone of the Marines Corps' first promise to our Nation. Today and throughout our storied history, the Marine Corps continues to hold its Marines to the highest of standards. To earn our title is to become an elite and ethical Marine. To pass through our gates is to set out on a noble cause and a journey lined with difficult battles. We make Marines with the training and principles to prevail over every challenge, obstacle and adversary faced.

WINNING BATTLES

Since the day it was formed, the Marine Corps has been committed to winning our Nation's battles, fighting determinedly in every one of our country's conflicts. By air, land and sea, the Marine Corps is America's premier expeditionary force, ready to protect our Nation's citizens and interests anywhere in the world.

DEVELOPING QUALITY CITIZENS

First revealed, then sharpened, it is the fighting spirit of every Marine that can be counted on to win every battle for the communities they serve—in and out of uniform. This promise to develop quality citizens is born from our motto, *Semper Fidelis,* always faithful to those on our left and right, from the fellow Marines we fight alongside, to those in the communities for which we fight. This will to fight and determination to win not only make for outstanding Marines—they make for upstanding citizens as well.

MARINE CORPS CORE VALUES

Generations of American men and women have given special meaning to the title United States Marine. These Marines live by a set of enduring core values that form the bedrock of their character. Honor, courage and commitment guide the actions of our Marines and lead them to victory over the physical, mental and moral battles they will face within combat, on behalf of our Nation and communities.

HONOR

Honor guides Marines to exemplify the ultimate in ethical and moral behavior. Never lie, never cheat or steal; abide by an uncompromising code of integrity; respect human dignity and respect others. The qualities of maturity, dedication, trust and dependability compel Marines to act responsibly, to fulfill their obligations and to hold themselves and others accountable for their actions.

COURAGE

Courage is the mental, moral and physical strength ingrained in Marines. It carries them through the challenges of combat and aids them in overcoming fear. It is the inner strength that enables Marines to do what is right, to adhere to a higher standard of personal conduct and to make tough decisions under stress and pressure.

COMMITMENT

Commitment is the spirit of determination and dedication found in Marines. It leads to the highest order of discipline for individuals and units. It is the ingredient that enables 24-hour-a-day dedication to Corps and country. It inspires the unrelenting determination to achieve a standard of excellence in every endeavor.

RECRUIT TRAINING

RECRUIT TRAINING STARTS WITH HEART AND A FIGHTING SPIRIT MATCHED BY NONE

The weight our Marines carry is not in the packs they wear, but in the tremendous responsibility they bear to win for their Nation and each other. Marines win the battles in front of them with the fighting spirit running through them, overcoming all for the good of all. It is at our two Recruit Training Depots in Parris Island, SC and San Diego, CA that we turn the willing into the able, transforming purpose-led recruits into Marines who will make a difference. Only those who complete the most demanding training can be counted on to win the most demanding battles. If you seek our title, the path ahead will be lined with fears, doubts and exhaustion. Prevail, and your proudest days will be realized.

A JOURNEY LIKE NO OTHER. A TITLE NO ONE MISTAKES.

For the young men and women from all walks of life who decide to pursue the title that fights and wins to protect the American way of life, Marine Corps Recruit Training will be one of the most mentally and physically challenging experiences ever faced. Marines are trained to respond appropriately and convincingly when called upon. Those who are able to rise to this challenge will gain a sense of purpose, honor and pride few will ever know. We call these few, Marines.

ADVANCING THROUGH THE RANKS. SURPASSING EACH AND EVERY BATTLE.

There are many factors that determine the speed with which a Marine gets promoted, the most important including each Marine's time in service, time in grade (rank) and level of performance within his or her Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). The higher in rank a Marine advances, the more competitive the next promotion will be. The minimum time-in-service thresholds for standard promotions are:

- **Private** (E-1) to **Private First Class** (E-2) – 6 months
- **PFC** to **Lance Corporal** (E-3) – 9 months
- **Lance Corporal to Corporal** (E-4) – 12 months
- **Corporal to Sergeant** (E-5) – 24 months
- **Sergeant to Staff Sergeant** (E-6) and above – Determined by a promotion board.

FIGHT TOGETHER OR FALL APART. WIN AS ONE OR ALL WILL FAIL.

There are few reputations more storied and none more deserving than that of Marine Corps Recruit Training. This distinction is earned through 13 weeks of intense training through innumerable battles, culminating at the 54-hour Crucible: the final obstacle of training that tests every skill learned and every value instilled. To complete this definitive trial, recruits must have the heart—and the intestinal fortitude; the physical prowess—and the mental toughness; the willingness—and the determination. To push on through surrender's pull. To fight. To endure. To win.

These are just a few of the battles every recruit must face together to complete the Crucible:

- Food rationing and sleep deprivation
- Rigorous day and nighttime humps (marches)
- Low- and no-light infiltration movements
- Combat resupply and casualty evacuation scenarios
- Leadership screening maneuvers
- Values-based training and assessments
- Team-dependent negotiation of obstacles
- Team field firing combat scenarios

A STANDARD EARNED

Marine Corps Recruit Training is a battleground few take on—and even fewer check off. Thirteen weeks of trial and triumph; it is here where the "recruit" label is shed, and the Eagle, Globe and Anchor is earned. These are the ultimate proving grounds for those driven by a refusal to quit and a will to win.

WE MAKE MARINES. BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE, NOT EVERYONE WILL MAKE IT.

There is no room in our ranks for those who fall behind. Because of this, we constantly and continually take recruits to the brink of exhaustion in ways that test their toughness physically, mentally and even ethically. To earn our title is to prove you belong alongside our Nation's elite fighters, but one must first meet specific eligibility requirements to even begin this battle. Though your recruiter can tell you if you're eligible to be a Marine, only 13 strenuous weeks of Recruit Training can determine if you're capable of becoming one. Before you set down this path, you should examine what's required to begin, endure and prevail over the immense battles ahead.

THE TRANSFORMATION BEGINS WITH QUALIFICATION

Marines are prepared for anything because they train for everything, ready to win whatever battle is waiting around the corner. Becoming a Marine demands more than willingness—it requires the ability to meet the highest standards of physical, mental and moral proficiency. It also requires completing an aptitude test that assesses multiple competencies, passing an initial strength test and meeting certain eligibility requirements.

AN ELITE FIGHTING FORCE REQUIRES ELITE PHYSICAL FITNESS

Every Marine must maintain a remarkable level of physical fitness regardless of age, rank or Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), but one must first possess a certain level of strength and stamina to pass the Initial Strength Test (IST) required of all aspiring Marines. The IST consists of the following four parts:

- Timed 1.5-mile Run
- Pull-ups/Push-ups
- Timed Planks
- Ammo Can Lifts

Recruits are expected to report to recruit training able to do more than the minimum for entry, as much more will be expected of them as training begins.

MARINE FITNESS REQUIRES MENTAL FITNESS

Marines are counted on to make sound decisions quickly and are constantly placed in situations where their mental acuity is tested. Because of this, those who seek our title must pass a series of timed, multidisciplinary tests known as the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). This battery of tests will not only determine if you're eligible for enlistment, but will decide for which MOSs you can qualify.

GRADUATION: THE CULMINATION OF EVERY BATTLE WON.

The last day of the 13th week of the most demanding recruit training in the world represents both a finish line—and a starting point. Graduation day is the first and proudest day for newly transformed Marines. It is a defining moment for those who will forever be defined by their willingness to fight and determination to win every battle. After completing this initial training, Marines begin preparation for their next immense challenge: Marine Combat Training or the School of Infantry.

Every Marine is first and foremost a rifleman, but it is at their MOS school that they become proficient in specific job assignments, or Military Occupational Specialties. These specialties are assigned based on a combination of personal preference and ASVAB scores. This is the training, and the schooling, that will prepare them for the roles that will define their time in the Corps.

"Our future Marines will possess the physical and mental toughness, tenacity, initiative, and aggressiveness necessary to win in close combat, along with the intellectual and technical skills required to innovate, adapt, and succeed in the rapidly shifting operating environment."

38th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Berger
Force Design 2030 Report

MANY ROLES ONE OUTCOME BATTLES WON

The Marine Corps is only as capable as each and every Marine. That's why all Marines have a specific role for which they are optimally trained, and for which there is a single expectation: victory in every battle. If you are interested in fighting with us to win for us all, there are many ways to do it in the air, on land and at sea.

OUR COMBINED ARMS APPROACH

There is no better integration of air, ground and logistics support assets into one unit than the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF). Whether the battle calls for rapid insertion of ground units or to provide close air support—Marines fighting on the ground can count on Marines fighting in the air. The capabilities this combined arms approach offers our Nation in response to conflicts are as distinct as they are decisive, enabling Marines to provide rapid, powerful and sustainable response on a global scale. Whether it's ship-to-objective, air-to-ground, door-to-door or a combination of the domains between, there isn't a force more capable of winning battles on every front, every time.

AN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IN READINESS

As outlined in the Commandant's Force Design 2030, we must be "ready for actions across the spectrum of competition in multiple theaters." There are many ways to join our fight, but before you wear this uniform, you will prove you belong in it.

With the shift in its primary focus on the region, Marines of the future must have the physical endurance, mental acuity, and quick decision-making ability to win on these ever-changing battlefields. Those who comprise our ranks will be able to take the right action at the right time without direct supervision. And they will be willing to make decisions most are not capable of. These roles are not for most—they're the charge of Marines.

ON THE GROUND. ON THE MOVE.

On the modern battlefield, conditions can change quickly, and it is our Marines on the ground who must adapt to meet each battle that develops with decisive but appropriate action. No two battles are identical, and no Marine prepares for only one type of battlefield. A situation can deteriorate, a crowd can grow restless or a humanitarian operation can turn into a combat engagement—in an instant. Our Marines on the ground may be called upon to provide relief in a combat zone, a show of force in a disaster area or reconnaissance during a rescue operation. Regardless of what ground role our Marines take on, each must be ready to fight and determined to win for our Nation.

GROUND COMBAT ROLES

Marines who make up the Ground Combat Element (GCE) conduct land-based and amphibious operations, including offensive, defensive, humanitarian, reconnaissance and security operations. Marines chosen for Military Occupational Specialties (MOSs) in combat arms will become highly skilled in the art of land warfare, as they will often be the first on the scene to defeat threats and win battles around the world.

03 MARINES: THE INFANTRY.

Infantry is the central component of Marine ground forces. Infantry Marines are trained to locate, close with and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver, or repel the enemy's assault by fire and close combat. Riflemen serve as the primary scouts, assault troops and close combat forces within each infantry unit.

COMBAT SUPPORT ROLES

Every battle requires that our entire Marine Corps work together as a single cohesive force. It is the MOSs within Combat Support that make the Marine Corps the efficient force it is today. Marines in these roles are trained to provide logistics, intelligence, communication and other support to move equipment, ammunition, first aid and Marines to wherever they're needed to win battles.

LANDING SUPPORT

Landing Support Marines supervise and direct arrivals, departures and any movement of gear and personnel on beaches, ports or landing zones. With this awesome responsibility, they serve as the integral link between Marines at sea and Marines on the ground.

CYBER

Marines must adapt and shift more rapidly than increasingly hostile modern battlefields. Through defensive and offensive operations, Cyber Marines directly support all warfighting function, anywhere threats arise—land, sea, air, and cyber. Their support ensures uninterrupted communication at all times, and guarantees the freedom of action in any situation, while denying the same to adversaries.

MARINE AVIATION

ADVANTAGE FROM ABOVE

It was the introduction of airpower that allowed the Marine Corps to become the quick reaction force our Nation required—and demanded. What sets Marine Aviation apart is how it fits within the framework of a combined arms force. This structure is the vital piece of the dilemma the Marine Corps presents to its enemy: To counteract one element is to become vulnerable to another. To take cover from our Infantry is to present a target for our close air support. To run from our bombs is to become exposed to our Riflemen.

AIR-TO-GROUND-TO-VICTORY

Fighting to win is just as important in the air as it is on land and at sea. As America's expeditionary force in readiness, the Marine Corps requires a flexible, responsive aviation combat element. Enlisted Marines do not fly our aircraft, but their roles within Marine Aviation are critical to the combined arms capability of the entire Marine Corps.

Marine Aviation's ability to deploy rapidly and take off and land from makeshift airfields is another of its distinctions. The ability to provide support from the air is predicated on the ability to bring airpower as close as possible to the fight. There isn't a force more capable of responding quickly in any environment around the world than the Marine Corps, and it is the adaptable, rapidly deployable nature of Marine Aviation that makes this possible.

BATTLES WON FROM THE GROUND UP

The sounds of jets and helicopters overhead would never be heard without the clamor of wrenches and radios below. The Marine Corps maintains an entire fleet of jets, helicopters and cargo transport aircraft that can be launched from military installations and naval ships. In order to keep this fleet in a constant state of readiness, the Marine Corps relies upon Marines on the ground to maintain them.

WINGS THAT WIN

Only Marine Officers fly Marine Aircraft, but enlisted Marines who fight aboard these aircraft also wear wings that distinguish their specialized role within the Corps: Naval Aircrew Wings. To wear them requires first earning the uniform they're pinned on and meeting the standards that form the character of every Marine.

SIX FUNCTIONS ONE FIGHT

Marine Aviation provides Marine commanders with six essential functions: Offensive Air Support, Antiaircraft Warfare, Assault Support, Control of Missiles and Aircraft, Aerial Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare. One example of a Marine aircraft that can provide several of these functions is the tilt-rotor MV-22 Osprey.

ENLISTED AVIATION ROLES

Enlisted Marines in Marine Aviation are entrusted with keeping the aircraft fighting in the air and winning from above.

ENLISTED AIRCREW MARINES

Enlisted aircrew Marines are responsible for preparing the aircraft and overseeing its functions during assaults and tactical in-flight refueling. These Marines perform navigational duties, operate and maintain the various communications systems and load equipment into transport aircraft.

EXTRA FIGHT IN RESERVE

Ready to supplement the active-duty forces when and where needed, the Marine Corps Reserve is critical to the Marine Corps' ability to provide a balanced, prepared force in every battlespace. Marines in the Reserve go through the same intense training and work in the same MOSs as their active-duty counterparts. However, with the ability to train part-time with a Marine Corps Reserve unit near home or school, these Marines can continue to pursue a full-time civilian career or an education.

DIFFERENT TERMS. SAME STANDARDS.

After successfully completing Marine Corps Recruit Training and becoming proficient in their MOS, Marines in the Reserve begin their duties as a Reserve Marine. From this point forward, training periods are called *drills*, which usually occur one weekend every month and two weeks each summer (full-drill status). The last portion of their commitment is spent in the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) where they are not obligated to participate in military activities unless specifically called upon to meet support requirements.

FIGHTING TO WIN AS PART OF THE TOTAL FORCE

Marines in the Reserve are a vital element of the overall combat readiness the Corps demands. They may be called upon to strengthen active-duty forces in peacetime and in times of conflict, provide support during national emergencies or lead community service efforts like the Marine Corps Toys For Tots program.

NATIONAL COMMITMENT. COMMUNITY CONTACT.

Those who serve in the Marine Reserve remain part of their communities, not just as citizens who reside in them—but as Marines who fight for them. Being a Marine in the Reserve requires the ability to balance both military and civilian commitments. By learning how to meet the demands of both worlds, Reserve Marines gain confidence in each.

DETERMINATION REVEALED ON THE WORLD'S STAGE

The Marine Corps Musician Enlistment Option Program requires precision of mind, body and music. A harmony must develop between musician and warrior. If the fight in you can come through for our Nation, the Musician Enlistment Option Program (MEOP) presents the unique opportunity to win every battle you face as a Marine musician. But before you ever perform a single note with Marines, you must first win the battles required to become a Marine.

A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC

To become eligible for MEOP, you will first be required to pass a musical audition. Once you meet the qualification, your recruiter will prepare you for Marine Corps Recruit Training.

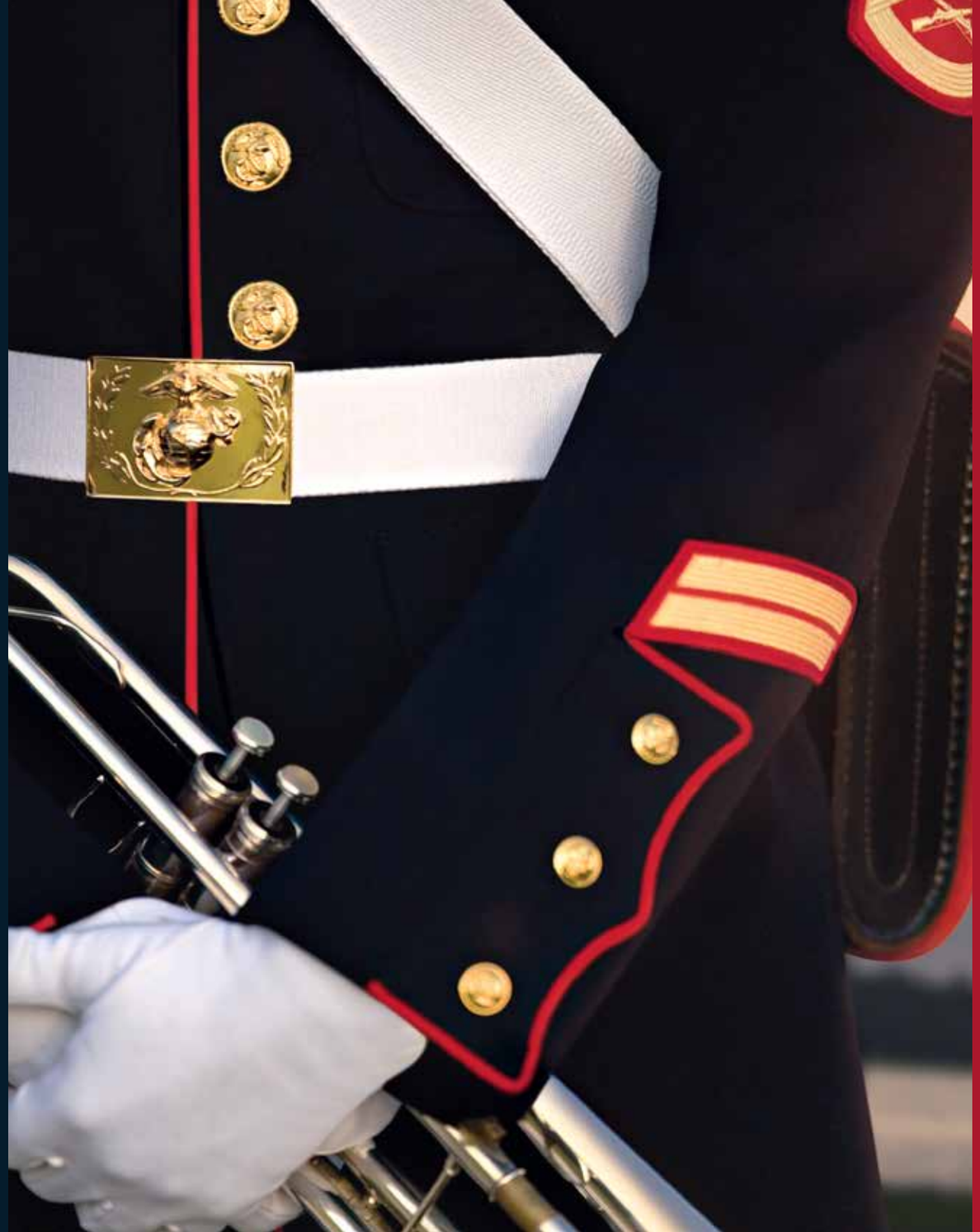
You will then attend 13 weeks of recruit training at either Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island or Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. There you will learn to be as precise with a rifle as you are with an instrument. To earn the title, Marine, you will be required to meet the moral, physical and mental standards of the Corps and learn the skills necessary to accomplish the mission when your Nation calls.

Upon graduation, you will attend the Naval School of Music where you will study before being assigned to one of the active-duty field bands.

BECOME AN ENSEMBLE OF WILLINGNESS, DETERMINATION AND TALENT.

Marine musicians perform throughout the continental United States and internationally—from Beijing to Sydney to Paris—serving as musical ambassadors of the United States Marine Corps. Members of each Marine Corps musical unit become part of a storied tradition, following in the footsteps of legendary Marine musicians like John Philip Sousa and other talented artists who, for more than 200 years, have called themselves Marines. Marine band duty stations include:

- Cherry Point, NC
- Camp Lejeune, NC
- Parris Island, SC
- New Orleans, LA
- Camp Pendleton, CA
- Miramar, CA
- San Diego, CA
- Kaneohe Bay, HI
- Okinawa, Japan
- Marine Barracks, Washington, DC



MUSICAL TRADITION MARINE COMMITMENT

The battles we have won and the odds we have overcome to do so are honored by our musical traditions, but these performances are more than the stuff of song—they are the proof of resiliency. Every note played is a torch passed from one generation to the next, inherited traditions that are at all times inherent. Music in the Marine Corps is not about ancient customs but guiding ones: a time-honored fidelity to honor itself. If you prove capable as both a warrior who never quits and a musician who helps our Nation win, you can take your place among our traditions in one of these 10 Marine bands:

- Marine Band San Diego, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA
- 1st Marine Division Band, Camp Pendleton, CA
- 2nd Marine Division Band, Camp Lejeune, NC
- 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, NC
- 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, CA
- Quantico Marine Corps Band, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA
- Marine Band Parris Island, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC
- Marine Corps Band New Orleans, Marine Corps Support Facility, New Orleans, LA
- Marine Forces Pacific Band, Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, Kaneohe Bay, HI
- III Marine Expeditionary Forces Band, Okinawa, Japan

MUSIC FELT. SERVICE HEARD.

Marine musicians set nearly a quarter millennium of willingness and determination to music. Ours is a legacy that's not handed down, but preserved in our warrior lore. If you have the fight in you that the Marine Corps demands, you too can become part of the battle cry that will forever play on. To determine if you do, you will be required to perform a musical audition. The audition process for each section includes:

WOODWIND & BRASS

- Scale proficiency (All major, natural, harmonic, melodic minor, audition excerpts and chromatic scales)
- Sight-reading

PERCUSSION

- All standard rudiments for marching snare drum
- All major and minor scales on marimba or xylophone
- Concert and rudimental snare audition excerpts
- Jazz, Rock, Funk, Latin and other demonstrations on drum set
- Sight-reading of various musical styles on snare drum, drum set and mallets

RHYTHM

- Scale proficiency (All major, natural, harmonic and jazz melodic minor scales and audition excerpts)
- Performance of selections with backing tracks
- Sight-reading

VOCAL

- National Anthem (a cappella, in choice of key)
- Sight-reading to assess ability to read rhythms
- Match pitch and lyrics
- Perform a set list as if in concert of various music styles

THOSE WHO EARN OUR TITLE EARN OUR COMMITMENT

Latin for "Always Faithful," *Semper Fidelis* is the motto of every Marine—as well as a compact to each Marine. Marine to Marine and Marine Corps to Marine, our motto is our eternal commitment to the success of battles and the well-being of our Marines.

The prosperity of our Nation depends on the vitality of our institution; but the Marine Corps is only as capable as those who earn its title. Marines benefit from this compact, gaining the skills, education and financial security required to become both effective warriors and successful leaders in the community.

THE MARINE CORPS TAKES CARE OF ITS OWN

If you become one of us, we will invest in you and your future. The change is forever—so is our commitment. Here are just some of the ways the Marine Corps invests in those who fight and win our Nation's battles:

Housing

On-base housing builds a secure, tight-knit community among Marine families. Those with families and other Marines who are authorized to live off base will be compensated with a monthly housing allowance. In addition, the Veterans Administration (VA) offers low-cost mortgage loans for purchasing a home, both during and after service.

Education

As a Marine, up to 100% of your education expenses may be paid by the federal government through programs like:

- Tuition Assistance – Pays up to 100% of tuition and fees for active-duty Marines who elect to pursue off-duty or voluntary education. Minimum time-in-service and testing score requirements apply.
- Post-9/11 GI Bill – Provides up to 36 months of education benefits to Marines who have at least 90 days of service after September 10, 2001.

Medical

Marine Corps healthcare coverage keeps its Marines in good health, not only so they can win every battle they face, but also support their families that are backing them at home. While serving in the Marine Corps, every Marine and his or her immediate family will receive a number of health benefits, including free comprehensive medical insurance and competitively priced dental insurance. In addition, for Marines who remain in the Marine Corps through retirement, their medical benefits extend throughout their lifetime.

Vacation

The Marine Corps helps Marines enjoy the freedoms they protect with vacation time, known as "leave," to ensure they are well rested in body and in spirit, and always ready for the battles ahead. Marines receive 30 days of leave each year, including 10 days between graduating from recruit training and reporting to their first duty assignment.

A HIGHER CALLING THROUGH HIGHER LEARNING

If you've shown your whole life you have the toughness to win battles on every front, we think you'll do just fine in a college classroom. For those with the willingness and determination to continually advance in the face of any challenge, obstacle or adversary, we not only encourage your pursuit of higher education, we actively support it by providing many incentives to assist with college tuition and other expenses. Additionally, if you decide you would like to pursue a college education prior to joining the Marine Corps, there are opportunities available that allow you to earn your degree while earning a commission as a Marine Officer.

THE NROTC SCHOLARSHIP

For those selected to participate in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Course (NROTC) Scholarship Program, the opportunity to demonstrate your fighting spirit begins on a college campus. For here is where higher education is more than simply the next step to follow—it's the first chance to lead. Those in the program who enroll as Marine Option Midshipmen walk the same halls as their peers, but travel a unique path, as these distinguished college students are the next generation among a proud lineage of Marine leaders with the fight in them to win for us all.

The NROTC program offers a wide range of financial benefits, such as full tuition coverage, compensation for books and fees, and a monthly stipend. To take advantage of this opportunity, you must apply to one of the approved NROTC colleges or universities in our Nation, located in 40 states.

WE DEMAND MORE THAN THE OLD COLLEGE TRY

Earn an education that will win battles for our Nation. The first requirement for the NROTC scholarship is the willingness to fight and win as a Marine Officer. Additional requirements include:

- Be a U. S. Citizen.
- Be 17 years of age by 1 September of the first year of college and younger than 27 on 31 December of the year in which college graduation and commissioning are anticipated.
- Be a high school graduate or possess an equivalent certificate.
- Be physically qualified and be within height-weight standards.
- Earn a score of 74 on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT), a composite score of 22 on the American College Test (ACT), or a combined score of 1000 in Math and Evidence-Based Reading on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).
- Meet admission requirements of an NROTC-affiliated college or university of choice.

WOVEN FROM THE COUNTRY WE SERVE

Under a flag whose broad stripes continually expand, whose bright stars shine over even more homelands, Marines fight and win for the people, places and ideals of our country.

OUR RANKS ARE FEW. OUR REASONS ARE NOT.

Ours is a title few are able to claim. Earned not by birthright, but by rite of passage through a process that will expose you to all that holds you back—until it no longer does. Those who commit to a life of purpose do so for many purposes. To do their part for a country that's so much a part of them. To affirm that progress isn't made on the sidelines, but by those who fight every obstacle with the willingness and determination to defeat them.

FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE. BECAUSE IT'S WORTH BELIEVING IN.

Who among your generation will stand up for America to guard its prosperity, represent its ideals and pave the way for its progress? If you consider this country the land you love, consider this your opportunity to make a lasting and positive difference on its behalf. Perhaps there are inner and external battles in your way, like doubt, hesitation, selfishness or fear of the unknown. We can help you overcome what holds you back by revealing in you a toughness and grit you never knew you had. Now is the time to make this your time. To make your time count and your presence felt.

MUCH TO FIGHT FOR. FEW WHO CAN.

A raised right hand indicates you are willing. Determining if you're capable requires a more exacting test, a relentless process that will reveal what your all is made of. Our Corps, country and communities don't just hope for the best—they put their hopes in the best, in those with an inner fight in them to win for us all.

UNCOMMON
VALOR
WAS A COMMON
VIRTUE