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
A fire after establishing Camp Harnett on North Island in San Diego, Calif. Joseph Pendleton, on September 4, 1914, took the guest speaker at the U.S. Grant Hall in downtown San Diego. The subject of his question was entitled “The Marine Corps Recruit Depot.” The drive behind the lecture was the unsatisfactory conditions and the less than convenient recruiting locations. Pendleton, along with Howard and presented the idea of the possible establishment of a permanent Marine base in San Diego.

The Navy General Board approved the establishment of a base on January 17, 1916 and the Marine Corps base on the San Diego site called the Dutch Flat was purchased by the U.S. Government by August 29, 1916, in large part due to the efforts of Congressman William Kettner. General George G. Meade, Commandant of the Marine Corps, approved on August 23, 1919 through October 1919. By December 1921, Pendleton (now a General) placed it into commission in the Marine Advanced Base, San Diego, which consisted of a site purchased from the estate of Dr. W.P. Smith, a 250-acre section of land on the west coast owned by Major Island Navy Shipyard in Balboa Canyon, California, to its new home at Marine Corps Base San Diego. On March 30, 1919, Marine Corps Base San Diego was dedicated and the site and effects of General Pendleton became, officially, Marine Corps Base, San Diego, and would be known as Pendleton Field.

The base now consisted of approximately 388 acres, of which some 367 acres had been reclaimed from a tidal area. Throughout World War II, the principal activity of the base, recruit training overshadowed all other functions. After the war, the recruit training detachment became the principal tenant. Marine Corps Base San Diego has been home to the 4th, 6th, and 4th Marine Regiments, the Fleet Marine Base, and the 3rd Marine Division. However, the main tenant of the base has been recruit training and “the making of Marines.” On January 1, 1945, Marine Corps Base, San Diego was re-designated as Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. The Recruit Training Command grew from three to eight battalions to handle the troop requirements for the Korean War, more than 700,000 recruits were processed. The Vietnam War caused the next period of major expansion. A 100-foot installation was the recruit training area, a new dining hall, new locker rooms, a new Swimming Pool, and a new building for the Medical Clinic were constructed on the base. In the 1970’s the focus turned to include the recruiting office and the Depot Headquarters became Headquarters, Western Recruiting Region. Today the Recruit Depot provides its tenant Corps with basically trained Marines to fight in the current conflict in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Some are the same male and female Marines that once made up all military recruits who served in the Mississippi River to serve in the call of the nation.

Known for its unique Spanish colonial revival style appearance, the overall site and specific building plans were developed by renowned architect, Bertram Goodhue, who also designed the buildings built in San Diego’s Balboa Park for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. Some 367 acres had been reclaimed from a tidal area.

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 your Flag as defined by U.S. Code Title 4 and 36, 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 the American flag while it is being hoisted, lowered, passing by, and observe the following courtesies.

At a parade of review, it is considered disrespectful to smoke, talk, to take photographs during the playing of the flag, and to walk near the sound of the music. If the Flag is not visible during the National Anthem, please stand and face the sound of the music. If driving during Morning or Evening Colors, persons in vehicles within sight or hearing of the ceremony should halt the vehicular movement, face the sound of the music, and conduct the following courtesies.

The Commanding Officer of Recruit Training Regiment
In September 2004, after successful completion of his tour as a drill instructor, SSgt Brown received orders to become the Battalion Sergeant Major for 1st Battalion, 11th Marines (5/11), 1st Marine Division, at MCB Camp Pendleton, California, until August 2012. In September 2012, 1stSgt Brown received orders to 5th Marine Training Regiment for duties as a Battery First Sergeant for Tango Battery. In January 2008, GySgt Brown was hand selected to become the Marine Aircraft Group-16 Parade Reviewing Officer for the second time and served in this capacity until December 2008. In May 2009, 1stSgt Brown was promoted to the rank of first sergeant and assigned to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing as a Marine Corps pilot. He was reassigned to the Marine Aircraft Group-16 for the third time to Al Asad, Iraq.

In March 2009, after returning from Al Asad, he was promoted to the rank of first sergeant, assigned to 3d Marine Aircraft Wing (3d MAW) and became the 3d MAW Parade Reviewing Officer, serving there until February 2010. During this period, 1stSgt Brown received the Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from Columbia Southern University in 2011. 1stSgt Brown remained at this command until August 2015. In September 2015, 1stSgt Brown received orders to Fort Stewart, Georgia, to assume the duty of Maintenance Administration Chief. During his time with HMH-465, he deployed twice to Iraq. In September 2004, after successful completion of his tour as a drill instructor, SSgt Brown received orders to become the Battalion Sergeant Major for 1st Battalion, 11th Marines (5/11), 1st Marine Division, at MCB Camp Pendleton, California, until August 2012. In September 2012, 1stSgt Brown received orders to 5th Marine Training Regiment for duties as a Battery First Sergeant for Tango Battery.

In June 2017, 1stSgt Brown received orders to 6th Marine Corps District (6MCD) to assume all duties and responsibilities as the District Sergeant Major. In July 2019, 1stSgt Brown assumed all duties and responsibilities as the sergeant major of Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina. Upon arrival, he was re-assigned to HMH-465, MCAS Miramar, California, to assume the duty of Maintenance Administration Chief. During his time with HMH-465, he deployed twice to Iraq. In September 2004, after successful completion of his tour as a drill instructor, SSgt Brown received orders to become the Battalion Sergeant Major for 1st Battalion, 11th Marines (5/11), 1st Marine Division, at MCB Camp Pendleton, California, until August 2012. In September 2012, 1stSgt Brown received orders to 5th Marine Training Regiment for duties as a Battery First Sergeant for Tango Battery.

In June 2017, 1stSgt Brown received orders to 6th Marine Corps District (6MCD) to assume all duties and responsibilities as the District Sergeant Major. In July 2019, 1stSgt Brown assumed all duties and responsibilities as the sergeant major of Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina. Upon arrival, he was re-assigned to HMH-465, MCAS Miramar, California, to assume the duty of Maintenance Administration Chief. During his time with HMH-465, he deployed twice to Iraq. In September 2004, after successful completion of his tour as a drill instructor, SSgt Brown received orders to become the Battalion Sergeant Major for 1st Battalion, 11th Marines (5/11), 1st Marine Division, at MCB Camp Pendleton, California, until August 2012. In September 2012, 1stSgt Brown received orders to 5th Marine Training Regiment for duties as a Battery First Sergeant for Tango Battery.
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, determination, loyalty and integrity.

The Crucible, in part, is the manifestation of the intangible values training that has taken place earlier in recruit training. It permeates the entire evolution, forging the selflessness, teamwork and Core Values concepts deep into each recruit. The Crucible is a 54-hour event that is designed to test a recruit’s mind, body, and spirit. It is a grueling 40-mile course. Sleep and food deprivation add to the rigor of the course, moving recruits through nine stations, movement courses, and reaction problems tackled over a series of eight events revolving around obstacles, warrior tasks, and reaction problems that test a recruit’s mind, body, and spirit. It is a test of character, and 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 strong emphasis on warfighting, combat leadership, and the concepts of responsibility and accountability.

PHASE III & IV

PHASE III - MOS SCHOOLS
After graduating from recruit training school, student Marines attend a well deserved ten days of leave, the new Marines report into the School of Infantry (SoI). Sol and consequent follow-on schools give the new Marines the training and experience they need to excel in their Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) and the Fleet Marine Force (FMF).

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 strong 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 service, 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 peace, not quite conventional military 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.

Phased Implementation

Phases 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.