

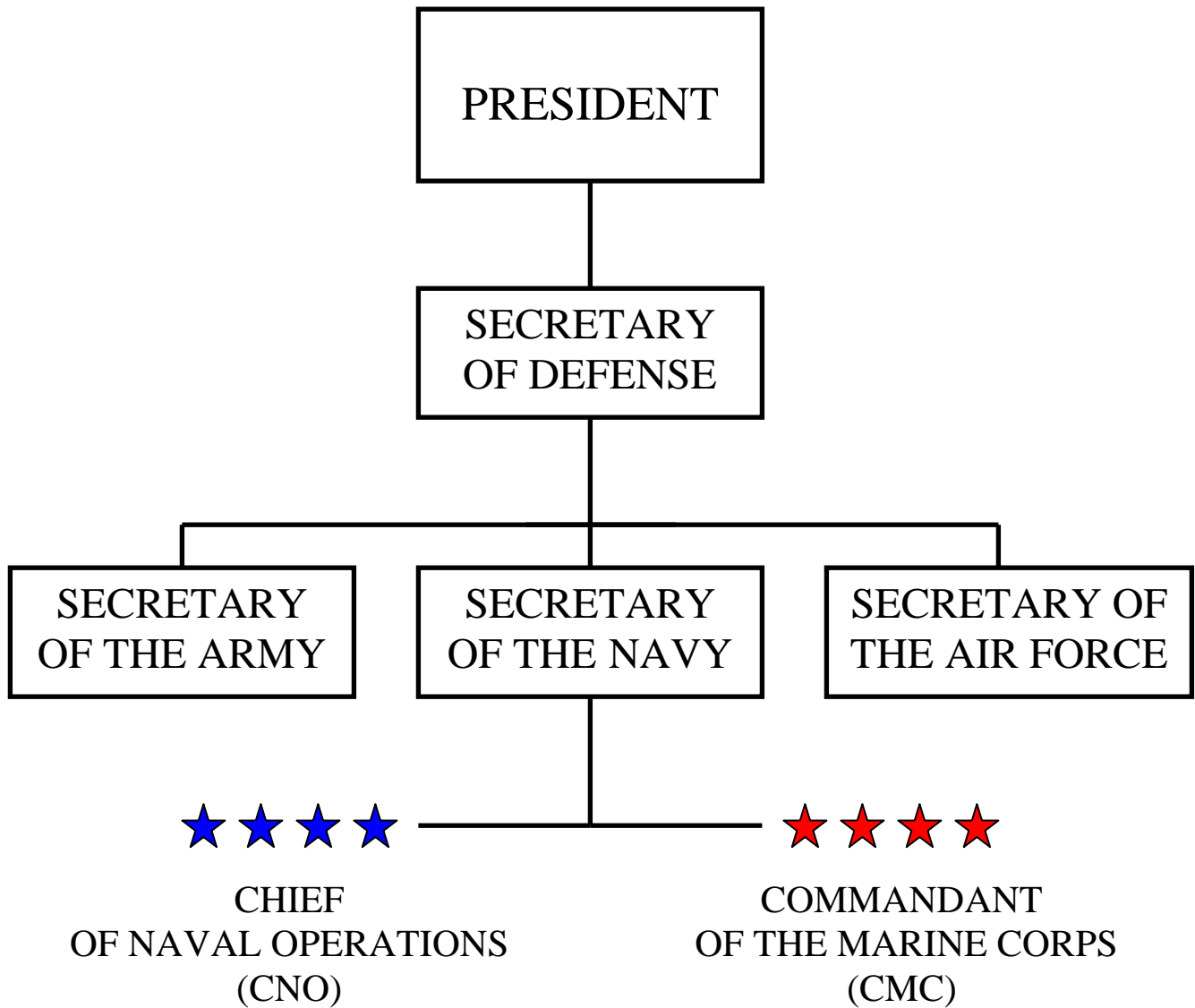
The Corps



The United States Marine Corps - Outlines USMC structure and mission to include Navy personnel attached to USMC units. Provides historical insights and discusses traditions.

- National Defense Organization
- History of the USMC
- Marine Corps Oaths
- Marine Corps Recruiting Command
- USMC Installations
- Marine Forces Structure
- Marine Expeditionary Force Structure
- USMC Rank Structure
- USMC Uniforms
- USMC Social Functions
- Common Terms Used in the Marine Corps
- How to Tell Military Time
- Marine Language Quiz
- Glossary of Traditional Marine Corps Language
- USMC Acronyms

National Defense Organization



National Defense Organization



Brief History of the United States Marine Corps

On November 10, 1775, the Second Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia passed a [resolution](#) stating that "two Battalions of Marines be raised" for service as landing forces with the fleet. This resolution established the Continental Marines and marked the birth date of the United States Marine Corps. Serving on land and at sea, these first Marines distinguished themselves in a number of important operations, including their first amphibious raid into the Bahamas in March 1776, under the command of Captain (later Major) [Samuel Nicholas](#). The first commissioned officer in the Continental Marines, Nicholas remained the senior Marine officer throughout the American Revolution and is considered to be the first Marine [Commandant](#). The Treaty of Paris in April 1783 brought an end to the Revolutionary War and as the last of the Navy's ships were sold, the Continental Navy and Marines went out of existence.

Following the Revolutionary War and the formal re-establishment of the Marine Corps on 11 July 1798, Marines saw action in the quasi-war with France, landed in Santo Domingo, and took part in many operations against the Barbary pirates along the "Shores of Tripoli".



Marines took part in numerous naval operations during the War of 1812, as well as participating in the defense of Washington at Bladensburg, Maryland, and fought alongside Andrew Jackson in the defeat of the British at New Orleans.

The decades following the War of 1812 saw the Marines protecting American interests around the world, in the Caribbean, at the Falkland Islands, Sumatra, and off the coast of West Africa, and also close to home in operations against the Seminole Indians in Florida.

During the Mexican War (1846-1848), Marines seized enemy seaports on both the Gulf and Pacific coasts. A battalion of Marines joined General Winfield Scott's army at Pueblo and fought all the way to the "Halls of Montezuma," Mexico City. Marines also served ashore and afloat in the Civil War (1861-1865). Although most service was with the Navy, a battalion fought at Bull Run and other units saw action with the blockading squadrons at Cape Hatteras, New Orleans, Charleston, and Fort Fisher. The last third of the 19th century saw Marines making numerous landings throughout the world, especially in the Orient and in the Caribbean area.



Following the Spanish-American War (1898), in which Marines performed with valor in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, the Corps entered an era of expansion and professional development.



It saw active service in the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902), the Boxer Rebellion in China (1900), and in numerous other nations, including Nicaragua, Panama, Cuba, Mexico, and Haiti.

In [World War I](#) the Marine Corps distinguished itself on the battlefields of France as the 4th Marine Brigade earned the title of "Devil Dogs" for heroic action during 1918 at Belleau Wood, Soissons, St. Michiel, Blanc Mont, and in the final Meuse-Argonne offensive.



Marine aviation, which dates from 1912, also played a part in the war effort, as Marine pilots flew day bomber missions over France and Belgium. More than 30,000 Marines served in France and more than a third were killed or wounded in six months of intense fighting.

During the two decades before [World War II](#), the Marine Corps began to develop in earnest the doctrine, equipment, and organization needed for amphibious warfare. The success of this effort was proven first on Guadalcanal, then on Bougainville, Tarawa, New Britain, Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Saipan, Guam, Tinian, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. By the end of the war in 1945, the Marine Corps had grown to include six divisions, five air wings, and supporting troops. Its strength in World War II peaked at 485,113. The war cost the Marines nearly 87,000 dead and wounded, and 82 Marines had earned the Medal of Honor.



While Marine units took part in the post-war occupation of Japan and North China, studies were undertaken at Quantico, Virginia, which concentrated on attaining a "vertical envelopment" capability for the Corps through the use of helicopters.



Landing at Inchon, [Korea](#) in September 1950, Marines proved that the doctrine of amphibious assault was still viable and necessary. After the recapture of Seoul, the Marines advanced to the Chosin Reservoir only to see the Chinese Communists enter the war. After years of offensives, counter-offensives, seemingly endless trench warfare, and occupation duty, the last Marine ground troops were withdrawn in March 1955. More than 25,000 Marines were killed or wounded during the Korean War.

In July 1958, a brigade-size force landed in Lebanon to restore order. During the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962, a large amphibious force was marshaled but not landed. In April 1965, a brigade of Marines landed in the Dominican Republic to protect Americans and evacuate those who wished to leave.

The landing of the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade at Da Nang in 1965 marked the beginning of large-scale Marine involvement in [Vietnam](#). By summer 1968, after the enemy's Tet Offensive, Marine Corps strength in Vietnam rose to a peak of approximately 85,000. The Marine withdrawal began in 1969 as the South Vietnamese began to assume a larger role in the fighting; the last Marine ground forces were out of Vietnam by June 1971.



The Vietnam War, longest in the history of the Marine Corps, exacted a high cost as well with over 13,000 Marines killed and more than 88,000 wounded. In the spring of 1975, Marines evacuated embassy staffs, American citizens, and refugees in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and Saigon, Republic of Vietnam. In May, Marines played an integral role in the rescue of the crew of the SS Mayaguez captured off the coast of Cambodia.

The mid-1970s saw the Marine Corps assume an increasingly significant role in defending NATO's northern flank as amphibious units of the 2d Marine Division participated in exercises throughout northern Europe. The Marine Corps also played a key role in the development of the Rapid Deployment Force, a multi-service organization created to insure a flexible, timely military response around the world when needed. The Maritime Pre-positioning Ships (MPS) concept was developed to enhance this capability by pre-staging

equipment needed for combat in the vicinity of the designated area of operations, and reduce response time as Marines travel by air to link up with MPS assets.

The 1980s brought an increasing number of terrorist attacks on U.S. embassies around the world. Marine Security Guards, under the direction of the State Department, continued to serve with distinction in the face of this challenge. In August 1982, Marine units landed at Beirut, [Lebanon](#), as part of the multi-national peace-keeping force. For the next 19 months these units faced the hazards of their mission with courage and professionalism. In October 1983, Marines took part in the highly successful, short-notice intervention in Grenada. As the decade of the 1980s came to a close, Marines were summoned to respond to instability in Central America. Operation Just Cause was launched in Panama in December 1989 to protect American lives and restore the democratic process in that nation.

Less than a year later, in August 1990, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait set in motion events that would lead to the largest movement of Marine Corps forces since World War II. Between August 1990 and January 1991, some 24 infantry battalions, 40 squadrons, and more than 92,000 Marines deployed to the Persian Gulf as part of [Operation Desert Shield/Operation Desert Storm](#) was launched 16 January 1991, the day the air campaign began.



The main attack came overland beginning 24 February when the 1st and 2d Marine Divisions breached the Iraqi defense lines and stormed into occupied Kuwait. By the morning of February 28, 100 hours after the ground war began, almost the entire Iraqi Army in the Kuwaiti theater of operations had been encircled, with 4,000 tanks destroyed and 42 divisions destroyed or rendered ineffective.

Overshadowed by the events in the Persian Gulf during 1990-91, were a number of other significant Marine deployments demonstrating the Corps' flexible and rapid response. Included among these were non-combatant evacuation operations in Liberia and Somalia and humanitarian lifesaving operations in Bangladesh, the Philippines, and northern Iraq.

In December 1992, Marines landed in Somalia marking the beginning of a two-year humanitarian relief operation in that famine-stricken and strife-torn nation. In another part of the world, Marine Corps aircraft supported Operation Deny Flight in the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina. During April 1994, Marines once again demonstrated their ability to protect American citizens in remote parts of the world when a Marine task force evacuated U.S. citizens from Rwanda in response to civil unrest in that country.



L.I.N.K.S. for Parents/Extended Family

Closer to home, Marines went ashore in September 1994 in Haiti as part of the U.S. force participating in the restoration of democracy in that country. During this same period Marines were actively engaged in providing assistance to the Nation's counter-drug effort, assisting in battling wild fires in the western United States, and aiding in flood and hurricane relief operations.

The Marine Corps continued its tradition of innovation to meet the challenges of a new century. The Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory was created in 1995 to evaluate change, assess the impact of new technologies on warfighting, and expedite the introduction of new capabilities into the operating forces of the Marine Corps. Exercises such as "Hunter Warrior," and "Urban Warrior" were designed to explore future tactical concepts, and to examine facets of military operations in urban environments.

During the late 1990's, Marine Corps units deployed to several African nations, including Liberia, the Central African Republic, Zaire, and Eritrea, in order to provide security and assist in the evacuation of American citizens during periods of political and civil instability in those nations.



Humanitarian and disaster relief operations were also conducted by Marines during 1998 in Kenya, and in the Central American nations of Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. In 1999, Marine units deployed to Kosovo in support of Operation Allied Force. Soon after the September 2001 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., Marine units deployed to the Arabian Sea and in November set up a forward operating base in southern Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In 2002, the Marine Corps continued to play a key role in the Global War on Terrorism. Marines operated in diverse locations, from Afghanistan, to the Arabian Gulf, to the Horn of Africa and the Philippines. Early 2003 saw the largest deployment of Marine forces since the Persian Gulf War of 1990-91 when 76,000 Marines deployed to the Central Command area for combat operations against Iraq.



The I Marine Expeditionary Force, including Task Force Tarawa and the United Kingdom's 1st Armored Division, were the first conventional ground units to enter Iraq in late March as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Fixed-wing and helicopter aircraft from the 3d Marine Air Wing provided continuous close air and assault support to Marine and coalition units as they drove deeper into Iraq. On the ground, Marines from I MEF moved nearly 400 miles from the Kuwait border to Baghdad and Tikrit, Iraq, and eliminated the last organized resistance by Iraqi military forces. Although I MEF would transition to stabilization and security operations and then redeploy to the U.S. by late September, I MEF began preparing for a return to Iraq in early 2004.

L.I.N.K.S. for Parents/Extended Family

The adaptability and reliability of Marine forces continued to be highlighted around the world from the Horn of Africa to Haiti and to the Philippines.

Across the U.S., Marine units from both coasts fought and contained wildfires, and also supported hurricane relief efforts in various parts of the country. In December, 2004, a tsunami struck numerous nations in the Indian Ocean region killing more than 150,000 and causing enormous devastation. Marine units from III MEF were immediately deployed to Thailand, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka to assist in disaster relief operations.



In early 2005, the II Marine Expeditionary Force replaced I MEF in Iraq as the primary focus began to shift to partnership operations with the Iraqi Security Forces. Marine units continued to provide air and ground support to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Closer to home, the flexibility and responsiveness of the Navy/Marine team was exhibited during September and October when nearly 3000 Marines and sailors conducted search and rescue, humanitarian relief, and disaster recovery operations in Louisiana and Mississippi in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Today's Marine Corps stands ready to continue in the proud tradition of those who so valiantly fought and died at Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima, the Chosin Reservoir, and Khe Sanh. Combining a long and proud heritage of faithful service to the nation, with the resolve to face tomorrow's challenges will continue to keep the Marine Corps the "best of the best."

Reference Branch
History Division
July 2006



Marine Corps Oath for E-1 thru E-9

I, _____, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same. That I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, so help me God.

Marine Corps Oath for W-1 thru O-10

I, _____, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this oath freely without mental reservation or purpose of evasion; that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC)

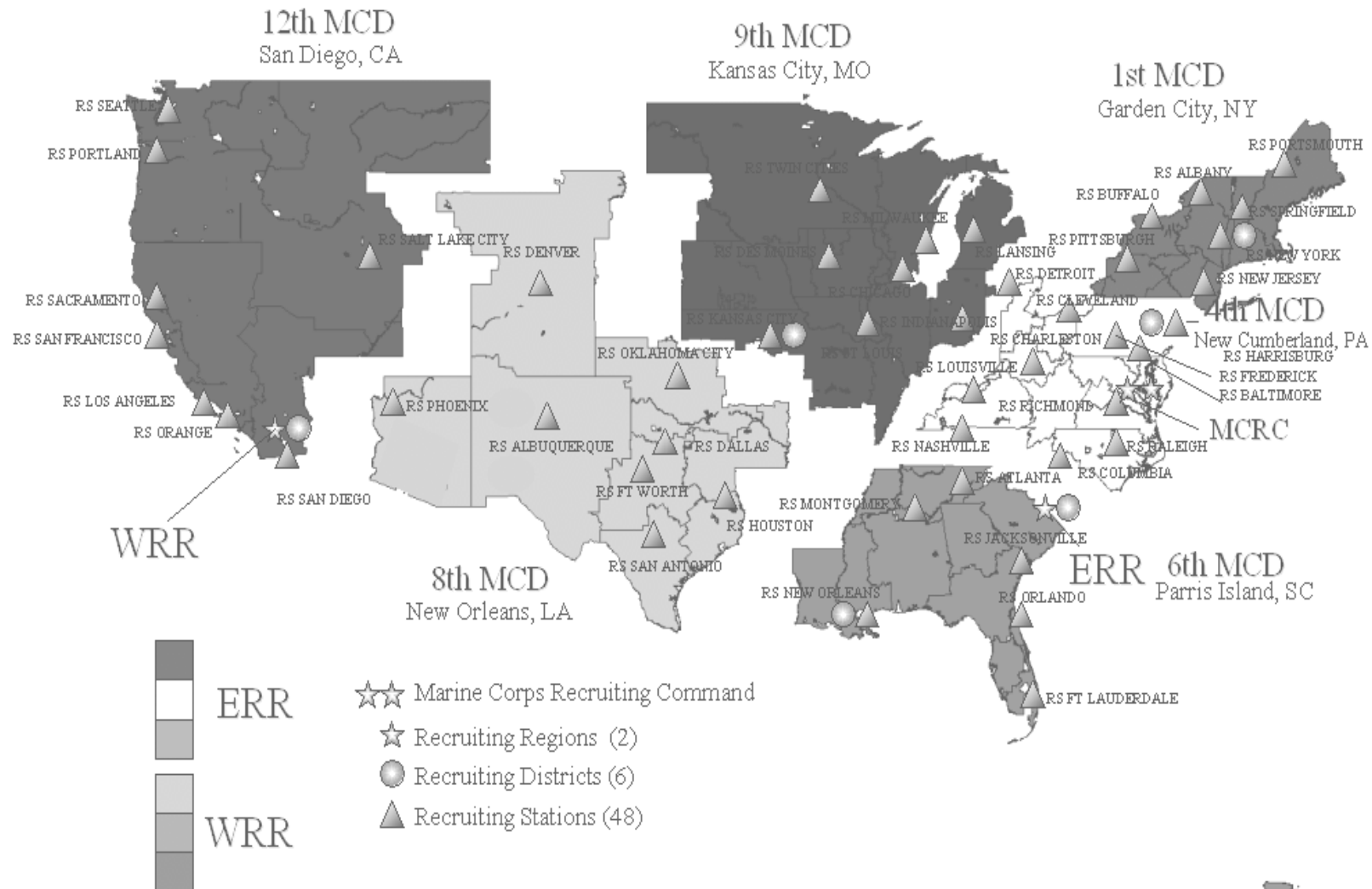
The Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC) conducts operations to recruit qualified individuals for enlistment or commissioning into the United States Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserves.

MCRC is divided into two regions, the Eastern Recruiting Region (ERR) and the Western Recruiting Region (WRR). Within these two regions fall six Marine Corps Recruiting Districts (MCDs).

	Recruiting Regions	
	ERR	WRR
	1 st MCD	8 th MCD
	4 th MCD	9 th MCD
Marine Corps Recruiting Districts	6 th MCD	12 th MCD

Within the six Recruiting Districts, there are forty-eight Recruiting Stations. A detailed map of location for each region, district, and station is supplied on the following page. Further information regarding Marine Corps Recruiting Command may be accessed through <https://www.mcrc.usmc.mil>

Marine Corps Recruiting Command “Area of Operations”



Marine Corps Base Camp Butler – Okinawa, Japan
Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune – Jacksonville, NC
Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton – Oceanside, CA
Marine Corps Base Hawaii – Kaneohe, HI
Marine Corps Base Quantico – Quantico, VA
Marine Corps Bases Japan
MAGTF Training Command 29 Palms – 29 Palms, CA
Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany – Albany, GA
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow – Barstow, CA

Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort – Beaufort, SC
Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point – Havelock, NC
Marine Corps Air Station Futenma – Okinawa, Japan
Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni – Japan
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar – San Diego, CA
Marine Corps Air Station New River – Jacksonville, NC
Marine Corps Air Station Yuma – Yuma, AZ
Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island – Beaufort, SC
Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego – San Diego, CA



Marine Air/Ground Task Force (MAGTF)

The mission will determine which MAGTF responds

SPMAGTF

Special Purpose MAGTF

Organized to accomplish special missions such as humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, peacekeeping activities, or regional exercises.

Manning and sustainability as required by mission

Rapid deployment capability by air or sea

Response time varies

MEU (SOC)

Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable)

Organized to provide a forward deployed presence to promote peace and stability and are designed to be the Marine Corps' first-on-the-scene force.

1,500 - 3,000 Marines

~ Battalion Landing Team

~ Composite Helicopter Squadron

~ Combat Logistics Battalion (CLB)

6 hr response time

MEB

Marine Expeditionary Brigade

Organized to respond to a full range of crises, from forcible entry to humanitarian assistance.

3,000 - 20,000

~Regimental Landing Team

~ Marine Air Group (MAG)

~ Combat Logistics Regiment (CLR)

5 - 14 day response time

MEF

Marine Expeditionary Force

Organized to fight and win in conflicts up to, and including, a major war. Principle Warfighting Organization

20,000 - 90,000

~Marine Division(s)

~Marine Aircraft Wing(s) (MAW)

~Marine Logistics Group (s) (MLG)

Can incorporate joint /combined elements

30 - 45 day response time

Four core elements of a MAGTF anchored by the Bases & Stations

Command Element (CE): The CE contains the MAGTF headquarters and other units that provide intelligence, communications, and administrative support.



Ground Combat Element (GCE): The GCE includes infantry, artillery, reconnaissance, armor, light armor, assault amphibian, engineer, and other forces, as needed.



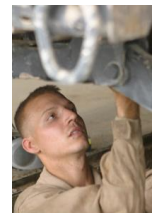
All USMC Bases and Stations

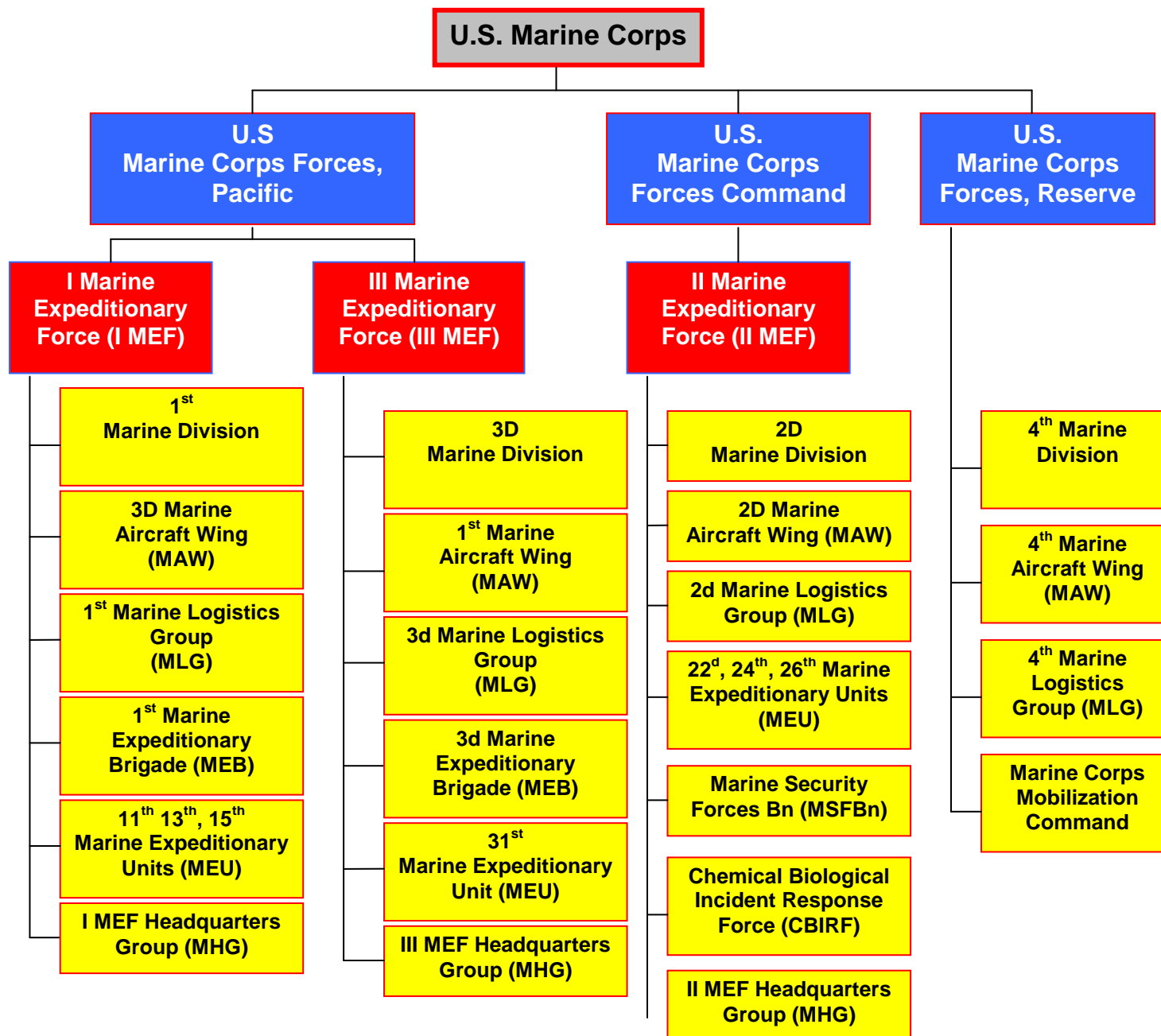


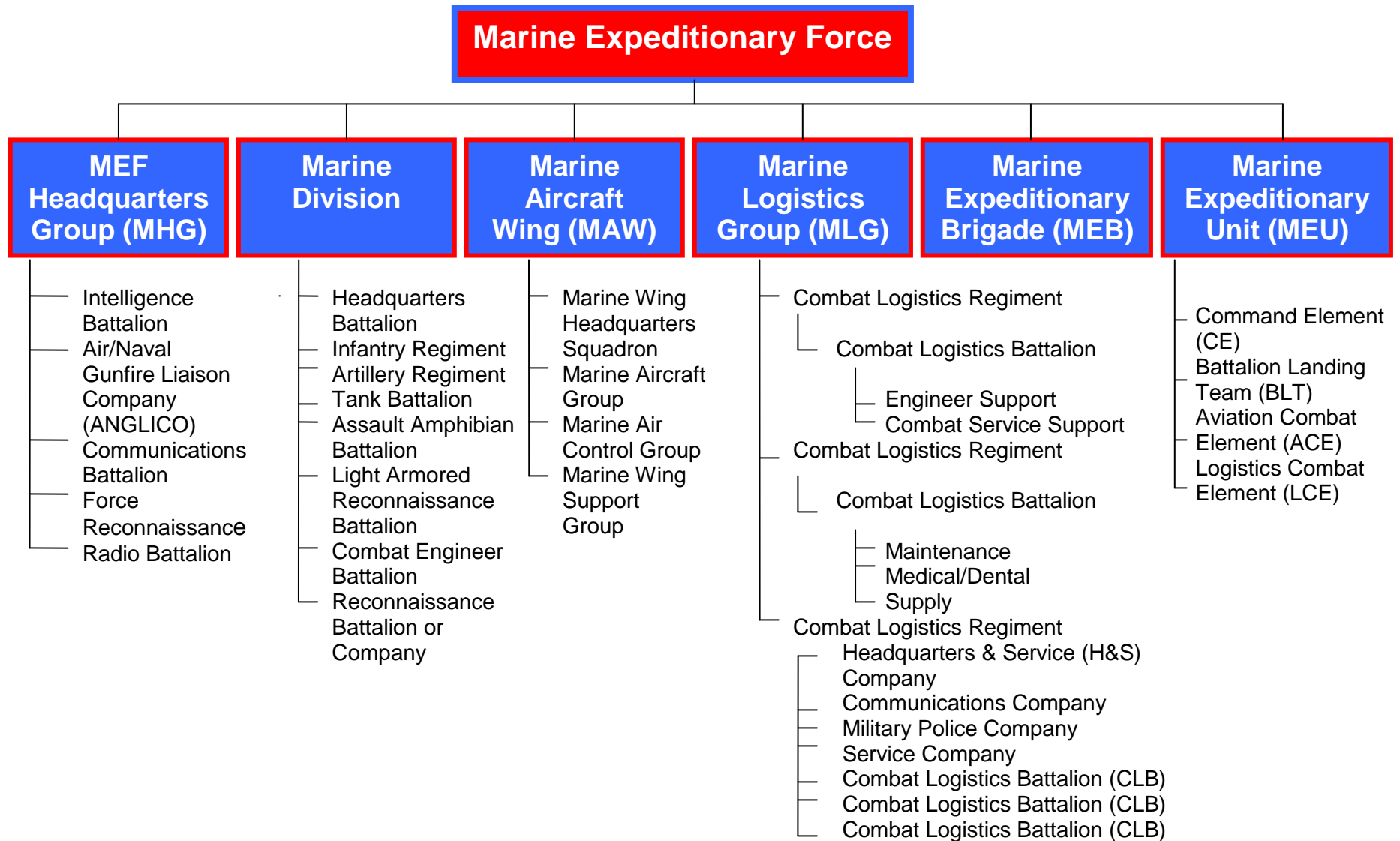
Aviation Combat Element (ACE): The ACE conducts offensive and defensive air operations. This element is formed around an aviation headquarters with appropriate air-control agencies, combat, combat support, and combat service support units.














Combat Service Support Element (CSSE): The CSSE provides the full range of combat service support functions from one or more Marine Logistics Groups (MLGs), and provides capabilities necessary to maintain the continued readiness and sustainability of the MAGTF as a whole.


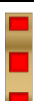




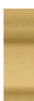

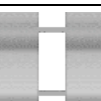












Locations: I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) - West Coast, US
 II Marine Expeditionary Force (II MEF) - East Coast, US
 III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) - Japan

Private E-1	None
Private First Class E-2	
Lance Corporal E-3	
Corporal E-4	
Sergeant E-5	
Staff Sergeant E-6	
Gunnery Sergeant E-7	
Master Sergeant E-8	
First Sergeant E-8	
Master Gunnery Sergeant E-9	
Sergeant Major E-9	
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps E-9	

Warrant Officer WO	
Chief Warrant Officer-2 CWO2	
Chief Warrant Officer-3 CWO3	
Chief Warrant Officer-4 CWO4	
Chief Warrant Officer-5 CWO5	
Second Lieutenant O-1	
First Lieutenant O-2	
Captain O-3	
Major O-4	
Lieutenant Colonel O-5	
Colonel O-6	
Brigadier General O-7	
Major General O-8	
Lieutenant General O-9	
General O-10	

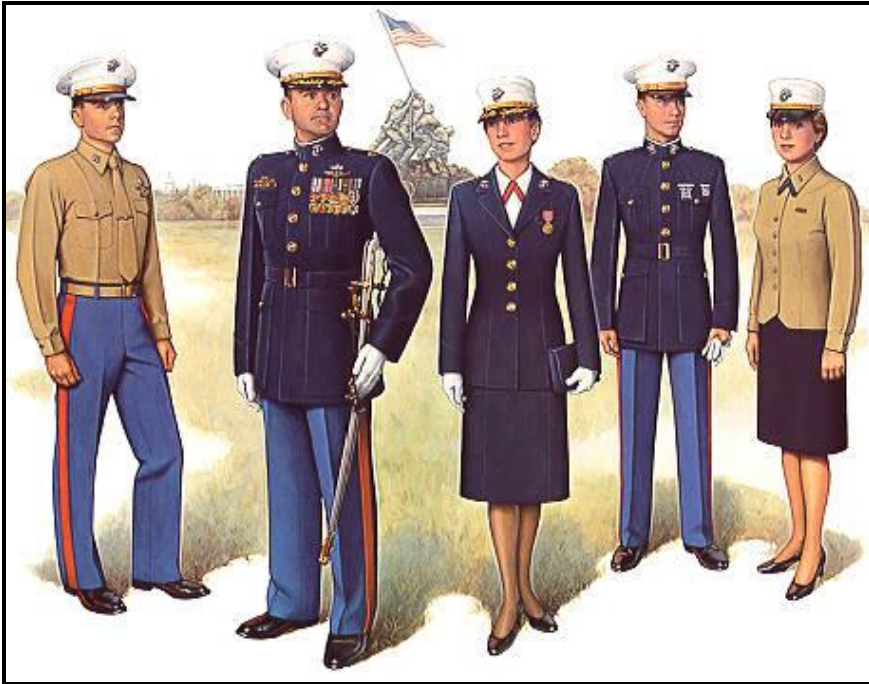
Uniform Information and Pictorial

Miscellaneous Uniform Information:

Corfam or Corfram	High gloss black shoes
Combat Boots	Tan suede combat boots
Blousing Band	Elastic band used to tuck cammie trouser legs - "Boot Bands"
Chevrons	Rank insignia worn on sleeves and collars by enlisted
Hashmarks	Service stripe(s) worn by enlisted just above the cuff of Alpha and dress uniforms; each stripe designates four years of service
Barracks Cover	Green or white round hat with black visor
Identification tags	Metal tags that have each Marine's personal identification information on them. They are worn on a chain around a Marine's neck. - "Dog Tags"
Anodized Brass	Finished brass that does not need polishing.

For more information regarding initial clothing allowances issued to Marines, refer to <http://www.hqmc.usmc.mil> and search MCBUL 10120.

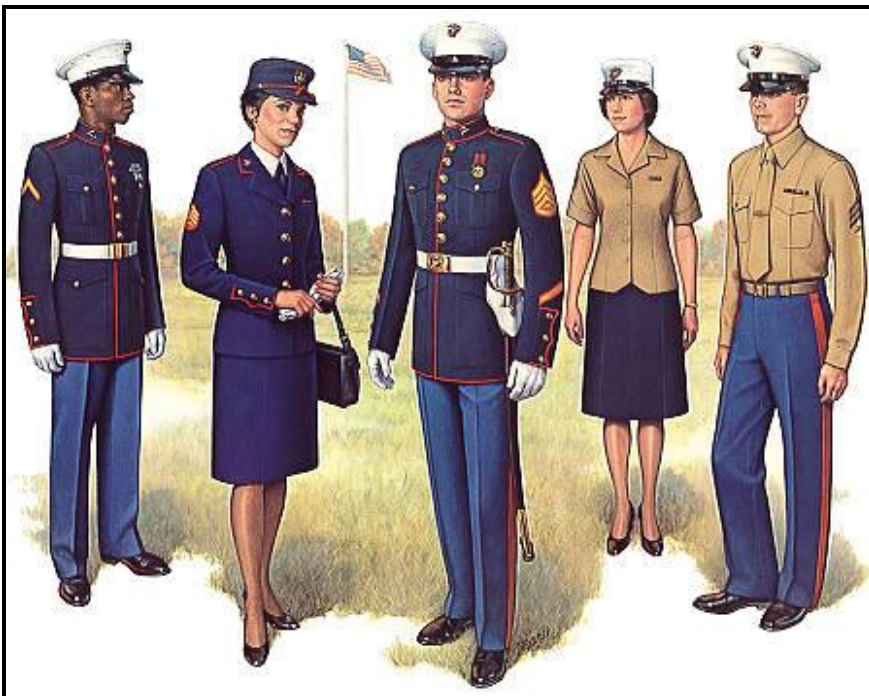
Marine Corps Uniform Pictorial



Officer Dress Uniforms

From Left to Right:

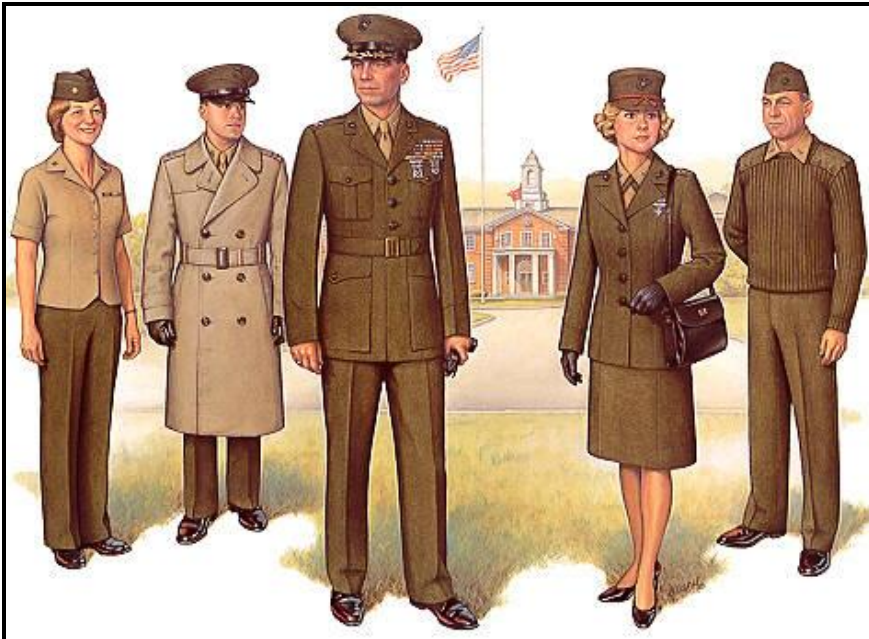
1. Blue Dress "C", commonly called "Dress Blue Charlies"
2. Blue Dress "A", commonly called "Dress Blue Alphas" (with medals)
3. Female Blue Dress "A" with skirt
4. Blue Dress "B", commonly called "Dress Blue Bravos" (with ribbons and badges)
5. Female Blue Dress "C" with skirt



From Left to Right:

1. Blue Dress "B", commonly called "Dress Blue Bravos" (with ribbons and badges)
2. Female Blue Dress "B" with skirt
3. Blue Dress "A", commonly called "Dress Blue Alphas" (with medals)
4. Female Blue Dress "D", commonly called "Dress Blue Deltas", with skirt
5. Blue Dress "C", commonly called "Dress Blue Charlies"

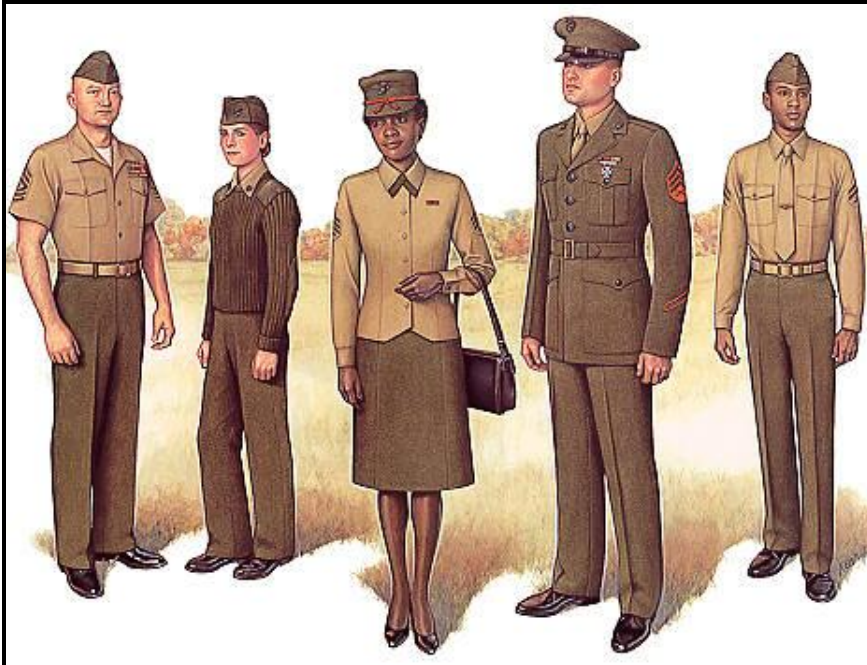
Enlisted Dress Uniforms



Officer Service Uniforms

From Left to Right:

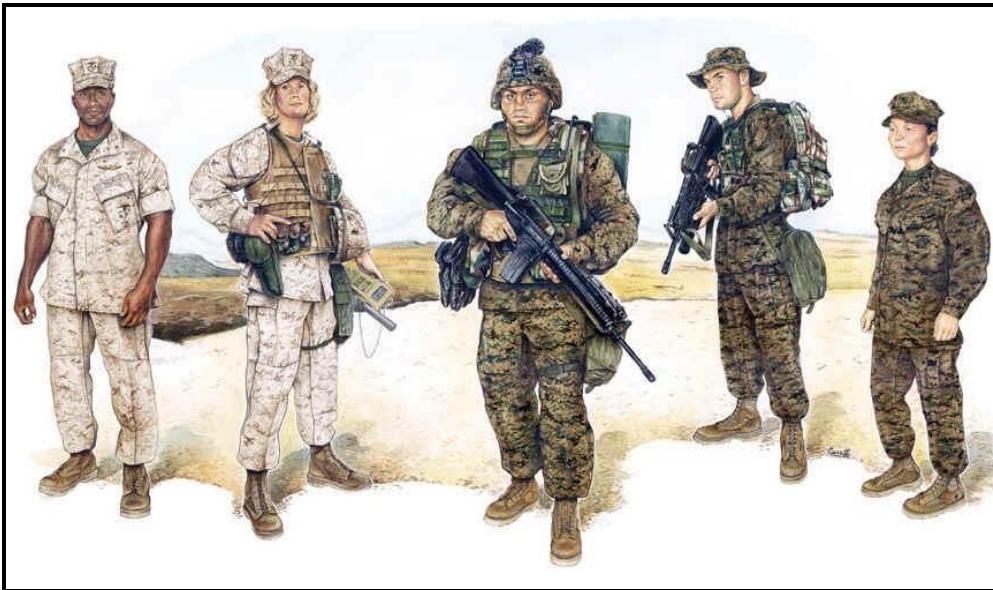
1. Female Service "C", commonly called "Charlies", with trousers
2. Service "B", commonly called "Bravos", with all-weather coat
3. Service "A", commonly called "Alphas"
4. Female Service "A", with skirt
5. Service Uniform with Service Sweater (epaulettes not pictured)



Enlisted Service Uniforms

From Left to Right:

1. Service "C", commonly called "Charlies"
2. Female Service Uniform with Service Sweater (epaulettes not pictured), with trousers
3. Female Service "B", commonly called "Bravos", with skirt
4. Service "A", commonly called "Alphas"
5. Service "B", commonly called "Bravos"



Combat Utility Uniform

From Left to Right:

1. Desert Combat Utility Uniform, commonly called "Desert Cammies", with sleeves up
2. Desert Combat Utility Uniform with combat equipment
3. Woodland Combat Utility Uniform, commonly called "Green Cammies", with combat equipment
4. Woodland Combat Utility Uniform with combat equipment
5. Woodland Combat Utility Uniform with sleeves down

Historical Significance of Marine Corps Uniform Items

Marine Corps Emblem

(1) The basic design of the emblem was officially adopted in 1868. It is a symbolic representation which Americans, both civilian and military, immediately identify as "Marines." Prior to 1868, the Marines wore various emblems based mainly on the spread eagle and fouled anchor. In 1868, the seventh Commandant, General Zeilin, decided on a single, distinctive emblem centered around the globe.

(2) The emblem represents what we stand for, our past, and our future. There are three basic components of the Marine Corps emblem, The Eagle, Globe, and Anchor:

(a) Anchor. The first part of the emblem is the anchor. It is not just a plain anchor but a "fouled" anchor. The anchor emphasizes the close ties of the Marine Corps with the U.S. Navy.

(b) Globe. Emphasizing the close ties between the U.S. Marine Corps and the British Royal Marines, the idea of a globe as part of the emblem was borrowed from the emblem of the Royal Marines. However, the Royal Marines' emblem shows the Eastern Hemisphere, whereas the U.S. Marine Corps' emblem shows the Western Hemisphere. This was only natural since the United States is located in the Western Hemisphere and many of the early Marine combat operations and noncombatant duties were in the Western Hemisphere. Today, of course, the globe can also symbolize the "global" Marine Corps commitments and responsibilities which have evolved in the 20th century.

(c) Eagle. The third part of the emblem is the eagle. The eagle is the national symbol of the United States, and is the one part of the emblem which readily identifies the Marine Corps with the United States. The eagle proudly carries a streamer in its beak which bears the motto of the Corps, "Semper Fidelis."

The scarlet trouser stripe

A red stripe first appeared on uniform trousers in 1798, and reappeared in 1840 and 1859, partly as a result of the military fashions of the day. The popular story, which cannot be supported by fact, is that the red stripe commemorates the blood shed by Marines in the Battle of Chapultepec in 1846.

The quatrefoil

The quatrefoil is an interwoven braid in the shape of a cross of figure eights found on top of the Marine officer's barracks covers. Officially, the quatrefoil first became an authorized part of the uniform in 1859. The quatrefoil was the fashionable military style of the era. Popular belief tells us that the quatrefoil was worn on the caps of Marines fighting on the decks of ships in order that they might be easily recognized by the Marine sharpshooters located above in the ship's rigging.

Mameluke sword

Until the invention of gunpowder, the sword was once one of the primary combat weapons used by the military. The association of the Marine Corps with the Mameluke sword began in the early 19th century. The "Mamelukes" were an elite Muslim military force from Eastern and Northern Africa. They used a sword that had a gold hilt, ivory handle, and a curved blade. Tradition states that in recognition of Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon's heroic actions in the Tripoli expedition, Prince Hamet Bey presented him a Mameluke sword.

The NCO sword

Noncommissioned officers (NCOs) of the Marine Corps are the only NCOs in any branch of the regular United States Armed Forces who still have the privilege of carrying what is considered to be a commissioned officer's weapon. The Marine NCO sword rates as one of the oldest U. S. weapons still in use (second only to the Mameluke sword). While limited by regulation to "when in charge of troops on ceremonial occasions," the sword is part of our intangible *esprit de corps*.

Field hat

This was the rugged, picturesque, expeditionary headgear of the Corps from 1898 until 1942 and became a universal favorite. As a result, although the hat became outmoded during World War II, General Cates, the 19th Commandant, authorized its use on the rifle range in 1948 and took steps to issue field hats to all medalist shooters in the Marine Corps matches. Subsequently, in 1956, General Pate, the 21st Commandant, directed that field hats be worn by all recruit drill instructors, and the hat has become a symbol of Marine Corps recruit training.

Source: Marine Corps Reference Publication (MCRP) 6-11B (with Change 1), *Marine Corps Values: A User's Guide for Discussion Leaders*

USMC Social Functions

Marine Corps Birthday Ball

Spouses (and usually other guests) are included in this formal event that includes the birthday ceremony and cake cutting. Dinner and dancing may also be a part of the evening.

Dining In

Another formal event that spouses (and sometimes other guests) may attend. This is a very structured dinner where the “President of the Mess” enforces the rules. It can be a fun evening filled with many toasts and many fines paid to “Mr. Vice” when someone breaks a rule. It really is a great experience and the fines usually go to a local charity. So, take a few extra dollars!

Mess Night

For Marines only, this is an evening to promote social camaraderie. It has a cocktail hour, dinner, and toasts.

Bosses’ Night

Marines only. Marines get together with their peers and senior Marines for a rare social evening. It is a time to get to know your Marine boss outside of the office.

Wetting Down

A promotion party that can be hosted at home or at the club. Spouses (and sometimes family members) can be invited for this celebration. Sometimes the Marine promoted is ‘wet down’ with the liquid of his choice.

Hail and Farewell

A get-together to say, “fair winds and following seas” (good-bye) to those leaving the military unit, and a “welcome aboard” (hello) to those joining the unit. Spouses (and other guests) are typically invited.

Parades

Parades are a major part of Marine Corps life. Parades honor an individual or specific event. There are formal written invitations sent out, but that doesn’t limit the audience. Anyone may attend a parade. There is always open seating in the bleachers. It is a wonderful experience to come out and watch your Marine “drill” (march). Please dress appropriately. Very casual dress such as shorts or jeans would not be appropriate. This is an official military function and should be given the respect it deserves. Remain in place until the narrator indicates that the parade has concluded. This happens after the last Marine has “passed in review” and the reviewing officers break ranks (shake hands and walk away.) If you aren’t sure when to stand and when to sit, follow the crowd and you’ll be fine. No one is perfect, and all of us have experienced awkward moments.

Common Terms Used in the Marine Corps

“Devil Dogs”

In the Belleau Wood fighting in 1918, the Germans received a thorough indoctrination into the fighting ability of Marines. Fighting through supposedly impenetrable woods and capturing supposedly untakeable terrain, the men of the 4th Marine Brigade struck terror in the hearts of the Germans, who referred to Marines as the *Teufelhunden*, meaning "fierce fighting dogs of legendary origin" or as popularly translated, "Devil Dogs."

“First to Fight”

Marines have been in the forefront of every American war since the founding of the Corps. They entered the Revolution in 1775, even before the Declaration of Independence was signed! Marines have carried out more than 300 landings on foreign shores. They have served everywhere, from the Arctic to tropics; their record for readiness reflects pride, responsibility, and challenge.

“Leatherneck”

This nickname goes back to the leather stock or neckpiece, which was part of the Marine Corps uniform from 1775 to 1875. The leather collar was designed to protect the jugular vein from saber slashes. It also insured that Marines kept their heads erect and maintained military bearing. Although no longer used, it is commemorated by the standing collar on the dress blue uniform.

“Retreat, Hell! We just got here!”

Fighting spirit and determination against heavy odds is a sound tradition in the Marine Corps. Nowhere is there a more graphic illustration than an incident which occurred in World War I. Legendary or true, it personifies the aggressive attitude of Marines. The occasion was the third great German breakthrough of 1918, when the 4th Marine Brigade and its parent 2d Infantry Division were thrown in to help stem the tide in the Belleau Wood sector. The 2d Battalion, 5th Marines had just arrived at its position when an automobile skidded to a stop and a French officer dashed out and approached the commanding officer. He explained that a general retreat was in progress and that orders were for the Marines to withdraw. The Marine officer exclaimed in amazement, "Retreat Hell! We just got here!" The Marines proceeded to prove their point. The battalion deployed and took up firing positions. As the Germans approached, they came under rifle fire which was accurate at ranges beyond their comprehension. Not in vain had the Marine Corps long stressed in its training the sound principles of marksmanship. The deadly fire took the heart out of the German troops, and the attack was stopped.

“Semper Fidelis” (Semper Fi) - The Marine Corps Motto

That Marines have lived up to their motto, *Semper Fidelis* (always faithful), is proven by the fact that there has never been a mutiny among U.S. Marines. This motto was adopted about 1883. Before that, there had been three mottoes, all traditional rather than official. The first, *Fortitudine* (with fortitude), appeared about 1812. The second, *By Sea and by Land*, was obviously a translation of the Royal Marines' *Per Mare, Per Terrem*. Until 1848, the third motto was "To the Shores of Tripoli," in commemoration of O'Bannon's capture of Derne in 1805. In 1848, after the return to Washington of the Marine battalion which took part in the capture of Mexico City, this motto was revised to "From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli." The current Marine Corps motto is shared with England's Devonshire Regiment.

“The President's Own”

Established by an act of Congress in July 1798 (more than a century before the bands of the other three services), the Marine Band has performed at White House functions for every president except George Washington. Thomas Jefferson was especially fond of the band. Because of its traditional privilege of performing at the White House, the band is spoken of as "the President's Own."

“Uncommon valor was a common virtue”

Refers to the victories in World War II, especially at Iwo Jima, the largest all-Marine battle in history. Admiral Nimitz's ringing characterization of Marines fighting on Iwo Jima was applied to the entire Marine Corps in World War II: "Uncommon valor was a common virtue."

Source: Marine Corps Reference Publication (MCRP) 6-11B (with Change 1), *Marine Corps Values: A User's Guide for Discussion Leaders*

How to Tell "Military Time"

Military time uses a 24-hour clock, instead of the 12-hour clock to which we are accustomed. Military time numbers the 24 hours of the day from 1 to 24, rather than repeating the cycle of 12 hours twice. In several countries, time is also kept on this 24-hour cycle.

So, instead of saying 1 am, Marines say 0100 (pronounced zero one hundred), then 0200, 0300, and finally 1200 for 12 noon. Then for 1 pm, they keep going and say 1300 (pronounced thirteen hundred). Never pronounce the hours in thousands. (Ex. 1500) You should pronounce 1-5-0-0 as fifteen hundred instead of one thousand five hundred. Sometimes instead of saying "zero two hundred hours," people say "oh two hundred hours," which is technically incorrect because "O" is a letter.

STANDARD	24-HOUR	STANDARD	24-HOUR
12 MIDNIGHT	2400 or 0000	12 NOON	1200
12:01 AM	0001	12:01 PM	1201
12:15 AM	0015	12:15 PM	1215
12:30 AM	0030	12:30 PM	1230
12:45 AM	0045	12:45 PM	1245
1 AM	0100	1 PM	1300
2 AM	0200	2 PM	1400
3 AM	0300	3 PM	1500
4 AM	0400	4 PM	1600
5 AM	0500	5 PM	1700
6 AM	0600	6 PM	1800
7 AM	0700	7 PM	1900
8 AM	0800	8 PM	2000
9 AM	0900	9 PM	2100
10 AM	1000	10 PM	2200
11 AM	1100	11 PM	2300

Marine Language Quiz

Marine Language can present quite a challenge to the newcomer.

Here are some of the more common terms you may encounter.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Allotment | A. Grocery store for military and family members |
| 2. Service Alpha Uniform | B. Field March |
| 3. Barracks | C. Government housing for married Marines |
| 4. Blouse | D. When a Marine departs for an extended amount of time |
| 5. Boot | E. Military member responsible for the family members |
| 6. Service Bravo Uniform | F. Restroom |
| 7. Chain of Command | G. Very early in the morning |
| 8. Service Charlie Uniform | H. Uniform jacket; or to fold under the bottom of the trouser legs |
| 9. Chevrons | I. Short-sleeved shirt with trousers |
| 10. Colors | J. Clean up an area |
| 11. Commissary | K. Approved time away from duty |
| 12. Company | L. Green wool or poly/wool jacket and trousers |
| 13. Cover | M. Administration section of a unit |
| 14. Deployment | N. Green wool sweater |
| 15. Esprit De Corps | O. National and unit flags |
| 16. Field Day | P. Several platoons within a battalion |
| 17. Head | Q. Long-sleeved khaki shirt with tie and trousers |
| 18. Hump | R. Newly promoted or new to the Marine Corps |
| 19. Leave | S. Spirit of strong regard for the honor of the group |
| 20. O-Dark Thirty | T. Building where Marines live |
| 21. Police | U. Cleaning of the barracks/workspace |
| 22. Quarters | V. Rank insignia worn on sleeves and collars of enlisted Marines |
| 23. S-1 | W. Organization within a unit (who works for whom) |
| 24. Skivvies | X. Hat |
| 25. Sponsor | Y. Underwear |
| 26. Wooly-Pully | Z. Pay Marine designates to a bank or individual |

ANSWER KEY:

1. Z 2. L 3. T 4. H 5. R 6. Q 7. W 8. I 9. V 10. O 11. A 12. P 13. X 14. D
15. S 16. U 17. F 18. B 19. K 20. G 21. J 22. C 23. M 24. Y 25. E 26. N

GLOSSARY OF TRADITIONAL MARINE CORPS LANGUAGE

ADRIFT Loose from towline or moorings; scattered about; not in proper stowage.

AFT Referring to or toward the stern (rear) of a vessel.

ALL HANDS All members of a command.

ASHORE Any place outside of a naval or Marine Corps reservation.

AS YOU WERE Resume former activity.

AWEIGH Said of the anchor. As soon as the anchor has broken away from and is no longer fastened to the bottom.

AYE, AYE, SIR Required official acknowledgement of an order meaning I have received, understand, and will carry out the order or instruction.

BELAY To make fast or to secure, as in "belay the line," to cancel or to disregard a statement just made.

BELOW Downstairs; lower deck.

BREAKOUT Take out of stock or storage.

BRIG A place of confinement; a prison.

BROWN BAGGER A married Marine.

BOW The front portion of a ship.

BRIDGE The portion of a ship's structure from which it is controlled when underway.

BROW A portable walkway from the pier or jetty to the ship's quarterdeck.

BUTTKIT An ashtray.

C.P. Command Post in the field.

CARRY ON The order to resume previous activity.

CHIT A receipt or authorization; a piece of paper.

FANTAIL The main deck of a ship at the stern.

FIELD DAY Barracks cleanup.

FIELD SCARF Regulation Marine Corps uniform neck tie.

FORECASTLE The upperdeck at the bow on which the ground tackle is located.

GALLEY Shipboard kitchen; kitchen of a mess hall; mobile field mess.

GANGWAY An opening in the rail giving access to the ship. A command announcement to stand aside to let someone through.

GATOR An amphibious ship; one who serves in the amphibious Navy.

GEEDUNK The place (aboard ship) where candy, ice cream, soda, and smokes can be purchased.

HATCH Door or doorway.

HEAD Latrine or toilet.

LADDER Stairs.

LIBERTY Absence from the ship or command for less than 96 hours for purposes of rest and recreation which is not charged as leave.

OVERHEAD Ceiling.

PASSAGEWAY A hallway.

PETTY OFFICER A Navy Noncommissioned Officer.

POLICE To straighten or to tidy up.

PORT Left.

QUARTERDECK The ceremonial location on board ship when the ship is moored or at anchor (it is located close to the brow or accommodation ladder and is the watch station for the Officer of the Deck).

RATE A sailor's occupational specialty.

SCUTTLEBUTT Gossip or unfounded rumor; also a drinking fountain.

SEABAG The bag used to stow personal gear.

SECURE Stop; finish; end; make fast; put away in storage.

SHIPPING OVER Reenlisting.

L.I.N.K.S. for Parents/Extended Family

SICK BAY Hospital or dispensary.

SKIPPER Commanding Officer.

SKYLARK Goof-off; to loiter.

SMOKING LAMP When smoking lamp is lit, smoking is authorized.

SQUARE AWAY To straighten, make ship-shape, or to get settled. Inform or admonish someone in an abrupt manner.

STARBOARD Right.

STERN The blunt end (rear) of a ship.

SWAB A mop.

TOPSIDE Upstairs; upper deck.

TURN TO Begin work; get started.

WARDROOM On board ship, the officer's living room and dining area; also used to signify all of the officers serving on the ship.

Source: Marine Corps Reference Publication (MCRP) 6-11B (with Change 1), *Marine Corps Values: A User's Guide for Discussion Leaders*

Marine Corps Acronyms

AAAV.....	Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle
ACE.....	Aviation Combat Element
ACMC.....	Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps
AC.....	Active Component
AD.....	Active Duty
ADSW.....	Active Duty for Special Work
APF.....	Appropriated Funds
AR.....	Active Reserve
ARC.....	American Red Cross
ASAP.....	As Soon As Possible
ATFP.....	Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection
BAH.....	Basic Allowance for Housing
BAS.....	Basic Allowance for Subsistence
BEQ.....	Bachelor Enlisted Quarters
BLT.....	Battalion Landing Team
BN.....	Battalion
BOD.....	Board of Directors
BOQ.....	Bachelor Officer Quarters
BUMED.....	Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
C4I.....	Command, Control, Communication, Computer & Intelligence
CAC.....	Consolidated Administration Center (ConAd)
CACO.....	Casualty Assistance Calls Officer
CACP.....	Casualty Assistance Calls Program
CAX.....	Combined Arms Exercise
CCUS.....	Childcare in a Unit Setting
CDC.....	Child Development Center
CE.....	Command Element
CG.....	Commanding General
CMA.....	Clothing Maintenance Allowance
CMC.....	Commandant of the Marine Corps
CNO.....	Chief of Naval Operations
CO.....	Commanding Officer
COLA.....	Cost of Living Allowance
COMRATS.....	Commuted Rations
CONUS.....	Continental United States
CREDO.....	Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation
CSSE.....	Combat Service Support Element
CWO.....	Chief Warrant Officer
DECA.....	Defense Commissary Agency
DEERS.....	Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System
DET.....	Detachment (of a larger organization)
DI.....	Drill Instructor

L.I.N.K.S. for Parents/Extended Family

DITY MOVE.....Do It Yourself Move
DIV.....Division
DLA.....Dislocation Allowance
DoD.....Department of Defense
DODEA.....Department of Defense Education Activity (Base
 Schools)
DON.....Department of the Navy
DPAC.....Division Personnel Administrative Center
DSN.....Defense Switching Network (the military phone
 system)
DVA.....Department of Veterans Affairs
EAOS.....End of Active Obligated Service
EAS.....Expiration of Active Service
ECC.....Expiration of Current Contract
EFMP.....Exceptional Family Member Program
ETA.....Estimated Time of Arrival
ETD.....Estimated Time of Departure
EWC.....Enlisted Wives' Club
EWS.....Expeditionary Warfare School (formerly AWS)
FAP.....Family Advocacy Program or Fleet Assistance Program
FCC.....Family Childcare
FMEAP.....Family Member Employment Assistance Program
FMF.....Fleet Marine Force ("The Fleet")
FRC.....Family Readiness Committee
FRO.....Family Readiness Officer
FSA.....Family Separation Allowance
FTE.....Full Time Employee
G-1.....Group/Regiment/Division Manpower (Admin)
G-2.....Group/Regiment/Division Intelligence
G-3.....Group/Regiment/Division Operations
G-4.....Group/Regiment/Division Logistics
G-5.....Group/Regiment/Division Plans
G-6.....Group/Regiment/Division Communications Electronics
GCE.....Ground Combat Element
GPAC.....Group Personnel Administration Center
GSA.....General Service Administration
HM**.....Refers to Helicopter squadron (e.g., HMM-264)
HMH.....Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron
HMM.....Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron
HMLA.....Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron
HQMC.....Headquarters, Marine Corps
IADT.....Initial Active Duty for Training
I/IADT.....Incremental Initial Active Duty for Training
IATS.....Integrated Automated Travel System
IG.....Inspector General
I&I.....Inspector & Instructor (Reserve Unit Staff)
I&L.....Installation & Logistics

IMA.....Individual Mobilization Augmentee (or called an IA)
IPAC.....Installation Personnel Administration Center
IRR.....Individual Ready Reserve
JAG.....Judge Advocate General
JRC.....Joint Reception Center
KV.....Key Volunteer
KVA.....Key Volunteer Advisor
KVC.....Key Volunteer Coordinator
KVN.....Key Volunteer Network
LADD.....Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion
L.I.N.K.S.....Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge and
 Skills
LDO.....Limited Duty Officer
LES.....Leave & Earnings Statement
LZ.....Landing Zone
M&RA.....Manpower and Reserve Affairs
MACG.....Marine Air Control Group
MACS.....Marine Air Control Squadron
MAG.....Marine Aircraft Group
MAGTF.....Marine Air/Ground Task Force
MAJS.....Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron
MARADMIN.....Marine Administration Message
MARFORLANT.....Marine Forces Atlantic
MARFORPAC.....Marine Forces Pacific
MARFORRES.....Marine Forces Reserve
MLG.....Marine Logistics Group
MARS.....Military Affiliated Radio Station
MASS.....Marine Air Support Squadron
MAW.....Marine Aircraft Wing
MCAS.....Marine Corps Air Station
MCB.....Marine Corps Base
MCBul.....Marine Corps Bulletin
MCCDCMarine Corps Combat Development Command
MCCS.....Marine Corps Community Services
MCFTB.....Marine Corps Family Team Building
MCI-East.....Marine Corps Installations East
MCI-West.....Marine Corps Installations West
MCLB.....Marine Corps Logistics Base
MCO.....Marine Corps Order
MCR.....Marine Corps Reserve
MCRC.....Marine Corps Recruiting Command
MCRD.....Marine Corps Recruit Depot
MCT.....Marine Combat Training
MCTFS.....Marine Corps Total Force System
MCU.....Marine Corps University
MCX.....Marine Corps Exchange
MEB.....Marine Expeditionary Brigade

L.I.N.K.S. for Parents/Extended Family

MED.....Mediterranean (generally a cruise/float)
MEF.....Marine Expeditionary Force
MEU.....Marine Expeditionary Unit
MEU(SOC).....Marine Expeditionary Unit(Special Operations Capable)
MFR.....Marine Forces Reserve
MOA.....Memorandum of Agreement
MOL.....Marine On Line
MORDT.....Mobilization Operational Readiness Deployment Test
MOS.....Military Occupational Specialty
MP.....Military Police
MR.....Personal and Family Readiness Division (HQMC)
MRes.....Meals, Ready-to-Eat
MRZ.....HQMC, MR Division, MCFTB Routing/Office Code
MSB.....Mobilization Support Battalion
MSC.....Major Subordinate Command
MSSG.....MEU Service Support Group
MTACS.....Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron
MWCS.....Marine Wing Communications Squadron
MWSG.....Marine Wing Support Group
MWSS.....Marine Wing Support Squadron
NAF.....Nonappropriated Funds
NAFI.....Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentality
NCIS.....Naval Criminal Investigative Service
NCO.....Noncommissioned Officer
NCOIC.....Noncommissioned Officer in Charge
NJP.....Non-Judicial Punishment
NMCRS.....Navy Marine Corps Relief Society
NMFA.....National Military Family Association
NPSP.....New Parent Support Program
OSD.....Office of the Secretary of Defense
OCONUS.....Outside the Continental United States
OCS.....Officer Candidate School
OIC.....Officer in Charge
OIT.....On-Installation Trainer
OOD.....Officer of the Day
O&M.....Operation and Maintenance
OPS.....Operations
OQR.....Officer Qualification Record
ORB.....Officer Retention Board
PAO.....Public Affairs Office
PCS.....Permanent Change of Station
PDS.....Permanent Duty Station
PFT.....Physical Fitness Test
PME.....Professional Military Education
PMO.....Provost Marshal's Office
POA.....Power of Attorney

POC.....Point of Contact
POM.....Program Objective Memorandum
POV.....Privately Owned Vehicle
PP&O.....Plans, Policies & Operations
P&R.....Programs and Resources
PREP.....Prevention & Relationship Enhancement Program
PSC.....Personal Services Center
PT.....Physical Training
PTAD.....Permissive TAD
PWST.....Peacetime, Wartime Support Team
QOL.....Quality of Life
RAP.....Relocation Assistance Program
RC.....Reserve Component
RED.....Record of Emergency Data
REGT.....Regiment
RLT.....Regimental Landing Team
RON.....Remain Overnight
RPG.....Rocket Propelled Grenade
RS.....Recruiting Station
RSS.....Recruiting Substation
RTC.....Reserve Training Center
S-1.....Squadron/Battalion Manpower (Administration)
S-2.....Squadron/Battalion Intelligence
S-3.....Squadron/Battalion Operations
S-4.....Squadron/Battalion Logistics
S-6.....Squadron/Battalion Communications Electronics
SAC.....School Age Care
SACC.....Substance Abuse Counseling Center
SACO.....Substance Abuse Control Officer
SAR.....Search and Rescue
SATO.....Scheduled Airlines Traffic Office
SBP.....Survivor Benefit Plan
SDO.....Staff (or Squadron) Duty Officer
SECDEF.....Secretary of Defense
SECNAV.....Secretary of the Navy
SERAD.....Selective Early Release from Active Duty
SF.....Standard Form
SGLI.....Servicemembers Group Life Insurance
SITES.....Standard Information Topic Exchange Service
 (Installation information)
SJA.....Staff Judge Advocate
SLS.....Spouses' Learning Series
SMCR.....Selected Marine Corps Reserve
SMMC.....Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps
SNCO.....Staff Noncommissioned Officer
SQDN.....Squadron
SRB.....Service Record Book

L.I.N.K.S. for Parents/Extended Family

STACC.....Short-Term Alternative Childcare
SSN.....Social Security Number
TAD.....Temporary Additional Duty
TAMP.....Transition Assistance Management Program
TBD.....To Be Determined
TBS.....The Basic School
TECOM.....Training and Education Command
TLA.....Temporary Lodging Allowance
TLF.....Temporary Lodging Facility
TMO.....Traffic Management Office
T/E.....Table of Equipment
T/O.....Table of Organization
TOS.....Time on Station
TR.....Transportation Request or Transfer
UA.....Unauthorized Absence
UCMJ.....Uniform Code of Military Justice
UFM.....Uniform Funding and Management
USA.....Utilization, Support, and Accountability (Practice)
USC.....United States Code
VA.....Veterans Affairs
VMGR.....Refers to fixed wing squadron. (e.g., VMGR-252)
VMM.....Marine Medium Tiltrotor (e.g., VMM 263)
WestPac.....Western Pacific
WIC.....Women, Infants, and Children (nutritional support
 program)
WO.....Warrant Officer
WTI.....Weapons and Tactics Instructor
XO.....Executive Officer