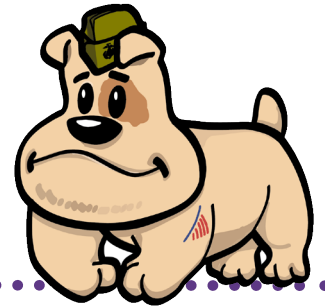


African Americans in the UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



On 25 May 1942, the Commandant of the Marine Corps issued instructions to recruit the first African American citizens for service in the U.S. Marine Corps. The first African American Marines were sent to a segregated (separate) training camp named Montford Point at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Prior to integration of the Marine Corps in 1949, approximately 20,000 African American Marines received basic training at Montford Point.



TIMELINE

1776 - The first African American to fight in a Marine role was John Martin.

1941 - President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802, reaffirming that “there shall be no discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries or government because of race....”

1942 - The first African American recruits arrived at Montford Point.

1948 - President Truman issued Executive Order 9981 establishing equality of treatment and opportunity in the U.S. military regardless of race.

1949 - The first African American female Marine was Annie E. Graham.

1967 - James Anderson, Jr., became the first African American Medal of Honor recipient in the Marine Corps by sacrificing his life by smothering a grenade with his body in Cam Lo, Vietnam.

First African American Marine Aviators

Frank E. Petersen, Jr.



- Frank Petersen was the first African American Marine aviator.
- He flew more than 300 combat missions over Korea and Vietnam.
- He was the first African American fighter squadron commander.
- He was the first African American Marine Corps General.
- Frank Petersen retired in 1988 as a USMC Lieutenant General.



Vernice Armour



- Vernice Armour was the first African American female Marine aviator and the first African American female combat pilot in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- She flew with HMLA-169 during the invasion of Iraq and completed two combat tours in the Gulf.
- Vernice Armour is a former United States Marine Corps Captain.

Montford Point Marines in World War II Word Search

X X D T G B L X W G A W F S X
 F U S N F U K X Y A P V D W P
 E P L I R G G X C R B N I O H
 J L N Q Z Z Z L E N A C B T A
 C Q M M S F H O W L Q D U C H
 M Y E Q T E K D S M Y I E K J
 I U C H D I G I L N S W K I V
 W L H C N D A R O X N M E O H
 O C R A C N W H E R T D X U S
 J L W L A W P X G G I E V V T
 I A P I P S Y S N J A W N I H
 M F R N A P I A S F M T R X Y
 A A M O N T F O R D P O I N T
 M A W B N P N B R T S D A O H
 I R F G Y M D V Q Q M O D A N

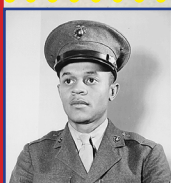
Montford Point Mariana Islands
 Saipan Okinawa
 Iwo Jima Segregation

Check out our new **Montford Point Marine**
 exhibit inside the World War II Gallery!

Gilbert "Hashmark" Johnson



- Gilbert Johnson earned the nickname "Hashmark" because he wore three diagonal service stripes on one sleeve of his uniform. The stripes represented his service prior to WWII in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy and were unique among the recruits training at Montford Point.
- Johnson joined the U.S. Marines when he heard that they were recruiting African Americans.
- He reported to Montford Point on 14 November 1942. He became one of the first drill instructors at Montford Point.
- In 1974, the Marine Corps renamed the Montford Point Camp as Camp Gilbert H. Johnson in honor of "Hashmark."



The first African American to enlist in the US Marine Corps was Howard P. Perry.

1943, two recruits in a light tank during training at Montford Point Camp, North Carolina.



Pfc Luther Woodward admires the Bronze Star he was awarded.

Frederick C. Branch was the first African American officer to be commissioned in the Marine Corps.



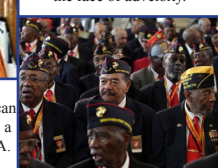
Annie Graham (left) and Ann Lamb (right) were the first and second African American women to join the Marine Corps.

1967, James Anderson, Jr., became the first African American Medal of Honor recipient.



USMC MajGen, Charles Bolden, Jr., was the first African American Marine to serve as a Space Shuttle pilot for NASA.

2012, the original Montford Point Marines received the Congressional Gold Medal for their strength and bravery in the face of adversity.

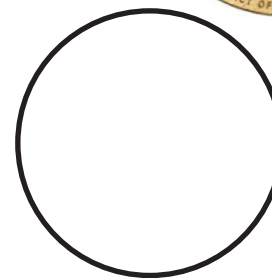


Congressional Gold Medal

On 27 June 2012, the Montford Point Marines were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor awarded as an expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions.



Design your **own medal** for someone you think deserves to be honored! It could be for anyone you think has made a difference or helped a cause.



To learn more about the Montford Point Marines, visit:
www.mpma28.com



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 Triangle, VA 22172
www.usmcmuseum.com