

OFFICER CANDIDATE TATTOO STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

1. Purpose. The purpose of this Statement of Understanding (SOU) is to ensure you understand the Marine Corps policy concerning Tattoos, Branding and Ornamentation, contained in MCBul 1020 and USMC Uniform Board Regulation MCO P1020.34G.

2. Policy. Marine Corps policies strictly PROHIBIT any tattoos, brandings, mutilations, or ornamentations on the head or neck. Also, sleeve tattoos, half-sleeve/quarter sleeve tattoos, which cover or almost cover a person's arm or leg are also prohibited. Any tattoos, brandings, mutilations, or ornamentation on other parts of the body, that are prejudicial to good order and discipline, gang or extremist group related, or bring discredit to the Marine Corps are also PROHIBITED. Descriptions:

a. Prejudicial to Good Order and Discipline. Tattoos, brands or ornamentation that are sexist (express nudity), or racist, excessive (sleeve tattoos), racist, eccentric, offensive in nature, or express an association with conduct or substances prohibited by the Marine Corps drug policy.

b. Gang or Extremist Group. Any tattoos, brands or ornamentation that feature vulgar or anti-American content, discredits the Marine Corps, or associates with an extremist group, gang membership or gang activity.

c. Size. Any tattoos exposed when wearing the standard PT gear (T-Shirt & shorts), which is larger than the wearer's hand, with fingers extended and joined and thumb along the index finger, or exceeds one-quarter (1/4) of the respective body part(s), requires administrative review (with digital photos) to the regional commanding general prior to enlistment.

d. Location. Head and neck are defined as: any portion above the collarbone as viewed from the front, including the "V" of the short sleeved khaki shirt and above the seventh cervical vertebrae area in the back.

e. Ornamentation. Defined as body mutilations such as tongue splitting, body piercing(s), holes in ear lobes (large enough for light to pass through), or implantations, such as silicone implants on the face, horns on the forehead, etc.

3. Certification. I certify that I completely understand the Marine Corps policy on tattoos, brands, and ornamentations. I understand that I will be screened for tattoos, brands and body ornamentations, and must complete the Marine Corps Tattoo Screening Form. I further understand I will be screened prior to my request for appointment for any tattoos, brands, and body ornamentations received while in the officer commissioning process. Prohibited tattoos, brands or ornamentation received while in the pool program are disqualifying.

_____	_____	_____
(Applicant's Printed Name)	(Applicant's Signature)	(Date)
_____	_____	_____
(Name of Certifying Officer)	(Signature of Certifying Officer)	(Date)