

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
FIELD MEDICAL TRAINING BATTALION
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542-0042

FMST 509

USMC History

TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Without the aid of references, describe common terms, sayings, and quotations used in the Marine Corps without omitting key components. (HSS-MCCS-1023)
2. Without the aid of references, identify significant events in Marine Corps history without omitting key components. (HSS-MCCS-1024)

ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Without the aid of reference and in writing, **identify common Marine Corps terminology**, within 80% accuracy, in accordance with the MCTP 6-10b. (HSS-MCCS-1023c)
2. Without the aid of reference and in writing, **identify historical significance of different places in Marine Corps history**, within 80% accuracy, in accordance with the MCTP 6-10b. (HSS-MCCS-1024a)
3. Without the aid of reference and in writing, **identify historically significant individuals in Marine Corps history**, within 80% accuracy, in accordance with the MCTP 6-10b. (HSS-MCCS-1024b)
4. Without the aid of reference and in writing, **identify historically significant Battles in Marine Corps history**, within 80% accuracy, in accordance with the MCTP 6-10b. (HSS-MCCS-1024c)
5. Without the aid of reference and in writing, **identify the historical significance of Pathbreakers in Marine Corps history**, within 80% accuracy, in accordance with the MCTP 6-10b. (HSS-MCCS-1024d)

1. The early years of the Marine Corps

a. Tun Tavern. The Marine Corps was created on 10 November 1775 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at Tun Tavern by a resolution of the Continental Congress, which "raised two battalions of Marines." Captain Samuel Nicholas became the commander of these two battalions and is traditionally considered the first Commandant of the Marine Corps.

b. Derna, Tripoli. In 1805 Marines stormed the Barbary pirates' stronghold at Derna on the "Shores of Tripoli." Marines raised the "Stars and Stripes" for the first time in the Eastern Hemisphere.

c. Presley Neville O'Bannon. First Lieutenant O'Bannon is remembered for heroism in the battle for the harbor fortress of Derna (Tripoli) in the Mediterranean. O'Bannon's Marines were the first U.S. forces to hoist the flag over territory in the Old World. The "Mameluke" sword, carried by Marine officers today, was presented to O'Bannon in 1805.

d. Leatherneck. The nickname, "Leatherneck" dates back to the leather stock, or neckpiece worn as part of the Marine uniform during the years 1775 to 1875. Back then, the leather bands around their throats ensured that Marines kept their heads erect. Descended from the stock, the standing collar is hallmark of the Marine blues, whites, and evening dress. Like its leather ancestor, the standing collar regulates stance and posture, proclaiming the wearer as a modern "leatherneck".

e. Archibald Henderson. Brevet Brigadier General Archibald Henderson became Commandant in 1820 and held his command for 39 years until his death in 1859. General Henderson led the Corps through the Indian Wars, the War with Mexico, the opening of China, and the disorders in Central America. The "Grand Old Man of the Marine Corps," as he is often called, introduced higher standards of personal appearance, training, discipline, and strived to have the Marine Corps known as a professional military force, capable of more than just sea and guard duties.

f. Battle of Chapultepec. In 1847 during the Mexican War, Marines occupied the "Halls of Montezuma" during the Battle of Chapultepec in Mexico City. The royal palace fell to invading Marines, who were among the first United States troops to enter the capital. Today Marine NCOs wear a red stripe on their dress

blue trousers known as the "blood stripe" in honor of the fighting that took place during the battle.

g. BOXER REBELLION

- ▶ Marines reach Chinese capital to defend Legation Quarter from Boxer Rebellion
- ▶ HA Robert Stanley- First Corpsman to earn the Medal of Honor
- ▶ Pvt. Dan Daly receives first of two Medals of Honor

2. EARLY 1900s

a. Semper Fidelis. The Marine Corps Motto. Semper Fidelis is latin for Always Faithful.

b. First Lieutenant Alfred Austell Cunningham, First Aviator.

- ▶ Participated in a variety of missions over German lines during WWI

c. Haiti "Caco rebellion"

- ▶ "Caco's" killed Haitian president and ate his heart
- ▶ Major Smedley Butler leads USMC intervention and captures multiple mountain-forts held by Cacos
- ▶ GySgt Dan Daly receives second Medal of Honor

d. Daniel Daly. Sergeant Major Daly is recognized for earning two Medals of Honor: (1) Chinese Boxer Rebellion and (2) First Caco War in Haiti. When his unit had been pinned down and their attack was stalled during the Battle of Belleau Wood, then Gunnery Sergeant Daly yelled to his men, "Come on, you sons of a b-----, do you want to live forever?"

e. Smedley D. Butler. Major Butler is recognized for earning two Medals of Honor: (1) Veracruz and (2) First Caco War in Haiti. By the end of 1916, the Marine Corps was recognized as a national force in readiness and for leadership gained from continual combat and expeditionary experience.

3. Espirit de Corps. The "spirit" of a unit is commonly reflected by all of its members. It implies devotion and loyalty to the Marine Corps, with deep regard for its history, traditions, and honor. It is the epitome of pride in the unit!

4. USMC WWI

a. Belleau Wood. Marines fought one of their greatest battles in history at Belleau Wood, France during World War I. Marines helped to crush a German offensive at Belleau Wood that threatened Paris. In honor of the Marines who fought there, the French renamed them, "the Wood of the Brigade of Marines." German intelligence evaluated the Marines as "storm troops"—the highest rating on the enemy fighting scale. In reference to the Marines' ferocious fighting ability, German troops called their new enemy "Teufelhunden" or "Devil dogs," a nickname in which Marines share pride.

b. Devil Dogs. The term was coined during the Battle of Belleau Wood in 1918 in which the Germans received a thorough indoctrination in the Marines' fighting ability. Fighting through "impenetrable" woods and capturing "untakeable" terrain, their persistent attacks delivered with unbelievable courage soon had the Germans calling the Marines "Teufelhunden", which are fierce fighting dogs of legendary origin. The term is belovedly translated "devil dogs".

c. Women Marines. In 1918, the Secretary of Navy allowed women to enroll for clerical duty in the Marine Corps. Officially, Opha Mae Johnson is credited as the first woman Marine. Johnson enrolled for service on August 13, 1918; during that year some 300 women first entered the Marine Corps to take over stateside clerical duties from battle-ready Marines who were needed overseas. The Marine Corps Women's Reserve was established in February 1943. June 12th, 1948, Congress passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act and made women a permanent part of the regular Marine Corps.

d. Opha Mae Johnson. Private Johnson became the Marine Corps' first enlisted woman on 13 August 1918. Her enlistment was a reflection of the dramatic changes in the status of women brought about by the entry of the United States into World War I. Marine Reserve (F) was the official title by which the Marine Corps' first enlisted women were known. They were better known as "skirt Marines" and "Marinettes."

e. John A. Lejeune. Major General Lejeune served as 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, 1920-1929. LeJeune was the first Marine officer ever to command an army division in combat in France during World War I (1918). 2D Marine Division is now stationed aboard Camp LeJeune, N.C.

5. WWII

a. The BATTLE OF WAKE ISLAND. In 1941, following the air attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese struck Wake Island on 8 December. Despite being heavily outnumbered, the Marines mounted a courageous defense before finally falling on 23 December. This small force of Marines caused an extraordinary number of Japanese casualties and damage to the invading force.

b. The Battle of Guadalcanal -On 7 August 1942, the 1st Marine Division landed on the beaches of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands and launched the first United States land offensive of World War II. This battle marked the first combat test of the new amphibious doctrine, and also provided a crucial turning point of the war in the Pacific by providing a base to launch further invasions of Japanese-held islands. Amphibious landings followed on the remaining Solomon Islands including New Georgia, Choiseul (feint), and Bougainville.

c. John Basilone

- Received Medal of Honor during Guadalcanal campaign
- October 1942, his unit came under attack by 3,000 soldiers. Japanese forces began a frontal attack and fought for the next two days until only Basilone and two other Marines were left standing. When the ammunition ran out shortly before dawn on the second day, Basilone, using his pistol and a machete, held off the Japanese soldiers attacking his position.
- Posthumous Navy Cross during Battle of Iwo Jima

d. Montford Point Marines From 1942 to 1949, after President Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8802 establishing the fair employment practice that began to erase discrimination in the Armed Forces. This Order created the opportunity for African Americans to be recruited into the Marines. During the first 7 years these Marines were segregated from normal recruit training sites. They were sent to Montford Point (renamed to Camp Johnson) which is aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C. Approximately 20,000 Marines were trained during those years.

e. Navajo Code Talkers. Young Navajo men who transmitted secret communications on the battlefields of WWII. At a time when America's best cryptographers were falling short, these modest shepherders and farmers were able to fashion the most ingenious and successful code in military history. They drew upon their proud warrior tradition to brave the dense jungles of Guadalcanal and the exposed beachheads of Iwo Jima. Serving with

distinction in every major engagement of the Pacific theater from 1942-1945, their unbreakable code played a pivotal role in saving countless lives and hastening the war's end.

f. The Battle of Tarawa - The Gilbert Islands were the first in the line of advance for the offensive in the Central Pacific. The prime objective was the Tarawa Atoll and Betio Island which had been fortified to the point that the Japanese commander proclaimed that it would take a million Americans 100 years to conquer it. On 20 November 1943, Marines landed and secured the island within 76 hours, but paid a heavy price in doing so. Because of an extended reef, landing craft could not cross it and Marines were offloaded hundreds of yards from the beaches. This led to heavy losses from enemy fire. Additionally, many Marines drowned while attempting to wade ashore.

g. The Battle of the Mariana Islands - Due to the need for airfields by the Air Force and advanced bases for the Navy, the Marianas were invaded. Landings on the islands of Saipan, Guam, and Tinian accomplished this. During June and July of 1943, Lieutenant General Holland M. Smith led a combined invasion force of Marines and soldiers that totaled over 136,000. This was the greatest number of troops up to that time to operate in the field under Marine command.

h. The Battle of Iwo Jima - On 19 February 1945, Marines landed on Iwo Jima in what was the largest all-Marine battle in history. It was also the bloodiest in Marine Corps history. American casualties numbered over 23,000 casualties. The capture of Iwo Jima greatly increased the air support and bombing operations against the Japanese home islands. Of the savage battle, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz said, "Among the Americans who served on Iwo Island, uncommon valor was a common virtue."

i. John Bradley. -

- Iconic photograph taken by Joe Rosenthal on February 23, 1945.
- Pharmacist's Mate 2nd Class John Bradley raised the original, smaller flag on Mount Suribachi prior to the picture and was misidentified until 2016.

j. Ira H. Hayes. The Fifth Amphibious Corps of Marines, commanded by Major General Harry Schmidt, was assigned to take Iwo Jima. Corporal Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian, was one of the Marines immortalized in the now famous photograph taken of the

second flag raising incident on Mount Suribachi shortly after the Japanese stronghold was taken on 23 February 1945.

k. Uncommon valor was a common virtue. Refers to the victories in World War II, especially at Iwo Jima, the largest all-Marine battle in history. Admiral Nimitz applied the Marine fighting on Iwo Jima to the entire Marine Corps' contribution during that war stating, "uncommon valor was a common virtue."

l. The BATTLE OF OKINAWA - In April of 1945, Marines and Soldiers landed and secured the island of Okinawa. This marked the last large action of World War II. Due to the death of the Army commander, Major General Roy S. Geiger assumed command of the 10th Army and became the only Marine officer ever to have commanded a field Army.

6. KOREA

a. The Chosin Reservoir. After pushing far into North Korea during November of 1950, Marines were cut off after the Chinese Communist Forces entered the war. Despite facing a 10-division force sent to annihilate them, Marines smashed seven enemy divisions in their march from the Chosin Reservoir. The major significance of this retrograde movement was that Marines brought out all operable equipment, properly evacuated their wounded and dead, and maintained tactical integrity.

b. Lewis B. ("CHESTY") Puller. Lieutenant General Puller served in Nicaragua through several periods of political unrest and rebellious activity. Puller and a force of about 32 Marines became famous for their ability to engage rebel groups and bandits while scouring the jungles in a wide area of Nicaragua to the Honduran border. Puller became known as the "Tiger of the Mountains" (1930). The Marine Corps' mascot, an English bulldog named "Chesty," is named for this brave and fine Marine Corps officer. Puller is also the highest decorated Marine in history with 5 Navy Crosses.

7. VIETNAM

a. PFC James Anderson Jr.

- ▶ First Black Marine to be awarded Medal of Honor
- ▶ Saved his platoon by jumping on a grenade thrown during an enemy ambush

b. HUE

- Initiated during the Tet Offensive 1968
- Began to negatively impact public opinion of the Vietnam War

c. KHE Sanh

- Initiated during the Tet Offensive
- 5 months and 18 days, Khe Sanh Combat Base and the hilltop outposts around it were under constant North Vietnamese ground, artillery, mortar, and rocket attacks.

d. HM2 David R. Ray

- Most recent Corpsman (non SEAL) Medal of Honor recipient
- Mortally wounded while treating Marines, he held off the enemy until he ran out of ammunition. While treating his last patient HM2 Ray jumped on a wounded Marine as a nearby grenade exploded, saving the Marine's life.
- Deployed to Quang Nam Province, Vietnam with 2/11 out of Camp Pendleton.

8. Desert Storm/Desert Shield

a. 1990 - Following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi forces, Operation Desert Shield was launched. This joint military operation was designed to halt the advance of Iraqi forces and to position multinational forces assembled for possible offensive operations to expel the invading force. This operation validated the Marine Corps Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) concept and enacted the plan of tailoring units to accomplish a mission as part of a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF).

b. 1991 - Operation Desert Storm was launched after the Iraqi government refused to comply with United Nations resolutions. Marine aviation was heavily used when the air phase commenced in January of 1991. When massive bombing failed to dislodge Iraqi forces, Marine ground forces swept into Kuwait and liberated the country, causing severe damage to the Iraqi military capability.

9. Significant Battles of Operation Enduring Freedom. After Osama bin Laden had taken credit for the terrorist attacks against the United States on 9/11, America wanted to destroy his terrorist group. Since the group and Bin Laden was based in

Afghanistan, America started an aerial and ground campaign to overthrow the Taliban controlled government and find Osama Bin Laden.

a. Nawa In July 2009, 1st Bn, 5th Marines occupied the district as part of Operation Strike of the Sword. The Helmand Province was considered to be one of the key centers of the Taliban movement. Over the next 2 years Marines partnered with Afghan Security Forces were able to hold elections in which no Taliban attacks occurred. Since then the Nawa District was one of the first districts to be turned completely over to Afghan Security Forces.

b. Marjah - In February 2010, Marines from 6th Marine Regiment and other Coalition Forces moved to occupy the District of Marja. This was believed to be the last Taliban stronghold in the Helmand Province. The district was built by American contractors in the 1950s and Brig. Gen. Nicholson, commander of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, said "The United States built Marja, We're going to come back and fix it."

c. Sangin - A town in the northern area of Helmand Province, was taken over by elements of 1st and 3rd Bn, 7th Marines. After months of fighting and turning over the AO to 3rd Bn, 5th Marines, the town was cleared of Taliban fighters. Due to heavy numbers of casualties Echo Co. 2nd Bn, 9th Marines and Echo Co. 2nd Bn, 8th Marines came to aid 3/5's operations.

d. Dakota Meyer. Sgt Meyer is the first living recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War. While serving with Marine Embedded Training Team 2-8 in the Kunar Province, Afghanistan, Sgt Meyer was on patrol to engage in a local Shurah. While providing security, the main body came under intense direct and indirect fire from the houses and fortified positions. Upon hearing that four U.S. team members were cut off, Sgt Meyer moved into the kill zone to try and locate them. While looking for the Marines, Sgt Meyer and his gun truck evacuated over two dozen Afghan Soldiers while receiving shrapnel wounds to the arm. After making five different trips into the kill zone during the six hour battle, Sgt Meyer and other Marines located the missing Marines and were able to remove them from the battle field.

e. KYLE CARPENTER

- Youngest living Medal of Honor recipient (born October 1989)

- Was awarded the Medal of Honor for actions near Marjah, Helmand Province, Afghanistan with 2/9 Fox Company
- Shielded a fellow Marine, Lance Cpl. Nick Eufrazio from a grenade blast on a rooftop security. Both Marines survived the blast but suffered major injuries. Carpenter lost his right eye and most of his teeth. His jaw and right arm were shattered and he has undergone dozens of surgeries

f. First to Fight. Marines have been in the forefront of every American war since the founding of the Marine Corps. They entered the Revolution in 1775, just before the Declaration of Independence was signed. They have carried out more than 300 landings on foreign shores. They have served everywhere, from the poles to the tropics. Their record of readiness reflects pride, responsibility, and challenge.

10. OIF

a. Battle of Nasiriyah - The city of Nasiriyah held control for Coalition Forces to be able to cross the Euphrates River in order to advance throughout the country of Iraq. From March 23rd to the 29th in 2003 RCT-1 with elements from the United Kingdom assaulted and seized control of the two bridges crossing the river. Once control of the bridges were gained Coalition Forces started a neighborhood sweep began to clear Ba'athist fighters from the area.

b. 1st Battle for Fallujah - Occurred after a convoy protected by private security forces was hit in the Spring of 2004 and the contractors were killed, burnt and hung from the bridges in Fallujah. The initial assault was quick and fierce, successfully gaining a foothold in the city. During the fighting misinformation was publicized by the press about Marines purposefully killing civilians. Due to international pressure officials pulled Marines out of the city. All allegations of civilians being targeted were proven false.

c. 2nd Battle for Fallujah - During the months following the 1st Battle for Fallujah the insurgency took a firm hold of the city and began to prepare for a head to head fight with Coalition Forces. Operation Phantom Fury started on November 8th, 2004. The fighting was the hardest since the Vietnam War. Intense house to house fighting went on for over a month and a half. December 23rd, 2004 the last of the fighters were killed in the city. Comparisons to the battle of Hue City and the

Pacific Island Hopping Campaign have been drawn to the fighting in Fallujah.

d. Jason Dunham. Is the first Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor (posthumously) since the Vietnam War. Cpl Dunham fought with 3rd Bn 7th Marines, while operating in the town of Karabilah, Iraq. While responding to his Battalion Commanders convoy that had been ambushed, Cpl Dunham's squad approached an SUV and found rifles and RPGs. When the driver attempted to run away Cpl Dunham began to fight him to the ground. At this point the insurgent drop an armed grenade at his feet. Cpl Dunham called out the grenade and attempted to cover it with his helmet and body. Cpl Dunham died eight days later in Bethesda, Maryland. No other members of his squad were seriously injured that day.

e. Battle of Ramadi - After the fall of Fallujah in 2004, the insurgency in Iraq moved to the city of Ar Ramadi. In 2006 Marines moved to push out all insurgency in the city. Fighting however was intense and frequent. Three months after the assault on Ramadi had begun, insurgents killed a man called Abu Ali Jassim, a Sunni sheik that promoted Iraqis joining the police force. After the murder the insurgents hid the body in a field instead of returning it for a proper burial, violating Islamic law. Following this 20 tribes from the Al Anbar province organized a movement called Anbar Awakening. The tribes soon turned against the insurgents and pushed them out of the suburbs of the city, giving them no place to hide and fight from effectively giving control to Coalition and local security forces.

f. General Jim Mattis

- ▶ Earned notoriety during the 2003 invasion of Iraq to include the First and Second Battles of Fallujah.
- ▶ Led US Central Command overseeing the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan 2010-2012
- ▶ Extremely popular due to unorthodox quotes and support of junior troops.
- ▶ Served as Secretary of Defense 2017-2019
- ▶ Is frequently celebrated as an intellectual.

11. OIR

- ▶ Operational name for actions against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIL)
- ▶ Operations continue today.

12. **2017 OIR**

- ▶ 11 MEU & 24 MEU fired 35,000 artillery rounds on ISIL targets within 5 months, more than the entire DOD during the invasion of Iraq (34k).
- ▶ Coalition actions have resulted in ISIL losing 95% of their "held" territory

REFERENCE(S):

Marine Corps Values: A User's Guide for Discussion Leaders

SEMPER FIDELIS, The History of the United States Marine Corps