



## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

THE BASIC SCHOOL  
TRAINING COMMAND  
24164 BELLEAU AVENUE  
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5019

IN REPLY REFER:  
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Dear Warrant Officer:

Welcome to The Basic School (TBS) and congratulations on your recent selection and appointment to the distinguished ranks of the Marine Warrant Officer. TBS is the cradle of Marine Officer Leadership. As an institution we are unique among the United States Armed Forces but a common thread among all who bear the title Officer of Marines whether commissioned or appointed. You embark upon this journey as a mature, seasoned Marine eager to travel to a new and unique path as a company grade officer. We hold that every Marine is a rifleman. This is not a cliché; it is a fundamental truth and the cornerstone of Marine training. It only follows that every officer must possess the requisite skills associated with leading Marine riflemen. Therefore, every effective Officer of Marines is first and foremost an infantry officer. We are fundamentally one force with a common mindset, committed to a set of values, and the skills necessary to serve the Nation as a "force in readiness" and when necessary to win the first battles.

The Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC) is a demanding course of instruction. We will provide you with a solid foundation in the art and science of the profession of arms, a knowledge base required of all officers. However, be forewarned, this is not the course your predecessors attended. Today's WOBC is configured to provide the basic core competencies associated with your dual responsibilities as a leader of Marines and a special advisor within a Command Element, Ground Combat Element, Aviation Combat Element or Combat Service Support Element. WOBC is no longer just an abridged version of the Basic Officer Course (BOC). While maintaining the essentials of company grade leadership and warfighting, we enhanced instruction in Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) operations and introduced the fundamentals of command and staff actions. It is our contention that these changes will better serve you and our Corps.

We recognize that you may have already completed a nonresident or resident staff noncommissioned officer professional military education (PME) program of instruction; therefore, we begin with the premise that every newly appointed warrant officer has mastered the individual military and leadership skills expected of a senior noncommissioned officer. Come prepared to learn, to probe and question, to push yourself beyond anywhere you have been before. The WOBC curriculum is operationally relevant, academically and physically demanding. In addition to the obvious training and educational benefits, there are also social activities. These activities will broaden your perspective on our profession and provide balance. The friendships and experiences you share with classmates, other officers under instruction at TBS, and families will serve you and our Corps for years to come.

TBS will prepare you to lead and advise confidently, to address uncertainty resolutely. This is our charge, our promise to you, to our Marines, to the Nation. You join a select group among officers in service to this Nation. The faculty, your classmates, and I look forward to meeting and serving with you. Once again, congratulations and welcome aboard.

Sincerely,



J. B. LASTER  
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer  
The Basic School