



Marine Corps Quick Facts¹

Motto

Semper Fidelis “Always Faithful”

Background

The Marine Corps is the smallest of the armed forces in the Department of Defense. It is a component of the Department of the Navy, but it acts operationally as a separate branch of the military.

The Marine Corps was originally organized as the Continental Marines in 1775 and served as naval infantry. The Continental Marines was disbanded by the end of the Revolutionary War and then reestablished as the United States Marine Corps by Congress in 1798.

Mission

The main mission of the Marine Corps is the seizure or defense of advanced naval bases and other land operations to support naval campaigns. The soldiers of the sea develop tactics, techniques, and equipment used by amphibious landing forces. They forward deploy to respond swiftly in times of crisis.

Marine Corps missions may include:

- “Small” warfare (e.g., city fighting, skirmishes)
 - Often high intensity and short duration
- Base, embassy, or target security
- Troop-to-ship warfare
 - Landing on a target ship and overtaking it, as opposed to ship-to-ship warfare
- Combat-support flight missions

Organization

Similar to the Navy, the Marine Corps is comprised of an Active and Reserve component but does not have a National Guard.

Under the Department of Navy and the Commandment of the Marine Corps at Marine Corps. Headquarters, the Marine Corps includes:

- Operating forces
 - Consist of Marine Corps forces, Marine Corps security forces at naval installations, and Marine security guard detachments at embassies and consulates around the globe
- Supporting establishment
 - Personnel, equipment, and facilities located across 16 major bases and stations in the United States and Japan that support the operating forces.

Values

Throughout the austere battlefields of the 21st Century, every Marine in the Corps must be confident they can rely on each other to think, act and lead. In the chaos of battle, character matters. The core values define how every Marine in the Corps thinks, acts, and fights:

- Honor
 - Honor is found in Marines' beliefs and is exhibited through their actions. Marines are expected to act responsibly, ethically, and morally. Honor is a duty.
- Courage
 - Courage takes the form of mental, physical, and ethical strength. Courage is about being stronger than fear and this strength guides all Marines' other values.
- Commitment
 - Commitment is the spirit of determination found in every Marine. It is what compels Marines to serve the nation and the Corps, and to continue on when others quit. It measures and proves one's desire, dedication, and faithfulness.

References

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¹ For more information, please visit <http://www.marines.mil/>