A PARENTS GUIDE TO SURVIVING

MARINE CORPS BOOT CAMP

RECRUITING STATION DENVER

OUTLAWS
Well, your “baby” has gone and done it; they have signed up for the United States Marine Corps! One minute you’re bursting with pride, the next you are bursting with tears as they are about to depart. Time to be tough, future Marine Mom or Dad - your recruit will need to see your strength in the coming weeks and months. Surround yourself with your new mantra... “I may look harmless, but I raised a U.S. Marine.”

The following are some tips and information from those of us who have survived the ordeal and now embrace you in your new way of life as the parent of a future Marine. Most of us read anything we can find about boot camp, the Corps, and what our recruits will be enduring at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot. Talk to other Marine Parents, read books, track down other Marines, hangout at the recruiters’ office, follow cars with Marine stickers on them. Just do whatever you need to do to keep your sanity EXCEPT:

* Call or write to the DI’s (Drill Instructors.
* Park yourself in front of the mailbox - it will be an effort in futility. Sundays recruits may have a few moments when they normally write home, meaning you will usually receive the letter on Thursdays.
* Be afraid to leave the phone for fear you will miss “The Call.” Phone calls are rare, they will never happen before the third week. They are used as rewards for exemplary conduct.
* Go out and buy lots of top-of-the-line toiletries and underwear. It will be disposed of within the first two hours at MCRD. The Marine Corps policy is to strip them of everything they have and are, and build you up from there. The Marine Corps will supply everything including socks, razors, soap and clothes. As soon as they step foot on MCRD property, they cease to be individuals. They will all be treated the same, and they will have the same possessions.

Here are some things you CAN do:

* Before your recruit leaves for recruit training, put together self-addressed stamped envelopes, so all they have to do is put the letter in the envelope and send it.
* Also make an address book with important names, addresses and phone number. This list should include doctors and dentists in case some medical information is required.
* Be sure to send them off with a farewell letter to read on the plane about how much you love him/her and how proud you are. Include a family picture they can put up in their footlocker.
Words of Encouragement

The day your child leaves for recruit training, they will be officially sworn in and sign the “dotted line.” Family is allowed to attend and take pictures and videotape the ceremony. This is a life-altering event, so take lots of pictures. Your new recruit will be done around noon when it is time to say goodbye. They will then report to the airport to board a plane to MCRD, San Diego or Parris Island, S.C. THEY WILL NOT TAKE ANYTHING WITH THEM BUT PAPERWORK AND THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACK. No watch, jewelry, books, food or makeup.

They will not arrive until late that night at MCRD and will not be able to rest for the next 36 hours. The object of the first weeks are MCRD is to strip them away of all their civilian tendencies. They will refer to each other as, these recruits, that recruit, and this recruit. They will no longer refer to themselves in the first person. The drill instructor is there to help institute this change in your recruit. They will demand discipline, hard work, integrity, and the core values, Honor, Courage and Commitment. During this time you will most likely not here from your recruit until the third week. You should receive a letter with their mailing address, which will be sent out the first two weeks after reporting to MCRD.

Your mission, from the day the plane pulls out for MCRD until the week of graduation is to write letters. It is important and encouraging to receive a letter during recruit training. It boosts morale, and allows them to work towards the goal of graduation. Do not let them down, send mail as often as you can. In your letters talk about weather, current events, uplifting things. It is important to never talk about anything negative or life changing or altering. Never send bad news in a letter to your recruit. If anything like a family death, or family emergency arises please contact your local Red Cross with your recruits social security number and they will contact them from there.

In the beginning of recruit training the letters coming from your recruit will be negative sometimes. They will be discouraged, exhausted, broken and needing their parents. As time goes on they will become more excited, positive, goal oriented. You will notice a change in your recruit. If a letter comes to you that is negative or hard for you to understand, take it to the recruiting office. They will sit down with you and explain what your recruit is going through at that moment in training so you can understand.

Their ultimate goal is graduation day. Standing on the parade deck as a brand new Marine in the United States Marine Corps ready to walk to you, very proud of the past 13 weeks they have just endured.
During the first two weeks of recruit training, recruits will send home a letter stating they have made it to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego or Parris Island, S.C. and will provide an address for which to receive mail.

**EMERGENCY:** If a message is required to notify a recruit of an emergency situation at any time during recruit training, please contact your local Red Cross to have an official message sent to MCRD, San Diego or Parris Island, S.C. In order to process the message quickly, please provide the recruits name, social security number, company and platoon.
DESCRIPTION OF
RECRUIT TRAINING

Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego and MCRD, Parris Island, S.C., are the birthplaces of basically trained Marines. It is here where America’s finest young men and woman are transformed into Marines. We believe that Marines are forged in a furnace or shared hardship and tough training. This intense experience creates bonds of camaraderie and standards or conduct so strong that Marines will let nothing stand in their way.

Marine Corps recruits are trained not only physically and mentally, but morally as well, which forms the bedrock of any Marines character. Honor, Courage, and Commitment, are the Corps Values that are incorporated into recruit training, which creates Marines who are morally conscious young Americans who are doing their duty to serve this country.

TAKING UP THE CHALLENGE

It has been said time and time again by former Marines that Marine Corps Recruit training was the most difficult thing they ever had to do. In order to train the world’s most elite fighting force, it has to be that way. Upon arrival at the Recruit Depot, a new recruit begins a virtually non-stop journey, the end of which results in the transformation of a civilian to a Marine.

RECRUIT RECEIVING

The first stop is Receiving, where new recruits spend the first days of their recruit training experience. Here they receive their first haircut and their initial gear issue, including uniforms, toiletries and letter writing supplies. During this time recruits are given full medical and dental screenings, and take the Initial Strength Test.
DESCRIPTION OF
RECRUIT TRAINING

FORMING

Forming begins when recruits are taken to their training companies and meet their drill instructors for the first time. During the 3-5 day forming span, recruits learn the basics of how to march, how to wear their uniform, and how to secure their weapon.

DRILL

Drill is the basic way in which platoons, march and move from place to place. At first, recruits will practice staying in step with the rest of the platoon and the drill instructor. However, as training continues, the platoon becomes a well-oiled machine in performing synchronous, complex drill movements.

PHYSICAL TRAINING

Physical Training comes in many forms aboard MCRD. Recruit training uses a progressive physical training program, which builds up recruits to Marine Corps standards.

ACADEMIC TRAINING

Recruits exercise their minds through academic training in subjects ranging from Marine Corps history, Marine customs and courtesies, to basic lifesaving procedures.

CORE VALUES

The Corps’ Core Values are Honor, Courage, Commitment. These values make up the bedrock of a Marine’s character. During recruit training, recruits are taught these Core Values and numerous others such as, integrity, discipline, teamwork, duty and esprit de Corps. Drill instructors, recruit training officers and Navy chaplains teach specific Core Value classes, but drill instructors also talk one-on-one with recruits after training events to see what values were learned and how they affect the recruits.

MARINE CORPS MARTIAL ARTS PROGRAM

Our 32nd Commandant, General James L. Jones envisioned a program to enable every marine to realize their full potential as a warrior. Drawing upon our rich legacy of leadership and heritage of innovation, the Marine Corps developed the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

CONFIDENCE COURSE

The Confidence Course is an 11 station obstacle course that helps recruits build confidence as well as upper-body strength.
DESCRIPTION OF RECRUIT TRAINING

COMBAT WATER SURVIVAL

Combat Water Survival develops confidence in the water. All recruits must pass the minimum requirement level of Combat Water Survival-4, which requires recruits to perform a variety of techniques. If a recruit meets the CWS-4 requirements, they may upgrade to a higher level.

FIELD TRAINING

Field Training introduces recruits to field living conditions. During field training, recruits will learn basic field skills from setting up a tent to field sanitation and camouflage. During this training recruits go through the gas chamber.

MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING

Marksmanship Training teaches recruits the fundamentals of marksmanship with the M-16A2 service rifle or the M-4. This training lasts two weeks, the first of which is called Grass Week. During this week, recruits are taught four shotting positions by a Primary Marksmanship Instructor. The PMI shows recruits how to fire, adjust their sights, take into account the effects of the weather, etc. During the second week of marksmanship training recruits fire a known-distance course with ranges of 200, 300 and 500 yards.

THE CRUCIBLE

The Crucible is a test every recruit must go through to become a Marine. It tests every recruit physically, mentally and morally and is a defining moment in recruit training. The Crucible takes place over 54-hours and includes food and sleep deprivation and approximately 40 miles of marching. The entire Crucible event pits teams of recruits against a barrage of day and night events requiring every recruit to work together solving problems. The obstacles they face range from long marches, combat assault courses, problem solving reaction course, and team-building Warrior Stations. The Crucible is a rite of passage that, through shared sacrifice, recruits will never forget.

TRANSITION PHASE

The last four weeks of training are filled with final requirements such as the Practical Examination, Physical Fitness Test, Battalion Commander’s Inspection and Company Drill. This is also the period in which the recruits begin to transition from the role of recruit to Marine. The culmination of this is the presentation of the Eagle, Globe and Anchor, signifying the new Marines successful completion of recruit training.

FOURTH PHASE

Fourth Phase of boot camp is the last two weeks following the Crucible. During this time the new Marines look to their drill instructors as mentors. They start to familiarize themselves with the brotherhood that all Marines have. They receive special guidance on how to adjust to the fleet and how to do things on their own.

FAMILY DAY & GRADUATION

Family Day and Graduation take place on the last two days. Family Day occurs Thursday and gives new Marines a chance to see family and friends for the first time during on-base liberty. Graduation is conducted Friday in a formal ceremony and parade, attended by family and friends.
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RECRUIT TRAINING MATRIX
MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

PHASE 1
PHASE 2
PHASE 3
PHASE 4

RECRUIT TRAINING MATRIX
MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

PHASE 1
PHASE 2
PHASE 3
PHASE 4

CREATED BY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION, MCRD SAN DIEGO, CA
### Recruit Training Matrix

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<th>WK</th>
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<td>Confidence Course I Obstacle Course I</td>
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<td>Gas Chamber Rappel Tower</td>
<td>Confidence Course I Pugil Sticks II</td>
<td>Obstacle Course Martial Arts Endurance Course Pugil Sticks II</td>
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<td>Initial Drill Martial Arts</td>
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<td>Close Order Drill</td>
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<td>Bayonet Assault Course Close Order Drill</td>
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<td>Final Drill Marksmanship Classes</td>
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<td>Rifle Qualification (Table One)</td>
<td>T36</td>
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<td>Final Testing</td>
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<td>Final Physical Fitness Test</td>
<td>Force Fitness #3 Marine Panels Platoon Leadership Discussions</td>
<td>Force Fitness #2 Platoon Leadership Discussions</td>
<td>Force Fitness #3 Equipment Due Issue Personal Effects Travel Makeup</td>
<td>Force Fitness #4 MCCS Resources Navy Marine Corps Relief Society / Red Cross Brief Baton Commanders Inspection</td>
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<td>Weapon De-Issue Orders Pick up Pay Bills</td>
<td>T78</td>
<td>Force Fitness #6 Pay Bills</td>
<td>Force Fitness #5 Pay Bills Graduation Practice Core Values Discussion SO/MT Brief</td>
<td>Force Fitness #4 Graduation Practice Core Values Discussion</td>
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MCRD PARRIS ISLAND RECRUIT
Graduation Week

MCRD PARRIS ISLAND

When coming to Parris Island for graduation please be aware that in order to enter the base you need a valid drivers license, proof of registration and insurance. All vehicles coming aboard the Depot are subject to search by military polices. For more information please call 1-800-826-7503 or (843) 228-3650.

GRADUATION INFORMATION

Recruit training comes to a long-awaited end during the graduation ceremony when new Marines receive their dismissal from Parris Island. Usually, graduation is held Friday mornings at 10 a.m. on the Depots Peatross Parade Deck and lasts about 45 minutes. In the event of inclement weather, graduation ceremonies will be held in two or three indoor locations, which will be announced on the morning of graduation at the Visitors Center.

FAMILY DAY

Recruits’ families and friends are invited to visit Parris Island on Family Day, normally held the day before graduation at 1 p.m on the parade deck, Family and friends will be able to see their new Marines during their liberty. Visitors can also see many displays and demonstrations during this time. Visitors are requested to stop by the Douglas Visitors Center upon arrival to check in. In order to all time to identify which recruits have family or visitors waiting to see them, please sign in before 12:30 p.m. on Family Day. Depot bus tours are also available on first-come, first-served basis for visitors on Family Day at p a.m., 10 a.m and 11 a.m. The Emblem Ceremony will be held at 1:00 p.m. Recruit liberty begins immediately after the ceremony and ends at 7 p.m.

MORNING COLORS CEREMONY

The Morning Colors Ceremony (flag-raising) with musical accompaniment by the Parris Island Marine Band is held Fridays at 7:45 a.m. in front of Barrow Hall.
Thursday and Friday all personal vehicles MUST enter through Gate 4 (Old Town exit off I-5) or Gate 5 (Washington street exit off I-5). Vehicle inspections and ID checks will take place at each gate. All packages, handbags and luggage are subject to search prior to being admitted to the Depot. For quicker entry, please keep those items at a minimum. Leave luggage and other bags at your hotel. Shuttles from hotels and motels MUST use Gate 5 only. Shuttles will be inspected each time they enter the depot, you should be prepared to show a photo ID when entering. Keep your ID with you at all times. Shuttles will drop guests off at the Depot Museum each day, and pick up guests in front of the Depot Theater.

Due to possible long lines at Gates 4 and 5, it is recommended that you arrive early to the Depot. While on base casual clothing and comfortable footwear are recommended. Do not forget cameras, film, sun visors, and sunscreen. Marines in training are not permitted to use to tobacco, alcohol products, demonstrate any of the physical training courses and are required to stay in uniform during liberty. There may be changes in the levels of security alert that may alter scheduled events. Gates 4 and 5 are open for visitors at 6:30 a.m. Do not walk across the Parade Deck please walk around it.

THURSDAY AT MCRD SAN DIEGO

9:00 a.m. - information briefing at the Museum Courtyard.
9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m - Motivational Run. A major event in your Recruit’s final training days is the “Motivational Run”, the finale run for the company of Marines. You can observe the company’s run at the visitors area near the museum’s courtyard.
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - walk to nearby Depot Theater.
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m - Welcome Orientation in Depot Theater. Includes short movie, LINKS briefing, D.I. Introductions.
11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - short walk to reviewing stand.
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Emblem Ceremony
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Liberty Starts. You may walk around the Depot or take a shuttle. Certain recruit training areas are restricted to visitors. Recruits may not leave the Depot.

Graduating Marines must be in their barracks by 5:00 p.m. Hotel shuttle pick-up point for Thursday evening is the Depot Theatre (Guests must leave the Depot no later than 5:30 p.m.).

MORNING COLORS

Morning Colors is at Building 31 at 8:00 a.m with musical accompaniment by the San Diego Marine Corps Band

FRIDAY MORNING

Graduation Ceremony - 10:00 a.m. Reviewing stands are located on Shepard Field (Parade Deck) Please be in your seats between 9:30-9:45 a.m. After graduation, you may stay and visit the Depot. Hotel shuttle pick-up location is the Depot Theatre. For additional information, please contact MCCS Marketing (619) 725-6400.
HOW TO GET TO PARRIS ISLAND

DRIVING FROM THE NORTH

Take I-95 until you reach South Carolina Exit 33. This will take you to Route 21 South. Take 21 South toward Beaufort and continue to Route 280 (You will pass the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort along the way.) Take a right turn onto 280 shortly after passing the Marine Corps Air Station and continue traveling for approximately 6 miles. Route 280 eventually turns into Route 802. You will see a sign for Parris Island. The off-ramp to Parris Island is on the right side of the road and it will take you to the front gate.

DRIVING FROM THE SOUTH
(SAVANAH, GA)

From I-95, merge onto US-278 E via exit number 8 toward SUN CITY/ BLUFFTON/ BEAUFORT/ HILTON HEAD IS. (approx. 5 miles) Turn left onto SC-141 (almost 4 miles). Turn left onto SC-170 N/ OKATIE HWY. (not even a mile away) Turn right onto SC-170/ OKATIE HWY. Continue to follow SC-170 N. (about 10 miles) Turn Right onto SAVANNAH HWY/ SC-802. Continue following SC-802, bearing to the right, (about 4 miles) You will see the off-ramp for Parris Island on your right-hand side and it will take you to the front gate.

AIRPORTS

The nearest major airport to Parris Island is the Savannah International Airport. The next closest airport is the Charleston International Airport. Transportation from these airports is not provided; both airports have rental car agencies.

MORNING COLORS CEREMONY

The Morning Colors Ceremony (flag-raising) with musical accompaniment by the Parris Island Marine Band is held Fridays at 7:45 a.m. in front of Barrow Hall.
HOW TO GET TO SAN DIEGO

DRIVING TO THE Depot

From North East of San Diego, you will want to get to I-15 and make your way south toward Los Angeles. Stay on I-15 until you get into San Diego. Merge from the I-15 to the I-8 west and follow to I-5 South. From the Pacific Northwest, make your way to the I-5. Follow all the way into San Diego. From east of San Diego, follow I-8, I-10 or I-40 west into California. I-8 takes you to the I-5 south merge, I-10 and I-40 will take you to I-15. The exists in San Diego are Washington and Old Town.

AIRPORTS

The nearest major airport is the San Diego International Airport. Depending on your approach, you can look our your window and see MCRD, San Diego.
Recruiting SUB-Station

Contact Numbers

RSS Casper
601 SE Wyoming Blvd, Suite 1338
Casper, WY, 82609
307-237-4332

RSS Cheyenne
1400 Dell Range Blvd, Suite 33
Cheyenne, WY, 82009
307-772-2022

RSS Fort Collins
132 W Troutman Pkwy, Suite E
Loveland, CO 80521
970-330-4411

RSS Grand Junction
2502 Highway 6 & 50, Suite 600C
Grand Junction, CO 81505
970-243-5071

RSS Metro East
14177 E Exposition Ave
Aurora, CO 80012
303-456-5043

RSS Metro West
7355 W 88th Ave, Suite G
Westminster, CO 80031
303-456-5043

RSS Metro North
550 E Thornton Parkway
Thornton, CO 80229
303-444-0280

RSS Metro North
8996 W Bowles Ave, Suite 5
Littleton, CO 80123
303-972-2259

RSS Parker
11280 Twenty Mile Road, Suite 109
Parker, CO 80134
303-996-6808

RSS Pueblo
4104 Outlook Blvd, Suite 126B
Pueblo, CO 81008
719-545-4581

RSS Rapid City
2200 N Maple Ave, Suite 120B
Rapid City, SD 57701

RSS Colorado Springs North
5721 N Academy Blvd
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
719-592-9597

RSS Colorado Springs South
750 Citadel Drive East, Suite 3072
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
719-638-1729
MARINE CORPS LINGO

SEMPER FI- SHORT FOR SEMPER FIDE LIS, LATIN FOR “ALWAYS FAITHFUL”
OORAH!- MOTIVATIONAL STATEMENT IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OR AGREEMENT
MCRD- MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT, ALSO CALLED “THE DEPOT”
P/ PARRIS ISLAND (MCRD PI)
SD- SAN DIEGO (MCRD SD)
RTB- RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION
PLT- PLATOON
DI- DRILL INSTRUCTOR
SDI- SENIOR DRILL INSTRUCTOR
CO- COMMANDING OFFICER
CG- COMMANDING GENERAL
CMC- COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
MRP- MEDICAL REHABILITATION PLATOON
PCP- PHYSICAL CONDITIONING PLATOON
PARADE DECK- GRADUATION: CEREMONIES TAKE PLACE ON THE PARADE DECK. DO NOT WALK ACROSS THE PARADE DECK.
MOTO RUN- GRADUATION: THE LAST BATTALION RUN TAKE TOGETHER ON THURSDAY MORNING PRIOR TO FAMILY DAY.
VIEWING STANDS- GRADUATION: THE BLEACHERS FOR FAMILIES TO SIT ON DURING CEREMONIES
IST INITAIL STRENGTH TEST
PFT- PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST
PT- PHYSICAL TRAINING
IT- BOOTCAMP TERM, EXTRA ATTENTION AND EXTRA PT
QUARTER DECK- THIS IS WHERE YOU GET IT’D
INK STICK- PEN
LEAD STICK- PENCIL
KNOWLEDGE- SCHOOL BOOK/NOTEBOOK
GUIDON- PLATOON FLAG
GUIDE- IN CHARGE OF THE ENTIRE PLATOON, CARRIES THE GUIDON
SQUAD LEADER- IN CHARGE OF THE SQUAD
SCRIBE- THE RECRUIT WHO KEEPS NOTES AND RECORDS FOR THE DI
HOUSE MOUSE- MAKES SURE THE CLEANING SUPPLIES ARE PUT UP AND THE “DUTY HUT” IS CLEAN.
AS YOU WERE- RESUME WHAT YOU WERE DOING: CORRECTION
AYE, AYE- A TERM USED BY A SUBORDINATE TO A SENIOR IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF AN ORDER
CARRY ON- AN ORDER TO RESUME PREVIOUS ACTIVITY AFTER INTERRUPTION
WEAPON- M-16A4 OR M-4
CANTEEN- WATER BOTTLE
MOON BEAN- FLASHLIGHT
COVER- UNIFORM HEADGEAR
BLOUSE- ANY SHIRT THAT IS PART OF THE MARINE CORPS UNIFORM
TROUSERS-PANTS
GO FASTER- RUNNING SHOES
CHOW- MEAL TIME