

U.S. Marine Corps

## **MARINE CORPS RECRUITING DEPOT SAN DIEGO : CALIFORNIA**

Established in 1921, Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego is located in San Diego near the San Diego Airport, Lindbergh Field. It has a satellite facility at Edson's Range at Camp Pendleton. The Depot's unique Spanish Colonial Revival architecture was designed by famed architect Bertram Goodhue.

MCRD San Diego's main purpose is to train male recruits for service as United States Marines. It is one of two U.S. Marine Corps



recruit training bases in the United States - the other being MCRD Paris Island. Training at MCRD San Diego is an

arduous thirteen-week process that transforms some of the best young Americans into United States Marines. The Depot trains roughly 18,000 recruits per year.

### **FAST FACTS**

- » Location: **San Diego, CA**
- » Land Area: **425 acres** (388 useable acres)
- » Military Personnel (Permanently assigned): **1,574 Marines, 186 Navy, 118 Coast Guard**
- » Civilian Personnel: **735**



**Above:** A recruit from Company C begins his descent down a 60-foot rappel tower at MCRD San Diego. (Marine Corps photo)

**Left:** Staff Sgt. Levi Fajardo, Drill Instructor, Company L, retires his platoon guidon with fellow drill instructors during graduation. (Courtesy photo)

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

MCRD San Diego's main mission is the initial training of male enlisted recruits from west of the Mississippi River.

### **CONTACT**

**Public Affairs Office**  
(619) 524-8724



# MCRD SAN DIEGO : CALIFORNIA

## UNIT MISSIONS

- » **Headquarters and Service Battalion:** Provides administration, logistics, training, and law & order support for personnel assigned to the Depot. Includes the Commanding General’s staff, which supports the Commander’s supervision of recruiting training functions and exercises operational control of the Western Recruiting Region.
- » **Recruit Training Regiment (RTR):** Conducts recruit training in order to transform civilians into basically trained United States Marines who can succeed on the battlefield, in garrison, and in society.
- » **Weapons and Field Training Battalion:** Provides instruction to recruits in rifle marksmanship, designated Marine Corps Common Skills, and facilitates the Crucible in accordance with the Program of Instruction, in order to support the making of the highest quality U.S. Marine.
- » **Recruiters School, Marine Corps Recruiting Command:** Responsible for training all Marine Corps Recruiters. Approximately 1400 students attend the 8 week course each year.
- » **Drill Instructor School (RTR):** Develops the knowledge, command presence, leadership, and instructional ability of selected non-commissioned officers for duty as Marine Corps Drill Instructors. Provides more than 500 hours of training during an 11-week course.
- » **Marine Band:** Provides musical support for military ceremonies and community relations events in San Diego and throughout the Western Recruiting Region, as directed by the Commanding General.
- » **MCRD San Diego Command Museum:** Exhibits historical items relating to and furthers the public’s understanding of the U.S. Marine Corps. One of three formal command museums in the Marine Corps.
- » **Pacific Area Tactical Law Enforcement Team (U.S. Coast Guard):** Deploys Law Enforcement Teams on U.S. Navy ships in support of counter drug and other missions.

For more information, please see <  
<http://www.marines.mil/unit/tecom/mcrdsandiego/Pages/welcome.aspx>>



**Above:** Recruits walk in tactical columns, staying alert for anything suspicious during the “Crucible”, the final test in U.S. Marine Corps training, at MCRD San Diego. (U.S. Marine Corps photo)

### COMMANDER RANK

Brigadier General

### TRAINING RANGES

Multiple training facilities located aboard the Depot or at Edson’s Range

### UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

- » One of two MCRDs
- » Trains male U.S. Marine Corps recruits west of the Mississippi (female recruits are trained at MCRD Parris Island)
- » Has 25 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places, many of which are in the style of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture
- » Home to the MCRD San Diego Command Museum and a number of other tenant organizations.