

Ductus Exemplo



Leadership by Example

Completion
Ceremony for
Platoon Leaders Class Juniors
India Company



Officer Candidates School
Training Command
Quantico, Virginia
11 August, 2023

Sequence of Events

March On

Invocation*

Staff Awards

Candidate Awards

Remarks by Colonel David C. Hyman

Dismissal

*** Please stand**

Women Marine officer training, conducted at Quantico, is the sum of the pre-commissioning officer candidate course and the post-commissioning basic course. From 1949 to 1973 the women trained separately from the men, under the auspices of a women's unit, called at various times: Woman Officer Training Detachment (1949-1955), Women Marines Training Detachment (1955-1958), Women Marines Detachment (1958-1965), and Woman Officer School (1965- 1974). On 20 December 1974, the Woman Officer School was disestablished; the training of candidates became the responsibility of the formerly all-male Officer Candidates School.

Officers Candidate School

In 1955, officer candidates went through a ten-week training to become Marine officers. Four to five officer candidate classes were run through the school annually save for the summer months when collegians enrolled in the Platoon Leaders Class and Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps programs descended for six weeks. In the early 1960s, candidates were taught basic military subjects, providing a foundation on which to build a more detailed military education. Leadership traits, characteristics and principles were rounded out with physical conditioning. In June 1963, the Training and Test Regiment was redesignated as the Officers Candidate School.

For many years the mission of the Officer Candidates School was to motivate, evaluate and train candidates aspiring to the responsibilities of a Marine Corps officer. As the role of the Marine Corps in Vietnam expanded, greater emphasis was placed on providing a basic level of training for each candidate prior to their assignment to The Basic School. Training candidates to handle the duties required of a squad leader became an increased priority. Unfortunately, in the effort to increase the candidate's training, the time available for evaluation and screening was reduced. In the late 1970s, the Officer Candidates School returned to the fundamental mission of evaluating and screening candidates for commissioned service.

The length of the course fluctuated as the years progressed: 1956, 12 weeks; 1963, 11 weeks; 1969, 10 weeks; 1976, 12 weeks; 1983, 10 weeks and 1990, 10 weeks. By 1990, OCS was comprised of several courses in addition to physical training: the Individual Movement Course, Combat Course, and Small Unit Leadership Evaluation (SULE).

Since the earliest days of Marine Corps Base Quantico, in one form or another, officer candidates have been tested and evaluated for their quality, stamina, leadership and military bearing in order to become Marine Corps officers.

On 20 July 1942, The Basic School was deactivated at Philadelphia and its functions were absorbed by the Candidates' Class at Quantico. The Candidates' Class was redesignated 1 April 1944 as Officer Candidates' School. In 1944 the policy had been to select men for officer training who have been in the Marine Corps at least four months; since such men already have some military background and to avoid repetition of previous instruction Officer Candidates School was redesignated on 28 December 1944. This new school was named the Platoon Commanders' School. It was planned so that future officer candidates would receive only a concentration of the more practical subjects considered vital to a platoon leader in combat.

As World War II took its toll on the number of junior officers, the Corps expanded temporary promotions. Letter of Instruction Number 969 of 1945 stated that any enlisted man who has served or is serving overseas in the war, and who is considered to be of officer caliber, is eligible for a temporary commission as a second lieutenant in either the regular Corps or Reserves. Three hundred of these candidates per month were to be selected and returned from the units in the Fleet Marine Force by 1 July 1945 for training.

The course of instruction at the Platoon Commanders' School included basic weapons, map reading, aerial photography, signal communications, chemical warfare, combat intelligence, staff organization, law and administration, tactics of the rifle squad, rifle platoon and rifle company, tactics of the machinegun section squad and platoon, tactics of the 60mm mortar section, squad and 81mm mortar section, squad and platoon, field artillery in support of infantry and landing operations.

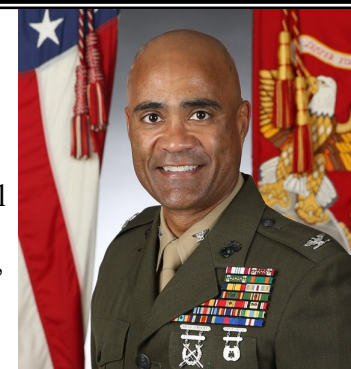
The history of The Basic School and Officers Candidate School merge for several years. On 3 October 1945, Platoon Commanders' School was redesignated The Basic School and the Officer Candidate Course was made subordinate to TBS. However, in July 1955 with the relocation of The Basic School from Brown Field to Camp Upshur, the responsibility for training officer candidates was reassigned to the newly activated Training and Test Regiment.

Women Marine Officers

After the initial selection under the so-called transfer program (from Women Marine Reserves to Regulars) in 1948, the only source of women officers was through the commissioning of second lieutenants who successfully completed the Women Officers' Training Class. The class, which vaguely resembled the male Platoon Leaders Course, was conducted at the Marine Corps Schools at Quantico. WOTC, as it was known, was the responsibility of the Commandant of the Marine Corps Schools and fell under the operational control of the Education Center and the administrative control of Headquarters Battalion.

The class, held only in the summer, was divided into two six-week periods: the first a junior course; and the second a senior course. College graduates and seniors attended both sessions, juniors attended only the junior course, and qualified enlisted women were scheduled only for the senior course. Successful candidates who held a bachelor's degree and who were at least 21 years old would be commissioned second lieutenants in the Marine Corps Reserve. Only seven honor graduates were offered Regular commissions and these then attended an additional eight week Women Officers' Basic Indoctrination Course (WOIC) held at the Basic School.

Colonel David C. Hyman Commanding Officer Officer Candidates School



Colonel Hyman enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve in 1993 and was a personnel clerk assigned to Company I, 3d Battalion, 23d Marines, 4th Marine Division in North Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended Officer Candidates School via the Platoon Leaders Class and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant upon graduating from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1997. In 1999, he graduated from The Basic School and was later designated a Military Police Officer.

Colonel Hyman's Fleet Marine Force assignments have been with II Marine Expeditionary Force. He was a Company Commander for 2d Military Police Battalion and deployed in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM 04-06.2 while attached to a logistics combat element. Also, while assigned to this battalion, he served as the Officer in Charge, Remain Behind Element and as the Assistant Operations Officer for 5th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment (REIN), which was re-designated as Task Force Military Police Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force Forward. From 2014-2016, he was the Commanding Officer of 2d Law Enforcement Battalion, II MEF.

Colonel Hyman's supporting establishment assignments include tours at Marine Corps Bases Camp Lejeune, Camp Pendleton, and Camp Butler, where he served in multiple military police leadership billets including Platoon Commander, Operations Officer, Deputy Provost Marshal, and Provost Marshal. He also served as the Operations Officer and Executive Officer, Company F, Marine Security Guard Battalion (State Department) in Pretoria, Republic of South Africa. Additionally, he served as the Commanding Officer of Marine Corps Recruiting Station Baltimore, a Military Faculty Advisor at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Marine Corps University, and the Assistant Chief of Staff G-3, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. His joint duty assignment was as an action officer assigned to the Deputy Director for Global Operations (J-39) on The Joint Staff (Pentagon).

Colonel Hyman's professional military education includes the Expeditionary Warfare School (Distance Education Program), the Military Police Captains Career Course, Marine Corps Command and Staff College (Distance Education Program), the College of Naval Command and Staff, and the Marine Corps War College. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Cum Laude) in Criminal Justice from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, a Master of Arts Degree (with Distinction) in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the Marine Corps University.

Sergeant Major John L. Beckett Jr.
Sergeant Major
Officer Candidates School

Sergeant Major Beckett enlisted in October 1998 and graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego, California in January 1999. After graduating from Marine Combat Training in February 1999, he reported to Naval Air Technical Training Center, Pensacola, Florida to attend Aviation Ordnance Fundamental School. Upon graduation, he transferred to Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point, North Carolina for Aviation Armament Repair Technician School where he was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal in July 1999 and assigned to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron (MALS) 12, Iwakuni, Japan.

In August 1999, he reported to MALS-12, Iwakuni, Japan where he was assigned to the Aircraft Armament Equipment Repair Shop. He was promoted to the rank of Corporal in January of 2000.

In September 2000, he reported to MALS-31, MCAS Beaufort, South Carolina. He attained his Certification/Qualification as a Team Leader then later a Quality Assurance/Safety Observer and Collateral Duty Inspector. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in October 2001.

In October 2002, he reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina for Drill Instructor School. Upon graduation in January 2003 he attended the Marine Combat Instructor of Water Survival School graduating first in his class and earning him the secondary Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 0918. He was then assigned to First Recruit Training Battalion, Charlie Company where he served as a Drill Instructor/Senior Drill Instructor developing 462 basically trained Marines. He was promoted to Staff Sergeant in January 2006.

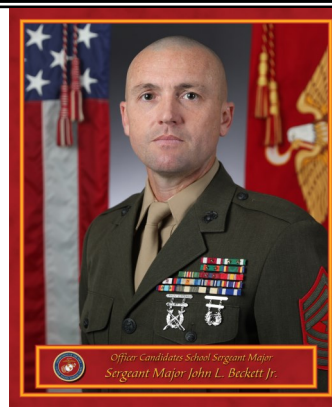
In April 2006, he reported to MALS-12, Iwakuni, Japan. During his tour he was nominated for the MCAA Ordnance Marine of the Year as well as the John W. Finn Award. In May of 2009, he reported to MALS-13, MCAS Yuma where he was assigned as the Ordnance SNCOIC. He was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant in November 2009. In August 2010 he deployed with MALS-16 in support of OEF 10.2 where he served as the Ordnance Chief/SNCOIC.

In May 2012, he reported as an Assistant Marine Officer Instructor at the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island. There he was named Senior Enlisted Leader of the Quarter and also of the year. He was promoted to First Sergeant in September 2013. In October 2013, he reported to 3d Battalion, 6th Marines, and was assigned as the company first sergeant of Company K. In December of 2014 he deployed with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

In November 2015, he reported to School of Infantry-East, and was assigned to Advanced Infantry Training Battalion (AITB) as the Company First Sergeant. In March of 2016 he was assigned to Infantry Training Battalion as the Company First Sergeant of Company B. In January of 2017 he returned to AITB as the Company First Sergeant and in July of 2017 assumed the role as Battalion Sergeant Major. He was promoted to his current rank in April 2018.

In April 2018, he reported as the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 211 (VMFA-211) Sergeant Major. In June 2018, he deployed on the first F-35B combat deployment in support of the 13th MEU. In April 2021, he deployed aboard the United Kingdom ship, Her Majesties Ship Queen Elizabeth on a multinational deployment. In February 2022, he reported to Officer Candidates School where he currently serves as the Sergeant Major.

Sergeant Major Beckett's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (2nd award), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3rd award), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3rd award).



Formal Screening and Selection

Congress also established the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1926 which, it was hoped, would provide a large number of junior officers from the graduating classes of several universities. When this program got underway, it featured a Marine Reserve Officers' Training Corps, actually a small section within the Navy organization, in which a maximum of 1,200 cadets might be enrolled in any one year. Unfortunately, the Marine section of the NROTC did not live up to expectations. The handful of officers assigned to this organization as instructors was withdrawn in 1934; and in consequence the Marine Corps obtained very few reserve officers from this source. As late as the eve of World War II, the NROTC remained "a vein unworked."

In 1935, the Marine Corps established the Platoon Leaders' Class for college students, which graduated its first officers in the following summer. Students in good physical condition who were attending a university not affiliated with either the Army or Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps could enroll as privates first class in the reserve to attend these classes. For two summers, the trainees spent six weeks at a summer camp. Those who successfully completed both camps were appointed reserve second lieutenants upon graduation from college. The last graduates of the old Platoon Leaders' Class to be commissioned in the Marine Corps were the members of the class which first convened in the summer of 1940.

The suspension of this program during World War II, however, did not end the flow of college men into the officer corps; for civilian students were allowed to enroll in the reserve for future officer training. Thus the Corps was able to supplant the Platoon Leaders Class with the College Training and V-12 Programs.

Officers Candidate Class

Major General Commandant Thomas Holcomb seized upon the suggestion and directed that the first Officer Candidate Class begin at Quantico 1 November 1940. The course of instruction was designed for men without previous military training. The candidates in the first class, however, were required to be college graduates rather than students in a recognized university. At the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the Platoon Leaders' Classes had been suspended. The principal source of second lieutenants was now the Candidates' Class, which had been designed primarily for college men.

While the Marine Corps was screening its noncommissioned officers and laying the foundations for what became the V-12 program, one means of procuring and training officers was in continuous use. This was the Officer Candidates' Class, a program which rendered outstanding service throughout the war. Along with the college students who reported for training when their classes graduated, many candidates were selected from the enlisted ranks.

Rapid expansion of the Marine Corps early in World War II made it necessary to obtain qualified civilians to attend Officer Candidates School and Reserve Officers School. On 1 November 1940 the Candidates' Class was first organized at Quantico to serve as the initial training for those wishing to be commissioned as Marine Corps officers and the Reserve Officers' Course was disbanded later that same month. The first commanding officer was Colonel Lemuel Shepherd, Jr.

The Commandant did not ignore the enlisted ranks as a source of potential officers. While preparations were being made to obtain officers from the various military colleges, a group of 18 highly qualified noncommissioned officers were summoned to the Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., to compete for commissions as second lieutenants. Twelve men passed the examination which was held on 7 August 1916. This method of selection was new to the Corps, for enlisted men previously had taken the test at the same time as the civilian candidates.

After America's entry into the war on 6 April 1917, thousands of healthy, well educated, and patriotic young men volunteered to serve with the Leathernecks. The Marine Corps Reserve, of course, was mobilized, but this organization proved a disappointment. Since the requirement for appointment to the various classes of the reserve had not been set until 27 March 1917, only three officers were on the rolls and available for duty when war was declared. The lack of a trained reserve, however, was more than offset by the influx of recruits. The Marines, therefore, decided in June 1917 to appoint no more civilians to the rank of second lieutenant. Instead, the Commandant announced his intention to fill all vacancies in this grade by appointing graduates of the United States Naval Academy and meritorious noncommissioned officers. For the remainder of the war, second lieutenants were selected mainly from among the best of the enlisted men. Quotas were established for each post and station; the commanding officer then convened a board of officers to select the best qualified of his men.

After the Armistice, demobilization left a total of 564 vacancies in the strength of the officer corps. Shortly after assuming the duties of Commandant in July 1920, Major General John A. Lejeune convened a board of officers to deal with this problem. Selections for permanent commissions were made from among the temporary officers, both regular and reserve, who had served during the war, and the enlisted men and warrant officers who had held wartime commissions. In short, the Marine Corps continued to obtain its junior officers from within its own ranks.

Within a year, however, it had become obvious that General Barnett's goal of an officer corps staffed entirely by graduates of the Naval Academy and former noncommissioned officers could not be attained. In May 1921, General Lejeune approached all schools which the War Department had designated "Distinguished Military Colleges" and asked them to recommend a limited number of the graduating class for commissions in the Marine Corps. Twelve students selected in this manner were commissioned in the Marine Corps Reserve, assigned to active duty at Quantico, and after a period of instruction, appointed probationary second lieutenants in the regular Corps. In addition, 26 graduates of the Naval Academy received commissions in the Marine Corps. The practice of appointing meritorious noncommissioned officers continued.

Throughout the 1920s, the Marine Corps relied upon three sources of second lieutenants. The enlisted ranks were a primary source. A second source was the canvassing of military colleges and universities offering the Army's advanced ROTC course. A third major source was, of course, the graduating class of the Naval Academy. During the depths of the depression in the 1930s, the few vacancies in the regular commissioned ranks that were available were easily filled since there were relatively few opportunities in civil life to lure an officer away from the service. Those vacancies which did appear were filled first from the graduates of the Naval Academy, second by noncommissioned officers, and thirdly by civilian applicants.

Official Party

Commanding Officer	Colonel David C. Hyman
Sergeant Major	Sergeant Major John L. Beckett Jr.
Chaplain	Lieutenant Paul Garcia

Command Staff

Executive Officer	Lieutenant Colonel Phillip Skillman
Coordinator Student Activities	Captain Michael Mursuli
S-1 Officer	Captain Joseph Hautzenroeder
S-1 Chief	Master Sergeant Angelo Torres
S-3 Officer	Captain Catherine Baniakas
S-3 Chief	Master Sergeant Matthew Cale
Physical Training Advisor	Colour Sergeant James Carter
Drill Master	Gunnery Sergeant James Miller
S-4 Officer	Captain Tyler Womack
S-4 Chief	Sergeant Michael Watts
Academics Officer	Major Gregory Jamero
Academics Chief	Master Sergeant Alexis Gonzalez
Senior Medical Officer	Lieutenant Commander Catherine Ridings
OCS Medical Platoon Chief	Senior Chief Petty Officer Ryan Junkin

Headquarters and Service Company

Company Commander	Captain Alexandria Bush
Company First Sergeant	Gunnery Sergeant Tye Belmore
Company Gunnery Sergeant	Gunnery Sergeant Justin Kelly

India Company Staff

Company Commander	Major Matthew Angel
Executive Officer	Captain David Robinson
First Sergeant	Gunnery Sergeant Arturo Velasco
Gunnery Sergeant	Gunnery Sergeant Stephen Wills
Lead Physical Training Instructor	Sergeant Emily Charton
Administrative Clerk	Corporal Raeshawn Gaines
Administrative Clerk	Corporal Jonathan Rodriguez
Company Corpsman	HM2 Anthony Quinteros

1st Platoon

Platoon Commander	Captain Jacob Bennett
Platoon Sergeant	Gunnery Sergeant Alex Estrada
Sergeant Instructor	Gunnery Sergeant Dominique Young
Sergeant Instructor	Gunnery Sergeant Edgar Gonzalez
Sergeant Instructor	Staff Sergeant Christian Perez

2d Platoon

Platoon Commander	Captain Nicolas Novak
Platoon Sergeant	Gunnery Sergeant Brett Thompson
Sergeant Instructor	Gunnery Sergeant Cesar Martinez
Sergeant Instructor	Gunnery Sergeant David Jarvis
Sergeant Instructor	Gunnery Sergeant Antonio Lopez
Sergeant Instructor	Gunnery Sergeant Ryan Schmidt

3d Platoon

Platoon Commander	Captain Jared Stein
Platoon Sergeant	Gunnery Sergeant Shawn Roxby
Sergeant Instructor	Gunnery Sergeant Herbert Barrera
Sergeant Instructor	Gunnery Sergeant Brandon Keziah
Sergeant Instructor	Gunnery Sergeant Leonardo Gonzalez

The History of Officer Candidates School

First to hold office as Commandant of the newly created (1798) United States Marine Corps was William Ward Burrows. Perhaps his greatest contribution to the success of the organization was his ability to select and recommend for commission only the most loyal and efficient of men. As yet there was no formal examination; selection rested for the most part on Burrows' own good judgment. If an applicant was considered suitable, he was required to accept in writing and execute an oath of allegiance. The government then sent the officer a signed commission which entitled him to his pay. Unfortunately, the commissions generally were slow in arriving.

Following the example set by Burrows, the early Commandants continued to take an almost paternal interest in the appointment of officers from civil life. Throughout the war of 1812, and the Seminole, Creek, and Mexican Wars, responsibility for maintaining the high standards of the officer corps fell to the Commandant. Not until 25 July 1861, shortly after the outbreak of the Civil War, did Congress seriously modify the Marine Corps system of officer procurement. At that point in time, only young men between the ages of 20 and 25 who had passed a professional examination could be appointed lieutenants in the Corps. The test, moreover, was to be drawn up and administered under the supervision of the Secretary of the Navy.

In 1882, Congress directed that the Marine Corps begin obtaining some its lieutenants from the United States Naval Academy. The first Academy graduates to be appointed in the Corps were ten members of the class of 1883; finally, the Marine Corps was assured of a steady influx of trained officers.

At the termination of the war with Spain, Marine Corps officer procurement policies were overhauled. The Naval Academy remained the primary source of officers; but the Corps also was permitted to offer permanent commissions to those who had served as lieutenants in the recent conflict. Meritorious noncommissioned officers also were declared eligible for appointment, and additional officers also could be selected from civil life. All but Academy graduates, however, were required to pass "such examination as might be prescribed by the President of the United States."

In general, the three major sources of Marine Corps officers during the first decade of the twentieth century were the Naval Academy, the enlisted ranks, and civil life. Civilians and noncommissioned officers who survived the rigorous examination were appointed second lieutenants and enrolled in the Marine Officers' School for further training. By 1914, however, Major General George Barnett, Commandant of the Marine Corps, had begun urging that only graduates of the Naval Academy and outstanding noncommissioned officers be eligible for appointment. During World War I and even after, Barnett's views were to have considerable influence on officer procurement policies.

In 1916, Commandant George Barnett sent out a call for additional officers with some military experience. Graduates of colleges which offered military training were declared eligible to take an examination held on 18 September 1916. A total of 24 applicants passed the test and were appointed officers in the Corps. A second examination, this one for civilians without formal military training, was scheduled for the month of November.