

A GUIDE TO BECOMING
A MARINE OFFICER

*Do you have the fight in you to stand up for what's right?
To stand against that which is wrong? To stand out in front of those who
also live by our core values? To lead and win as a Marine Officer, for the
people, places and ideals that make this country worth fighting for?*



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 ensure our Corps, our country and our communities are all fighting on the same side—the winning side. 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 it, 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.

**BEING READY IS NOT WHAT MATTERS.
WHAT MATTERS IS WINNING AFTER YOU GET THERE.**

— LtGen Victor H. Krulak to a Marine unit
leaving for Vietnam, April 1965





THE MARINE OFFICER

WITH JUDGMENT. WITH CLARITY. COMMISSIONED TO COMMAND.

Strategically, knowledgeable and soundly, Marine Officers command each mission, earning the trust of their Marines and the confidence of our entire Nation—to win. Marine Officers learn and adopt leadership skills that have been tried and proven in every conflict our Nation has seen. It is with an undeterred willingness to fight and an uncompromising determination to win that Marine Officers develop their own leadership styles and adapt them to achieve victory in every battle, every time.



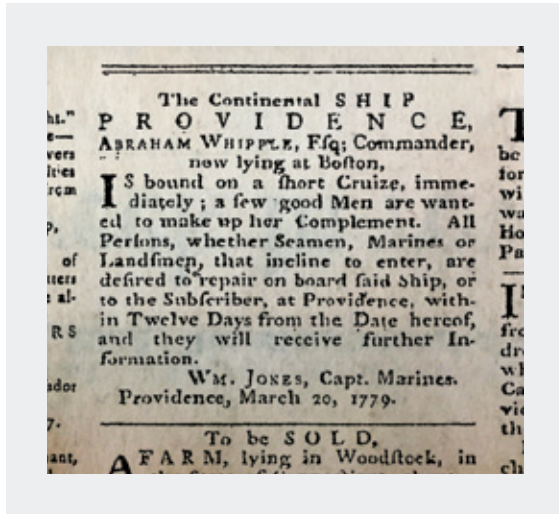
YOU HAVE TO BE THAT YOUNG MAN OR WOMAN WALKING THROUGH THE AIRPORT WHO JUST LOOKS LIKE A MARINE. BUT IT IS MORE THAN LOOKS; IT IS CHARACTER. THE MARINES' HYMN IS THE ONLY SERVICE SONG THAT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONS A VALUE. I FIND THAT TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, 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

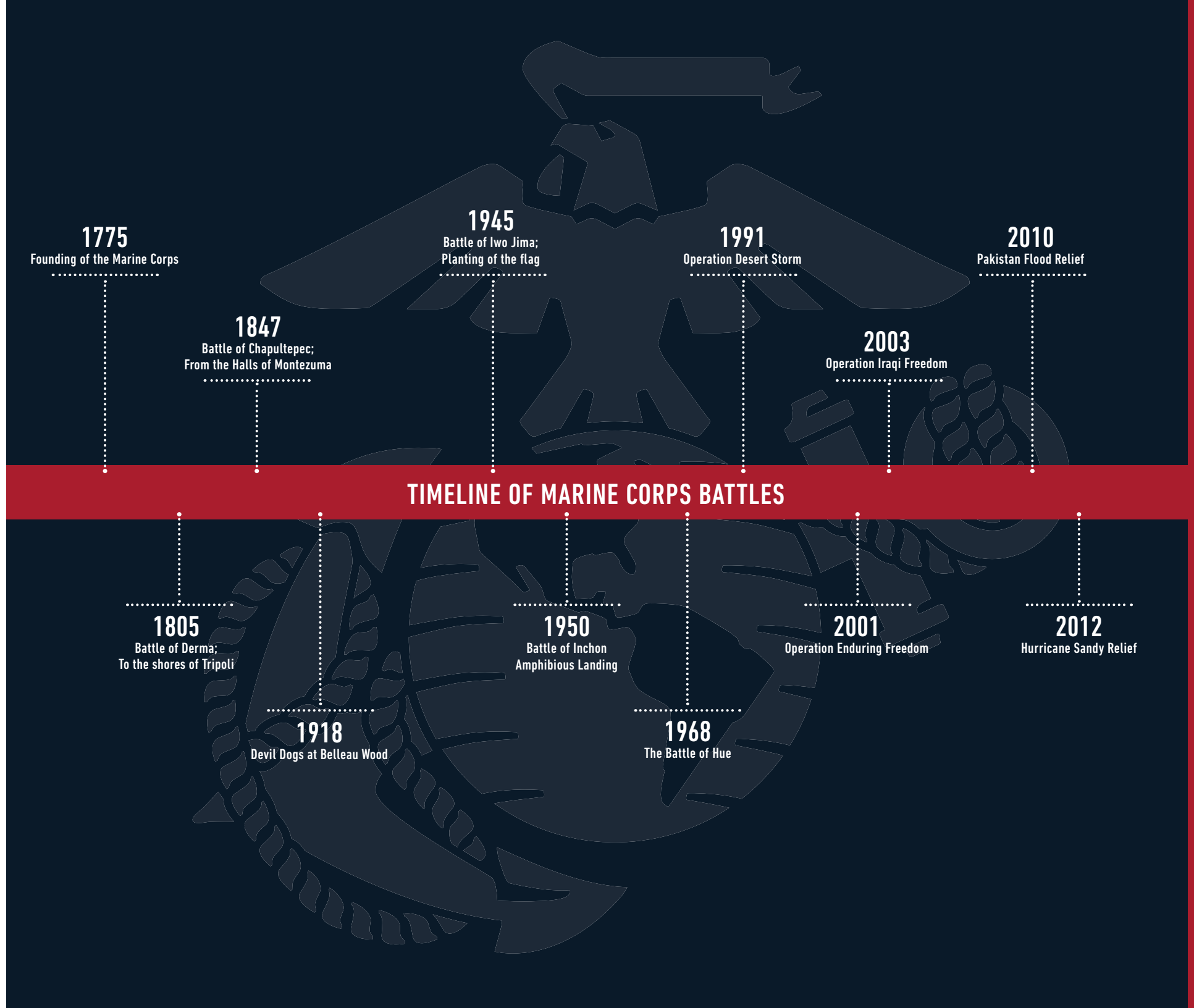
There are few reputations more deserved or legacies more storied than that which our brave Marines earned valiantly, many times when all they had left to fight with—was their all. From the naval actions of the American Revolution to the mountains of Afghanistan, on the hallowed grounds of Iwo Jima and 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 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, 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



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 warrior class. If you have the toughness in you to take the next step for our Nation, these traditions can be yours.

RIFLEMAN'S CREED

Every Marine is first and foremost, a rifleman. This becomes evident the first days of Officer Candidates Training, 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 Officer Candidates School (OCS), 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—prevail 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.

FIGHTERS WHO LEAD LEADERS WHO WIN

There is a distinct pride that comes with becoming, and winning, as an officer of Marines. Marine Officers learn and adopt leadership skills that have been tried and proven in every battle this Nation has ever seen. Victory over every challenge, obstacle and adversary is reliant on the decisions Marine Officers relay to their Marines in the form of orders. These few fight shoulder to shoulder with the Marines they lead, guided by an insatiable desire to win, instilled with the confidence to stand in front of Marines who never quit.

LEAD FROM THE FRONT FIGHT SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

Driven to fight and win through anything, Marines do not follow just anyone. To stand in front as a Marine Officer is to ensure the success in our battles and the well-being of our Marines. To carry out this charge is to commit to those in your command. To earn this distinction is to prove exceptional as a leader of elite Marines set on winning.

FACING DOWN EVERY BATTLE IN FRONT OF YOU WITH THE FIGHTING SPIRIT RUNNING THROUGH YOU

Ours is a reputation born not only from what we fight against—but what we fight for. With relentless will and uncompromising determination, Marine Officers lead each battle with all they've got. If you believe every conflict worth winning is worth leading, and think you have the fighting spirit to do so, you may have what it takes to become a Marine Officer.

NEEDS OF THE CORPS. TRUST OF THE NATION.

Marine Officers are commissioned by the President of the United States and take on roles that develop leadership skills and experience not commonly encountered by their civilian peers. Officer roles in the Corps are known as Military Occupational Specialties (MOSs), and each officer's MOS is assigned to them based on personal preference and personal performance. These specialties are divided into three categories: Ground, Air and Law, and MOS training commences only after every battle of Officer Candidates School and The Basic School is won. Only those with the willingness, determination and leadership ability to prevail will earn the right to fight for our Nation as a Marine Officer.



A TESTAMENT TO WHY SUCH HIGH STANDARDS EXIST UP AND DOWN THE MARINE OFFICER RANKS IS THE FACT THAT THE MARINE CORPS HAS THE HIGHEST ENLISTED-TO-OFFICER RATIO OF ANY MILITARY SERVICE.

BEFORE YOU CAN WIN AS A MARINE OFFICER YOU MUST FIGHT TO BECOME ONE

Becoming an officer and leading the fight in the Marine Corps requires the completion of two distinct and exacting tests. The first is Officer Candidates School, or OCS, and all the physical, mental and ethical battles that come with it to be commissioned as a second lieutenant. Next comes The Basic School, a six-month course that develops the leadership skills of these newly minted Marine Officers, and it is here where MOSs are assigned.

OFFICER CANDIDATES SCHOOL. A PROVING GROUND. A BATTLEGROUND.

When you're too tired to think. When timely decisions are needed, and there's not a second to spare. When your character is scrutinized. When chaos reigns. When all of the unknowns make you question everything you do know. Will your judgment

ring louder than the noise? Will you have the resolve your country can count on? Will you have the willingness, confidence and leadership ability to overcome every battle to win for our Nation? The answer awaits, at Officer Candidates School.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY YOUR MARK ON THE WORLD

There is no greater path of distinction, and no better way to test your physical, mental and ethical limits, than by taking on the battles that await at Officer Candidates School. It is here where not only your willingness and determination will be tested, but your ability to lead and inspire will be instilled, as under the Marine Officer's command are enlisted Marines who fight to win. This may be your opportunity to generate real change for your Nation at a point in your life when most of your peers are still searching for direction.

INITIAL REQUIREMENTS ENDURING STANDARDS

Your willingness alone does not make you able. Here are some of the initial qualifications you must first meet before joining the fight as a Marine Officer:

- Must be at least 20 years old at time of commissioning
- Must not have reached 28th birthday at time of commissioning
- Must be a citizen of the United States
- Must pass a physical examination
- Must have a bachelor's degree at time of commissioning
- Must attend and graduate from Officer Candidates School (OCS)





COMMISSIONING PROGRAMS: YOUR PATH TO OUR RANKS.

Officer Candidates choose from one of several paths to take on the battles required to become Marine Officers. The two most common are the Platoon Leaders Class (PLC), which candidates may attend during college summers, and the Officer Candidate Course (OCC), open to those who have already graduated with a college degree.

PLATOON LEADERS CLASS

Open to college freshmen and sophomores. Must complete two six-week training sessions at OCS. College juniors must complete one 10-week training session.

OFFICER CANDIDATE COURSE

Open to college seniors or graduates. Must complete one 10-week training session at OCS.

NROTC MARINE OPTION

Open to college-bound high school seniors and graduates. Must complete the NROTC program and one six-week training session at OCS.

WINNING BATTLES WITH A DETERMINATION THAT REFUSES TO LOSE

Wrongs in the world are not going to right themselves. If you make it as a Marine Officer, you can make it anywhere, on any battlefield, and against any challenge, obstacle or adversary. Marine Officers get comfortable being uncomfortable, doing more with less and enduring more than most. What does it take to lead the fight for our Nation? To be so focused on winning the battles in front of you that things like fear, doubt and fatigue get cast aside? It takes officers of Marines.

THE BASIC SCHOOL SHARPENING MARINE OFFICERS

Prevailing over the battles of OCS requires an uncommon commitment to winning in the face of every battle, every time. Those who do will earn entry into TBS as newly commissioned Marine Officers. Training at TBS isn't about screening; it's about developing and honing the skills needed to lead those you will one day fight alongside. This is an exhaustive, six-month course that entails everything from classroom settings to practical applications. The training is thorough, as this is where Marine Officers learn to make decisions when the consequences are most vital. Only then will they be ready to take their position as Marine Officers.





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 as a Marine Officer, there are three areas of expertise in which to make your mark:

GROUND

Ground Arms is the backbone of the Marine Corps. It's where Marine Officers and the Marines in their command respond quickly with decisive force to assert combat power and establish battlefield dominance. Protecting that legacy will require you to act quickly, and think even faster. Our primary mission is close combat, so this is where the majority of Marines operate. From the beginning of every battle to its victorious conclusion, every Marine in your command will look to you for instruction and guidance.

AIR

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. 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.

LAW

As a Judge Advocate, you will have the opportunity to win battles in the courtroom, working in a variety of fields, such as criminal, international, labor, environmental and family law. And you'll be able to do so from the very beginning of your career. Your initial role will most likely be in the courtroom, as either a prosecutor or defense counsel in military proceedings. As you gain experience, you may also have the opportunity to serve as a military judge, overseeing a range of cases.

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

It is our rapidly deployable, combined arms capability that enables Marines to thrive in any terrain and against any threat. Marines are trained in many different roles but win each battle together, prepared to launch a range of combat, crisis response, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions on extremely short notice. There are many ways to join our fight, but before you wear this uniform, you will prove you belong in it.

When facing crisis in troubled spots around the globe, or bringing hope to the hopeless in communities back home, it is the good judgment and never-quit approach of our Marines that must prevail. Those who comprise our ranks will know how to interact with different cultures and customs. They 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.





COMBAT SUPPORT OFFICER ROLES

Every battle requires that our entire Marine Corps works together as a single cohesive force. It is the MOSs within Combat Support that make the Marine Corps the efficient force it is today. Marine Officers 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. Some of these MOSs for officers include:

- Adjutant
- Combat Engineer Officer
- Communications Officer
- Financial Management Officer
- Ground Supply Officer
- Human Source Intelligence Officer
- Logistics Officer

THE COMBAT ENGINEER OFFICER

Combat Engineer Officers lead their units in route reconnaissance, demolitions, mine and countermine warfare, obstacle emplacement, breaching and construction. These officers lead the fight where the battle takes them and take on roles in four main categories: mobility, countermobility, survivability and general engineering. Their duties include a wide array of battles that must be won, from building bridges and repairing medical clinics abroad to commanding engineer units and operating heavy equipment.

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. These Marine Officer roles include:

- Field Artillery Officer
- Ground Intelligence Officer
- Infantry Officer
- Tank Officer

THE FIELD ARTILLERY OFFICER

Field Artillery Officers lead the fight for close-fire support for Marines in the Infantry, armored reconnaissance and tank units. These Marines Officers ensure their Marines are proficient tactically in communications, transportation, logistics and gun-line drills so that they can deliver fire from the rear in the heat of battle.



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.

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, aircraft carriers and amphibious 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.

AS CLOSE TO THE FIGHT AS A PILOT CAN GET

The term “Close Air Support” has become synonymous with Marine Aviation because Marines have always considered it to be the most significant contribution provided from the air. No other aviation force in the world puts so much importance on close air support, and because of this, no ground force is as capable in battle as the Marine Corps.

AIR-TO-GROUND-TO-VICTORY

As a Marine Corps aviator, you'll be among the few people in the world qualified to wear the wings of gold. You'll push your own limits and those of our aircraft as a guardian of the legacy of Marine Aviation. We put Marine Officers in the air to fight with our Marines on the ground, and every aircraft we employ is specifically equipped to serve that mission in the form of offensive air support, assault support, antiair warfare, electronic warfare, control of aircraft and missiles, and aerial reconnaissance. Our Marine aviators are not content with simply controlling the skies; rather, their commitment continues through close-combat engagement to ensure Marines are winning at the forefront of every battle.





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 four-bladed Marine UH-1Y Venom.

OFFICER AVIATION ROLES

The Marine Corps Officer aviation program produces some of the best pilots in the world, but there are many additional aviation roles in which Marines can fight and win battles outside of the cockpit. Here are just some of the many fields and roles Marine Officers can take on to join the fight from above:

- Air Defense Control
- Air Intelligence
- Air Support Control
- Air Traffic Control
- Aviation Maintenance
- Aviation Supply
- Fixed-wing Pilot
- Naval Flight Officer
- Rotary and Tilt-Rotor Pilot

THE MARINE ROTARY/TILT-ROTOR PILOT

Marine rotary-wing and tilt-rotor pilots fly and fight in coordination with ground forces to achieve convincing victory in every battle. These Marine Officers and the aircraft they command may be ship-based or shore-based. Because of the precise demands of the aircraft and their integral role in commanding it, Marine pilots undergo the longest and most extensive training in the Marine Corps. In addition to flying their aircraft, Marine pilots are assigned leadership positions within each squadron, including Operations Officer and Maintenance Officer.



LEARN TO LEAD AS A MARINE OFFICER. FIGHT TO WIN AS A JUDGE ADVOCATE.

It is on day one that Marine Judge Advocates take responsibility for their own caseloads and begin advising fellow Marines about legal issues. If you think you have the fighting spirit in you to win on battlefields, as well as in courtrooms, you might have what it takes to become a Marine Judge Advocate.

FIGHT FOR JUSTICE. WIN FOR COUNTRY.

After completing Marine Officer training at The Basic School, Judge Advocates attend the Naval Justice School (NJS) in Newport, RI. At NJS, they learn the basic aspects of military law, including the Uniform Code of Military Justice, criminal law and procedure, operational law, trial advocacy and administrative law. It is here where the Judge Advocates learn to bring the fight to a courtroom.

FIGHT OUT IN FRONT ON EVERY FRONT

Before you're allowed to take on battles in the courtroom, you must first prove you can win on the battlefield. Judge Advocates are first and foremost Marine Officers, and your training begins not in a courtroom, but in Quantico, VA, at Officer Candidates School. You must complete the same rigorous training required of all Marine Officers, and develop your warfighting skills as a rifle platoon commander at The Basic School before you are assigned legal responsibilities as a Marine Judge Advocate. Whether you seek your commission as an undergraduate, a law student or an attorney, there are law paths available for those willing and ready for immense challenge.

PLATOON LEADERS CLASS LAW PATH

This option is open to first and second-year law students and to college seniors who have been accepted for full-time study at an ABA-accredited law school. In addition to tuition assistance, Marines receive constructive service credit for each year in law school prior to commissioning.

While in law school, you will be mentored by judge advocates that are currently serving. During your law school summers, and following graduation and successful passing of the

state bar examination, you will have the opportunity to serve in legal billets at Marine Corps bases and stations across the United States.

OFFICER CANDIDATE COURSE LAW PATH

Third-year law students and bar-certified lawyers begin their training at the Officer Candidate Course. Although you are not eligible for tuition assistance in this program, you will receive up to three years of constructive service credit. A calendar year of constructive service credit is awarded for each year of law school completed before you are commissioned, meaning you will be advanced in seniority and eligibility for promotion.

OFFICER ROLES AS A MARINE JUDGE ADVOCATE

There are many ways to practice law and win battles in and out of the courtroom as a Marine Corps Judge Advocate. Here are just some of the roles these Marine Officers take on:

- Trial Attorney – Prosecutor
- Trial Attorney – Defense Counsel
- Civil Law Litigator
- Legal Assistance Attorney
- In-house Counsel
- Operational Law Attorney
- Military Judge





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. Marine Officers 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 Marine Officers can continue to pursue a full-time civilian career or an education.

DIFFERENT TERMS. SAME STANDARDS.

After successfully completing both Officer Candidates School and The Basic School, as well as becoming proficient in their MOS, Marine Officers in the Reserve begin their duties as Reserve Marines. 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

Marine Officers 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.

Officers 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 Officer 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.



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. Marine Officers benefit from this compact, gaining the skills, education and financial security required to become both effective Marines 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:

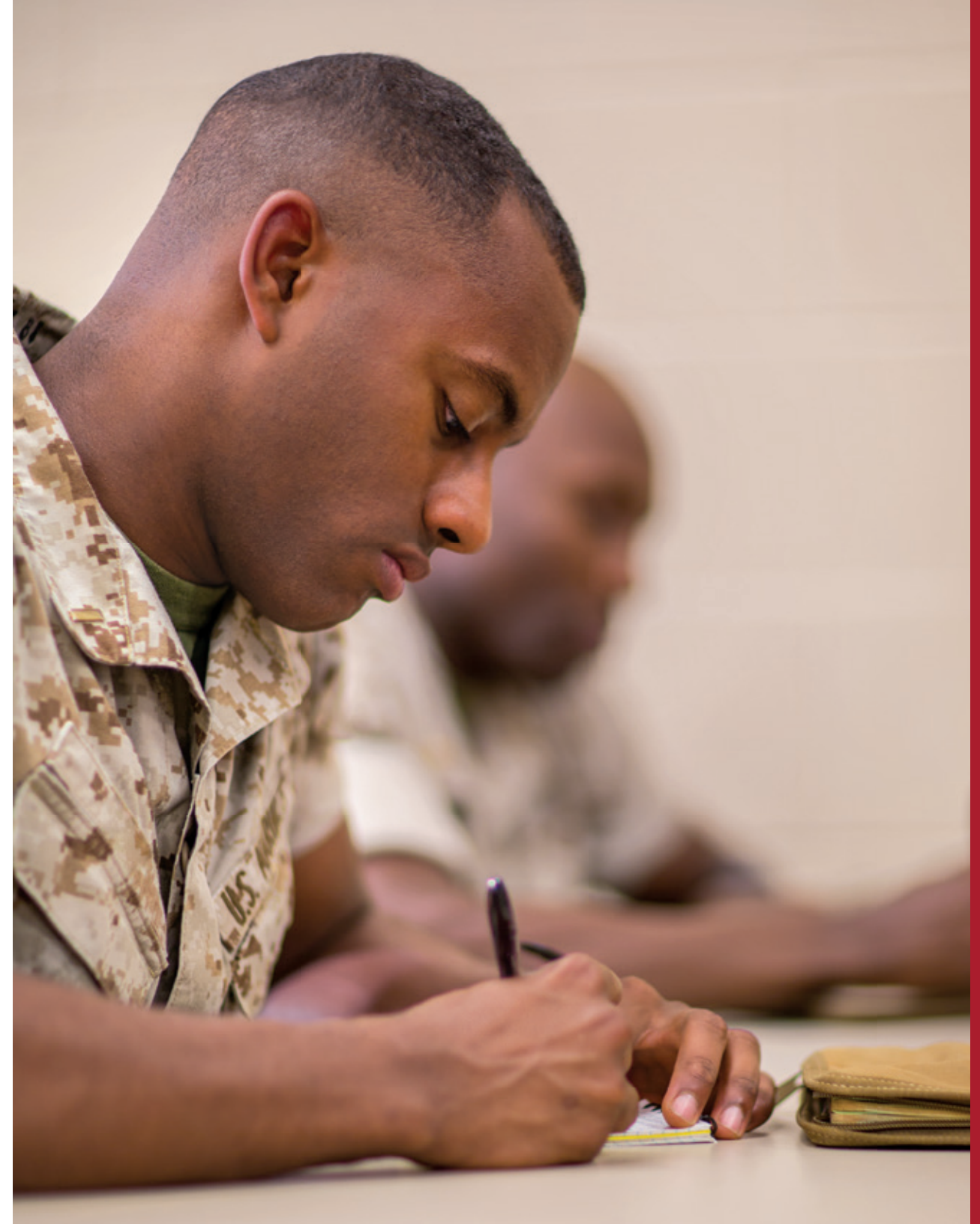
- Tuition Assistance – Pays up to 100% of tuition and fees for active-duty Marines who elect to pursue off-duty or voluntary education. Minimum time-in-service and GT score requirements apply.
- Post-9/11 GI Bill – Provides up to 36 months of education benefits to Marines who have at least 90 days of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



WOVEN FROM THE COUNTRY WE SERVE

Under a flag whose broad stripes continually expand, whose bright stars shine over even more homelands, Marine Officers lead, 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 every battle that holds you back—until it no longer does. Those who commit to a life of purpose as Marine Officers 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 lead in the face of every obstacle with the willingness and determination to face it down.

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 as a Marine Officer. Perhaps there are inner and external battles in your way, like doubt, hesitation, comfort in the familiar 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, and the ability to convince others they too have more to give. Now is the time to make this your time. To make your time count and your presence felt, as an officer of Marines.

MUCH TO FIGHT FOR. FEW WHO CAN.

A raised right hand indicates you are willing. Determining if you're capable of becoming a Marine Officer 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, out in front of the Marines they lead.



