The National Museum of the Marine Corps

Diversity in the Marine Corps

DID YOU KNOW?

Vernice Armour is the first African American female Marine Corps pilot. She flew the AH-1W SuperCobra attack helicopter during the 2003 invasion of Iraq and served 2 tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt established a directive that barred discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in all Federal agencies. That included the military services. African Americans could become Marines. These first black recruits trained at Montford Point, North Carolina, in a segregated camp. After earning the title “U.S. Marine,” most of these new Marines prepared to support the war effort. The Marines fought many tough battles against the Japanese in the Pacific during World War II. In 1949, the camp at Montford Point was deactivated, and all recruits from that time on went to boot camp together at either Parris Island, South Carolina, or San Diego, California.

To learn more visit:
www.montfordpointmarines.com

“MONTFORD POINT MARINE”
Word Search!

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

Kids, help Chesty find the following words in the word scramble above:

AFRICAN AMERICAN
GILBERT JOHNSON
SEGREGATED
CAMP LEJEUNE
INTEGRATION
MONTFORD POINT
EDGAR HUFF
KELLER ROCHER
In 1987, the United States Congress designated March as Women’s History Month. It is a celebration of the contributions women made to history. Since 1918, thousands of American women have proudly claimed the title of United States Marine. Today, Women Marines comprise about 6% of the active duty force.

Women Marine Firsts

Match the names of the Women Marines on the right to their achievements.

1. ____ The first female to enlist in the Marine Corps Reserves in 1918.  
   A. Sarah Deal  
   B. Bertha P. Billeb  
   C. Katherine A. Towle  
   D. Opha Mae Johnson  
   E. Margaret A. Brewer

2. ____ The first Director of Women Marines. (1948)  
   (1961)

3. ____ The first female promoted to Sergeant Major.  
   (1987)

4. ____ The first woman Marine general officer. (1978)

5. ____ The first woman Marine pilot. (1995)

To learn more visit www.womanmarines.org

The Navajo Code Talkers played a key role in helping to defeat the Japanese forces in the Pacific theater during the Second World War. Using the ancient language of the Navajo people, the unique code used by the code talkers was never deciphered by the enemy.

Hispanic Marine Officer Completes Space Walk

Born in Peru in 1959, Carlos Noriega moved to the United States as a young boy. Following his graduation from the University of Southern California, he flew CH-46 helicopters for the United States Marine Corps. In 1994, LtCol Noriega was selected by NASA for the astronaut program. Noriega served as a mission specialist, performing three space walks and logging a total of 481 hours in space.

Diversity Matching

Match the description on the left to the person on the right.

1. Montford Point Marine  
   A. Bill Toledo  
   B. Edgar Huff  
   C. Margaret A. Brewer

2. Woman Marine

3. Navajo Code Talker