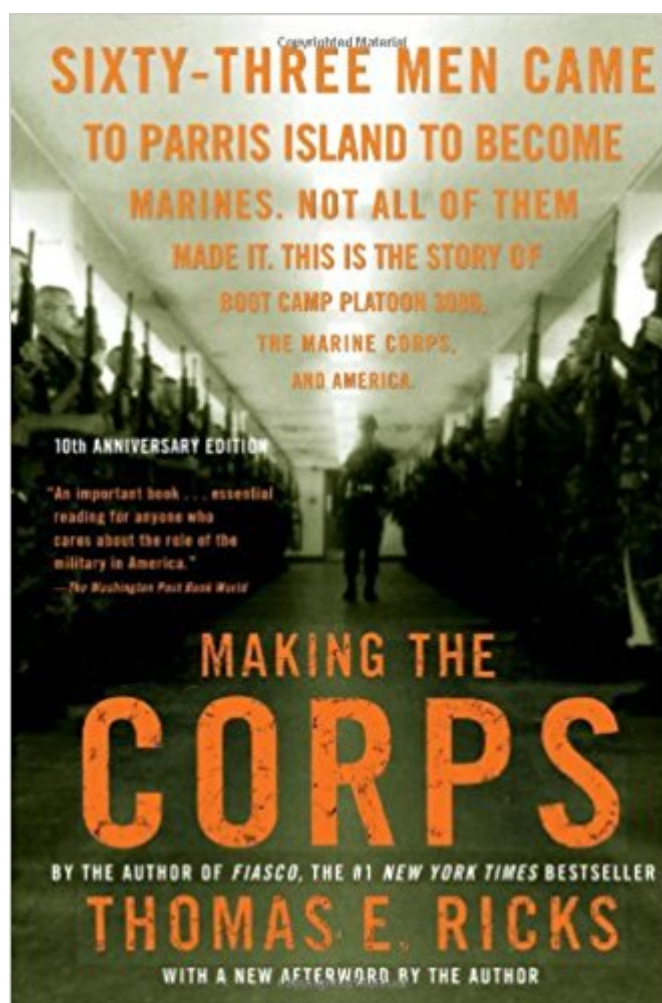


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# Making The Corps: 10th Anniversary Edition With A New Afterword By The Author



## Synopsis

The bestselling, compelling insider's account of the Marine Corps from the lives of the men of Platoon 3086—their training at Parris Island, their fierce camaraderie, and the unique code of honor that defines them. The United States Marine Corps, with its proud tradition of excellence in combat, its hallowed rituals, and its unbending code of honor, is part of the fabric of American myth. Making the Corps visits the front lines of boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina. Here, old values are stripped away and new Marine Corps values are forged. Bestselling author Thomas E. Ricks follows these men from their hometowns, through boot camp, and into their first year as Marines. As three fierce drill instructors fight a battle for the hearts and minds of this unforgettable group of young men, a larger picture emerges, brilliantly painted, of the growing gulf that divides the military from the rest of America. Included in this edition is an all-new afterword from the author that examines the war in Iraq through the lens of the Marines from Platoon 3086, giving readers an on-the-ground view of the conflict from those who know it best.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Marines are different: distinct not only from ordinary U.S. citizens but from the ranks of the army, navy, and air force as well. The difference begins with boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, where the history and future of the United States Marine Corps intersect in the training of every new recruit. In Making the Corps, Ricks follows a platoon of young men through 11 grueling weeks of boot camp as their drill instructors indoctrinate them into the culture of the Few and the Proud. Many

arrive at Parris Island undisciplined and apathetic; they leave as marines. With the end of the cold war, the role of the American military has shifted in emphasis from making war to keeping peace. "The best way to see where the U.S. military is going is to look at the marines today," says Ricks, as the other armed forces have begun to emulate the marine model. To understand Parris Island--a central experience in the life of every marine--is to understand the ethos of the Marine Corps. Ricks examines the recent changes in the Standard Operating Procedures for Recruit Training (the bible of Parris Island), which indicate how the corps is dealing with critical social and political issues like race relations, gender equality, and sexual orientation. Making the Corps pierces the USMC's "sis-boom-bah" mythology to help outsiders understand this most esoteric and eccentric of U.S. armed forces. --Tim Hogan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ricks, the Wall Street Journal's Pentagon correspondent, here follows a Marine Corps training platoon (#3086) from the arrival of the recruit bus at Parris Island, South Carolina, to graduation. The background he gives on most of the recruits is solid, but Ricks is also concerned with the recent history and present-day image of the corps. According to Ricks, what sets the Marines apart from other U.S. military services is its reliance on teamwork, discipline, and commitment. By following the 3086th through its first year, he not only shows how the new recruit is molded but paints a larger picture of the corps. John Wayne movies have shaped most Americans' image of the Marines?an image that, as Ricks shows, is not necessarily reality today. Highly recommended for all libraries, especially those with large historical collections.?Mark E. Ellis, Albany State Univ., Ga.Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When I first started working towards getting ready for Marine bootcamp I read this for a bit of insight. And insightful it was. I really learned just how much teamwork and comradery is valued in the corps. What I enjoyed most, was learning about key historical facts involving the marines and it's existence. Learning this and everything else felt like I was listening to an actual person tell a story. Overall a great read, a great story.

Extremely compelling! The Corps is doing what no other institution in America seems to be doing. They're taking a "Beavis" and "Butthead" out of high school on a Monday and 11 weeks later turning them into someone who tries to achieve excellence in tying his/her shoe strings. This book explains how the Corps does this at their basic training camp at Parris Island (The west coast camp is in San

Diego). You'll follow a platoon of recruits through basic training. You'll feel the extreme pressure put on the instructors to not only build Marines but to set examples for them. Their extreme fitness is a given but you'll also see how the recruits are immersed in Corps history, culture, ethics, pride, and togetherness in order to produce America's Marines. I bought this book for my grandson who's interested in becoming a Marine. This should clear his sinuses on what to expect!

I (like at least one other reviewer) read this book as an afterward to finishing Ricks' "The Generals." I wanted to validate 'him' and what he wrote by reading his words about the Corps. I am not a Marine but have been close friends with many, many. So I thought I might be able to see if Ricks' perspectives might be revealed by reading another work. Certainly the content is aged and Ricks makes no bones about that fact. Just the 'Crucible' in and of itself. But he does continually (and properly IMHO) point out the concept of 'values', those of the Marines, Marines in making and civilians (society - something I'm very aware of having been in law enforcement and public service for a lengthy period). My own experiences with 'society' mirrors what Ricks states continually thru the book, that poor values, unstable values, "me-ism" values are at the core of current societal problems and that the Marine's effort is to install instead a 'service' based, brotherhood concept of honor, courage and commitment. A lofty goal. Ricks' writings point to political failures in efforts to manage conflicts (he brings this up regularly in "The Generals" as it should be but is also strongly opposed to recent leadership during conservative presidencies - to be fair, he castigates Johnson during Vietnam as well) and such is the case in Iraq. Properly noted is the methods used to "win" in early Afghanistan (forms of counterinsurgency and embedding of smaller units seeking partnership with the oppressed, etc) and then the sudden (wrong in his opinion) shift to invading Iraq. Part of the book is a platform for his position on that subject (as was "The Generals" about WMD in Iraq) but overall he portrays the 'period' Parris Island experience ('period', as exemplified by today's commander being a woman and senior Sgt Major being black - a future alluded to in Making The Corps) politically neutral but with some strong admiration for the efforts made by the USMC. In the 'recent' afterward it seems clear that he is saddened by the mentioned failures individually of those he covered in the early writings and happy at those who succeeded. Something, while intangible and hard to describe, that I "think" is present is the slight attitude of "it is what it is" about much of the outcome. That is also a common theme in today's social outlook with few "seeming" to comprehend that "what it is" is exactly what the majority 'allow' it to be... but perhaps I'm reading in. One portion of the book, that which discusses the 'new' professional military, speaks of a civilian, military clash in the future due 'value' conflict or political decay (Constitutional departures,

breakdown of the three tiered checks and balances system, financial calamity, so forth) and how the professional Marine Corps would (or would not) participate. Having lived thru the L.A riots of '92 (and knowing what sat down at El Toro awaiting 'the call.') it would seem that such is not farfetched! Given the current separations within America's electorate one might ascribe a bit of clairvoyance to Ricks. This is a good read with much validity presented. Ricks' personal viewpoints are veiled but he has great insight into the military industry. Nothing is set in stone but the Corps Spirit is roundly applauded as are the 'good' results. One can only wish that such values were more common in society... Honor, Courage and Commitment!

Brilliant. Follows a platoon of Marine Corps recruits through their training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, and through several years beyond. This book is unique, although yes, it contains all the unusual, colorful things that the drill instructors impose on their recruits. The book covers the style of the DIs and the performance and perceptions of a number of the recruits. Some wash out of the program. Most graduate and go on to proud and productive Marine Corps service. The sad stories are those who are proud to graduate, but nonetheless who fail upon returning to civilian life. The book has much text on how the Marine Corps and the Armed Forces in general differ so much from the days when the US had a draft. If you served in the Marine Corps as I did, you will enjoy this book, but find much interesting insight into the philosophy of recruit training - training you thought you understood, but did not.

Well written book that remains easy to read. Formatting on Kindle is sometimes a problem, often requiring you to return to your library and then re-open the book. This is well worth a read despite these detractors. Very deep research was clearly performed during and after the writing of this book. It does get into some broad subject matter at times which detracts from the enjoyment of the core tale; unnecessarily in my opinion. If you've been there and own an EGA, it will certainly stir up your own personal memories of PI.

This book is a gold mine of information for one who wants to know what Marine Recruit training will be like. Sure things have changed some in the years since the 3086 went through, but the writing is timeless. If you want to know about training at PI then this is the book for you.

My son recently graduated from Marine boot camp and I read the book to get an idea of what he would face. Very interesting and at times there are some things that happened in the book that you

hope are not happening now. I know that it is tough for a reason but some things were unnecessary. But from seeing my son now after boot camp he is truly a Marine.

I got this for my Sister right before going into the Marines. She said it REALLY helped her to know what to expect when she got there and really helped her deal with everything because she knew what would happen ahead of time. I would REALLY recommend this book for anyone going into the Marines!

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