



## **MARINE CORPS GREAT LEADERS:** **MONTFORD POINT FORWARD**

### **COURSE FORMAT**

Anticipate approximately 5 hours of work per week for 9 weeks. The format for the first 8 weeks is to read, view, and listen to the assignments then participate in a group discussion. The group discussion should be a constructive back-and-forth exchange of ideas and views, increasing understanding of the topic through a sharing of ideas and posing of questions. Grading of ones participation in the group discussions is entirely subjective. At the conclusion of week 8, the knowledge gained and familiarity with the course content will help you write a 1,200 – 1,500 word assessment paper during week 9.

### **COURSE INTRODUCTION**

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802, which called for the racial integration of the Federal service. As such, each military service was required to open their enlistments to racial minorities, to include African-Americans. On February 22, 1942, the last service to racially integrate, the U. S. Marine Corps, enlisted its first African-American enlistee, Howard P. Perry, from Washington, D.C. Perry was trained at a small camp outside of Camp Lejeune, NC, Montford Point, where all African-American enlistees were trained until 1948.

The Marine Corps thus began to change. By 1949, President Harry Truman prohibited all segregated training and segregated units within the Armed Forces.

African-American enlistees trained at Montford Point were initially assigned to service support military specialties then gradually were assigned into combat arms and aviation. While African-American officers were educated and trained through other officer-assignment avenues, the basic training conducted at Montford Point essentially changed the color of the Marine Corps.

World War II brought significant political, military and social change throughout the world. In the United States and many European countries, the end of the war signaled the end of western colonialism and the social upheaval of whole countries. The Civil Rights Movement in the United States effectively began in 1955, when Ms. Rosa Parks sparked the Montgomery (Alabama) Bus Boycott by refusing to give her seat to a white person while riding on a segregated bus.

African-American military veterans were at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement. Also during that same period, all of the military services were beset by racial issues as a result of a changing American society, the creeping destruction of illegal drug usage within the ranks, and the overall dissatisfaction and mistrust of the Vietnam War. Many Montford Point Marine veterans were in leadership positions within the Marine Corps during this tumultuous time in our country's military history. These African-American Marine leaders were instrumental in 'righting the ship.' This course will examine their leadership.

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

Our Marine Corps history continues to overlook the accomplishments and contributions of men and women of color (black, Hispanic, Asian). Arguably, these Great Leaders have helped to shape the Marine Corps into its present form, enhancing its expeditionary warfighting posture through dedicated and unselfish service since World War II. This course will examine, in depth, the lives of some of these individual Marines. The main focus will be on African-American leaders, their work within the larger, operational Marine Corps from 1942 forward. Through a series of historical case studies, this class will examine the contributions of these individuals to Marine Corps warfighting, leadership and service to their local communities. As a result of this seminar, the individual student will gain a more thorough appreciation for these men

and women that have helped to make the Marine Corps the fighting organization that it is today. The course will consist of eight lessons and a final assessment.

**Lesson 1, "No Negro, Mulatto or Indian to be enlisted."**, We will become familiar with the early service of black Marines and U. S. Marines' service during the "Banana Wars".

**Lesson 2, The Integration of the Armed Forces**, This lesson will discuss the actual racial integration of the Armed Forces, with an overview of the integration of the U. S. Marine Corps.

**Lesson 3, World War II Service**, This lesson will discuss the leadership traits of several Montford Point Marines and their contributions to the overall war effort.

**Lesson 4, Post World War II Services**, This lesson describes the service of black Marines at the end of World War II and the beginnings of Frank Petersen, who will become the Marine Corps first black aviator.

**Lesson 5, Korea**, This lesson will discuss service during the Korean War, with continued emphasis on Lieutenant Frank L. Petersen, USMC.

**Lesson 6, Vietnam**, This lesson will discuss combat leadership, with emphasis on Captain J. Gary Cooper, USMC, the Marine Corps' first black company commander in combat.

**Lesson 7, More Black Officers**, This lesson describes the Marine Corps' effort to recruit and promote more black officers and the contributions of women in the Marine Corps.

**Lesson 8, Officers: In Their Own Words**, This lesson continues to follow the individual accomplishments of our early black officers, to include some of our first women officers.

## **ASSESSMENTS**

Learners will be evaluated through two types of assessment activities: 60 points for discussion contribution and 40 points for the essay final examination. There are a total of 100 points. A mastery score of 80 points for the entire course is required to pass.

## **FACULTY BIO**

**Kenneth D. Dunn** currently serves as the Director, Marine Corps Leadership Seminar, HQMC. Upon his graduation from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1974, he was commissioned and served in the U. S. Marine Corps for 30 years. He served as an artillery officer and commanded 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Marines, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and Weapons Training Battalion, Quantico, Virginia. Dr. Dunn earned two masters degrees: one in Human Resources Management from Pepperdine University, the other in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University, as well as a Doctor of Education degree from Nova Southeastern University. He is a graduate of the Marine Corps Command and Staff College and the National War College. Dr. Dunn served as an instructor at Amphibious Warfare School and Command and Staff College, and as Professor of Military Strategy and Land Combat Systems, Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Dr. Dunn published his first book, *Camp Lejeune Command: Commander's Notes 1992 – 1995*, in May 2015.

## **Enrollment**

To request enrollment into this course, log onto MarineNet and search for the following curriculum code: MCCEPEE007