

## 1949 - 1955

“Old breed? New breed? There’s not a damn bit of difference so long as it’s the Marine breed.”  
- Lieutenant General Lewis B. Puller



### CHAPTER | FIVE

## A NEW BREED OF MARINE



*The end of WWII was the beginning of a new era at Parris Island. In 1949 significant changes included the integration of African-Americans into all aspects of the Marine Corps and the addition of a full-time Women Marine recruit training program.*

*The Marine reputation of being “the first to fight” attracted thousands of recruits to Parris Island, who were motivated to serve the nation during the Korean War. In the spring of 1950, there were 2,000 recruits on Parris Island divided between two male and one female training battalion. On 23 February 1949, Third Recruit Training Battalion was re-activated as the organization training non-veteran Women Marines, who began to be accepted into the regular Marine Corps in January. The battalion was to be operated by five Women Marine officers, 15 enlisted women, and 15 male enlisted who acted as drill instructors and guards.*

*Before the year was out, eight recruit battalions were formed, and in March 1952, a new peak of recruits was reached with more than 24,000 men undergoing training at one time. This created a shortage of qualified drill instructors, thus revealing a need for a formal Drill Instructor School. By October of 1952, a course lasting three and one-half weeks was established. Drill instructor applicants were required to be 21 years of age, have a neat appearance, have alertness, a suitable voice, and self-confidence. In all, Parris Island drill instructors trained some 138,000 Marines for service in the Korean War.*

*Capt Margaret M. Henderson reads the order activating the 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, pictured right, 1949.*





In preparation for the Korean War, male recruits received training in various specialty weapons such as the M1 rifle, bayonets, flamethrower (pictured here), fragmentation hand grenades and the 45-caliber sidearm pistol. The female recruit-training schedule focused on 'war support occupations' and consisted of chores, uniform inspections, military education, discipline and basic fitness.

By the end of 1949, the depot commander, Major General Alfred Noble, ordered that all training be integrated. Integration proceeded smoothly, racial barriers were dropped in depot clubs and other facilities, and African-American men and women were accepted into the Marine Corps.

**PARRIS ISLAND - KOREAN WAR**

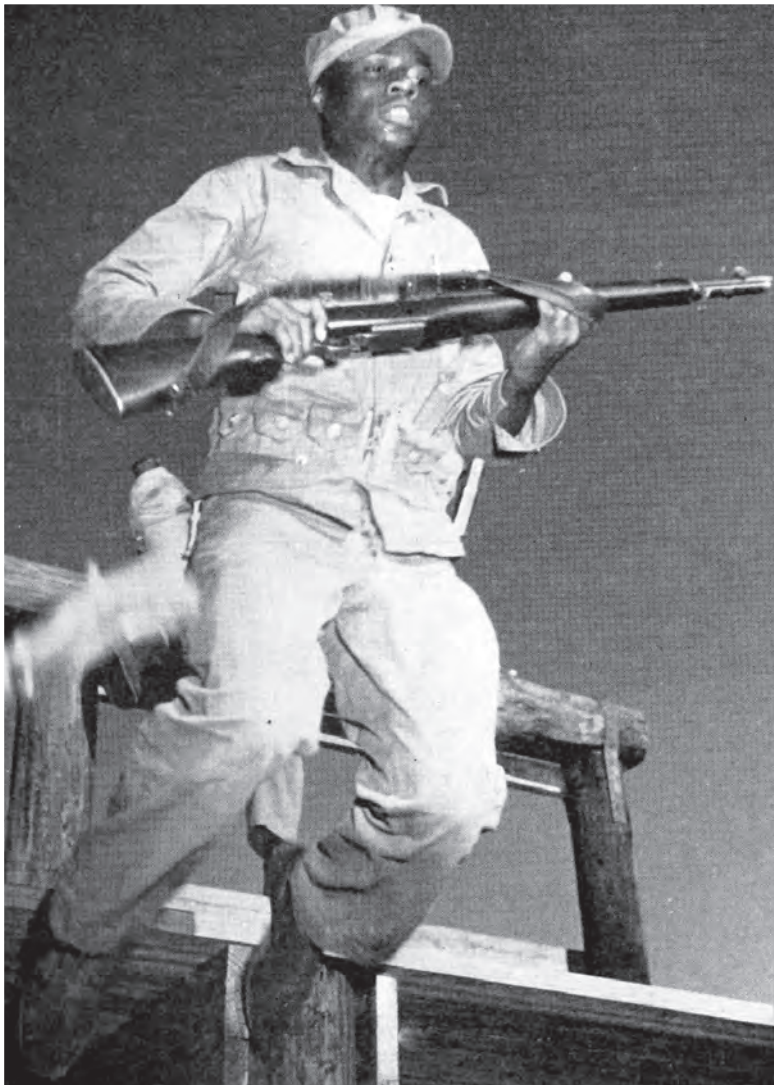
**1949**  
African-Americans are integrated into all aspects of the Marine Corps.



Senior Drill Instructor and recruits circa 1950

**1949**  
Full-time Women Marine recruit training program and permanent facilities is established.

**1950**  
In July, Marines hit the shores of South Korea to help fight the Communist invasion.



Obstacle course circa 1953



Female recruit exercise circa 1952



Recruit Platoon 58, 1949

### 1952

6 October, the Drill Instructor School is opened at Parris Island.

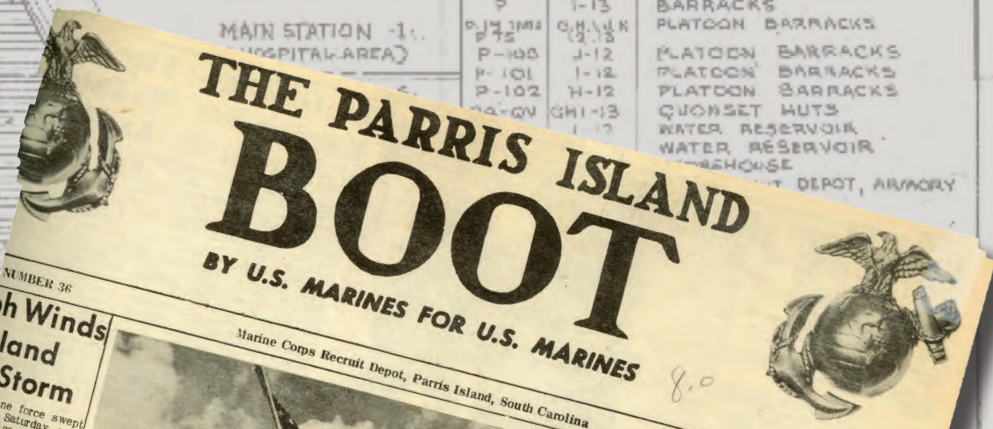
### 1954

10 November, the Parris Island Iwo Jima Monument is officially dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. It is located on Boulevard de France near the parade field.

### 1955

The first African-American drill instructors graduate from Drill Instructor School. Women also first attend Drill Instructor School in 1955, but were not considered full students until 1976.

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NUMBER 36  
 Windy  
 Island  
 Storm



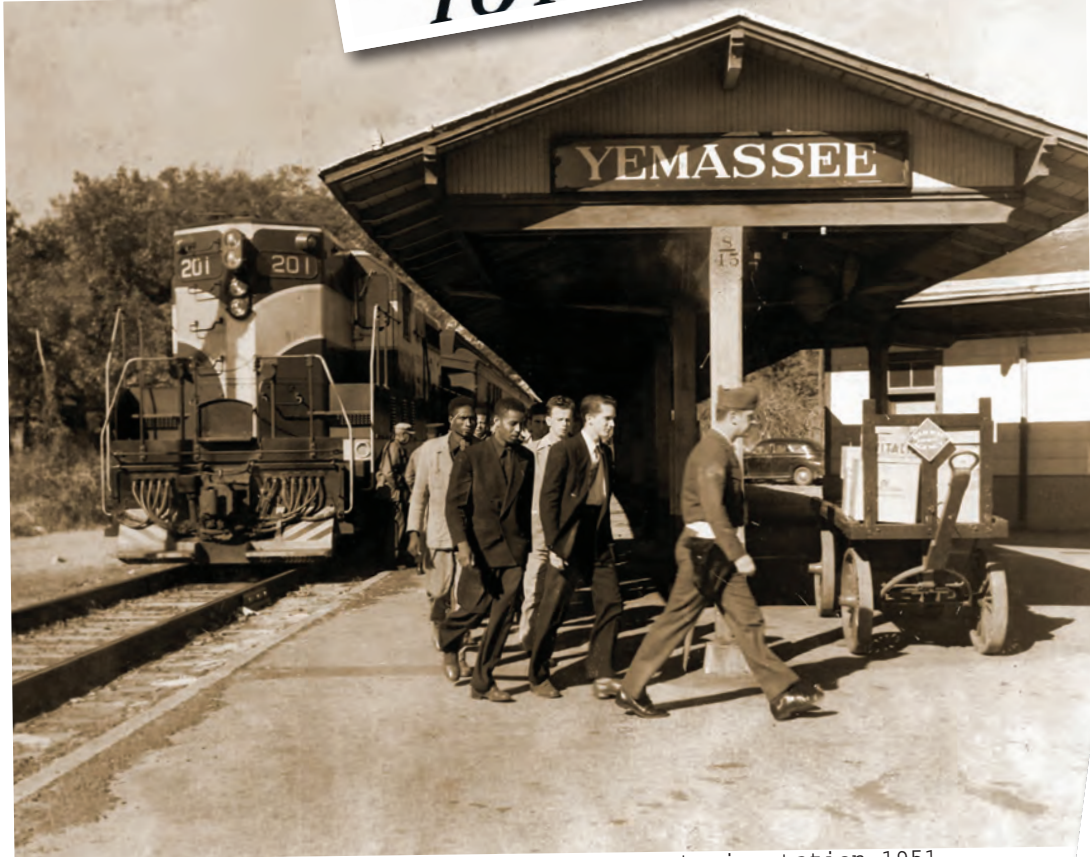
Friday, September 5, 1952  
**Unveiling Of  
 Two Statue  
 This Morning**  
**CG To Dedicate  
 Suribachi Monument**

Marine combat veterans of the Iwo Jima campaign will stand side by side with other members of this command as the members commemorating the heroic flag raising on Mt. Suribachi is unveiled today at the Post Parade Grounds.

Colonel John R. Lanigan, chief of staff, who won the Navy Cross for gallantry when he led the 28th Marine Amphibious Brigade on the Pacific island and Maj. Harold G. Schrier, who was a Lieutenant with the 28th Marines at Iwo Jima, will unveil the monument. Maj. Schrier was the leader of the patrol that effected the first flag raising on Mt. Suribachi.

**GUESTS TO ATTEND**  
 In addition to Island personnel and dependents attending personnel, distinguished guests from Charleston, Savannah and other nearby areas are expected to be on hand to pay homage to the epic heroism of those Marines who participated in the action on Iwo.

The monument, which is the work of sculptor Felix de Weldon, will be a landmark on the island. Floodlights will be played on the statue throughout the night. Also, the six hours of the unveiling ceremony will be broadcast on the radio.



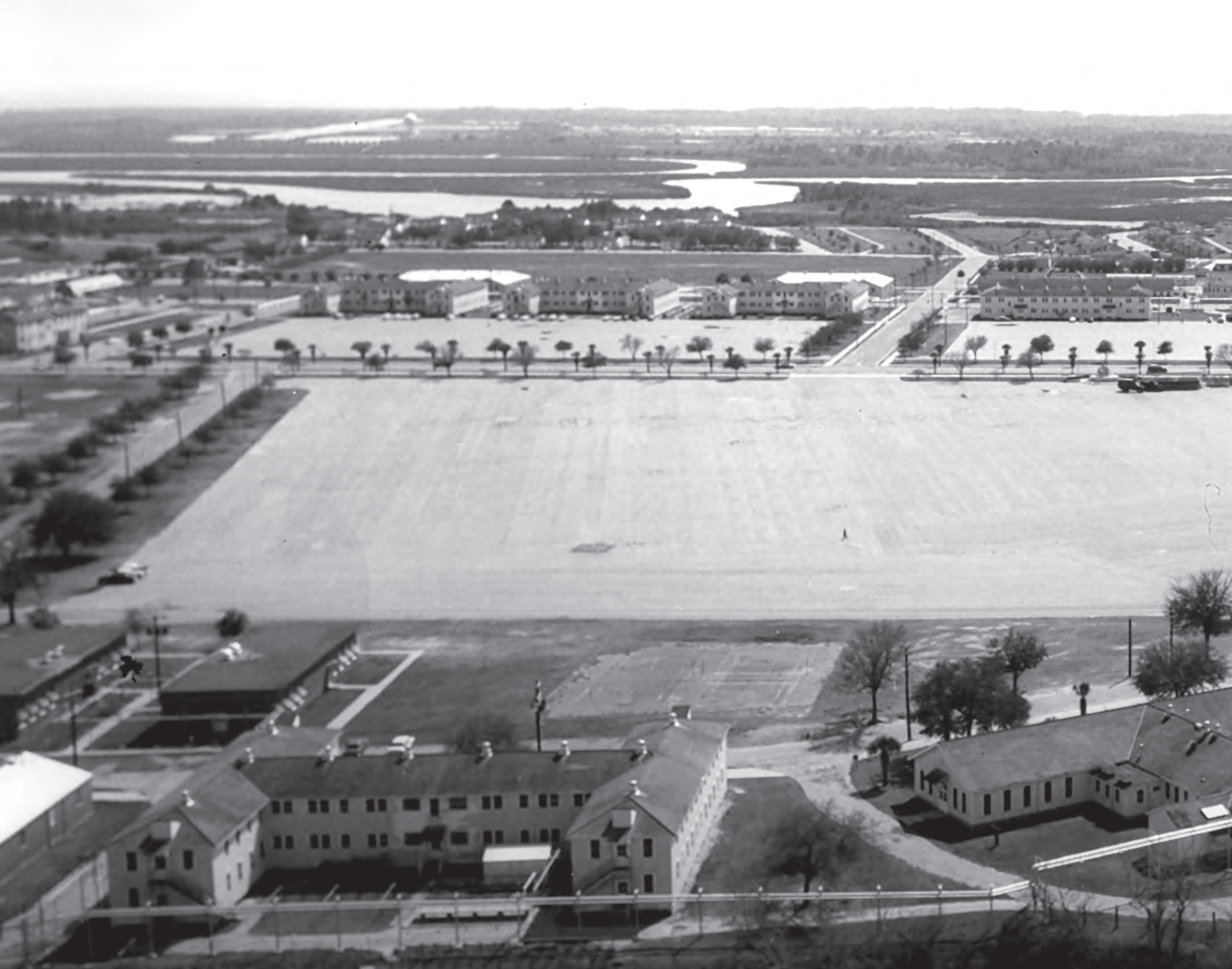
New recruits arrive at Yemassee train station 1951



Bayonet training, circa 1950



Grenade Training, circa 1950.





Aerial view of 1st and 2nd Recruit Training Battalions, circa 1950.

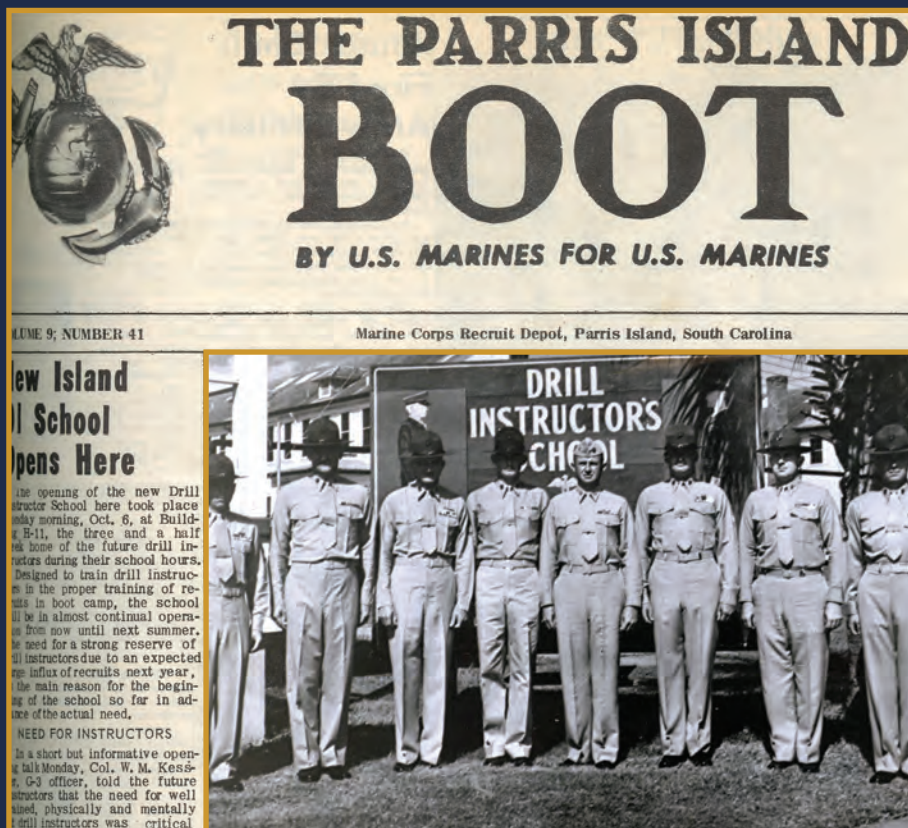


# Drill Instructor School

The first formal Drill Instructor School began on Parris Island in 1946. It was organized under Instruction Battalion, formerly known as 'Schools Detachment' alongside the Field Music, Band and Personnel Administration schools.

In 1950, with the start of the Korean War, the number of new recruits at Parris Island had swollen to 8,185 and the 4th, 5th and 6th Recruit Training Battalions had to be reactivated. The heavy influx of new recruits overwhelmed the number of experienced drill instructors on the island, ultimately forcing the Drill Instructor School to close in order to allow all capable instructors to assist with the training of new recruits.

By the end of 1950, a new and improved Drill Instructor Course was set up, by which personnel were appointed to permanent drill instructor billets, vice the temporary roles once held. The Drill Instructor Course was comprised of mostly briefs on the basic and proper management and handling of recruits. This course was also shorter, only two weeks in duration. These new drill instructors were no longer responsible for instructing the full range of military subjects offered at the depot.



Drill Instructor School Staff, circa 1952.

This duty of specialized training was handed over to specific Marine officer and non-commissioned officer instructors, serving as subject matter experts in their varying fields, responsible for teaching the recruits these skills. Recruits received classes on maps and compasses, mission and history of the Marine Corps, military sanitation, patrolling, scouting and combat principles.

The drill instructor's new mission was to fully focus on exercising the recruits in close and extended order drill, instilling discipline, initiative, esprit de corps, and retain control of his unit by conducting uniform, barracks and weapons inspections.

In 1952, and as a result of the new Drill Instructor Course successes, a new school was organized and opened. This school was extended to five weeks of training and required applicants to be non-commissioned officers and meet additional, more rigorous aptitude, fitness, appearance and confidence standards in order to be accepted. (Drill instructors correct a recruit pictured right, circa 1952.)

Today, Drill Instructor School strives to be the premier leadership school in the Marine Corps. It encompasses more than 500 hours of academic instruction, physical training and practical applications over an 11-week course. Students are given a thorough review of all military skills, and intensively indoctrinated in the conduct, regulations, and procedures governing recruit training. The students also undergo a comprehensive leadership package that includes time management, communication skills, and counseling. Squad instructors continuously evaluate and counsel their respective students to ensure maximum performance.

## DRILL INSTRUCTOR CREED:

*"These recruits are entrusted to my care. I will train them to the best of my ability. I will develop them into smartly disciplined, physically fit, basically trained Marines, thoroughly indoctrinated in love of Corps and country. I will demand of them, and demonstrate by my own example, the highest standard of personal conduct, morality and professional skill."*

