100 Years of making Marines at
MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT
PARRIS ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA
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Parris Island, the second oldest post in the Marine Corps, has a long and time-honored tradition of making the world's greatest warriors. This island, where so many heroes of our Corps were born and so many young lives transformed, is legendary. This is hallowed ground. Whether you are here training to become one of the world's finest, witnessing a graduation ceremony or touring the vast historical and cultural sights aboard the island, you will leave here changed forever. There is something in the energy of this island, it is almost spiritual, and it stays with you always.

At Parris Island, “We Make Marines.” We make them smart, we make them tough and we make them to understand that there is no greater privilege than to move to the sounds of chaos alongside their fellow Marines in defense of this nation. We teach them to wear the Eagle, Globe and Anchor with pride and to preserve the rich legacy of the Marine Corps. To provide a glimpse into this storied process that we call “The Transformation,” and to celebrate Parris Island’s “100 years of making Marines,” we have created this book to present information about the command and to provide an illustrated history of the depot.

This book commemorates the Marine Corps’ steadfast commitment to developing the nation’s premier fighting force. It begins with a brief overview of the combined command of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the Eastern Recruiting Region; highlighting our mission and vision, the recruiting and recruit training processes, Parris Island’s contributions to the local community, and our efforts in environmental and cultural stewardship. Then, through rarely seen photographs, graphics and a time-lined account, you will be guided through historical events, developments, and innovations that have brought Marine recruit training to its current apex. Finally, you will be offered information about Parris Island’s unique lineage and traditions.

We at Parris Island understand our vital role in sustaining the legacy of this island and in preserving the ethos of the Corps. Both are vital to our Corps and to our nation’s defense. As a warfighting organization so rich in tradition and history, we celebrate this 100th anniversary of Parris Island recruit training and mark another milestone in the story of the United States Marine Corps. On behalf of all of the uniformed and civilian Marines of Parris Island, I say congratulations and best wishes for another successful 100 years.

-Semper Fidelis
U.S. MARINE CORPS RECRUIT
PARRIS ISLAND
SOUTH
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Our Mission

We make Marines by recruiting quality young men and women and transforming them through the foundations of rigorous basic training, our shared legacy, and a commitment to our Core Values, preparing them to win our nation’s battles in service to the country.
OUR VISION

To be the nation’s premier recruiting organization and service-level training installation, dedicated to recruiting the best young men and women possible, training and transforming them and making/sustaining Marines imbued with our Core Values and the ideal of selfless service to the Nation. We will accomplish this while keeping in mind our duty to maximize efficiencies and preserve the integrity of the great legacy of Parris Island and the Marines of generations past.

“They’re taking care of the colors of our nation.... Everyday, the colors of our nation go up a flag pole, and at dusk, very carefully, those same colors are brought down that flag pole, whether you’re watching it or not.”

(Morning colors ceremony, 11 September, 2013. Pictured right.)

- Brigadier General Lori E. Reynolds
TWO COMMANDS: ONE MISSION

• Eastern Recruiting Region (ERR)
• Three Recruiting Districts
  • First Recruiting District
  • Fourth Recruiting District
  • Sixth Recruiting District
• Recruiters in ERR: 1,426
• 48.6% of our Nation’s new Marines come from ERR.

*Total of 24 Recruiting Stations*
Recruit Training Regiment
- Four Training Battalions
- One Support Battalion

Weapons and Field Training Battalion
- Field Training Company
- Range Company

Headquarters and Service Battalion
- Headquarters Company
- Service Company
The Process of Transformation

- **Phase I** - Applicant makes first contact with a Marine recruiter.
- **Phase II** - Recruit training establishes foundation and focuses on common values and military skills.
- **Phase III** - School of Infantry focuses combat training and infantry training.
- **Phase IV** - Focuses on reinforcement, sustainment, and follow-on military specialty training.
- **Phase V** - Focuses on values of becoming a productive American citizen.
Teamwork

Basic Marine
One who has embraced our core values and is transformed by our Corps' shared legacy, representing the epitome of personal character, selflessness, and military virtue.

Warrior
Parris Island makes about 19,000 new Marines each fiscal year, regardless of the Marine Corps’ end strength.\(^*\) That equates to about 16,000 male recruits and about 3,000 female recruits.

Number of Marines trained at Parris Island during each major 20th century conflict:

- WWI – 41,000 recruits
- WWII – 205,000 recruits
- Korean War – 138,000 recruits
- Vietnam War – 250,000 recruits

In support of the Marine Corps’ Recruiting mission, Parris Island trains male recruits from the Eastern Recruiting Region, and female recruits from the entire United States.

49% of the total male Recruiting mission
100% of the total female Recruiting mission

* Data collected over the last 20 years.

The Eastern Recruiting Region shipping mission\(^*\) is executed by Trimester:

- 1st Trimester (Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan): ~26%
- 2nd Trimester (Feb, Mar, Apr, May): ~24%
- 3rd Trimester (Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep): ~50%

Average historical Recruit Training attrition:

Male: ~10%
Female: ~15%

\(^*\) Shipping mission % per trimester is adjusted based on total ERR FY mission.
RECRUITING

Level of Effort

• Less than 10% are “walk-ins.” The rest must be located and motivated by a recruiter.

• Equates to 300-800 contacts per month.

• Each Marine Recruiter is responsible for 1-2 contracts per month.

• Prepare future Marines for recruit training through the Delayed Entry Program.

Cost To Make A Marine

• 100 young people want to join the Corps

• 80 pass medical, moral, education screening

• 64 ship to recruit training (20% fail to ship)
  Top Reasons: Medical fraud, drug use, failure to graduate high school, lack of commitment, higher education

• 57 graduate from recruit training (~10% attrition)
  Top Reasons: Medical fraud, injury, drug fraud, failure to adapt

• 55 graduate from the School of Infantry (~3% attrition)
RECRUITING PROCESS

Initial Contact
First meet recruiter and learn about the Marine Corps mission.

Pre-Screening
Background information, medical history, tattoos, education, age, citizenship.

Appointment
Enlistment Screening Test - math, word knowledge, paragraph comprehension.

Interview
Professional skill training, opportunities, benefits.

Mental Qualification
Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery.

Moral Qualification
Criminal background screening.

Physical Qualification
Medical screening, initial strength test.

Delayed Entry Program
Swear oath, physical training, knowledge, customs and courtesies, school grade monitoring, community service, ship date.

Ship Day
Sign contract, swear oath.
RECRUIT TRAINING PROCESS

Academics

Water Survival

Combat Conditioning

Martial Arts
13 WEEKS LONG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Processing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forming</td>
<td>Form Training Units (3-5 days)</td>
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<td>Weeks 1-3</td>
<td>General Military Subjects &amp; Core Values Training</td>
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<td>Weeks 10-11</td>
<td>Final Physical Fitness Test, Academic Testing &amp; Drill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>The Crucible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Marine Week &amp; Graduation</td>
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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- Water Survival Qualification
- Physical Fitness & Combat Fitness Tests
- Rifle Qualification
- Martial Arts Tan Belt
- Academic Mastery
- Battalion Commander’s Inspection
- The Crucible
RECRUIT TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Character Development
To instill an understanding and develop an ownership of our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, which create a Marine who is prepared to, and capable of, making ethical decisions with confidence.

Military Bearing
Properly wear uniforms and exhibit military presence at all times.

Esprit de Corps
Continue to develop the Corps’ rich tradition of promoting values, instilling warrior spirit and ethos, and inspiring enthusiasm, devotion, and pride.
Discipline
Develop self-reliance; instill a sense of unit before self; teach respect for authority; and create the response of instantaneous obedience to orders.

Individual Combat Basic Tasks
Instill mastery of marksmanship, first aid, and required USMC common skills in order to function as a basic Marine.

Individual General Military Subjects
Achieve mastery of Marine Corps history, drill, policies, and military law.

Combat Conditioning
Develop physical fitness, endurance, and proper weight distribution.
AREA OF OPERATIONS

The Depot
Second oldest Marine Corps Base
8,095 acres; 3,262 are habitable
Surrounded by Beaufort and Broad Rivers and wetlands
Invaluable historical and natural resource

Main Side
Depot headquarters
Recruit Training Regiment
Headquarters, 6th Marine Corps District
Headquarters & Service Battalion
Branch Health and Dental Clinics
Facilities and Support Agencies
Military Housing
Page Field

Former WWII Air Field
Crucible
Basic Warrior Training
Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Training
Rappelling
Sea-Huts

Ranges

- Weapons and Field Training Battalion Headquarters
- Rifle and Pistol Ranges
- Grass Week Training
- Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer
- Military Housing
- Recruit Barracks
Each fiscal year the MCRD produces an Economic Impact Statement to inform of financial and employment benefits provided to the local and extended communities we touch. The immediate surrounding area, to which this EIS applies, includes the active and retired military populations of counties within a 30-mile radius of the depot.

There has always been a fruitful relationship between the depot, its tenant commands, and the surrounding communities. The community rapport and economic interface that unite us are vital to our mission accomplishment toward making Marines. In addition to being good stewards in the community, the MCRD remains a major economic engine within the Lowcountry. MCRD hosts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year for recruit graduation ceremonies, historic tours, educator visits and additional military training. To successfully host this large influx of visitors, Parris Island depends on the exceptional support it receives from state, local, county, city, town and other civic and business leaders.

In 2013, the total economic impact was estimated at approximately $403 million with more than 976 direct jobs on or near the installation at any given time. MCRD Parris Island is proud to be a part of what makes Beaufort and the South Carolina Lowcountry a great place to live, work and visit.
### Military Salaries
- **Active Duty (Marines)** $168,182,417
- **Active Duty (Navy)** $20,720,146
- **Active Duty (Army)** $210,186
- **Retired Military** $90,203,709

**Total includes 6th MCD and recruit salaries**

### Civilian Salaries
- **Appropriated** $39,249,203
- **Non-Appropriated** $13,406,804
- **Contractor** $5,507,060
- **Other Tenants** $3,626,132

### Contracts/Purchases
- **Construction, Maintenance, Utilities & Services** $37,994,204
- **Procurement (GOVCC)** $2,942,000
- **Education/Training** $1,127,579
- **Telephone & Printing** $224,268
- **Commercial Postal** $23,751

### Family Day/Graduation
- **Grad/Family Day** $19,867,061

*Grad/Family Day data estimate derived from 75,905 graduation visitors in FY13 and the mean cost of local hotels and restaurants.*

### Contributions
- **Charitable Contributions** $379,569
- **Federal Impact Aid** $48,883

### Total Economic Impact
- **$403,712,972**
WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCES
Parris Island is a rich source of wildlife, sea life, plants and additional natural resources such as timber and wetlands. At almost any time of the year you can find oysters, clams, shrimp, crabs and whelks in the neighboring salt marsh. Owls, osprey, hawks, bald eagles, eastern brown pelicans, egrets, and herons are clearly visible in the surrounding sky, wetlands and forested areas. The forest areas are filled with squirrels, raccoons, opossum, otters, alligators, white-tailed deer, rabbits and multiple types of snakes to include the eastern diamondback rattlesnake.

Parris Island is approximately four miles long and three miles wide totaling 8,095 acres with 3,262 acres of dry land. It ranges from sea level at its lowest point to 21 feet above sea level at its highest point on Horse Island. Parris Island contains a variety of habitats from forests, salt shrub thickets, brackish and saltwater marshes, five creeks, small and large ponds and more than 100 archaeological and cultural sites. The island also contains Chinese tallow, mimosa, chinaberry, salt cedar and other invasive trees, which are being worked to eradicate.

Parris Island maintains a warm, humid climate with temperatures ranging from as low as 40 degrees during the short winter months to 100 degrees during the longer summer months. With its coastal location and mix of warm humid air, Parris Island is prone to hurricanes and tropical thunderstorms.

Parris Island is committed to environmental protection, regulatory compliance, continual improvement, and pollution prevention. It maintains its own Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs department, whose mission it is to plan, establish, and conduct programs to protect the environment and enforce environmental regulations, procedures and laws. By being proactive in our efforts, Parris Island can continue to provide rich natural resources and support Marine training efforts for many years to come.