The following Information will provide a partial insight regarding Information on the US Marine Corps Traditions that you may be exposed if your Son, or Daughter, selects Marines after their 4 Years as a Mid at the Yard.

BACKGROUND

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) is a separate Military Service within the US Department of the Navy, with the USMC Commandant being a Member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). During conflicts, the USMC Mission is to conduct all Land Operations essential to the successful prosecution of a Naval Campaign. During Peacetime, the USMC Mission is Combat Readiness. Famous for its esprit de corps, USMC emphasizes Physical Fitness and intensive Training.

Over time, USMC has developed expertise in Counterinsurgency and Guerrilla Warfare, as well as in Commando Operations and Amphibious Warfare and is self-sufficient, with its own Tanks, Armor, Artillery, and Air Forces. In general, USMC is basically Troops that serve onboard Ships of War in conjunction with Naval Operations.

WEB SITE is www.usmc.mil

HISTORY

The original USMC was modeled and organized after the British Royal Marines, which were established in 1664 as a result of the Requirement to have skilled Riflemen aboard Military Ships. On 10 November 1775, the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia at Tun Tavern, and passed a Resolution creating 2 Federal Battalions of Marines to serve as Infantry and Landing Forces with the Fleet in the American Revolution. This Resolution established the Continental Marines and marks the Birth Date of USMC. In 1834, the Marines came under the Department of the Navy, and the National Security Act of 1947, amended in 1952, states the present Marine Corps Structure, Missions, and Functions.

Serving on Land and At-Sea, these first Marines distinguished themselves in numerous Operations, including their first Amphibious Raid into the Bahamas in March 1776, under the command of Captain (Later Major) Samuel Nicholas. Nicholas, was the first Continental Marines Commissioned Officer and remained the Senior Marine Officer throughout the American Revolution and is considered to be the First Marine Commandant. In April 1783, the Treaty of Paris brought an end to the Revolutionary War. As the last of the US Navy's Ships were sold, the Continental Navy and Marines went out of existence. On 11 July 1798, the US Congress resolved to formally re-establish the Marines. These Marines, Continental Marines Successors, saw action in the quasi-war with France, landed in Santo Domingo, and took part in many Operations against the Barbary Pirates along the Shores Of Tripoli Coast and have been prominent in all major Wars in which the US has been a participant.

The Marines participated in numerous Naval Operations during the War of 1812, as well as in the defense of Washington at Bladensburg, MD, and fought alongside Andrew Jackson in the defeat of the British at New Orleans.

The Decades following the War of 1812 saw Marines protecting American interests around the World: the Caribbean, the Falkland Islands, Sumatra, and the coast of West Africa, as well as in Operations against the Seminole Indians in Florida. During the Mexican War (1846-1848), Marines seized Enemy Seaports on both the Gulf and Pacific Coasts. A Battalion of Marines joined General Scott's Army at Pueblo and fought all the way to the Halls Of Montezuma, Mexico City. Marines also served ashore and afloat in the Civil War (1861-1865). Although most service was with the Navy, a Battalion fought at Bull Run, and other Units saw action with the blockading Squadrons and at Cape Hatteras, New Orleans, Charleston, and Fort Fisher. The last 3rd of the 19th Century saw Marines making numerous landings throughout the World, especially in the Orient and in the Caribbean Area. Following the Spanish-American War (1898), Marines performed with valor in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Philippines. Then,
USMC entered an era of expansion and professional development and saw active service in the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902), the Boxer Rebellion in China (1900), and in numerous other Nations, including Nicaragua, Panama, Cuba, Mexico, and Haiti.

In the early 20th Century, Marines quelled disturbances in several Central American and Caribbean Countries: Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, and Dominican Republic. In WW II, Marines played a key role in the invasion of several Pacific Islands held by the Japanese and also served with distinction in Korea and Vietnam. In 1947, under the organization of the National Military Establishment, USMC was to function as a branch of the US Navy, but is a complete operating Unit within itself and has all Military Assets, except Cavalry.

In WW I, USMC distinguished itself on the battlefields of France as the 4th Marine Brigade earned the title of Devil Dogs for heroic action during 1918 at Belleau Wood, Soissons, St Michiel, Blanc Mont, and Meuse-Argonne. Marine Aviation, which dates from 1912, also played a part in the War, as Marine Pilots flew Day Bomber Missions over France and Belgium. During the 2 Decades before WW II, USMC began to develop Doctrine, Equipment, and Organization required for Amphibious Warfare. The success of this effort was proven first on Guadalcanal, then on Bougainville, Tarawa, New Britain, Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Saipan, Guam, Tinian, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. By the end of WW II, USMC grew to include 6 Divisions, 5 Sir Wings, and supporting Troops, with 82 Marines earning the Congressional Medal of Honor.

During Post-War Occupation of Japan and North China, USMC concentrated on attaining a Vertical Envelopment capability through the use of Helicopters. Landing at Inchon, Korea in September 1950, Marines proved that Amphibious Assault Doctrine was viable and necessary. In 1965, landing of the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade at Da Nang marked the beginning of large-scale Marine involvement in the Vietnam War, longest in USMC History.

Mid-1970s saw Marines assume an increasingly significant Role in defending NATO's Northern Flank as 2nd Marine Division Amphibious Units participated in Exercises throughout Northern Europe. Marines also played a key Role in the development of the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF), a Multi-Service Organization created to insure a flexible, timely Military response around the World, when needed. The Maritime Pre-Positioning Ship (MPS) Concept was also developed to enhance this capability by pre-staging Equipment needed for Combat in the vicinity of designated Operations Areas, and reduce response times when Marines traveled by Air to link with MPS Assets.

The 1980s brought an increasing number of Terrorist Attacks on US Embassies around the World, and Marine Security Guards, under the direction of the State Department, continued to serve with distinction in these Challenges. In August 1990, the Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait set in motion Events that would lead to the largest movement of Marine Corps Forces since WW II.

Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, and Persian Gulf Deployments demonstrated Marine Corps flexibility and rapid response. In addition, USMC Air Assets supported Operation Deny Flight in the No-Fly Zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

During April 1994, Marines demonstrated their ability to protect American Citizens in remote parts of the World. Closer to Home, Marines went ashore in Haiti participating in the restoration of Democracy in that Country. During this same period, Marines were actively engaged in providing assistance to the Nation's Counter-Drug Effort, assisting in battling wild fires in Western US, and aiding in Flood and Hurricane Relief Operations. During the late 1990's, Marines deployed to several African Nations, including Liberia, Central African Republic, Zaire, and Eritrea, in order to provide Security and assist in American Citizen Evacuation, during periods of political and civil instability in those nations. Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Operations were also conducted in Kenya and in Central American Nations of Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. In 1999, Marine Units deployed to Kosovo in support of Operation Allied Force. Soon after the September 2001 Terrorist Attacks on New York City and Washington, DC, Marine Units deployed to the Arabian Sea and in November set up a forward Operating Base in Southern Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

USMC has continued its Tradition of Innovation to meet the Challenges of a new Century, and the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory was created in 1995 to evaluate change, assess the impact of new Technologies on Warfighting, and expedite the introduction of new Capabilities into the Marine Corps Operating Forces. Exercises were designed to explore future Tactical Concepts, and to examine facets of
Military Operations in Urban Environments.

Today, USMC stands ready to continue in the proud Tradition of those who so valiantly fought and died at Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima, Chosin Reservoir, and Khe Sanh. Combining a long and proud Heritage of faithful service to our Nation, with the resolve to face tomorrow’s Challenges will continue to keep:

USMC - THE BEST OF THE BEST!

DEVIL DOGS

As early as 1935, the Marine Corps was interested in Dogs that were able to be utilized in Combat. This Requirement evolved ever since the Marine Corps had experience with Enemy Sentry Dogs in Central America, where these Dogs sounded Alarms at the approach of anyone unknown to Guerrilla Jungle Camps, especially Marines. The Marine Corps learned the value of Dogs when utilized as Sentries and Scouts. When they were going to be fighting in Tropical Climates, they wanted Dogs as their Partners. It was no surprise that USMC had the first Large Dog Unit in US History to see action against an Enemy.

In 1943, the first Marine War Dog Training School was started at Quantico Bay in Cuba, where 14 donated Doberman Pinschers began their Training. This camp was short lived, as 1 Week later, the War Dog Training Center (WDTC) was established at Camp Knox, the site of the former Camp Lejeune, NC, CCC Camp. USMC Dogs were called DevilDogs after the name Marines earned during WW I, fighting against the Germans. Besides Dobermans, Labs, German Shepherds, and Others obtained from the Army's Quartermaster Corps, were trained. Towards the end of WW II, German Shepherds began to replace Dobermans as the preferred breed.

After arriving at Camp LeJeune, Canine Recruits had specific Information entered into their 40-Page Dog Service Record Book (DSRB). USMC was the only Service Branch to keep this Record for their Dogs.

USMC Dogs were given thorough Examinations and tested for Tractability, Corrigibility, Shyness, and Aggressiveness. In addition, they had to be at least 50 Pounds and stand 20-Inches at the withers. Dogs who failed any test for any reason were sent Home. These Devil Dog Candidates lived a Military Life in the Corps: Roll Call and Inspection were regular Routine, except when in Combat. Dogs were tattooed on the inside of their Right Ear, and this was recorded in their DSRB, along with their Call Name, Breed, Date Of Birth, and Enlistment Date. Notes were also kept on the Training received and when they qualified for: Obedience, Scout, Messenger, and/or Special Work.

Each Dog began training as a Private, then was promoted in accordance with Service Time: After 3 Months, Private First Class; after 1 Year, Corporal; after 2 Years, Sergeant; after 3 Years, Platoon Sergeant; after 4 Years, Gunnery Sergeant; and after 5 Years, Master Gunnery Sergeant. Dogs could eventually outrank their Handlers. After passing prescribed Tests, all Dogs went through an intensive 6-Week Obedience Course and taught to respond to Heel, Down, Crawl, Come, or Stay on Voice, Arm, and Hand Commands. After Basic Training when each Handler and Dog was well indoctrinated, each Dog was then taught to respond to other Handlers in case it was necessary to bring a Dog under control in an Emergency. Following Basic Training, the Dogs were divided up for Specialized Training.

Messenger Dogs were taught to carry Messages, Ammunition, or Special Medical Supplies from Handler to Handler, avoiding all others. They were subjected to Overhead Rifle and Machine Gun Fire and Explosions of Dynamite and TNT to simulate actual Battlefield Conditions. Sentry Dogs were trained to warn Troops of the approach or nearness of other Humans, usually by Barking. Not many Sentry Dogs were utilized, as USMC was a Combat Organization and did not generally spend time in Rear Echelons. Scout Dogs were trained to alert Troops of Enemy Troop Locations, but not to Bark. Stranger Detection was signaled by Dogs in various ways but not by Barking! Dogs were trained to detect the presence of the Enemy and, if necessary, Attack on Command.

During WW II, 7 Marine War Dog Platoons were trained to serve in the Pacific against the Japanese. Beginning in 1944 and lasting until the end of the War, USA and USMC Dog Platoons conducted thousands of Patrols scattered throughout the Pacific Theater Of Operations. Dogs never failed to alert at less than 75-Yards, and not a single Casualty was suffered while Dogs were being employed. The Dog’s ability to pick up Enemy Bivouacs, Patrols, Positions, Troop Reconnaissance, and so forth, long before a Marine Patrol reached the Enemy frequently enabled Troops to achieve complete Surprise and inflict heavy Casualties on the Japanese.
More than 1,000 Marine Devil Dogs were trained during WW II. **Rolo** was the first Dog to experience Combat and was also the first to be **Killed-In-Action (KIA)**. In all, 29 Dogs were listed as KIA, with 25 Deaths occurring on Guam. Today, **USMC** maintains a War Memorial, funded by public donation for those 25 Dogs that served and died in WW II on Guam, which was created by 1st Lt **William W. Putney**, who was the Guam Dog Veterinarian.

**LEATHERNECK**

**Leatherneck** is another Nickname dating back to the Leather Stock, or Neckpiece, that was worn as part of the Marine Uniform from 1775 to 1875. At that time, the Leather Bands around their Throats ensured that the Marines kept their Heads erect. Descended from that Stock is the Standing Collar that is the Hallmark of the **USMC** Blues, Whites, and Evening Dress. Like its Leather Ancestor, the Standing Collar regulates Stance and Posture, and proclaims the Wearer as a modern **Leatherneck**.

**MASCOT**

The **USMC** Tradition of utilizing Dogs as Mascots, as well as acquiring the **Devil Dog** Nickname began in WW I, when German Soldiers received a thorough Indoctrination regarding Marine fighting ability. Fighting through impenetrable woods and capturing untakeable Terrain, **USMC** persistent Attacks delivered with unbelievable Courage soon had the Germans calling them, **Devil Dogs**, after the fierce fighting wild mountain Dogs of Bavarian Folklore.

Soon afterward, a Marine Recruiting Poster, developed by Artist **Charles B. Falls**, appeared depicting a Dachshund, attired in a Spiked Helmet and Iron Cross, fleeing from an English Bull Dog wearing a Helmet with the Globe and Anchor Insignia. The Inscription read, **TEUFELHUNDEN** - German Nickname for US Marines - **DevilDog** Recruiting Station.

Not long after that WW I Recruiting Poster depicting Marines as **DevilDogs**, **Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler**, then Commanding Officer of the Marine Barracks at Quantico, VA, carried this fledgling Tradition further by enlisting Private **Jiggs** into the Marine Corps on 14 October 1922. **Jiggs**, formally **King Bulwark**, was sired by the once-famous pedigreed English Bull Dog, **Rob Roy**, and whelped in **Philadelphia** on 22 May 1921.

**Jiggs** received rapid promotions, becoming a Sergeant Major on 17 July 1924, and traveled extensively. Legend has it that he traveled more than 100,000 Miles by Sea, Land, and Air, and made numerous Public Appearances and even shared movie stardom with **Lon Chaney** in the 1926 Hollywood production, **TELL IT TO THE MARINES**. Following **Jiggs** death on 09 January 1927, former boxing Heavyweight Champion, **James J. (Gene) Tunney**, who had served with the Marines in France, continued the tradition by donating English BullDog, **Jiggs II**, to the Marines at Quantico, VA. At the same time, Great Britain’s Royal Marines donated an English BullDog Pup named **Pagett**, who was said to have been one of the top 20 English BullDogs in Great Britain at that time. **Pagett** traveled with the Marine Baseball Team, but had an early reputation of Disciplinary Infractions, such as chasing a Blonde Stenographer down the Hall, and biting the hand that fed him, before succumbing to Heat Exhaustion in 1928. By then public opinion had already formed what is now a strong association between the English BullDog and the Marine Corps.

It was in recognition of that association that the Barracks acquired Private First Class (PFC) **Chauncy** in 1956. As in all Traditions, however, the Tale had a humble beginning. Since **Chauncy** did not attend Ceremonial Drill School, he was not allowed to perform during Ceremonies. He was merely a Spectator in the stands along with the Commandant and Barracks Commanding Officer. However, the Tradition of an English BullDog as the US Marine Corps Mascot at Washington, DC Marine Barracks had begun. **Chauncy**'s successor, **Chesty I**, was named in honor of legendary Marine **Lieutenant General Lewis Chesty Puller**, who is the most decorated Marine in History, and became a part of the very first Evening Parade on 05 July 1957. **Chesty I**, and his Successors, became prominent Parade Participants with their strutting ceremonial strolls down Center Walk during the Friday Evening Parades at the Oldest Post of the Corps. With their own official Service Record Books, these Mascots are treated no differently than other Barracks Marines. Well, almost.

**Chesty II**, who was constantly violating rules and regulations, had no respect for his Superiors and took an unauthorized Leave of Absence. Chased by a Corporal and two Privates, he streaked past the Main Gate and made an unauthorized liberty call on Washington, DC, for two days. He was returned in a
Paddy Wagon just in time for a Friday Evening Parade.

During President Lyndon B. Johnson's visit to Marine Barracks on 22 September 1967, Chesty V strutted down to the middle of the Parade Field, halted, sat and looked the President directly in the eye. The President smiled, turned to the Barracks Commanding Officer, Colonel Joseph Fegan Jr, and said, I'm familiar with the Marine Corps' fantastic Training accomplishments, but this is most unusual. Well done! Fortunately, the President did not know that the Incident had not been planned. Staff Sargent Chesty V, who retired in August, 1971, tore up several Uniforms and took a nip at General Lewis Walt's French Poodle, nearly causing him to miss his 2nd Award of the Good Conduct Medal. However troublesome, though, the Canine Crowd-Pleasers are a formal and indelible part of Washington DC Marine Barracks and the Marine Corps' Image.

Although other Animals have been used as Unit Mascots, the English BullDog has remained a constant Companion to the few and the proud. Renowned for their tough, muscular, and aggressive appearance, the English BullDogs have long suited the Marine Corps' need for this symbol as a faithful Mascot. Prone to weight problems, often reluctant to obey orders, and always the last to fall into Formation for Physical Training, the BullDogs have also always found favor with struggling Junior Troops, who are relieved that the Sergeant Major has someone else besides them to BARK AT! Commercial Artists have picked up on this association between USMC and the English BullDog over the Years and have immortalized it on T-Shirts and Coffee Mugs.

The current Canine Leatherneck Mascot, Sgt Chesty VI, is affectionately referred to as Molly by her fellow Marines at the Oldest Post Of The Corps, The Washington, DC Marine Barracks. Molly gets her name from the term Molly Marines. The Name given to the first Women to serve in the US Marine Corps. The Brindle and White-colored, pedigreed English BullDog enlisted with USMC on 24 August 1995 during a Ceremony at the Marine Barracks, Washington, DC. The Duties of this DevilDog include serving as the Official Marine Barracks Mascot in Washington, DC, as well as appearing Weekly at the renowned Friday Evening Parades held at the Barracks during the Summer Months. Molly's performance at the Barracks is part of a long Tradition of English BullDogs in the role of US Marine Corps Mascots.

EMBLEM

Today's USMC Emblem can be traced from the Designs and Ornaments of early Continental Marines, as well as British Royal Marines. The Emblem took its present form in 1868; but before that, many Devices, Ornaments, and Distinguishing Marks followed one another to become the Official Marine Corps' Emblem.

In 1776, the USMC Emblem resembled a Foul Anchor, made of Silver or Pewter, with the Anchor (Foul Anchor -- Anchor with one or more Chain turns) forming part of the Modern Day Emblem. Changes were made in 1798, 1821, and 1824. In 1834, it was prescribed that a Brass Eagle be worn on the Hat, with the Eagle measuring 3.5 inches, wingtip-to-wingtip.

During the early years, numerous distinguishing marks were prescribed, including Black Cockades, Scarlet Plumes, as well as Yellow Bands and Tassels. In 1859, the origin of the present color scheme for Officer Dress Uniform Ornaments appeared on an elaborate device of solid White and Yellow Metal, and included a US Shield, Half-Wreath, Bugle, and Letter M.

In 1868, Brigadier General Commandant Jacob Zeilin appointed a Board to decide and report upon the various Devices of USMC Cap Ornaments. On 13 November 1868, the Board turned in its Report, which was approved by the Commandant 4 Days later. On 19 November 1868, this Report was then signed by the Secretary of the Navy. The recommended Emblem consisted of a Western Hemisphere Globe intersected by a Foul Anchor, and surmounted by a Spread Eagle. The Emblem itself, which was added in 1880, is topped by a Ribbon inscribed with the Latin Motto: Semper Fidelis -- Always Faithful. It is
to be noted that the Uniform Ornaments omit the Motto Ribbon. The general Emblem Design was influenced by the Continental and British Royal Marines Emblems. The Globe, depicting the Western Hemisphere, signifies World Service and the North American Bald Eagle, identical to the one on the US Great Seal and Currency, also indirectly signifies World Service. The Anchor originates back to 1775 and indicates Marine Amphibious Duties.

The **Scarlet** and **Gold** surrounding the Emblem are the official Marine Corps Colors; and these, in turn, are enclosed by Navy **Blue** and **Gold**, signifying that the Marine Corps are an integral part of the Naval Team.