

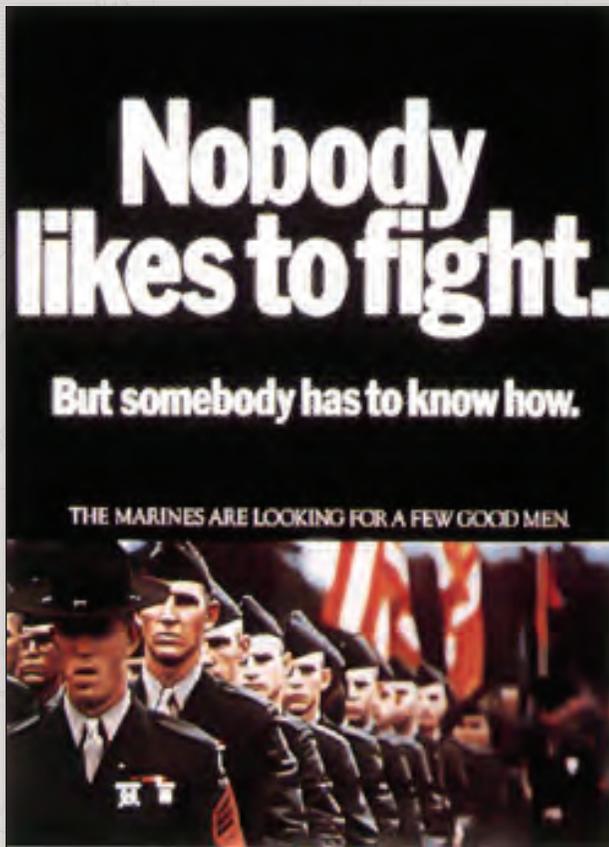
## 1964 - 1974

"Through these portals pass the world's finest fighting men: United States Marines"



### CHAPTER | SEVEN

### TRAINING: THE VIETNAM ERA



*During the Vietnam War, more than 200,000 recruits graduated from Parris Island with the peak load being 10,979 in March 1966. No new battalions were added, but training was cut from 11 weeks to 8 weeks and the size of the recruit platoons was increased. In 1964 a standardized Marine Corps recruit training syllabus was adopted by both recruit depots.*

*The rifle range used two military rifles for qualification in the 1960s. The M14 was introduced in 1961. However, involvement in Southeast Asia demanded a lighter automatic shoulder weapon, which resulted in the development of the M16. Platoons were issued either the M14 or the M16 until 1975 when the M14 was retired.*

*A major event for women was the closing of their WWII facility and the construction of a modern complex on the site of the old base golf course. The new facility was capable of housing more than 200 permanent personnel in semi-private rooms and 200 female recruits. The complex included an exchange, beauty shop, classrooms, mess hall, clothing issue, storage, offices and parade and athletic fields.*

*Recruits practice low crawl techniques pictured right 1972.*



Physical fitness remained a priority and included sit-ups, pull-ups, push-ups, bends and thrusts and a 300-yard shuttle run. Recruits also engaged in team building exercises such as the obstacle and confidence courses, log drills, rope climbing, body carrying, and tug of war. Female recruits were also now required to receive swim training, gas mask instruction (pictured here) and standardized cosmetic application classes.

In 1971 a formalized Individual Combat Training (ICT) was added to the recruit's curriculum. From 1971 to 1973 recruits and their drill instructors were bused to Camp Lejeune for one to two weeks of field training. By 1974 facilities for ICT were completed at Page Field and the trips to Camp Lejeune were discontinued.



## PARRIS ISLAND VIETNAM

**1965**

Arriving in force, Marines serve primarily in South Vietnam's five Northern provinces known as Military Region I, or "Eye Corps."

**1965**

In January, recruit receiving moves from H&S Battalion to a new location near regimental headquarters. At this time the famous yellow footprints first appear.





Obstacle course, circa 1972



Female swim qualification circa, 1970



Marksmanship training, circa 1972

1965

Yemasee Train station closes; recruits now arrive from Charleston, SC.

1965

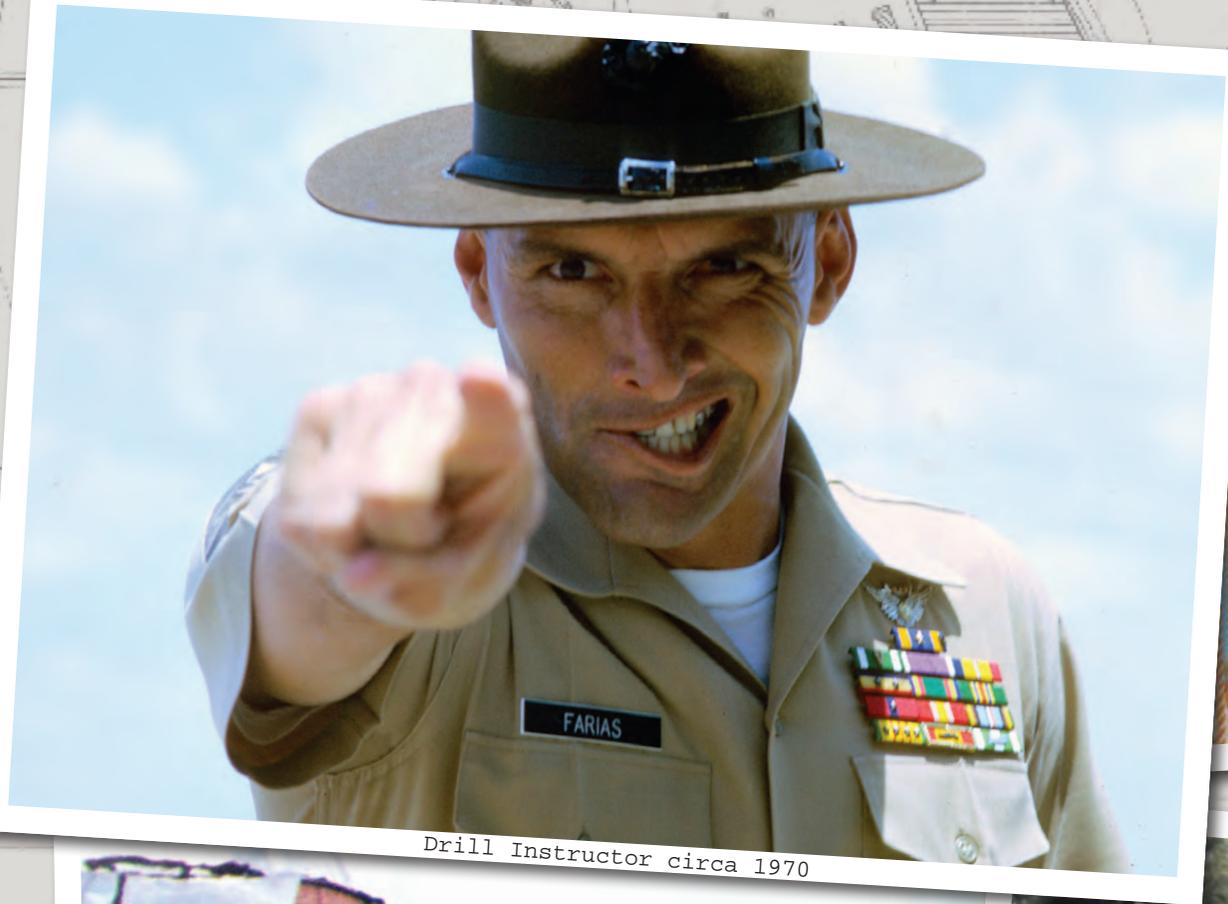
Women Marines Recruit Training Battalion graduates first Dual Platoons; Platoon 8-A and 8-B

1971

A formalized Individual Combat Training (ICT) at Camp Lejeune is added to the recruit's curriculum.

1974

Facilities for ICT are completed at Page Field and the trips to Camp Lejeune are discontinued.



Drill Instructor circa 1970



circa 1970



Field Training 1974



Graduation circa 1970



Marine recruits learning landmine sweeping and disarming techniques under drill instructor supervision, circa 1970.



Marine recruits getting their medical evaluations upon arrival to Parris Island, circa 1964.



# Individual Combat Training

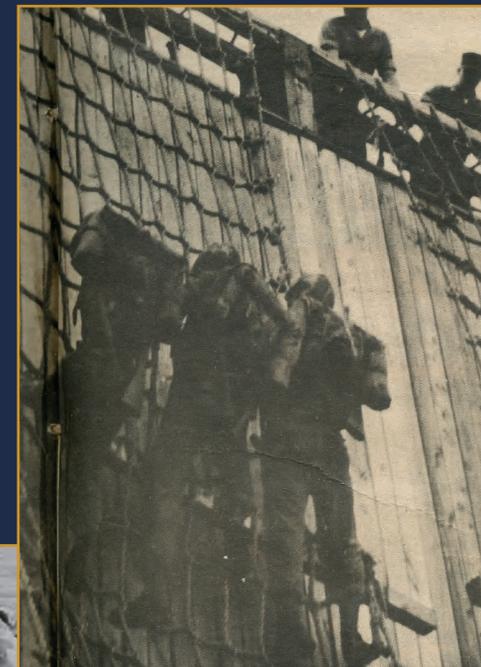
Generalized combat training has been taught at Parris Island since it first opened its gates as a recruit depot in 1915. However the main focus of the training was put on basic Marine skills, drill and marksmanship. Specialized field training was reserved primarily for those chosen to serve directly in combat arms or the infantry field.

In 1971, a formalized Individual Combat Training (ICT) was added to the recruit's curriculum. Recruits began to learn bivouacking, water and field sanitation, land navigation, camouflage, cover and concealment, basic patrolling and tactical formations, combat hand and arm signals and basic environmental survival techniques aimed at creating a basic rifleman.

Between 1971 to 1973 recruits and their drill instructors were bused to Camp Lejeune (pictured right) for one to two weeks of field training since Parris Island did not have the facilities and required ranges in place to facilitate the field training events required for graduation. By 1974, facilities for ICT were completed at Page Field and the trips to Camp Lejeune were discontinued.

In the spring of 1988, the Individual Combat Training phase of recruit training was expanded and renamed 'Basic Warrior Training' (BWT). BWT aimed to expose recruits to combat training so that all Marines, no matter what their military occupational specialty, could serve effectively as a basic rifleman.

Currently, BWT is instructed by the Weapons and Field Training Battalion, occurring during week nine of the recruit training schedule. The current curriculum consists of previously taught basic field skills to include combat hunter, improvised explosive device detection, interior guard and individual, buddy and fire team movements.



Amphibious assault training. circa 1975.

