

1996 - 2006

“The United States Marine Corps with its fiercely proud tradition of excellence in combat, its hallowed rituals, and its unbending code of honor, is part of the fabric of American myth.”

- Thomas E. Ricks

CHAPTER | NINE MODERN DAY WARRIOR



The majority of the training programs initiated in the 1990s were retained into the first portion of the 21st century. Some new innovations were added to recruit training during the tenure of Commandant of the Marine Corps General Charles C. Krulak. Krulak looked to transform the recruit training process by creating a balance of the combat mindset and the Marine Corps' Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

In 1996, a new culminating training event called “The Crucible” was enacted aboard the depot and was required for graduation. The Crucible is a 54-hour course relying mainly on recruit teamwork including about 40 miles of total movement by foot. Recruit training was extended from 11 to 12 weeks to accommodate the course, which includes food and sleep deprivation and eight main events in the course augmented by “Warrior Stations,” each designed to present problem solving skills as recruit teams learned to function as a unit.

After the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, additional tactical training requirements were added to the curriculum including familiarization with the Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW), the AT-4 anti-tank rocket trainer, and conducting fire-team and immediate action drills to prepare for the Global War on Terrorism.





With the start of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, additional tactical training requirements were added. This included an updated first aid and marksmanship qualification curriculum and increased fire-team level tactics and immediate action drills. These changes coincided with the modern conduct of war, which required a more complete and fresh warfighter empowered with small unit leadership abilities and armed with a critical decision-making process.

During the fall of 2006, based on lessons learned in Iraq and Afghanistan, new combat fitness training was enacted which stressed strength training over stamina through simulated combat tasks.

Recruit engages target during the bayonet assault course, 2006.



**PARRIS
ISLAND**
-
OEF / OIF

1996

12-14 December, the first recruits go through "The Crucible."

1996

13 September, Gen Charles C. Krulak, Commandant of the Marine Corps, approved the wearing of the field hat by female Drill Instructors.

1997

Drill instructors begin receiving the Drill Instructor Ribbon for a successful tour of duty as a drill instructor.

1999

For the first time in its history, Parris Island is evacuated when Hurricane Floyd threatened.





Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, 2001



Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps visit, 1996



Confidence Course, 2003



2001

The Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP), a new hand-to-hand combat system, is developed by the Marine Corps.

2006

In the fall, CFT training is enacted, which stressed strength training over stamina through simulated combat tasks.

Drill 2003



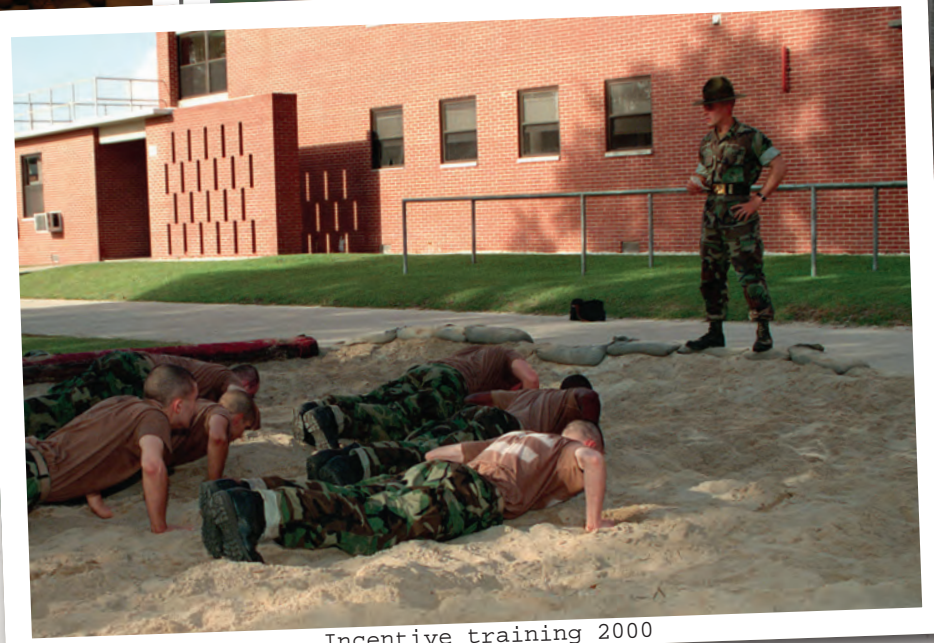
Confidence Course 2004



Classes 2006



Boxing during the crucible 2005



Incentive training 2000



Emblem Ceremony. Upon completing the crucible, recruits become Marines after obtaining their Eagle, Globe and Anchor, circa 2006.



All recruits are trained for possible chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks, circa 2006.



The Crucible

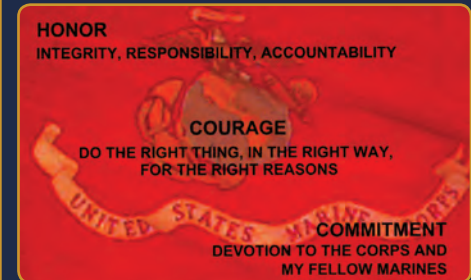
The Crucible was first integrated into recruit training at Parris Island in December of 1996. The 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps General Charles C. Krulak envisioned the crucible as a culminating event that would develop the mental, physical, and moral capability of our new Marines.

The Crucible is a 54-hour training evolution with eight major training events. The events consist of a day movement resupply, a combat assault course, a casualty evacuation, a reaction course, an enhanced confidence course, an unknown distance firing course, a night infiltration course and a night march.

These events are augmented by “Warrior Stations,” which are team-building obstacles aimed at teaching teamwork, small unit leadership, problem-solving and adaptability. The environment is filled with adversity, as the recruits are subject to arduous and stressful conditions, to include food and sleep deprivation and the accompanying stresses of combat leadership decision-making.



31st Commandant, Gen. Charles C. Krulak



Red cards were issued to recruits to reinforce Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment

Each of these stations are named in honor of heroic and historic Marines, who under the same combat stresses, persevered and accomplished missions of great effect. Recruits are read citations of valor and heroism from these historic Marines in order to reinforce and highlight how to properly apply the basic Corps values, arriving at a moral and physical victory for our nation.

The event climaxes with a final 9-mile hike back to the Iwo Jima monument on main-side for the special Eagle, Globe and Anchor ceremony. During this ceremony, the platoon drill instructors award the recruits the highly coveted Eagle, Globe and Anchor for the first time and address them by the title “United States Marine.”

