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C E N T E R

U.S. MARINE CORPS



The U.S. Marine Corps prides itself on historic traditions such as "honor, courage, and commitment."

The U.S. Marine Corps plays a vital role in the nation's defense, as it is the country's only forward-deployed fighting force that conducts expeditionary operations by land, air, and sea.

The Marine Corps prides itself on its long history of traditions based on honor, duty, and commitment. It is one of the smallest branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, with only 140,000 to 175,000 active duty personnel serving at any time, compared to more than 500,000 soldiers serving in the U.S. Army.

Becoming a U.S. Marine can be challenging. To qualify for basic enlistment, one must complete a high school diploma, pass a screening interview, score well on aptitude tests, and be in good physical condition and health. Potential officers must also complete a four-year degree at a college or university before earning a commission.

Because it operates by air, land, and sea, the Corps offers enlisted personnel and officers a variety of jobs, which are known as Military Occupational Specialties (MOS). The five main MOS categories are enlisted aviation, combat arms, computers/communications/intelligence/electronics, combat service support, and the Marine reserves.

Enlisted aviation personnel help maintain the Corps' complete fleet of aircraft, which features FA-

18 and AV-8 Hornet jets, Cobra attack helicopters, and a variety of supply and reconnaissance aircraft. Some of these aircraft are land-based, while others operate off aircraft carriers, where Navy and Marine personnel often serve side-by-side all over the world.

Those interested in other high-tech careers will also find many MOS choices in the Marines, such as communications specialties, computer systems design, computer programming, and electronics.

The combat arms specialists are the Marine's main armed fighting forces, and some of these MOS specialties, such as machine gunner and tank crewman, are not open to female personnel. However, women can serve in the majority of the Corps' MOS fields and do receive the same basic recruit and officer training as their male counterparts.

The Marines require a four- to six-year enlistment commitment, depending on the MOS one plans to pursue. Marines receive excellent benefits, such as full medical and dental insurance for themselves and any dependents, 30 days paid vacation annually, free housing or an off-base housing allowance, a generous retirement plan available after 20 years of active duty, and numerous education benefits, such as earning up to \$28,800 toward college tuition through the Montgomery GI Bill.

PROFILE

Q. What sorts of occupations can I train for or gain experience in while serving with the military?

A. Enlisted career areas include the following: administrative; combat specialty; construction; electronic and electrical equipment repair; engineering; science; technical occupations; health care and human services; machine operator and production; media and public affairs; transportation and material handling; and vehicle and machinery mechanics.

Q. What is the agreement upon joining the military?

A. In order to join the services, enlisted personnel must sign a legal agreement called an

enlistment contract, which usually involves a commitment to 8 years of service. Depending on the terms of the contract, 2 to 6 years are spent on active duty and the balance is spent in the reserves.

The enlistment contract obligates the service to provide the agreed-upon job, rating, pay, cash bonuses for enlistment in certain occupations, medical and other benefits, occupational training, and continuing education. In return, enlisted personnel must serve satisfactorily for the period specified.

In order to enlist, one must be between 17 and 35 years old, be a U.S. citizen or immigrant alien holding permanent resident status, not have a felony record, and possess a birth certificate. Marine Corps enlisted personnel must not be over the age of 29.

SKILLS REQUIRED

U.S. Marines must be physically fit and able to display courage under pressure in diverse situations. They must be able to commit to the traditions established by the Corps.

WHERE/HOW TO GET TRAINING

Schooling

All Marines, regardless of assignment, rank, or gender receive basic infantry training in order to be able to support their fellow Marines in combat, if necessary. Enlisted personnel are the backbone of the Corps. Their recruit training, known as "boot camp," consists of 13 weeks of intensive study and physical training. In recruit training, new Marines learn how to function as members of a team and to meet the many challenges they may face on the battlefield.

Potential officers must attend either Platoon Leaders Class or Officer Candidates Class. PLC training is conducted for six weeks during the summers between one's freshman and sophomore years in college, while OCC is a 10-week course for those who have completed their junior year in college or already hold a bachelor's degree. One must have a bachelor's degree to

qualify for a commission as a Marine Corps officer.

Many officers also receive training through Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps, which provides tuition allowances and special college-level courses at universities nationwide. NROTC members can select from a two-year option or a four-year option, depending on how far they are in the collegiate studies.

Financial Aid

Grants, scholarships, loans, and work/study programs are available for students. For most of this aid, high school seniors must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, available from high school guidance offices and postsecondary financial aid offices.

For more information on federal financial aid programs, visit the U.S. Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.ed.gov>.



For more information on federal financial aid programs, call (800) 4FE-DAID

FUTURE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Because the U.S. Armed Forces are all volunteer-based, the U.S. Marine Corps continuously recruits new enlistees to help replace those who serve out

their service agreement or enter retirement. As new technologies develop, the Corps continues to add new occupational specialties for Marines to pursue.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

U.S. Marines may work in dangerous or hazardous situations, especially in times of war. Because they are often the

nation's first line of defense or the first to be deployed, Marines receive arduous training to prepare for these conditions.

RESOURCES - HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

ONLINE:

- www.marines.com (U.S. Marine Corps)
- www.womenmarines.com (Women Marines Association)

GENERAL:

Marine Corps Association
715 Broadway Street
Quantico, VA 22134
www.mca-marines.org

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JOBS IN THIS FIELD

Job titles	Place of work	Kind of work	Average salary*
Marine Corps private (enlisted)	Military base or on ship	Trains and performs advanced battlefield operations. Executes orders from commanders.	\$964-\$1,042 (monthly salary, plus housing allowance)
Marine Corps first lieutenant (officer)	Military base or on ship	Manages enlisted personnel and provides leadership. Executes orders from commanders.	\$1,997-\$3,120 (monthly salary, plus housing allowance)

*Salaries vary depending on region and experience. Sources: Chronicle Guidance Publications and Occupational Outlook Handbook.