



# MARINE OFFICER PROGRAMS

THE FEW. THE PROUD.

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Following the Battle of Iwo Jima, Admiral Chester Nimitz epitomized the Marines' actions by saying, "Uncommon valor was a common virtue." Since 1775, Marines have distinguished themselves throughout the world during times of war and peace. The Marine Corps is an elite organization with a reputation for honor, courage, sacrifice, integrity and esprit-de-corps. As we begin the 21st century, Marines are deployed in more than 150 countries and are serving in a variety of missions from combat in Afghanistan and Iraq to disaster relief missions throughout Asia. The Marine Corps is America's 911 force and is ready to go at a moment's notice, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Marine Officer Programs afford college students and graduates an opportunity to earn a Presidential Commission through a challenging leadership internship at Officer Candidates School (OCS) in Quantico, Virginia. Undergraduate men and women (freshmen, sophomores and juniors) enroll in the Platoon Leaders Class (PLC) while seniors and graduates enroll in the Officer Candidates Class (OCC). The PLC and OCC Programs are designed to screen and evaluate candidates for the leadership, physical, mental and moral attributes necessary for service as Marine Officers. This is a competitive program and applicants must first be selected by a board. Those who pass the selection process will be given the opportunity to prove themselves at OCS and earn the title Second Lieutenant of Marines. Make no mistake, the process is tough, but for those who pass the test, there is no greater feeling of pride.

Marine Officers develop intangible qualities such as confidence, leadership, honor, courage, commitment, integrity, esprit-de-corps, physical fitness, selflessness, discipline and many more. These traits produce strong Marine Corps Officers and later lead many of them to successful second careers following their service. Numerous senators, ambassadors, judges, astronauts, doctors, pilots, university presidents and CEOs of Fortune 500 companies began their careers in the Marine Corps. Many of them credit the Corps with providing them with the tools that made them successful. Inc Magazine even characterized Marine Corps Officer Programs as "The best management training program in America." (Inc, Apr 98). Many MBA Programs even sponsor mock two-day versions of OCS to teach their students how to effectively make quick, decisive actions amidst chaos and uncertainty.

The Twin Cities Marine Officer Selection Team is here to provide you with the latest information regarding these Programs and to assist you through the application process. I thank you for your interest in the Marine Officer Programs and look forward to working with you should you make the decision to become one of us.

*K. C. Gawronski*  
*Captain, U.S. Marine Corps*  
*Officer Selection Officer*

***Some people spend  
an entire lifetime  
wondering if they  
made a differ-  
ence...Marines don't  
have that problem.***  
**— President Ronald  
Reagan, 1985**



# BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ Upstanding, competitive & physically fit men or women between 18 and 28 years of age
- ◆ Must be a U.S. Citizen.
- ◆ Currently enrolled full time (12 credits or more), or have graduated from an accredited, four-year college or university. Students in two-year colleges can sign a letter of intent to later transfer to a four-year university.
- ◆ Cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher
- ◆ Must meet Marine Corps Height/Weight Standards
- ◆ Must be physically qualified (attain a 225 or better on the USMC Physical Fitness Test)
- ◆ Must be mentally qualified (e.g. meet at least one of the following)
  - SAT Score of 1000 or higher (Math & English)
  - Composite ACT Score of 22
  - AFQT Score of 74 or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). This is the method for students lacking the required ACT/SAT Score (i.e. you can still be eligible, regardless of ACT/SAT...just adds one more step).

*\* In addition to these basic qualifications, applicant's medical (physical and mental), legal and academic histories will be screened for any problems or concerns.*

## AVIATION APPLICANTS

Applicants who desire to apply for a guaranteed position in aviation must pass two additional requirements, a cycloplegic eye exam and the Aviation Selection Test Battery (ASTB). Aviators (pilots) must have 20/40 or better vision in each eye. However, as of 1 June 2005, applicants outside those requirements may apply for a contact lens waiver. Applicants must have uncorrected vision better than 20/400 and be correctable to 20/20 with soft contacts. In addition, they must be able to show they've worn soft contacts for at least six months without any type of problems. Naval Flight Officers (co-pilots/navigation) must simply have vision correctable to 20/20.

Applicants who have had their vision surgically corrected should be aware that only vision correction through the PRK (Photorefractive Keratectomy) procedure is eligible for aviation. Applicants who has had their vision corrected through the LASIK (Laser Assisted In Situ Keratomileusis) procedure are disqualified for aviation, but may apply for the ground or law program.

## LAW APPLICANTS

Applicants desiring to apply for a guaranteed position as a lawyer in the JAG Corps must have passed the LSAT with a score of 150 or higher and either be currently enrolled in, or possess an acceptance letter to an American Bar Association (ABA) accredited law school.

# PLATOON LEADERS CLASS (PLC)

The PLC Program is designed for freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Freshmen and sophomores utilize two summer breaks from college to attend two 6-week training sessions at Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Quantico, Virginia. Juniors attend one 10-week training session during the summer prior to their senior year. Training takes place entirely during the summer. There are no requirements or obligations during the school year. This enables you to focus entirely on your studies in the pursuit of the degree of your choice. Candidates who complete OCS and their bachelor's degree will be offered a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

# OFFICER CANDIDATES CLASS (OCC)

The OCC Program is designed for college seniors and graduates. OCC candidates attend one 10-week training session at Officer Candidate School (OCS). Upon completion of OCS, candidates are immediately commissioned as Second Lieutenants.

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**"I have just returned from visiting the Marines at the front, and there is not a finer fighting organization in the world."**

**-General Douglas MacArthur, United States Army, Korea, 1950**



# OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL

“The mission of OCS is to train, evaluate, and screen officer candidates to ensure that they possess the moral, intellectual, and physical qualities for commissioning and the leadership potential to serve successfully as company grade officers in the operating forces.”

Training for both the PLC and OCC Programs is conducted at Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia. All candidates must successfully complete OCS in order to receive a commission. Candidates are evaluated in a rigorous and fast-paced series of leadership, physical, and academic crucibles. OCS is not a reflection of life and duties in the Marine Corps, but rather a highly stressful final examination. Men and women train separately, but all must meet established commissioning standards. The key to success is the ability to learn, discovering strengths and weaknesses, and pressing on with motivation. Adversity brings out the best and the worst in people. OCS is a pass/fail course and all qualified candidates graduate. The motto of OCS is “Ductus Exemplo” which is Latin for “Leadership By Example.”

## OBLIGATION

Applicants selected for the Program commit only to attending OCS and may voluntarily disenroll anytime thereafter. Only those candidates who complete all the requirements of the Program (i.e. graduating OCS and college) and accept their commission as Second Lieutenants are contractually bound to serve as Marine Officers on active duty. Lieutenants commissioned as lawyers or ground officers are obligated to serve for a period of 3 1/2 years. Aviators commit to an extended obligation that depends upon the type of aircraft they fly. Helicopter pilots incur a 6-year obligation, while jet and C-130 pilots incur an 8-year contract. Naval Flight Officers incur a 6-year obligation.

## TUITION ASSISTANCE & FINANCIAL AID

Applicants who are accepted into the PLC Program and complete either their first 6-week increment of OCS, or the 10-week combined course are immediately eligible to receive tuition assistance and financial aid.

**FINANCIAL AID** is a stipend paid directly to the candidate to use as he/she sees fit. Applicants will receive \$350 per month for the nine month school year. Recipients of financial aid incur an additional service obligation of 6 months, regardless of the amount received. Thus, a 3 1/2 year contract would become 4 years.

**TUITION ASSISTANCE** is financial reimbursement for tuition, books, and fees up to \$5200 per academic year. Recipients of tuition assistance incur a minimum service obligation 5 years, regardless of the amount received. The 6-month addition for FAP is erased if you accept Tuition Assistance. Thus, you would only owe 5 years for accepting both sums of money.

**TOTAL FINANCIAL INCENTIVE** available to a student who enters the program as a freshman, goes to OCS during their first summer break, and elects to take all three years of tuition assistance and financial aid is **\$30,150**.

Two summers of OCS	\$ 5,280
Three years of Tuition Assistance	\$15,600
Three years of Financial Aid	<u>\$ 9,450</u>
	<b>\$30,330</b>

“I am convinced there is no smarter, handier or more adaptable body of troops in the world.”

— Winston Churchill



## THE BASIC SCHOOL

The mission of The Basic School is to educate newly commissioned or appointed officers in the high standards of Professional Knowledge, Esprit-de-Corps, and Leadership required to prepare them for duty as a company grade officer in the Operating Forces, with particular emphasis on the duties, responsibilities and war fighting skills required of a rifle platoon commander.

Regardless of an officer's eventual occupational specialty, all Marine Officers will attend TBS as a Lieutenant. This is only one of the many characteristics of the Marine Corps that distinguishes us from all other branches of the military. It is our philosophy that all Marine Officers must become proficient in the art of leadership and military tactics. With that important goal in mind, all officers attend this fast-paced, six-month advanced course to hone and develop your proficiency in a myriad of essential war fighting skills.

At TBS, Lieutenants begin with basic skills and progress through a variety of military subjects concluding, after six months, with a six day war. Training will include the following topics:

Land Navigation	Martial Arts Training
Communications	Amphibious Operations
Intelligence	First Aid
Combat Service Support/Logistics	Tactics
Nuclear, Biological & Chemical Warfare	Supporting Arms
Physical Training & Conditioning	Weapons
<b>Leadership</b>	Aviation
Personnel Administration	Close Air Support
Military Law	Field Engineering
Professional Development	Call For Fire
Military Operations Other than War (e.g. Humanitarian Assistance, Peacekeeping, Riot Control...)	

## MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTIES (MOS)

Upon completion of The Basic School, Lieutenants will continue their training by reporting to their specific military occupation specialty (MOS) school. Aviators and Naval Flight Officers (NFOs) will report to Naval Flight School in Pensacola, Florida. Lawyers will report to The Naval Justice School in Newport, Rhode Island. Ground officers compete for their occupational specialties while students at The Basic School. Once their MOS has been determined, they will report to the required school for training as an officer in that specialty. A complete list of the 24 occupational specialties available to officers is provided on the following page. For information on each of those MOSs, contact the Officer Selection Office.

"The safest place in Korea was right behind a platoon of MARINES. LORD, how they could fight!"

-- Major General Frank Lowe, U.S. Army

"Panic sweeps my men when they are facing the AMERICAN MARINES."

—Captured North Korean Major



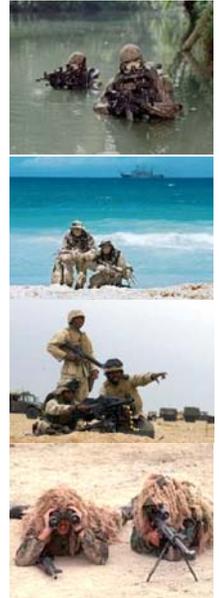
## Aviation Occupations

Naval Aviator (Pilot)  
 Naval Flight Officer  
 Aircraft Maintenance Officer  
 Aviation Supply Officer  
 Air Traffic Control Officer  
 Aviation Intelligence Officer  
 Air Support Control Officer  
 Air Defense Control Officer  
 Air Defense Officer



## COMBAT ARMS OCCUPATIONS

Infantry Officer  
 Reconnaissance Officer  
 Scout Sniper Platoon Leader  
 Field Artillery Officer  
 Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV) Officer  
 Light Armored Vehicle (LAV) Officer  
 Combat Engineer Officer  
 Tank Officer



"I can't say enough about the two Marine divisions. If I used words like brilliant, it would really be an under description of the absolutely superb job they did breaching the so called impenetrable barrier."

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, U.S. Army, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 27 February 1991.



## COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT

Logistics Officer  
 Ground Intelligence Officer  
 Human Source Intelligence Officer  
 Signals Intelligence Officer  
 Military Police Officer  
 Communications Information Systems Officers  
 Public Affairs Officer  
 Financial Management Officer  
 Ground Supply Officer  
 Adjutant (Admin Officer)





# MARINE CORPS DUTY STATIONS

Except for deployments aboard ship and field training, families stay together. Officers can expect their first assignment to be at a major installation in one of the following geographic locations. Marines are stationed in virtually every nation worldwide and in all of the United States, but generally that occurs during a second or subsequent assignment.

## EAST COAST

North Carolina  
South Carolina

## WEST COAST

California  
Arizona

## OVER SEAS

Hawaii  
Japan (Mainland or Okinawa)

# SALARY AND BENEFITS

As an active duty Marine Officer, your pay is comprised of three components: basic pay, basic allowance for housing, and basic allowance for subsistence. The following table is provided to give you an idea of what you will earn as a new Second Lieutenant. It is broken down to show what a single officer and a married officer rate. This example assumes the officer has no prior military experience; officers with more than four years of prior service are on a higher pay scale. The BAH is figured for Quantico, Virginia where all officers attend OCS and TBS. However, BAH will change depending upon where you are stationed. For example, the Minneapolis rate for a single Lieutenant is \$1229.00 per month while a married Lieutenant rates \$1422.00.

	SINGLE LTs	MARRIED LTs
Basic Monthly Pay	2343.60	2343.60
Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)	1031.00	1298.00
Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS)	<u>175.23</u>	<u>175.23</u>
Gross Monthly Pay	\$3549.83	3816.83
Annual Salary (Gross Salary x 12)	<b>\$42,561.96</b>	<b>\$45,765.96</b>

\* Figures are based on 1 Jan 2005 Pay Scale

# APPLICATION PROCESS

**ROUGH APPLICATION** — Applicants who meet the basic qualifications from page 2 and are interested in becoming a leader of Marines will first complete a package of administrative forms. The package includes personal information, a list of references, a history of activities and leadership experiences as well as other information. Applicants will be required to include a copy of their birth certificate and social security card with the package. Applicants who have had any type of surgery in the past will also be required to provide documentation relating to the incident.

**MEDICAL EXAMINATION** — After the applicant has returned their rough application, they will be scheduled for a pre-commissioning medical exam. The exam will take place at the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS), in either Fargo, Minneapolis, or Sioux Falls.

**PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST (PFT)** — If found medically qualified, the applicant will take the Marine Corps physical fitness test, which is comprised of pull-ups, crunches and a 3-mile run. Applicants must score 225 points or higher (out of 300) to qualify.

**FINAL APPROVAL** — A panel of Officers at the headquarters level will make the final determination based upon the competitiveness of your application and the recommendation of the Officer Selection Officer.

“Among the men who fought on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue.”

— Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, U.S. Navy, 16 March



## MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT MARINE COPRS OFFICER PROGRAMS

- (1) First and foremost, Marine Corps Officer Programs is a competitive selection process. It is not as simple as “signing up.” For those who decide to pursue this course, they must prove from the start of the process that they have what it takes to lead Marines. Applicants will put together a package, which is comprised of a number of items. Some of the main ones include college grades, ACT/SAT/ASVAB Scores, accomplishments in high school and college, recommendations from employers, professors and others as well as one from the Officer Selection Officer and last but not least your Physical Fitness Test Score. Aviation Applicants incur additional items for their package (see page 2). Consequently, the process generally takes anywhere from 30 to 45 days to complete. Applicants who are selected are then given the opportunity to attend Officer Candidates School, where they will truly be tested to determine if they do indeed have what it takes to lead Marines. Applicants who are not selected have no obligation to the Marine Corps, but may apply for future selection boards.
- (2) You are not committing to a four-year obligation from the start. Applicants who contract into the Program are merely required to attend Officer Candidate School. Should they decide the Marine Corps is not for them, they may disenroll from the Program without any contractual obligation. Your 3 1/2, 4 or 6-8 year (pilots) obligation does not begin until you accept your commission as a Second Lieutenant. This does not occur until after you have completed both OCS and college. You are free to resign from the Program until that point.
- (3) Recruiters will tell you anything to get you to sign. This is not true. Again, this is a competitive program and you may withdraw at any time. Thus, it is not in this offices’ best interest to tell you half truths or mislead you. If we did, you would just quit down the road and we would have to find someone else to replace you. Bottom line, you have to want to do this Program, or you won’t succeed. We have more individuals apply for this Program than will get accepted. Hence, we don’t need to mislead you. We are very upfront and will tell you exactly what to expect, whether you like it or not. If you have a question, contact us to find out. If you would like to speak with a current member (student) of the Program, we can arrange that as well.

\* There are a number of other misconceptions about military life in general, but they are too numerous to cover here. If you have a question about daily life in the Marine Corps, contact us via phone or email.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- (1) **Do you offer college loan reimbursement?**  
No. We offer tuition assistance for students currently enrolled in school, but will not pay back their previous loans or any loans for graduates.
- (2) **I’ve heard I can be guaranteed an Aviation Contract, is that correct?**  
Yes. In fact, the Marine Corps is the only service that will guarantee this in writing. As long as you can pass our written aviation exam, you are guaranteed.
- (3) **Will I have to attend ROTC Classes or wear a uniform to school?**  
No. The beauty of the PLC Program is there are no commitments during the school year. All your training takes place during the summer and you can resume your normal student life the rest of the year.
- (4) **I’ve heard I can withdraw from the PLC Program at any time. Is that true?**  
Yes. As previously stated, this is a voluntary Program and you may withdraw at anytime for whatever reason(s). The only stipulation to that is if you accept money for school, you will have to pay it back. Applicants often don’t want to believe this, but it’s true. Again, we don’t need someone in this Program who doesn’t want to do this and generally you wouldn’t succeed in the Program anyway.

"The safest place in Korea was right behind a platoon of MARINES. LORD, how they could fight!"

-- Major General Frank Lowe, U.S. Army

"Panic sweeps my men when they are facing the AMERICAN MARINES."

—Captured North Korean Major



## INTERNET RESOURCES

### MARINE OFFICER WEB SITE

[www.marineofficer.com](http://www.marineofficer.com)

### \* UNIVERSITY OF MN LEATHERNECK SOCIETY WEBSITE \*

<http://www.tc.umn.edu/~marines/>

### OFFICIAL MARINE CORPS WEB SITE

[www.usmc.mil](http://www.usmc.mil)

### OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL (OCS) WEB SITE

[www.ocs.usmc.mil](http://www.ocs.usmc.mil)

### THE BASIC SCHOOL (TBS) WEB SITE

[www.tbs.usmc.mil](http://www.tbs.usmc.mil)

\* The University of MN Leatherneck Society is not an official Marine Corps website. It was developed by current University of MN students who are currently enrolled in the PLC Program. However, it gives a great deal more information than does [marineofficer.com](http://www.marineofficer.com). It also allows you to contact current students in the PLC Program as well as former University of MN students who are now serving as Marine Corps Officers. If you are truly interested in the Program, I highly recommend looking at this site over the others.

## OFFICER SELECTION STATION, TWIN CITIES

### MAILING ADDRESS

Marine Corps Officer Selection Station  
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Fort Snelling, MN 55111

### LOCAL NUMBERS

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"The U.S. Marines are looking for the few, the proud—people who can scale walls, strike hard with lightning speed, and make life-or-death decisions in the heat of battle. You want a fast-reacting, adaptable organization? Look no further than the Marines."

David H. Freedman, Inc  
Magazine

**IF YOU ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE, YOU MAY BECOME PART OF AN ELITE FEW WHO CONTINUALLY MAKE THE IMPOSSIBLE A REALITY.**