Is MARSOC right for you?

"The Marine that will be successful at MARSOC is a self-starter, initiative-driven; always seeking to improve himself, find his weaknesses and make them his strengths; someone who learns from everyone and seeks others’ knowledge to make it his own and make him a better warrior." 

"This is what I’ve been looking for the entire time—this is what I always hoped the military would be for me."

"Do this for the mission. Do this for the team. Do this to be the best."

By the Numbers

Critical Skills Operator MOS

0372

Special Operations Officer MOS

0370

Are you enlisted with a GT score of at least 105?

Are you an officer with a GCT score of at least 110?

Do you have a minimum PFT of 235?

Can you pass the MARSOC swim assessment?

Do you meet the minimum Ground Combat Arms MOS Classification Standard?

Can you meet the Special Operations medical screening criteria?

Are you eligible to obtain and maintain a secret clearance?

Are you willing, upon selection, to make a lateral move to the Critical Skills Operator or Special Operations Officer MOS?

STEP INTO THE ARENA
The Basics

“Warrior” is just one part of your job description. You may be called on to be a negotiator, teacher, advisor, or problem solver. Your initiative and ingenuity will be tested. You must develop your skills and the judgment to know how and when to apply them.

You may be operating in isolated and austere locations with little to no conventional support. Or you may be partnering with other special operations forces in a fully-integrated unit. Mature and experienced Critical Skills Operators (CSOs) and Special Operations Officers (SOOs) carry out commander’s intent across the entire spectrum of special operations.

CSOs operate as cross-cultural diplomats and global scouts, with the unique ability to exert influence in areas and situations that are absent authority. We are a Full Spectrum Force, and Geographic Combatant Commanders can and do send us anywhere under any circumstances.

MARSOC is the Marine Corps’ contribution to the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). Through intense and specialized training and education, MARSOC develops and maintains agile combat athletes, task-organized into small, adaptable teams. We are Marines first, and our MAGTF mindset, as well as our experience and training as expeditionary warfighters, sets us apart from all other special operations forces.

“0372 is right for a mature Marine who wants to deploy around the world and affect the real-time decisions that the United States is making right now, so if you really want to fight terrorism or you want to help stabilize the world, being an 0372 will give you that opportunity.”

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10 attributes MARSOC evaluators look for in CSO candidates

- INTEGRITY
- EFFECTIVE INTELLIGENCE
- PHYSICAL ABILITY
- ADAPTABILITY
- INITIATIVE
- DETERMINATION
- DEPENDABILITY
- TEAMWORK
- INTERPERSONAL SKILLS
- STRESS TOLERANCE

By the Numbers

1805

Year the first Marine Corps special operations mission was executed. First time the US flag was raised victoriously over foreign soil.
What does MARSOC bring to the SOF community?

MARINES.

“Because we started out as Marines, we’re better special operators.”

You have to have certain intangible talents and skills to do this, because that’s what inherently makes us unique within the SOF community.”

By the Numbers

Number of decorations for valor awarded to Marines and Sailors of MARSOC since its inception in 2006

959

By the Numbers

Number of Operational Battalions

3

2006
MARSOC Activated

2015
Marine Raider Heritage Adopted

2016
Marine Special Operations Insignia Authorized

Special operations teams deploy to execute one mission from start to finish. MARSOC was founded to produce expeditionary and scalable units capable of conducting the full spectrum of operations in any clime and place. Our design uniquely fits USSOCOM’s purpose.

Our Marine heritage is an asset to the Commander, USSOCOM. We have the unique capability to task-organize and bring enabling capability completely integrated into our deploying units. Even company-sized forces include Combat Support and Combat Service Support. Because we travel with reinforced elements, we can take on complex problem sets and direct the coordinated efforts of multiple, distributed SOF units through robust command and control. We are the only special operations force that is organized to be this agile.

Our foundation as Marines combined with our belief in the SOF truths, an unconquerable spirit, and focus on resiliency of the warrior, make MARSOC unique among SOF.
Assessment and Selection (A&S) is a mandatory 2-phase course to screen physical ability, confidence, situational awareness, and acclimatization. Phase 1 educates Marines on the roles and missions of MARSOC, its heritage and mindset, and special operations culture.

The rest of the assessment occurs during A&S Phase 2, which ends with Marines receiving notification whether or not they have been selected to attend the Individual Training Course (ITC).

MARSOC accomplishes its mission by selecting the right people for the right jobs who will do the right things for the right reasons.

Fitness in MARSOC is a major priority. It’s not just your PFT or CFT score. It’s the willingness to persevere, ultimately succeed in training, and most importantly accomplishing the mission.

A&S Evaluates

- PFT
- Abandon ship drill
- 300-meter swim (cammies, no boots)
- 11 minutes of treading water
- 12-mile ruck (< 3 hrs w/45 lb. ruck)
- Physical In-Test (pull-ups and three-mile run)

By the Numbers

- Number of pass/fail phases during selection: 4
- ~165 Selected at A&S each year
- 2 strokes are required in the swimming evaluation
MARSOC training is designed to produce operators capable of completing any given mission.

Those selected at A&S proceed to the Individual Training Course (ITC), a nine-month course that turns a Marine into a CSO or SOO. ITC includes:

- SERE
- Medical skills
- Communications skills
- Small unit tactics
- Amphibious tactics
- Combat marksmanship
- Close quarters battle demolitions
- Urban combat
- Special reconnaissance training
- Irregular warfare

Upon successful completion of ITC, enlisted Marines are awarded the primary MOS 0372, Critical Skills Operator. Officers receive the primary MOS 0370, Special Operations Officer. Following graduation from ITC, CSOs attend a 6-month basic language course. SOOs attend the Team Commanders Course (TCC).

Every day is a challenge. You want to shoot better than the Marine next to you and he feels the same way. Competition pushes us to push each other, to improve, to find better and faster ways to do things."

By the Numbers

- ~120 SOF Operators graduate ITC each year
- Months it takes to earn the 0372/0370 MOS on average 9
- 7 weapons are mastered during ITC
- Meters covered in the longest ocean fin-swim in ITC 5000
- 4 languages are offered for training to CSOs

CSOs and SOOs will then join their teams and train intensively as subject matter experts in advanced communications, engineering, special weapons, intelligence, and advanced special operations, depending on their billet.

The attributes that make a good candidate for MARSOC have been sharpened as the Marine Raider embarks on a new way of life. Maturity, experience, judgment, and intellect are now applied to a new set of operational objectives.

Marine Raiders do not do this for glory—many of their missions will never be known to the public or even to the conventional forces. They do this because they want to win behind the scenes, as part of a small team of elite warriors, who have the will and the skill to succeed in the face of extreme adversity.

Meters covered in the longest ocean fin-swim in ITC
These guys to the left and to the right of you are highly-skilled individual operators that you know you can count on. They’re an all-encompassing strategic-level asset in 14 individuals. So they could literally deploy themselves, sustain themselves, and redeploy themselves to and from anywhere in the world.

By the Numbers

14-man Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant</td>
<td>4-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporal (SARC)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Value of specialized gear, weapons, and equipment a team is responsible for

$1.2 Million
SOF Marines are appropriately called Critical Skills Operators or Special Operations Officers. Marine Raiders use vital and specialized skills to execute an array of complex missions as a part of USSOCOM.

The special operations community invests substantial time and resources in each Marine Raider, to a degree unlike anything available to conventional forces. The payoff is that CSOs and SOOs are prepared for any mission, anywhere. Regional, cultural, and linguistic proficiency and their ability to work with interagency, coalition, and host nation personnel make CSOs and SOOs invaluable assets.

The SOF mindset: effective intelligence, the ability to deal with stress and adapt to different situations and environments, and a sense of operational independence... If they have these attributes, they can apply them to any theatre, any type of strategy.

Every MARSOC operator has to be an ambassador.

MARSOC has operated in 40+ countries with 933 CSO and SOOs.

The mission is planned by everyone on the team, not just by the team chief or team leader. A sergeant might direct where everyone will be placed for an insert. A SSgt might tell a GySgt the best way to get to an objective.

A lot of people have this idea that all we do is kick down doors. You know, the classic Special Forces movie-type deal. When in reality a lot of the stuff that we do is under the radar and affects the world in many different ways, far into the future.

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Today’s operational environment places tremendous demands on personnel and their families. MARSOC trains families and operators in resilience so they are better able to withstand operational stress.

Performance pressure, risk, skill, and endurance are key variables that affect the success of teams, and the MPOTFF program helps CSOs and SOOs sustain focus, develop the highest levels of skill proficiency, and maintain a healthy mind, body, and spirit. The program increases the physical performance of operators while accelerating recovery and reducing injury and illness.

CSOs and SOOs are combat athletes, but unlike most athletes they have no off-season. They execute missions in unstructured and dangerous environments, with few breaks in operational tempo. Without the proper organizational support, even the strongest warrior’s endurance would be tested by MARSOC’s missions and tempo. MPOTFF prepares operators for optimal performance. The program borrows from high-performance athletic training, providing extensive coaching and mentoring, physical conditioning, and nutritional guidance.

MPOTFF provides multiple layers in building resiliency. Physical therapists, strength and conditioning coaches, nutritionists, and pain management specialists are just a few of the around-the-clock professionals available to help operators accomplish the MARSOC mission. State-of-the-art training facilities modeled after those used by college and professional athletes were specifically built for MARSOC in North Carolina and California.

Skilled mentors, guest speakers, retreats, and professional counselors strengthen the warrior mind, body, and spirit, from first entry all the way through transition.

Professional MPOTFF resources including life mentors, family specialists, and psychologists are available to families in addition to the resources listed above during their adjustment to life with MARSOC.

“When I was wounded in combat, I was well cared for ... physical therapists were continually available. The trainers programmed my training around my injuries. I came back stronger than I was before, allowing me to stay in the fight.”

“The unit wants you and your family to be physically and mentally prepared for the future.”
MARSOC makes a lifetime commitment to our Marines and families. We ensure you and your family are taken care of, both on the battlefield and off. That’s a core component of our mission.

Strong family support is crucial for MARSOC’s any clime, any place, anytime mission. We’re a tight-knit group that excels at supporting our Marines and families.

At MARSOC, we don’t just help families support their Marines. We support families. Each family member is vital, so the MPOTFF program is integrated with the family readiness program to make the resources available for the individual growth and development of all family members.

MPOTFF and the Family Readiness Officer are always available to answer your family’s questions, assist with issues, and offer support through all stages of preparation and deployment. The MARSOC Chaplain is always available, USSOCOM has a robust Force and Family Readiness Program to support you, and the SOCOM Care Coalition stands ready.

MARSOC makes it clear that each spouse is not only an asset, but essential to their service member’s career. The communication is amazing and an abundance of resources are offered to us to help our families stay healthy physically and mentally. MARSOC really does value every family as a whole and each member individually.

Family

67% of MARSOC Marines are married, so your family will be among other families who can relate to and support yours.
As a new 0372 CSO Sergeant or 0370 SOO Captain, you will be surrounded by other professionals just as focused on excellence as you are. Your training will build on ITC and add the capabilities you need to be successful in your role with your Marine Special Operations Team (MSOT). The skills you master will be operationally tested when you deploy. Your focus at this point will be on developing individually and working as part of the MSOT.

As you gain experience and rank, your operational role will change to take advantage of your knowledge and professional skill. By the time you are a Gunnery Sergeant, your leadership will be challenged as you are given more operational responsibility. You are not just developing your individual skills now but also building the capabilities of a team.

As a Master Sergeant, you may become a Team Chief, you may be assigned a theater role or become an Operations Chief, or you could serve on a Joint Special Operations Staff. Your operational role is broader, your responsibility to lead greater, and the operational impact of your leadership far-reaching.

The same applies as a Captain in MARSOC. You’ll find that you’re given more responsibility, more assets, and increased autonomy when you work with a team of highly trained CSOs accomplishing MARSOC’s unique missions.

MARSOC will continue to invest in your professional development over the life of your career as an 0372 or 0370. As a seasoned Marine Raider, you are a rare asset.

"Marines are who we are, special operations is what we do."
"I have had great experiences in the big Marine Corps and I am very proud of that. Going to Assessment and Selection reinforced that feeling I got when I graduated Boot Camp ... that I was part of something bigger than me, and that I found a home."

"No Regrets."