

1975 - 1995

“Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world, but the Marines don’t have that problem.” - President Ronald Reagan



CHAPTER | EIGHT

COMBAT TRAINING EVOLVED



In 1976 with the Vietnam War over, Commandant of the Marine Corps General Louis H. Wilson instituted the use of a new training order termed “Standing Operating Procedures for Male Recruit Training.” This detailed and strict training guideline emphasized drill, academics and physical fitness.

While male training changed, women recruit training expanded. In 1981 women began a limited exposure to combat training and in November 1985 they began firing at the rifle range for score. The following year the Women Recruit Training Command was re-designated the 4th Recruit Training Battalion and placed under the Recruit Training Regiment. This ended separate command structures and in 1994 a similar “Standing Operations Procedures” was issued for male and female recruit training.

Recruit training for both male and female recruits averaged about 11 weeks with 56 actual training days. The training was still divided into three phases with Phase I concentrating on physical conditioning, Phase II being marksmanship training with the M16A2, and Phase III including Basic Warrior Training, final testing and graduation. By this time the average recruit was between 19 and 20 years old and 99% had high school diplomas or its equivalent.



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

In order to graduate during this time, recruits needed to successfully master and test in the following areas:

1. Service rifle marksmanship
2. Combat water survival
3. General military knowledge and combat basic tasks
4. Physical fitness
5. Battalion Commander's physical and uniform inspection

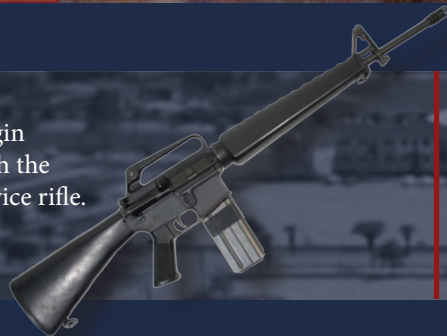
Recruit low crawls through day assault course pictured here, circa 1981



PARRIS ISLAND - GULF WAR

1975

Recruits begin training with the M16A1 service rifle.



1976

New training order termed "Standing Operating Procedures for Male Recruit Training" is instituted.

1983

The Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, is placed over recruiting districts east of the Mississippi River.





Swim qualification circa 1995



"A-line" field firing circa 1983



Pugil sticks circa 1992

1986

Women Recruit Training Command is re-designated the 4th Recruit Training Battalion and placed under Recruit Training Regiment.

1989

23 June, Male and female recruits begin graduating together.

1993

The Parris Island Museum is certified as the Marine Corps' first command museum.

1995

Recruiters begin receiving the Recruiting Ribbon for a successful tour of duty as a recruiter.



The Boot

Vol. 43 No. 26 Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Eastern Recruiting Region Parris Island, S.C. June 30, 1989

Joint graduation makes depot history

Male, female recruits earn title 'Marine' together for first time

Sgt. Keith Stoeckle

For the first time in the 74 year history of the depot, male and female recruits earned the title "Marine" together during the same ceremony.

The scene which marks the metamorphosis from recruit to Marine takes place 50 times each year on Parris Island. However, the recruit graduation conducted June 23 was not only a special event to those new Marines and their families, but also a historic occasion aboard Parris Island.

Parris Island was officially established as a recruit depot in 1915. In 1949, a separate battalion was established for training women recruits making Parris Island the only command in the Corps with this mission.

Both mens' and womens' training has undergone many renovations to keep in step with progress and the changing influx of recruits brought about by wars. But only recently has training for both sexes been mirrored to a higher degree.

Womens Recruit Training Command became 4th Recruit Training Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment, in February 1987. This move was a big step toward synchronizing training for all battalions in the regiment.

The addition of the company track system and Marine Battle Skills Training, an intense, ambitious regimen for women, furthered the process. Now, male recruits are on a 60-day training cycle. As each shipment of recruits arrives they are formed



Photo by Sgt. Keith W. Stoeckle

Three platoon honor graduates stand at attention during the first male and female recruit graduation. Standing from left to right are: LCpl. Gary Morris, H Company honor graduate, and Pfc. LouAnn Geary, series honor graduate and Pfc. 4016 high shooter, and LCpl. Charles Boyd Pfc. 2043 honorman.

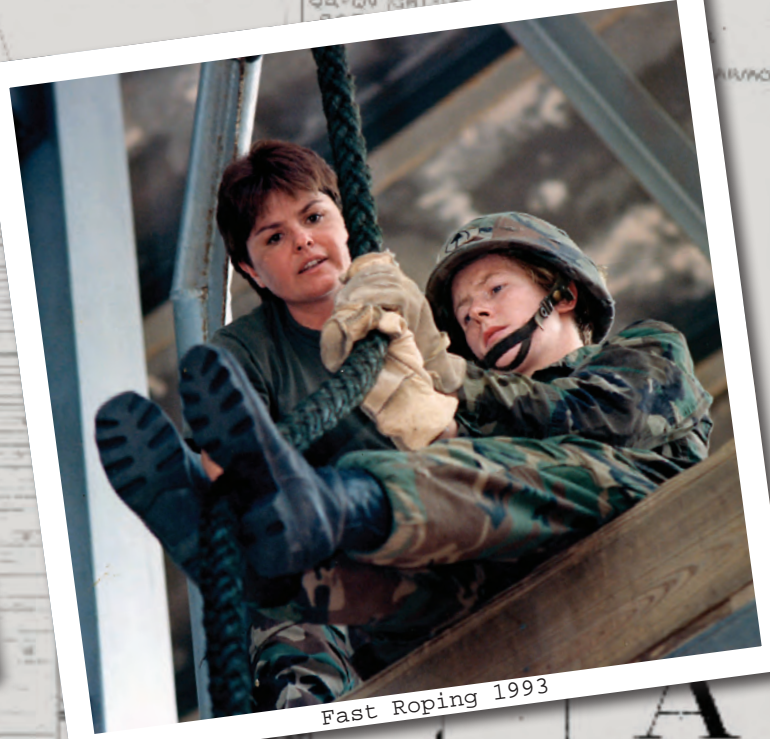
Graduations are a Depot function involving the Provost Marshal's Office, Medical personnel, Motor Transport, Communications, and Headquarters and Service Bn. S-4, besides the planners and key personnel from RTR.

The historic-making Marines who participated in

followed by an eight-platoon "trail company" takes to the parade deck. The trail company is made up by the series next to graduate. In this case Co. M, 3rd Bn., was added to the procession. "It not only provides good practice time for the up-



Bayonet training 1991



Fast Roping 1993



M249 Squad Automatic Weapon 1994

COMMANDER (C.E.C.) U. S. N. PUBLIC WORKS OFFICER



President Ronald Reagan and Major General Stephan Olmstead. In 1986 President Reagan became the second sitting president to visit Parris Island.





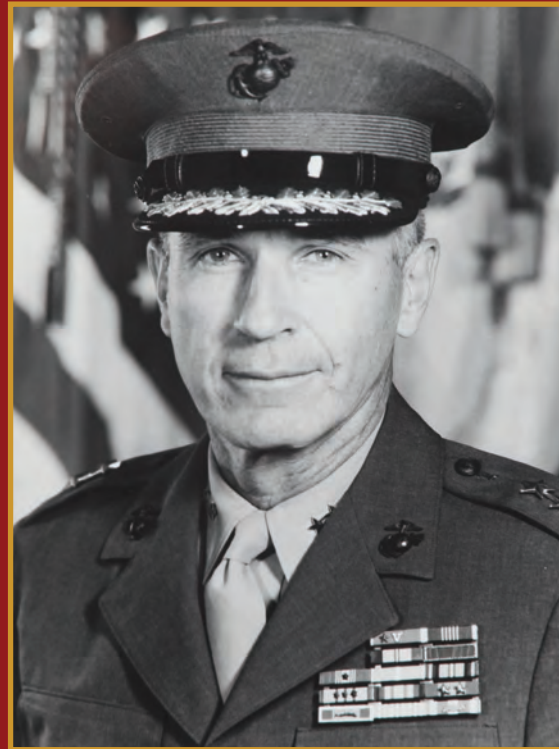
Low crawl day assault course, circa 1994.

Marine Corps Recruit Depot / Eastern Recruiting Region

In 1973 the U.S. military draft was discontinued and the Marine Corps moved toward an all-volunteer force. At this time, the recruiting mission fell solely on the recruiting district commanders, who reported directly to Headquarters Marine Corps Manpower on all issues and requirements. The all-volunteer force required recruiters to seek out those interested in serving and thus made recruiting efforts more difficult to sustain.

Since there was no current war or conflict for Marines to engage in, efforts of improved training and quality control became the main focus and the review of new recruits revealed a weakness in our recruiting process. General Robert H. Barrow, 27th Commandant of the Marine Corps, ordered a restructure of the recruiting regions, by which the commanding general's at both Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and San Diego would assume command and sole responsibility for all recruiting efforts within their area of operations.

Each of these recruiting regions would have three separate recruiting districts comprised

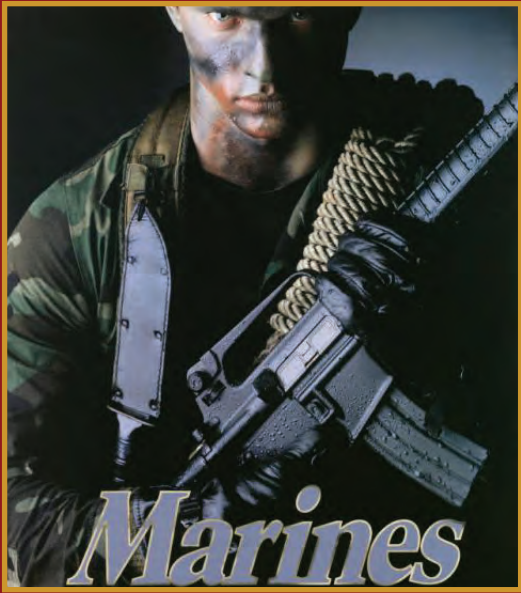


Major General James J. McMonagle

of eight sub-recruiting stations within each district. Both generals would be responsible for 24 recruiting stations, and hundreds of substations, either east or west of the Mississippi river. All male recruits enlisted from east of the Mississippi River and all female recruits would attend basic training at Parris Island; and all males west of the

Mississippi would train at San Diego. The Eastern and Western Recruiting Region commanding generals received orders and direction from Headquarters Marine Corps Manpower, and a direct line to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. This new structure enabled the commanders to have more command influence on the quality of recruits being sent to the depots. On March 4, 1983, Major General James J. McMonagle became the first Marine to assume the title and role as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and Eastern Recruiting Region.

In 1994, Marine Corps Recruiting Command was established in Quantico, Virginia, and became the direct authority over the two regions. In 2002, regionalized officer recruitment was added to the command structure; prior to this, the commanding generals and subsequent recruiting districts focused only on enlisted recruiting. Today, there are more than 3,000 active duty Marine recruiters, spanning 574 recruiting substations, and 71 officer selection sites across the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Guam.



THROUGH THESE PORTALS PASS PROSPECTS
FOR AMERICA'S FINEST FIGHTING FORCE
UNITED STATES MARINES

