

# WHO AM I?



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I am a soldier.

I am a sailor.

Yet I am neither.

I am older than the soldier and the sailor, although I am smaller in size.

I go everywhere—by land or sea—and to the very frontiers of civilization if need be, in the protection of American interests.

I raised the first American flag on foreign soil, more than a century ago.

I carried Old Glory into action in Tripoli, Egypt, West Africa, the Fiji Islands, Sumatra, Hawaii, Mexico, China, Uruguay, Paraguay, Alaska, Panama, Formosa, Korea, Nicaragua, Cuba, Santo Domingo, and Hayti.

I am a two-fisted fighting rover.

I am the United States Marine.

(1)

Q. 1: What is a Marine?

A.: Webster gives the definition of a Marine as "A soldier of the sea." He is just that.

Q. 2: What are the duties of a Marine on land?

A.: He protects Government property at naval stations at home, and protects American lives and interests abroad. He holds himself in readiness at all times for duty anywhere. In addition Marines are organized into regiments and brigades for expeditionary and advance base duty, such as is now being performed by the 1st Brigade of Marines in Haiti, and on such service has ample opportunity to view at close range a number of foreign countries.

Q. 3: What are the duties of a Marine at sea?

A.: He does the guard duty aboard battleships and first-class armored cruisers. He forms the backbone of any landing party sent ashore from these ships. He mans the secondary or torpedo defense batteries, consisting of the three-inch, five-inch, and seven-inch guns, and travels all over the world wherever our warships may go.

Q. 4: What are the requirements for enlistment?

A.: That the applicant be an American citizen between 18 and 35 years of age. That he reads, writes, and understands the English language. That he is of good moral character, sound of limb, and in excellent health. That his eyesight and hearing are good. That he has at least twenty sound teeth. That he is single without any dependent relatives. That he is at least sixty-four inches high, without shoes or stockings, and that he weighs at least 124 pounds, stripped.

Q. 5: May boys under 17 enlist as Marines?

A.: No. Boys between 17 and 21 may enlist. Boys under 18 must procure consent of parents.

Q. 6: What is the pay of a Marine?  
A.: From \$15 to \$69 a month, according to rank and length of service. But it should be remembered that this is over and above necessary expenses. The Government provides food, clothing, medical attention, railroad and steamship fares, etc., free of charge.

Q. 7: Does the Marine get extra pay aboard ship?  
A.: Yes, twenty per cent. increase while at sea. That is, a private on his first enlistment would draw \$15 a month on land, in a home station, and \$18 a month at sea.

Q. 8: Does he get extra pay for service in a foreign country?  
A.: Yes, twenty per cent. increase in pay except for service in Porto Rico and Hawaii, which are American territories.

Q. 9: Any other way of increasing pay?  
A.: Yes, if the Marine qualifies with the service rifle as marksman he receives \$2 a month in addition to his pay, sharpshooter \$3 a month, and expert rifleman \$5 a month. If he qualifies as gun-pointer on the great guns aboard ship, he receives from \$2 to \$10 a month, according to the size of the gun. If he is detailed as gun captain on one of the great guns his pay is increased by \$5 a month. If he is detailed to extra duty work such as clerical, electrical, firing boilers, gardening, plumbing, etc., he receives from 35 to 50 cents a day as extra duty pay.

Q. 10: Are there many of these extra duty jobs?  
A.: Yes, every post in the Marine Corps has a number of men on extra duty as painters, carpenters, clerks, etc.

Q. 11: Are Marines taught trades?  
A.: Not ordinarily. Some Marines are sent to the electrical school in New York to learn certain things about electricity, but a Marine's job is pretty generally considered a trade in itself and is the only trade he is required to know.

Q. 12: What advantage in learning the Marine's trade?

A.: The U. S. Government is willing to pay well for knowledge of and proficiency in this trade. Soldiering, especially sea soldiering, is granted by those who know to be the most difficult of mastery of any of the trades or professions. The skilled Marine is a very valuable man to his Government and Uncle Sam pays him well.

Q. 13: Can a Marine rise from the ranks to be an officer?

A.: Yes. Exceptionally qualified enlisted men may take the examinations for commission as second lieutenants. The examinations are very rigid, however, and the commission is not easily obtained. Competent and worthy non-commissioned officers of the Marine Corps may, regardless of length of service, be appointed to the warrant officer grade of Marine gunner or quartermaster clerk. There are forty of these officers—twenty in each grade—and their pay is from approximately \$1750 to \$2500 a year.

Q. 14: Is promotion to corporal and sergeant easy?  
A.: There is one corporal to every six privates and one sergeant for every eleven privates, and so on up to the higher grades of non-commissioned officers. There is no limit to the chances for promotion in the Marine Corps to the man possessing character, ability, and the determination to succeed.

Q. 15: Is the Marine's clothing furnished free?  
A.: Yes. He is given a money allowance for clothing which he may draw against from time to time. A careful man can save from \$75.00 to \$100.00 out of this allowance in his four year enlistment and it will be paid to him at the time of his discharge.

Q. 16: Is the Marine's pay clear? Any expenses?  
A.: The Marine's pay is practically clear, as almost everything he needs is furnished to him free: food, clothing, medical attention, etc. Laundry, soap, towels,

shoepolish, tobacco, etc., are not furnished free and must be paid for by the Marine himself.

Q. 17: Does the Government pay the Marine's fare home at discharge?

A.: Yes, at the rate of three and one-half cents a mile, in cash if he chooses, or will furnish him with ticket and meals from the place he is discharged at to the place he originally applied for enlistment.

Q. 18: Are Marines actually enlisted at recruiting stations?

A.: No, except those re-enlisting. Recruits are sent on probation to the recruit depots at Port Royal, S. C., and Mare Island, California.

Q. 19: What is meant by "on probation?"

A.: The recruit must undergo another examination after he arrives at the recruit depot. If he proves all right, mentally, morally, and physically, at the second examination, he is then actually sworn into the service. If, however, he should have some defect, or prove unlikely material for the Marine Corps, he is sent back home.

Q. 20: At his own expense?

A.: No. The Government pays the fare of the rejected recruit back to his home, unless he has been rejected for misconduct. In the latter case he must find his way back as best he can.

Q. 21: What is a Marine's food like?

A.: It is plain though wholesome and substantial. Meat, potatoes, vegetables, bread, butter, and coffee or tea, usually make up the Marine's dinner in barracks or aboard ship.

Q. 22: Are fresh meat and butter always served?

A.: No. Marines in the field under actual service conditions do not always have the same meals as Marines serving in barracks or aboard ship. Occasionally fresh meat, vegetables, and baker's bread are hard to get, and the Marines are issued canned food instead.

Q. 23: How about hardtack?

A.: Hardtack is sometimes served to Marines while in the field, but seldom, if ever, served to them in barracks or aboard ship.

Q. 24: Do they string Marines up by the thumbs as punishment?

A.: No. Corporal punishment, such as flogging, branding, tattooing, hanging up by the thumbs, etc., is unlawful in the service. The worst sort of punishment that can be awarded the Marine ordinarily, is summary dismissal from the Marine Corps. He feels that worse than anything else, for it means losing a good job.

Q. 25: Is the discipline severe?

A.: Not unnecessarily so. Discipline must be maintained, of course, but it is not harsh nor rigorous.

Q. 26: How do officers treat the men?

A.: Fairly and squarely—absolutely so. The rights of a private Marine are protected by law in the same manner as the rights of the officer. If either should go beyond his rights he is liable to punishment.

Q. 27: Can a Marine purchase his discharge?

A.: Yes, if he has some good and sufficient reason for wishing to leave the service.

Q. 28: What is the term of enlistment for Marines?

A.: Four years.

Q. 29: Is there a reserve or is he free at the end of four years?

A.: He is discharged absolutely, without hitch or string at the end of his four years.

Q. 30: Can he re-enlist immediately?

A.: He can. The next day after discharge.

Q. 31: How often are furloughs granted to Marines?

A.: Furloughs are not granted at any stated intervals. Furlough is a privilege granted by the commanding officer to those who have rendered faithful service, but is never given to a man as a matter of right on his demand. Commanding officers are disposed to be very

liberal in the matter of furloughs, and in cases of sickness or death in the Marine's family the furlough is always granted without question. The Marine must pay his own railway fare while on furlough, and must furnish his own lodgings, twenty-five cents a day being allowed for rations.

Q. 32: Is a Marine given civil service preference?

A.: On a par with those holding honorable discharges from the Army and Navy, and is given preference over the civilian who has not had any service.

Q. 33: Does the Marine have opportunity for study?

A.: Yes, plenty of opportunity. Usually the day's work is finished by three o'clock in the afternoon and from that time until six o'clock the next morning, his time is his own to spend in study or do what best pleases him. Except, of course, the days he is actually on guard.

Q. 34: How often does the Marine go on guard?

A.: Once every three or four days—sometimes often, sometimes not so often, according to the number of men attached to the barracks or ship. His tour of guard duty lasts for 24 hours. Two hours walking post (sentry duty) and four in the guard room every six hours during the 24-hour tour of guard.

Q. 35: Where are Marines stationed in the United States?

A.: At the Navy Yards and naval stations at Portsmouth, N. H.; Boston, Mass.; Hingham, Mass.; New London, Conn.; New York City; Iona Island, N. Y.; Dover, N. J.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Washington, D. C.; Annapolis, Md.; Norfolk, Va.; Charleston, S. C.; Port Royal, S. C.; Key West, Fla.; Pensacola, Fla.; New Orleans, La.; Puget Sound, Wash.; Mare Island, Calif.; San Diego, Calif.

Q. 36: Where do Marines serve abroad on shore?

A.: Guantanamo, Cuba; Managua, Nicaragua; Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands; Guam, Marianna Islands; Cavite,

Philippine Islands; Olongapo, Philippine Islands; Island of Haiti, and Pekin, China.

Q. 37: Do Marines play baseball?

A.: They do. The Government even provides them with gloves, balls, and bats. Baseball, football, boxing, rowing, and tennis are encouraged and every facility for the proper enjoyment of these manly sports is afforded.

Q. 38: How long must a Marine serve before he can retire?

A.: After thirty years' service the Marine is retired at three-fourths pay plus \$15.75 a month for heat, light, clothing and rations. After twenty years of service he may transfer to the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve until he shall have completed his thirty years. In the Reserve he is paid a liberal retainer and when called to periods of training he is given full pay and travel allowance.

Q. 39: Are Marines permitted to read off duty?

A.: Certainly. In every barracks and aboard ship are splendid libraries for the use of the men. Good books and periodicals may be had in these libraries.

Q. 40: How does an enlistment in the Marine Corps benefit one?

A.: An enlistment affords the average young American an opportunity for broadening travel to strange lands. Service in the Marine Corps will also build him up physically, improve his morals and his mind, and in every way make a better man of him. After his service he will be better able to grapple with the problems of life.

Q. 41: Are Marines required to be in uniform at all times?

A.: No. Serving in barracks they may wear civilian dress while on liberty.

Q. 42: What is meant by "on liberty?"

A.: When the day's work is finished, about three o'clock in the afternoon, the Marines not actually on guard are usually given liberty to leave barracks or shipboard and go where they please. And they may remain away until reveille—six o'clock next morning. This privilege may be abridged in unhealthy ports, or for diplomatic, military or quarantine reasons, or on account of misconduct.

Q. 43: Is it true that there is hard feeling between sailors and Marines?

A.: No. In the days of wooden sailing ships Marines and sailors did not get on well together. That feeling has now entirely disappeared.

Q. 44: How often do Marines get paid?

A.: Once a month, shortly after the first of the month.

Q. 45: Are Marines allowed to smoke?

A.: Yes, when not on duty.

Q. 46: And play cards?

A. Yes, but are not permitted to gamble.

Q. 47: Does every Marine go all over the world?

A.: No, but many do. The Marine Corps affords the opportunity and many find it.

Q. 48: Are Marines allowed on shore in foreign ports?

A.: Yes, if there is no contagious disease or trouble ashore. Quite often parties are made up for a two or three day tour of the inland country away from the port.

Q. 49: Are Marines allowed to hunt and fish?

A.: Yes.

Q. 50: Why do men seek to enlist in the Marine Corps?

A.: Because it is considered one of the finest military organizations in the entire world. Any young American able to pass the examination for entrance into this grand old organization should be proud indeed.

**Are You Ready For**

**The Big Question**



**IF SO, TURN OVER**

**THIS PAGE**

*Why Don't You Enlist  
in the*

**UNITED STATES  
MARINE CORPS**

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**IT'S A SPLENDID  
PAYING PROPO-  
SITION. BETTER  
INVESTIGATE. ::**

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*Information Cheerfully  
Given at*  
**Recruiting Station**