

History of the Marine Corps

- 1775** **November 10, 1775:** Continental Marine Corps is founded.
- Samuel Nicholas became captain and commanding officer of newly formed Marines and began visiting numerous public inns and taverns throughout Philadelphia to begin recruiting.
- 1776** **March 3, 1776:** First amphibious raid is made at British-held island of New Providence in the Bahamas.
- 1798:** Marine jacket changes from green to blue to represent the Marines' naval tradition.
- July 11, 1798:** United States Marine Band is established.
- Nation's oldest, continuously active professional music organization.
 - Performed at every presidential inauguration since Thomas Jefferson's on March 4, 1801.
- 1798** **July 11, 1798:** President John Adams approves "An Act for Establishing and Organizing a Marine Corps," and it becomes law. The following day, the president appointed William Ward Burrows the major commandant of the new Corps. In August, Major Burrows opened his headquarters in Philadelphia, at that time still the capital of the new nation. (Founding of the United States Marine Corps)
- 1862** **May 15, 1862:** Corporal John F. Mackie performs actions that earn him the first Medal of Honor, the first to a Marine.
- 1912** **May 22, 1912:** First Lieutenant Alfred A. Cunningham embarks on the Marine Corps' first solo training flight.
- Begins the rich legacy of Marine Corps aviation operations.
- 1914** **1914:** Marine Corps develops America's first armored vehicles.
- 1918** **August 13, 1918:** Opha May Johnson becomes the first female Marine.
- Enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve.
- 1939** **January 18, 1939:** Today's Marine Corps flag first flown.
- 1941** **1941:** The Landing Vehicle Tracked or LVT was the Marines Corps' first amphibious vehicle to aid in battle on both land and sea.
- 1942** **June 1942:** First African-American recruits become Marines.
- February 19, 1945:** Battle of Iwo Jima commences.
- Flag raising at Iwo Jima photograph by Joe Rosenthal is taken.
 - Photo becomes iconic symbol of the Marine Corps.
- 1945** **November 10, 1945:** Frederick C. Branch becomes first African-American Marine Corps officer.
- 1951** **September 27, 1951:** First combat helicopter assault is made in Operation BLACKBIRD, Korea.
- 1955** **1955:** The eagle, globe and anchor emblem becomes the official emblem of the Marine Corps.
- 1978** **May 11, 1978:** Margaret Brewer becomes the Marine Corps' first female general.
- 2002** **2002:** Camouflage gets digital upgrade.
- Camouflage helps avoid detection by human eye and digital lens.
 - Computer-generated pattern of overlapping squares.