MARSOC MISSION

Always faithful, always forward

The Marine Corps is the nation’s expeditionary force, ready to respond to any crisis, anywhere. Marines have always fought our nation’s small wars, its irregular wars—the wars of the future. Marine Raiders are Marines first, and they build on their Corps’ legacy: Raiders go forward to win the war before it starts.

“OUR MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL SECURITY ARE OFTEN UNQUANTIFIABLE AND UNSPOKEN.”
MARSOC’s mission is to recruit, organize, train, equip, and deploy task-organized, scalable, expeditionary Marine Corps Special Operations Forces worldwide to accomplish special operations missions assigned by the Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command (CDRUSSOCOM) and/or Geographic Combatant Commanders (GCCs) via the Theater Special Operations Command.

MARSOC’s vision is to be America’s force of choice to provide small lethal expeditionary teams for global special operations. With tight-knit teams of agile and adaptable Raiders, MARSOC will continue to punch well above its weight class.

MARSOC is a force, expeditionary in nature, deploying anywhere in the world with responsive, scalable, and adaptable forces prepared to “live hard” in uncertain, chaotic, and austere environments, yet capable of sustainable expeditionary operations.
The foundation of MARSOC is its people. Marine special operators benefit from the Marine Corps’ philosophy of integrating all warfighting functions in a single warfighter, and its legacy as an expeditionary force capable of conducting the full spectrum of operations anytime, anywhere. They bring the warrior ethos and esprit de corps of the Marines to the table. These core Marine capabilities align neatly with USSOCOM’s mission.

“I JOINED MARSOC FOR THE SAME REASON I BECAME A MARINE—INTENSE, DETERMINED PEOPLE WHO AREN’T AFRAID TO WIN.”
Like all Marines, Raiders are ready to execute any mission, in any clime, or any place. Marine Raiders conduct missions in unstructured, ambiguous territory, with rapid changes in the human terrain, and are always conscious of the impact their team’s actions have on the strategic operating environment. Raiders appreciate and evaluate the socioeconomic and political nuances of a given environment—and are trained to tailor their approach based on that knowledge.

By the time a Marine Raider takes on their first mission, they have been rigorously screened and tested for the necessary baseline moral fiber and attributes. Training further develops those attributes. Values-based screening ensures that Marines who join MARSOC have always embodied honor, courage, and commitment.
Mental qualifications

- Minimum General Technical (GT) score of 105 on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery for enlisted Marines, or 110 on the General Classification Test (GCT) for officers.
- Demonstrates mental stability and intelligence in psychological evaluations and interviews

Moral qualifications

- Must show strong moral character: maturity, sound judgment, honesty
- Ability to maintain a secret clearance
- Applicants are screened for civilian and UCMJ legal violations

Minimum physical qualifications

- Meet minimum Ground Combat Arms MOS Classification standards
- Minimum score of 235 on Marine Corps Physical Fitness Test
- Pass Naval Special Warfare/Special Operations Duty Medical Examination
- Ability to properly conduct abandon-ship drill, swim 300 meters in Marine Corps Combat Utility Uniform (MCCUU), tread water for 11 minutes, survival float for 4 minutes
- Hike 12 miles with a fighting load of 45 pounds in 3 hours or less
A Marine Raider has...

- Integrity
- Effective intelligence
- Physical ability
- Adaptability
- Initiative
- Determination
- Dependability
- Teamwork
- Interpersonal skills
- Stress tolerance
- Spiritus Invictus—
  an unconquerable spirit

“The defining moment for me was going over there and realizing that a handshake can do a lot more than a muzzle blast.”
MARSOC TRAINING

Constant specialized training sets special operations forces apart from conventional forces. Marines selected for MARSOC have demonstrated attributes such as effective intelligence, adaptability, maturity, initiative, and determination that qualify them to perform special operations. MARSOC training is designed to take those baseline attributes and develop Marine Raiders who are tactically proficient across the full spectrum of special operations, and who understand the strategic importance of their tactical actions.

MARSOC employs a systems approach to training and incorporates critical Marine Corps training principles, such as “train as you fight,” that ensure training prepares Marine Raiders for real-world engagements. Training develops a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) mix of capabilities, taking into account current and future operations in distributed environments, where subordinate commanders must be prepared to make strategic decisions to achieve mission objectives.

“WE THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX. WE ARE CONSTANTLY TESTING OUR LIMITS.”
Critical Skills Operators and Special Operations Officers

Transforming selected Marines into Critical Skills Officers (CSOs) and Special Operations Officers (SOOs) begins at the nine-month Individual Training Course (ITC). Training as individuals and units is ongoing—occurring before, during, and after deployments. Training builds a full spectrum of combat capabilities to ensure success in directed action. Specialized training also provides capabilities like language fluency necessary for crossing cultural barriers, allowing CSOs and SOOs to connect with the local forces as well as civilians. Commanders are responsible for training and constantly reassess requirements to make sure that training time is used wisely and that training is adapted for the enemy’s changing tactics and procedures.
Special Operations Capability Specialists

Special Operations Capability Specialists (SOCS) provide combat support expertise in intelligence, fire support, communications, explosive ordnance disposal, and canine operations as part of a Marine Special Operations Team. Upon assignment to MARSOC, they attend the SOF Training Course (STC); Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE); and advanced SOF-specific MOS training. This program is designed to equip high-performing Marines with additional skills and concepts required to be effective in special operations.
MARSOC Preservation of the Force & Family

The MARSOC Preservation of the Force & Family (MPOTFF) initiative is developing an organizational culture that exemplifies and supports performance and resilience throughout the command. For any individual, the achievement of this goal rests on four foundational concepts that together constitute the whole person. They are Body, Mind, Spirit, and Family. These four components support personal performance in all individuals whether they are Marines, family members, civilian employees, or contractors. In order to serve as a basis for exceptional performance and personal resilience, all four components must be firmly established, balanced, and focused on excellence. This foundation will provide the balance and internal strength required to sustain honorable character, high performance, and resiliency under continuous, high demand conditions.”
ESSENTIAL MARSOC TRUTHS

What we believe

Humans > Hardware
MARSOC will maintain clear selection standards to ensure Marine Raiders are mature, experienced, and capable warfighters.

Quality > Quantity
MARSOC will establish training procedures so that Marine Raiders meet or exceed every SOF standard.

Special Operations Forces (SOF) cannot be mass produced
MARSOC will build its capabilities deliberately and methodically.

…and competent SOF cannot be created after a crisis
MARSOC will act decisively to increase U.S. special operations capabilities so its Marines and Sailors are better able to anticipate—and prevent—emergencies.

TEAM—Most special operations require non-SOF support
MARSOF require external augmentation or support to offset limitations in airlift, fires, tactical logistics, mobility, and combat service support (CSS).
What we do

Direct Action
We conduct short strikes and small-scale offensive actions to seize, destroy, capture, recover, or inflict damage in hostile or denied areas.

Special Reconnaissance
We acquire information about the capabilities, intentions, and activities of an enemy not normally found in conventional forces.

Counterterrorism
We prevent, deter, and respond to terrorism.

Foreign Internal Defense
We provide training and other assistance to foreign governments and their militaries to enable them to provide for their own national security.

Security Force Assistance
We support the security forces of allied foreign governments to achieve operational objectives the U.S. shares.

Counterinsurgency
In concert with allied governments, we conduct military, paramilitary, political, economic, psychological, and civic action operations to defeat insurgent strongholds.

Support to Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)
We will provide expertise, materiel, and teams to support combatant commanders locating, tagging, and tracking WMD.

Support to Unconventional Warfare
We support resistance movement or insurgency which may support conventional military operations.
Doing more with less

MARSOC encompasses the Marine Raider Regiment (MRR), Marine Raider Training Center (MRTC), and the Marine Raider Support Group (MRSG).

**Marine Raider Regiment** comprises three battalions of four companies each, and will expand as demand for Marine Special Operations Forces grows. A company in turn contains four teams, and is organized by specialty. Each company is commanded by a Marine major and is trained, equipped, and organized to deploy worldwide in support of the geographic combatant commands. MARSOC units retain the flexibility to operate in distributed environments, far from traditional support assets.

U.S. Special Operations Command coordinates the deployment of MRR forces.
Marine Raider Support Group (MRSG) comprises three battalions and one company: 1ST, 2D, and 3D Marine Raider Support Battalions (MRSBs) and MRSG Headquarters Company. MRSG provides specially qualified Marine support in communications, operational logistics, intelligence, explosive ordnance disposal, canine teams, and firepower control. MRSG can deploy support detachments tailored to a particular mission, as directed by MARSOC.

“NO MATTER WHERE WE GO, MARSOC WILL BE READY.”
**Marine Raider Training Center (MRTC)** screens, selects, and trains Marines to become Marine Raiders. They are chosen through a highly competitive process that identifies Marines with the intelligence, maturity, and determination to operate autonomously in remote environments.

Assessment and Selection, though physically demanding, also requires potential operators to demonstrate the ability to solve problems on their own. Candidates are evaluated based on the “Whole Marine Concept.”

MRTC conducts initial training for CSO and SOO selectees in a nine-month Individual Training Course. Special Operations Capabilities Specialists (SOCS) attend a 4-week SOF training course. MRTC also administers advanced training and education in special operations, including Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) tactics, language, weapons employment, communications, and special reconnaissance. Seasoned operators with the experience and judgment to plan and supervise the development of MARSOC’s capabilities staff MRTC.
Marine Raider Training Center executes the Basic Language Course (BLC), which produces capable speakers in French, Indonesian, Tagalog, and Modern Standard Arabic. These languages correlate to targeted areas of interest. These language capabilities, coupled with cultural knowledge, make Marine Raiders effective and valuable resources, equally capable of focusing on defense, diplomacy, or development. BLC graduates enhance MARSOC’s ability to work bilateral missions, counter insurgency operations, foreign internal defense, irregular warfare, and unconventional warfare by communicating directly with partner nation forces.

“THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL CAN MAKE AN IMPACT IS VERY APPEALING—AND IT’S ALSO A LITTLE BIT HUMBLING TO KNOW THAT YOU’RE GOING TO HAVE THEATER-WIDE EFFECTS.”
MARSOC Chaplain and Medical

The Navy-Marine Corps heritage lives on through the service of Navy chaplains, corpsmen, physicians, psychologists, physical therapists, and environmental health officers.

Chaplains assume the role of counselor, priest, and mentor to all they serve, regardless of faith. They are a vital part of MARSOC’s commitment to care for its most valuable asset: its people.

MARSOC’s high operational tempo demands exceptionally trained and dedicated medical staff. The Navy corpsmen and medical professionals attached to MARSOC have been selected for their expertise and ability to maintain a healthy and fit special operations force. Each Marine Special Operations Company includes several Special Amphibious Reconnaissance Corpsmen (SARCs) specially trained in combat diving, basic airborne, and amphibious reconnaissance.
Marines and Special Operations: A Natural Match

MARSOC builds on two centuries of Marine Corps tradition going all the way back to the Shores of Tripoli, epitomizing agility and the amphibious expeditionary nature at the heart of the Corps’ mission.

June 2003
The first Marine Corps U.S. Special Operations Command Detachment, Det One, is activated.

March 2004
Det One deploys to Iraq; this trial run shows that Marines excel at special operations missions.

February 2006
United States Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC) is activated at Camp Lejeune, NC.

May 2006
The 2D Marine Special Operations Battalion is activated at Camp Lejeune, NC.

August 2006
The first Marine Special Operations Advisory Group deploys to remote parts of Africa and South America, carrying out part of MARSOC’s mission to engage with and support the militaries of friendly democracies. They return home from a successful first mission in October 2006.

October 2006
The 1ST Marine Special Operations Battalion is activated at Camp Pendleton, CA.
The Marine Raiders of World War II are MARSOC’s immediate forbearers. President Franklin D. Roosevelt sought to create a commando-style force, to operate behind enemy lines and conduct amphibious light infantry warfare; the Marine Corps was the natural home for such elite units, and the Marine Raiders were activated in 1942. Four battalions served operationally before disbanding at the end of World War II.

After a successful trial deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004, Marine Corps Special Operations Forces officially joined USSOCOM and MARSOC was created in February 2006.

January 2007
The first Marine Special Operations Support Group forms and deploys with the 2D Battalion three months later.

April 2007
The first USSOCOM-sanctioned assessment and selection board selects 12 Marines for MARSOC out of 43 candidates.

April 2009
Fifty Marines earn the title of special operator upon graduating from the first MARSOC Individual Training Course.

June 2007
The Marine Special Operations School activates by training selected Marines to become special operators.

May 2009
3D Marine Special Operations Battalion activates at Camp Lejeune, NC.

October 2011
Critical skills operator is designated as its own Military Occupational Specialty, 0372.
MARSOC’s activation “pairs two of history’s most dedicated groups of warriors: the men and women of the U.S. Special Operations Command with the United States Marine Corps,” said then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Both groups are “legendary for their agility, creativity, and willingness to take on some of the most difficult assignments America can ask of our military.”

October 2012
Activation of the Marine Special Operations Combat Support Battalion (MSOCSB), Marine Special Operations Support Battalion (MSOSB), and Marine Special Operations Logistics Battalion (MSOLB).

June 2014
Marine Special Operations Support Battalion becomes 1ST Marine Special Operations Support Battalion.

July 2014
SOO is designated as its own Military Occupational Specialty, 0370.

May 2014
Marine Special Operations Logistics Battalion becomes 2d Marine Special Operations Support Battalion.

At its founding, MARSOC aimed to reach Full Operational Capability by October 2008. Through tireless effort and unflagging commitment, the Marines, Sailors, and civilians of MARSOC made it happen. Today, MARSOC maintains a robust, persistent, full spectrum, forward-deployed SOF presence in AFRICOM, CENTCOM, and PACOM in order to conduct special operations as directed by those geographic commanders.

Today
Marine Raiders are deployed across the globe in austere environments to combat terrorism, support our nation’s partners, and promote stability and peace. MARSOC has been deployed continuously since the deployment of its first units in August 2006. The men and women of MARSOC are contributing to the proud legacy of the Corps, and furthering the reputation of U.S. special forces as elite warriors at the tip of the spear.

June 2015
MARSOC units are re-designated as Marine Raiders.

August 2016
Operator Insignia adopted.

June 2017
Marine Special Operations School becomes Marine Raider Training Center.