Welcome

Today’s graduation ceremony recognizes the successful transition from civilian to basic Marine and consists of a traditional military parade followed by special recognition for those who have excelled while in Recruit Training and final dismissal.

After the graduation ceremony, we encourage you to visit the Command Museum across the parade deck. For your dining convenience, we offer the bowling alley, snack bar, and the individual food vendors at the Marine Corps Exchange.

Due to security concerns, our guests are not allowed into the recruit training areas to include the recruit barracks and physical training areas.

The mission of the Recruit Depot and the Western Recruiting Region is to exercise operational control of enlisted recruiting operations in the 8th, 9th, and 12th Marine Corps Districts; to provide reception, processing, and recruit training for male enlisted personnel following initial entry into the United States Marine Corps; and to produce a basically trained United States Marine embodied with the fighting spirit, core values and esprit de corps which have ensured our Corps’ success for over 240 years.

The unique relationship between the Marine Corps Recruit Depot and San Diego is the result of almost 150 years of mutual support, assistance and growth. This relationship is reflected in the history of the Marine Corps in San Diego, the Depot as a post of the Corps, and the heritage of San Diego itself.

Above all else, We Make Marines.

Sequence of Events

Band Serenade
Chaplain’s Prayer *
“Attention”, “Adjutant’s Call” and March-On
The National Anthem *
Sound Off
Presentation of the Command to the Commander of Troops
Report
Publication of the Order and Officers Center
Battalion Commander’s Remarks
Presentation of the Command to the reviewing officer
Pass in Review (Please Rise When the American Flag Passes)
Anchors Aweigh/The Marines’ Hymn *
Graduates Return Front and Center
Recognition of the Company Staff
Retirement of the Platoon Guidons and Recognition of Honor Graduates
Final Dismissal

* Please Rise
The Commanding Officer of Recruit Training Regiment

On behalf of Brigadier General P.R. Hargett, Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot and Western Recruiting Region, and the Marines, Sailors and civilian Marines of Recruit Training Regiment, welcome you to the morning graduation ceremony. Your presence here today is greatly appreciated. As we recognize your young men’s significant accomplishment, enjoy this special day in their life. Each of the new Marines recognized today has passed the test, which will carry them through the challenges of combat and helps them overcome fear. The pride and decorum that compels Marines to act responsibly; to hold themselves and their leaders accountable for their actions; and to fulfill their obligations is the ingredient that enables 24-hour a day dedication to Corps and country. It leads to the highest order of discipline for individuals and units. It is the inner strength that enables a Marine to do what is right; to adhere to a higher standard of personal conduct; and to make tough decisions under stress. Likewise, it is the inner strength that enables Marines to serve the rest of their lives. I am confident in their ability to meet any challenge that confronts them.

Thank you for being here. I trust you will enjoy the rest of your visit to MCRD and the San Diego area and that you will take some time to tour the Recruit Depot to experience some of your Marine’s experiences. Please accept my thanks for your love and support for your Marine and our best wishes for a happy stay and safe return home.

Gratefully, M.J. Palmis
Colored, U.S. Marine Corps

The United States Marine Corps has long established a tradition of rendering proper honors and courtesies to the American Flag with ceremony and decorum. If this is your first visit to a military installation, we would like to acquaint you with the “Flag Etiquette” and welcome you to join us in showing our country to our flag as defined by U.S. Code Title 14, Section 36, and as observed aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

In observance of U.S. Code Title 4 and 36, individuals in uniform, members of the armed forces not in uniform, and military veterans may render a military salute to the American Flag while it is being raised, lowered, passing by. The same courtesies should berendered while the National Anthem is played.

Gentlemen wearing hats who do not salute the flag should remove their headgear and face the sound of the music. If driving during Morning or Evening Colors, you should remain standing until the last note of the National Anthem is played. All present and those serving aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, should render a military salute to the American Flag while it is being hoisted, being observed aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

Today the Recruit Depot provides its nation’s Corps with basically trained Marines to fight in and off the battlefield. Each of the new Marines recognized today has passed the test, which will carry them through the challenges of combat and helps them overcome fear. The pride and decorum that compels Marines to act responsibly; to hold themselves and their leaders accountable for their actions; and to fulfill their obligations is the ingredient that enables 24-hour a day dedication to Corps and country. It leads to the highest order of discipline for individuals and units. It is the inner strength that enables Marines to serve the rest of their lives. I am confident in their ability to meet any challenge that confronts them.

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Foremost among the Core Values is the ingredient that enables 24-hour a day dedication to Corps and country. It leads to the highest order of discipline for individuals and units. It is the inner strength that enables Marines to serve the rest of their lives. I am confident in their ability to meet any challenge that confronts them. Why We Succeed. We succeed. Generation after generation of American men and women have given special recognition to the American Flag. It represents freedom and democracy, and respect and human dignity. It is the quality of maturity, dedication, trust and dependability that compels Marines to act responsibly, to hold themselves and each other accountable for their actions, and to fulfill their obligations.

COURAGE

Courage is the mental and physical strength ingrained in Marines. It carries them through the challenges of combat and helps them overcome fear. Likewise, it is the inner strength that enables a Marine 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 selfless determination and dedication found in Marines. It leads to the highest order of discipline for individuals and units. Commitment is the ingredient that enables 24-hour a day dedication to Corps and country. It insures the unwavering determination to achieve a high standard of excellence in every endeavor.

Honor

Honor guides Marines to eschew the ultimate in ethical and moral behavior; to never lie, cheat or steal; to abide by an uncomprising code of conduct; and to respect and honor dignity. It is the quality of maturity, dedication, trust and dependability that compels Marines to act responsibly, to hold themselves and each other accountable for their actions, and to fulfill their obligations.
Lieutenant Colonel Sargent was born in Miami, Florida, on November 21, 1974, to Wayne and Nancy Sargent. He then attended Miami-Dade Community College for two years, and after receiving Associate degree in Arts, transferred to Florida International University (FIU) to pursue a Bachelor’s degree. While at FIU, he attended the Platoon Leaders Course (Combined) at Quantico, Virginia, and returned to FIU to finish his degree in Sports Medicine.

The newly commissioned 2nd Lt Sargent reported to Quantico, Virginia, in September of 1996. Upon completion of Marine Combat Training (MCT) at Camp Pendleton, California, he returned to Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, on March 21, 1993, for recruit training. Following Marine Combat Training (MCT), he was assigned to the 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment, Marine Corps Recruit Depot/ Western Recruiting Region. As a Company Honor Graduate of his platoon, he is the honor graduate of his series. Lieutenant Colonel Sargent was nominated for the title of Platoon Commander in Gold. He is an academic honor graduate of the Commander’s List. His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, and the Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star (in lieu of second award) the Navy Achievement Medal. Returning from the 8-month MEU deployment, LtCol Sargent reported to Battery D, 3rd Battalion, 16th Marines to serve as the Battery Sergeant-In-Charge (BIC). In 2003, LtCol Sargent deployed with the Battery in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and served as the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Battery Commander. In July of 2018, LtCol Sargent reported to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) as the Commanding Officer of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). In July of 2019, LtCol Sargent reported for duty as the Executive Officer for 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment and was promoted to his current rank on April 1, 2020. His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.
Phase II - Recruit Training
We have enhanced recruit training by amplifying Core Values instruction and introducing The Crucible, a key element to the recent changes in recruit training is more time for the drill instructors to focus on character development with an emphasis on selflessness and teamwork.

There are 28 hours of programmed instruction on Core Values; however, the most powerful values exchange may very well come from the increased one-on-one time with the drill instructors who teach and demonstrate values such as selflessness, teamwork and Core Values concepts deep into each recruit. The Crucible is a 54-hour event that is the selflessness, teamwork and Core Values concepts deep into each recruit. The Crucible is a 54-hour event that is

Phase III - MOS Schools
After graduating from recruit training, and taking a well deserved ten days of leave, the new Marines report into the School of Infantry (SoI). Sleep and food deprivation add to the rigor of the course, which provides society with people of great character, whether they do four or forty years in the Marine Corps.

Phase IV - Sustaining the Transformation
All muscles atrophy without exercise; so too with character. Once started on a path of character development, there is no stopping. We are always developing our character until the day we die. The sustainment process continues Core Values training within units and is incorporated in all that we do as Marines, complementing a renewed emphasis on warfighting, combat leadership, and the concepts of responsibility and accountability.

The Transformed American
The Corps has a long established pattern of Marines who have left the active duty ranks to become strong leaders in their communities and for the nation and we will continue to send men and women of strong character and values back to society. These Marines will carry the legacy of high character like those Marines who are presently doing great things for our nation. We have received countless letters from influential public leaders who are former active duty Marines. They give testimony to the direct connection between the character traits they forged in the Corps and their success and fulfillment in life. End result: We will continue to provide society with people of great character, whether they do four or forty years in the Marine Corps.
**Why The Transformation?**

The most important things the Marine Corps does for our nation are to make Marines and win battles. The Corps is a versatile, force-in-readiness prepared to handle a variety of missions. We continue to be a force rich in history and traditions, ingrained with the highest values of honor, courage and commitment.

At the very time when a host of factors is tending to undermine individual character development in society, Marines are facing an operational environment which requires stronger character and moral virtue. We live and operate in a world that is proving to be increasingly complex and interconnected. As a result, the Corps is in the midst of an evolution of the uses of force that are not quite war, not quite peace, not quite conventional operations, and not quite operations, and not quite civil police duties.

The nation is committing Marines to a wide range of scenarios, from peacekeeping operations in Somalia to non-combatant evacuation operations in Liberia, to more conventional conflicts like Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. Operations such as these involve independent units confronted by situations that have operational and strategic implications. The battlefield is becoming so technologically advanced that weapon systems will be able to kill by smell, sight or sound. In order to ensure success in these situations, we have looked to the Marines of the past to see what made them successful in battles like Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima and the Chosin Reservoir.

The answer was strong character and a fighting spirit that overcame all obstacles. This is what will allow us to dominate the high tech and diverse battlefields of the future. This will allow us to win America's military battles and to send transformed Americans home to strengthen the very fabric of our society.

Quite simply, we are continuing to focus on and to enhance the root source of a Marine's indomitable fighting spirit: his determination to overcome any obstacle that stands in his way, fueled by unshakeable honor, courage, and commitment.

**Phase I**

**How We Are Doing It.**

We believe that new Marines need to be forged in a furnace of shared hardship, mutual commitment, and teamwork. This common, intense experience creates bonds of comradeship and cohesion so strong that Marines will refuse to let each other down. This forging of character, discipline, and fitness will continue to be the basis upon which we make Marines. Holding onto the high character of the Marines of the past, we look for ways to inculcate the strong values that have become synonymous with the Marine Corps. We are attacking the character development challenge in four phases: Recruiting, Recruit Training, MOS Schools, and Sustainment.

**Phase I- Recruiting**

Inculcating these character traits starts in the recruiting process. Recruiting duty is a vital assignment in the Marine Corps. Marine recruiters take it seriously and feel a great responsibility to fulfill the job to the best of their ability. Many Marines say that recruiting duty is among the most rewarding assignments they have had as a Marine, because they are helping to ensure the high standards and future of our Corps.

Most Marine recruiters have earned the rank of sergeant or above, which means they have had four or more years of experience in the Marine Corps serving in one of several hundred Military Occupational Specialties (MOS). They know what it means to serve as a Marine. Meeting a Marine recruiter gives you personal access to someone who has lived and served in the Marine Corps. No matter where you are in the decision-making process, talking to a recruiter can give you more information. You are under no obligation when speaking to a Marine Corps Recruiter, as he or she knows the importance of the decision, and will help determine if you are right for the Marine Corps—and if the Marine Corps is right for you.

First, we recruit young men and women who have demonstrated potential and commitment. Then we prepare them through physical fitness and ready them for the intense forging they will experience in recruit training. Most enlistees spend up to 12 months in the Delayed Entry Program preparing to undergo recruit training and become Marines.

Their preparation includes physical conditioning, study guides, introduction to Marine Corps history and tradition and, most importantly, introduction to Core Values. The bottom line is we are paying more attention to a prospective Marine’s character and fitness during screening.