

MARDIV MONTHLY

#02
APRIL
2026

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COVER
PHOTO

Photo by Lance Cpl. Carla Perez Ramirez/USMC

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Carlos J. Askew, sergeant major of Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division and Marines with Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, stand in formation during a division rededication ceremony on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, April 17, 2026. The ceremony honored the 85th birthday by reflecting the esprit de corps and brotherhood within 2nd Marine Division, paying homage to the service and sacrifice of Marines and Sailors both past and present.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

To foster long-term career viability, the Marine Corps has synchronized lateral move opportunities with robust professional development programs that rival civilian standards. For commanders, this yields a more capable force as Marines return to their formations with advanced technical expertise, formal certifications, and a commitment to long-term service. For junior personnel, this approach allows them to remain actively engaged in the mission

while simultaneously building a highly competitive professional portfolio. Because these developmental resources are open to all Marines—not just those executing a lateral move—every service member can fuse tactical experience with nationally recognized credentials to amplify their immediate value and build a resilient foundation for the future.



TARGETED MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTIES FOR RETENTION



1751 - Influence Specialist

Influence Specialists of 2d Marine Division are the Division's premier capability for dominating the information environment. Their specialized experience in shaping adversary perceptions and behavior cannot be rapidly regenerated, and increased retention ensures the next generation of 2d Marine Division Influence Specialists are trained by those who have mastered the complexities of information maneuver under real-world pressure. Re-enlistment is not just career continuation, it is a commitment to maintaining the non-kinetic lethality, credibility, and operational edge of the 1751 community. Retaining enlisted Influence Specialists preserves critical cognitive

warfighting capabilities that are costly and time-intensive to rebuild. Experienced specialists anchor information operations teams, sustain vital institutional knowledge, and ensure the multidomain readiness of 2d Marine Division.



2336 - EOD Technician

Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technicians remain at the forefront of a high-consequence battlefield capability that directly enables freedom of maneuver and force protection. Their expertise in neutral-

izing explosive hazards, performing technical forensics, and managing Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) threats provides commanders with a decisive advantage in contested environments. Retention ensures the division retains technicians who are already technically proficient, skilled in navigating the most rigorous training pipelines, and capable of mentoring the next generation in high-pressure tactics that increase survivability across the Marine Corps. The experience of a seasoned EOD Technician is a critical combat multiplier that cannot be quickly replaced; it is forged through years of specialized schooling and real-world mission sets. For commanders, retaining experienced 2336s preserves a vital technical capability at the tactical level and prevents the costly loss of institutional knowledge regarding complex device defeat and asymmetric threats. Keeping these trained technicians in the formation ensures mission continuity, accelerates the integration of advanced defeat systems, and sustains the division's competitive edge in modern, multi-domain warfare.

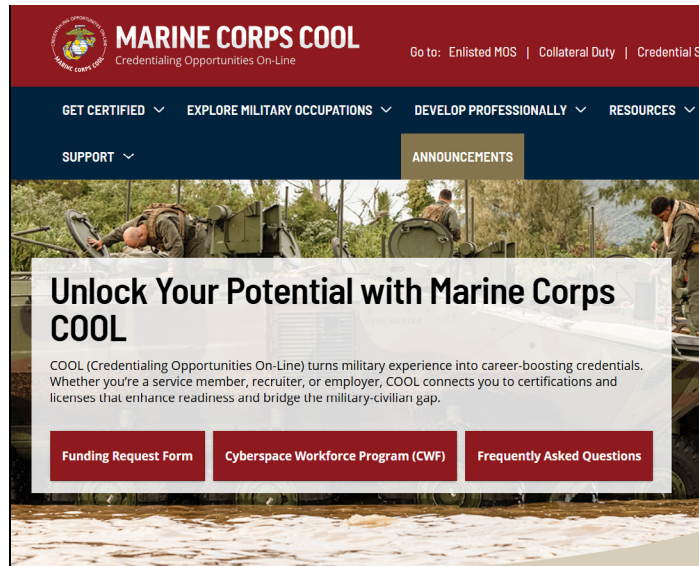
CREDENTIALING OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE: WHAT EVERY MARINE NEEDS TO KNOW

The Marine Corps is increasing awareness of its Credentialing Opportunities Online (COOL) program, which provides Marines with access to civilian certifications and licenses that align with their Military Occupational Specialties (MOS). A recent Marine Administrative Message (MARADMIN 111/26) outlined updates to the program and emphasized its importance in supporting professional development and transition readiness.

Marine Corps COOL serves as the official resource for Marines seeking to enhance their skills and prepare for civilian careers. The program identifies certifications that align with specific MOSs and provides guidance on funding and application procedures. COOL is part of a Department of War (Dow) initiative to ensure service members have access to standardized and transparent credentialing resources.

The MARADMIN highlighted several key aspects of the COOL program:

- Certification Alignment: COOL helps Marines identify civilian certifications and licenses that are directly related to their MOS.
- Funding Availability: Funding for certifications is provided on a first-come, first-served basis and is separate from Tuition Assistance. Marines are encouraged to act quickly to secure funding.
- Eligibility: The program is available to Active Component Marines, members of the Selected Marine Corps Reserve, and Marines on Active Duty Operational Support Orders.
- Support for Advisors: COOL also serves as a resource for education and career advisors, including Career Counselors and Voluntary Education Center



staff, who assist Marines with professional development and career planning.

The MARADMIN also provided updated information on specific funding rules. For example, officers and government civilians assigned to cyber-coded billets are eligible for funding through the Cyberspace Workforce, but these requirements are strictly enforced and cannot be waived.

Marines can access the program and explore available certifications on the Marine Corps COOL website at https://www.cool.osd.mil/usmc/index.html. The website includes detailed guidance on eligibility, funding, and application procedures. Questions can be directed to the installation Voluntary Education Office or submitted through the "Contact Us" link on the COOL website.

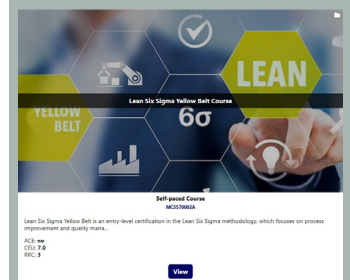
The Marine Corps COOL program is designed to enhance military performance and prepare Marines for civilian career opportunities. By providing access to certifications that align with their MOS, the program ensures

that Marines are equipped with the skills and credentials needed to succeed both during and after their military service.

The Marine Corps COOL program remains a critical tool for Marines seeking to enhance their skills, improve their transition readiness, and prepare for civilian careers. The recent MARADMIN serves as a reminder of the program's benefits and provides updated information to ensure Marines and their advisors are fully informed about the opportunities available.

For more information, visit the Marine Corps COOL website at https://www.cool.osd.mil/usmc/index.html or contact a local Voluntary Education Office.

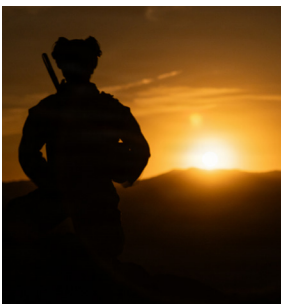
MarineNet offers formal Lean Six Sigma training—including Yellow Belt, Green Belt, and project management methodologies—designed to enhance operational efficiency and support COOL credentialing. Marines can pursue specific certifications, such as the foundational Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt (ICYB) or advanced courses like the Six Sigma Business Case & Project Charter (CPILSSF010), to build continuous process improvement skills. These resources can be easily accessed by logging into MarineNet and searching for the associated course codes.



"We encourage all eligible Marines to take advantage of this program and unlock their full potential."

Lt. Gen. William J. Bowers, Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs





MONTH IN REVIEW



Photo by Lance Cpl. Brian Michalski/USMC

U.S. Marines with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, post security during a helo insertion as part of a Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, April 20, 2026. Marines participated in a MCCRE to be evaluated on unit combat readiness and ability to execute mission critical tasks in preparation for future operations and deployments.

2D CEB MCRE

The 2d Combat Engineer Battalion recently executed a high-stakes live-fire range as a critical component of their comprehensive Combat Readiness Evaluation. This rigorous exercise was designed to test the operational preparedness of the unit across thirteen essential engineering specialties under simulated combat conditions. The evolution provided a direct, quantifiable measure of the battalion's capabilities, with every completed task validating the unit's overall readiness. Ultimately,

these evaluations ensure the 2d Marine Division maintains its lethal edge and stands ready to deploy for any conflict, anytime and anywhere.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Dominic Trujillo/USMC

U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Andrew Johnson, a platoon sergeant with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, holds security during a combat patrol as part of Mountain Warfare Training Exercise 2-26 on Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, California, March 13, 2026. MTX is a one-month-long exercise designed to prepare units to survive and strengthen

2D CEB MTX

In the unforgiving and austere environment of the Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, California, U.S. Marines from the 2d Combat Engineer Battalion, 2d Marine Division, are relentlessly sharpening their warfighting capabilities. This training evolution focuses on the unique challenges of high-altitude operations, where the thin air and unpredictable weather test the physical and mental limits of every individual. To overcome the tactical disadvantages of rugged terrain, the battalion is utilizing advanced Unmanned Air-

craft Systems (UAS). These platforms allow engineers to extend their reconnaissance reach far beyond the next ridgeline, providing high-resolution mapping and real-time intelligence that is vital for planning mobility and counter-mobility missions in restricted areas. Ultimately, every element of this rigorous training cycle—from technical UAS integration to joint-service coordination—forges a more lethal, adaptable, and globally prepared fighting force capable of winning in any clime and place.

DRONE ATTACK COMPETITION

U.S. Marines assigned to the 2nd Marine Division are actively enhancing their defensive capabilities against modern aerial threats through advanced live-fire training exercises at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The dynamic training focuses specifically on neutralizing agile, small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS). During these sophisticated live-fire evolutions, Marines pit their marksmanship, precision, and tactical instincts against dynamic airborne targets in a display

of advanced combat readiness. The integration of counter-sUAS training is designed to address the unique and evolving challenges posed by drone platforms in contemporary conflicts. By mastering these specialized defensive techniques, the 2nd Marine Division ensures its personnel maintain unmatched lethality and survivability. The continued emphasis on adapting to modern aerial threats guarantees the Division remains prepared to secure a decisive advantage on any future battlefield.



Photo by Cpl. Judith Ann Lazaro/USMC

U.S. Marines with 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, participate in a hike during exercise Cold Response 26 in Setermoen, Norway, Feb. 6, 2026.

2D RECONASANCE BATALION

Across Europe, 2d Reconnaissance Battalion trains alongside NATO allies to build seamless interoperability and shared tactical doctrine. On rugged terrain, Marine leaders integrate armored reconnaissance units with partner-nation forces for complex amphibious exercises, validating the ability to rapidly project joint combat power from sea to shore. Under the cover of darkness, Force Reconnaissance Marines execute clandestine landings, utilizing advanced signature management and sur-

veillance tech to provide real-time intelligence in contested areas. Simultaneously, combat divers master subsurface infiltration in freezing northern waters, ensuring the force can overcome any maritime challenge. These missions forge a more lethal, unified alliance ready to respond to any global threat.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Hunter J. Kuester/USMC

U.S. Marines and sailors with 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company, 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, launch a Combat Rubber Raiding Craft off a submarine in Augusta, Italy, Feb. 22, 2026. The Marines and sailors launched the craft during exercise Dynamic Manta 26. Dynamic Manta is a NATO-led exercise aimed to provide all participants with complex and challenging warfare training to enhance their

85TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



Photo by Lance Cpl. Francis Hrosar/USMC

U.S. Marines with 2nd Marine Division participate in a motivational run for the Division's 85th anniversary on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, April 16, 2026. 2nd MARDIV's unit run reflects esprit de corps and camaraderie within the units and pays homage to the service and sacrifice of Marines and Sailors, both past and present.

U.S. Marines of the historic 2d Marine Division pause to reflect on a distinguished legacy of valor and combat excellence, coming together to celebrate their 85th anniversary. This significant milestone serves as a testament to over eight decades of unwavering dedication to the nation's defense, encompassing a storied history that stretches from the grueling amphibious assaults of World War II to modern-day contingency operations across the globe. Pounding the pavement in a massive, division-wide

motivational run, thousands of Marines and Sailors move as a single, unified force. The echoing cadence and synchronized footfalls across the installation showcase the deep-rooted esprit de corps, physical readiness, and fierce camaraderie that have long defined their ranks. This physical demonstration of strength and endurance reinforces the vital bonds that hold squads, platoons, and companies together in the face of adversity.

Transitioning from the high energy of the run to the solemnity of a formal rededication ceremony, the service members stand shoulder-to-shoulder to honor the rich, battle-forged history of the division. Standing at attention under the division's colors, they listen as leaders recount the unit's storied campaigns, battle streamers, and the countless acts of heroism that have cemented the 2d Marine Division's reputation as a lethal and ready force. Ultimately, this powerful

display of brotherhood and collective resolve pays profound homage to the enduring service and ultimate sacrifices of the Marines and Sailors—both past and present. By remembering those who laid down their lives and honoring the veterans who paved the way, today's generation ensures they continue to forge the indomitable, fighting spirit of the 2d Marine Division as they stand ready to face the challenges of tomorrow.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Carla Perez Ramirez/USMC

U.S. Marines with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, stand in formation during a division rededication ceremony on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, April 17, 2026. The ceremony honored the 85th birthday by reflecting the esprit de corps and brotherhood within 2nd Marine Division, paying homage to the service and sacrifice of Marines and Sailors both past and present.

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