

Life in the Marine Corps

SDG 8 and Descent Work

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Adapting to the life

- In order to become a marine you have to be in really good physical shape
- The training begins with a 90 day period in which you're isolated from the world go through rigorous training 24/7 in which you learn how to behave and conduct yourself as a marine
- Everything has to be earned from the combat boots you wear to your name



Initial Culture Shock

- The first day heading into bootcamp whether it's MCRD San Diego, or MCRD Parris Island you get in a bus full of people with your heads down and aren't allowed to look up at all until you're told to get off the bus and step onto the yellow foot prints which symbolize a legacy in which previous marines have step in and the shoes you have to fill to live up to those expectations



Interaction with different people

- In the military you will meet people from all over the world that will serve right along side you
- Different points of view and the ways they talk all coming together with a single purpose

Day to day life

- Typical day begins at around 0400 by this time you should have made your bed brushed your teeth and have a fresh shaved face
- 0430 be standing outside in formation ready to step off for PT (physical training) which usually lasts until 0700
- 0700 shower change over into the uniform of the day
- 0800 time for chow
- 0830 stand around for 0900 formation
- 0900 formation to find out what tasks need to be accomplished during the day

Rank structure



Joint operation with other countries

- As an infantry Marine I to work and train along side militaries from all over the world and found that we all had so much in common and that aside from the language barriers we were able to collaborate and complete our tasks and build comradery

Life after the marine corps

- I spoke with three of my friends 2 combat veterans and 1 noncombat veteran
- The 2 combat veterans explain to me how it is hard coming back into the civilian world and feeling alone and feeling like they have no place in the world. After the chaos of combat they find themselves re-living those moment in which they felt like they did things and they weren't sure if it was the right decision. But lucky for them the VA has provided them with the tools they need to carry on and live successful lives.
- The 1 noncombat veteran had a similar answer he said that the whole time he was in the marine corps he was trained for war "I ate war, I breath war, all I thought was about going to war, everything I did was leading up to war, but all I got was blue balls because we came close but never got the experience" he then goes on to say that after getting out he was left with paranoia about war and coming to the civilian world and having people thank him for his service made him feel like shit cause he didn't do what he was sent there to do and that his service is worthless and that many other noncombat veterans feel the same way well at least the infantry veterans do.

Equal opportunity

- In the Marine corps there is a saying “ There is no such thing as a black Marine, or a white Marine, or any other color because we’re all green”
- This means that there is no racial bias in the Marine corps everyone gets the same treatment same goes for people with different sexual preferences or gender everyone gets promoted based on their performance in physical tests and how well they lead and how well they know their respective jobs

Comradery

- Along the enlisted ranks there is an almost cult like brotherhood built on suffering everyone has to eat the same nasty food everyone has to go through the same training sleep on the same mud and be cold wet and miserable together no matter where you're from and no matter how rich or poor you are when you're "in the shit" everyone is the same and that builds life long friendships because those people understand the struggles of having nothing and being nothing

Misconceptions about the military

- The biggest misconception about the military is that all the military does is prepper for war and go to other countries and invade or destroy whatever society they get thrown into the job of the military really is to “win the hearts and mind of the people we’re send to protect” during my deployments combat and noncombat deployments we did a lot of humanitarian relief and even in the combat zones we would provide aid to people in need give them water and food we would even give the children candy, the only time we did anything was when we where engaged into combat at which point we did what we had to do in order to stay alive and protect those around us including civilians.

Summary

- Life in the military is not fun and games becoming a marine is a very challenging thing to do you have to have a certain mentality in order to do it
- At the end of it all it is worth it the feeling of accomplishment of earning that title and making the best friends you'll ever have