

"If a service does not possess a well-defined strategic concept, the public and political leaders will be confused as to the role of the service, uncertain as to the necessity of its existence, and apathetic or hostile to the claims made by the service upon the resources of society."

Samuel P. Huntington



A Strategic Concept for a Corps of Marines

"A versatile, expeditionary force in readiness"

"A balanced force for a Naval campaign and a ground and air striking force"

"Always at a high state of readiness"

"Ready to suppress or contain international disturbances short of war"

"To be most ready when the nation is least ready"

Source: The second session of the 82nd Congress, 1952



WARFIGHTING

The Marine Corps' most important responsibility is to win our nation's battles. We exist because the American people and the Congress expect their Marines to provide a lean, ready, and professional fighting force — a force that guarantees success when committed. Today, we provide such a force. Regardless of how good we are today, the Marine Corps is committed to be better tomorrow. Innovation, ingenuity, and a willingness to continually adapt to changes across the spectrum of conflict will take Marine Corps organizations and operational thinking into the 21st Century. Whatever the future brings, however, one thing will remain constant: we will be ready whenever the nation says "Send in the Marines!"

PEOPLE

Our second most important responsibility to the American people is to make Marines. Our ability to win our nation's battles rests, as it always has, on the individual Marine. Regardless of the relentless pace of technology, people, not machines, decide the course of battles. Our basic tenet of "every Marine a rifleman" reflects this firm belief. Because people are our most precious asset, how we recruit them, train them, instill in them our core values, and equip them, will forever be our institutional focus. We take America's young men and women and imbue in them our ethos, our core values, and the skills necessary to win on the chaotic battlefield of the 21st Century -- we transform them into Marines. This transformation process lasts forever. It begins with the recruiter and continues throughout a Marine's time in our Corps, be it four or thirty-four years. And when they leave the Corps, our Marines return to America, better for having been a U.S. Marine.

CORE VALUES

The Marine Corps is a force rich in history and traditions, and ingrained with the highest values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. These three core values are at the very soul of our institution. They frame the way that Marines live and act. As a result, Marines are men and women of character, widely recognized for their moral excellence, selfless courage, committed principles, and sound judgments. Strict adherence to these three simple, yet meaningful core values provides Marines with a common "moral compass" that helps them make right decisions even in the shifting winds of adversity. For U.S. Marines, there are no "shades of gray" when it comes to Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

NAVAL CHARACTER

The Navy and Marine Corps are inextricably linked. Together, the Sea Services provide a tremendously versatile and unique warfighting capability to the nation. Naval Forces have the ability to go anywhere rapidly, remain on station for indefinite periods of time, project force across any shore and against any foe, while-sustaining ourselves from both sea and land bases. To ensure that this capability is retained, the tactics, techniques, and procedures that have worked so well in the past will be updated and refined to meet the challenges of tomorrow. The bond between the Navy and Marine Corps has never been stronger, and together we will seek innovative ways to increase the value of naval expeditionary forces to the National Military Strategy.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

During times of fiscal constraint, Marines have always turned to training and education to help retain the agility of mind and body that sets them apart as a military force. We are expanding the use of simulation, virtual reality, and warfighting games to make our training more effective and, ultimately, less expensive. We are committed to making sure each training dollar brings a solid return on investment. In the same vein, education has always been central to all Marines — not just a select few. A separate Marine Corps University manages a mix of resident and correspondence courses designed to challenge and stimulate the minds of Marines of all ranks. Education and training provides the foundation for a Marine Corps that can adapt to a changing, chaotic world.

The Five Pillars of Our Corps

War Fighting

People

Core Values

Naval Character

Education and Training

Commandant's Planning Guidance



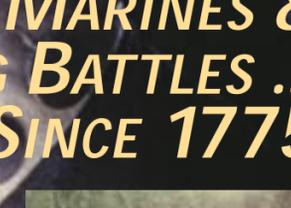
Belleau Wood 1918



Guadalcanal 1942



Inchon 1950



Chu Lai 1965



Desert Storm 1991

MAKING MARINES & WINNING BATTLES ... SINCE 1775