



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

SCHOOL OF INFANTRY (WEST)
TRAINING COMMAND
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
1510
CO

POLICY LETTER 1-25

From: Commanding Officer
To: Distribution List

Subj: MARINE COMBAT INSTRUCTOR COURSE CHALLENGER POLICY

Ref: (a) ScolO P1510.1K
(b) MCO 1326.6

Encl: (1) Waiver Request
(2) Challenger Course Baseline MCT/ITB
(3) Challenger Course Baseline AITB
(4) MCIC Challenger Flow Chart
(5) MCIC Command Screening Checklist

1. Purpose. To establish criteria and requirements for Marines to "challenge" Marine Combat Instructor Course.

2. Cancellation. This letter will remain in effect until revision through the Marine Combat Instructor Course (MCIC) Curriculum Review Board, significant modification to the course, or when directed by appropriate authority.

3. Information. Marine Combat Instructors are vital to the process of training entry-level and advanced skills progression in the infantry military occupational specialty (MOS), and non-infantry Marines in basic rifleman skills. School of Infantry-West (SOI-W) regularly receives Marines who are returning for a second tour of duty and earned the 0913 Combat Instructor MOS during a previous tour. These Marines are known as "challengers." To accommodate these second-tour instructors, MCIC will provide an abbreviated Program of Instruction (POI) to refresh and recertify these Marines in the current standard operating procedures (SOPs), teaching methodologies, and command policies. The abbreviated course will serve two primary purposes: to provide each Marine the necessary skills and training updates in preparation for duty as a combat instructor, and to expedite the process of assigning second-tour combat instructors to training battalions. This policy establishes the criteria and requirements that allow a Marine to challenge the course.

4. Criteria. Any Marine that has previously completed Marine Combat Instructor Course at either School of Infantry-West or East, was awarded the AMOS of 0913, and meets the prerequisite requirements outlined in the command screening checklist (Encl 5). Any exception to policy rests solely with the Commanding Officer, SOI-W.

5. Requirements. The Challenger Course will take place in the first three weeks of the MCIC POI and will conclude after the completion of Training Day 14. Challengers assigned to Marine Combat Training Battalion (MCT) or Infantry Training Battalion (ITB) will depart to their assigned battalion for

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observation, and will return to execute the Infantry Marksmanship Training Program (IMTP) on Training Day 25 (Encl 2). Upon completion of IMTP, these challengers would receive their graduation certificate. Marines assigned to Advanced Infantry Training Battalion (AITB) are exempt from completing the IMTP portion of the MCIC POI (Encl 3) and will receive their graduation certificate on Training Day 14.

Example: Marine challenges course with MCIC 2-25, completes requirements as of Training Day (14) and is assigned to MCT/ITB. Marine reports to MCT/ITB at the conclusion of Training Day (14), conducts on-the-job training and then returns to MCIC 2-25 on Training Day (25) to execute IMTP.

Challenger course graduation requirements will consist of instruction, practical application, and performance examination in the following areas:

- a. Physical Fitness Test (2nd class minimum)
- b. SOI-W Standard Operating Procedure (ScolO 1510.1K) Test (80%)
- c. Range Safety Officer Test (80% minimum)
- d. Within Marine Corps height and weight requirements
- e. Weapons performance examination checklist (mastery)
- f. Attend FLEX period of instruction
- g. Complete FLEX Level One (Marinenet course)
- h. Teach FLEX certified Class (50-minute class)
- i. Approved to serve as a Position Safety Officer
- j. 15k Hike (4 hours max time)
- k. Tactical Combat Casualty Care (Level 2 Certificate)
- l. Completion of IMTP (For MCT and ITB-assigned instructors only)
- m. Exhibits the character that embodies the virtues, core values and leadership principles of a Marine Combat Instructor outlined in ref (b).

6. Coordination. At the conclusion of check in, the MCIC Chief Instructor will notify the SOI-W Operations Chief, SOI-W Sergeant Major, and 0913 monitor of Marines who are challenging the course, the graduation date from the challenger course, recommended no later than date of challenger assignment, and request for modification of orders for the challenger (if applicable). Challengers may elect to postpone their evaluation on individual events if they require additional training or practical application excluding the Physical Fitness Test. The challenger will coordinate with the chief instructor to schedule evaluations at a time that coincides with the regular course schedule. Challengers will participate in all regularly scheduled class events while awaiting their evaluation.

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7. Evaluation. The MCIC Chief Instructor will be assigned as the Challenger's Squad Adviser and will be present for the evaluation of all required events. The MCIC Chief Instructor will ensure the challenger possesses the skills required to mentor and counsel entry and advanced-level students as well as current 0913 combat instructors.

8. Failure. If at any time a challenger fails a required event, the Marine will be required to complete the entire MCIC POI. No challenger will be afforded the opportunity to remediate any event.

9. Orders. The 0913 monitor will make every attempt to give previous service combat instructors Permanent Change of Station (PCS) or Permanent Change of Assignment (PCA) orders to SOI-W prior to their arrival. MCIC will assist in this by validating inbound roster projection to previous course graduates and proactively communicate with the 0913 monitor. The opportunity presented by assigning previous 0913s via PCA/PCS orders lies in that it is the most optimal for both the challenger and SOI-W, as the challenger can complete graduation requirements and immediately begin executing training. Example: A challenger assigned to AITB can check-in to AITB on Training Day 14; a challenger assigned to MCT or ITB can check-in to their battalion following IMTP, on/about Training Day 35. The risk to not assigning previous 0913s on PCA/PCS orders lies in the unlikely event the challengers do not meet graduation requirements, the challenger is now permanently stationed in Camp Pendleton.

a. In the unlikely event of challengers arriving on TAD orders that will be executing follow-on PCA orders, the following procedures will take place:

1) Once challengers are assigned to MCT or ITB, MCIC will coordinate with the 0913 monitor to adjust timing of follow-on PCA orders to coincide with the conclusion of IMTP. Once challengers are complete with IMTP, challengers will return to their parent command and execute follow-on PCA orders IAW their adjusted orders timeline.

2) Once challengers are assigned to AITB, MCIC will coordinate with the 0913 monitor to adjust timing of follow-on PCA orders to coincide with the completion of Training Day 14. Once challengers are complete with graduation requirements on/about Training Day 14, challengers will return to their parent command and execute follow-on PCA orders IAW their adjusted orders timeline.

b. In the unlikely event of challengers arriving on TAD orders that will be executing follow-on PCS orders, the following procedures will take place:

1) Once the challenger's graduation requirements are met (and regardless of which battalion they are assigned), challengers will report to their assigned battalion for on-the-job training until the conclusion of their TAD orders, in which case they will then execute their follow-on PCS orders based on the timeline directed by their monitor.

2) Due to the amount of additional coordination required for PCS orders (e.g. Distribution Management Office, etc.) it is not sensible for MCIC to request a modification of the challengers TAD orders and follow-on PCS orders for the sake of joining the challenger to SOI-W earlier.

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10. Administration. All Marines who have completed an instructor tour at SOI-East or West and have gained the AMOS of 0913 within three years will automatically be enrolled as a challenger. For any tours completed greater than three years, a written waiver must be generated by the challenger and forwarded to the Commanding Officer, SOI-W (Encl 1) for approval. The Commanding Officer, SOI-W is the approving authority for any Marine recommended to challenge the course. However, if significant modifications are made to the course content through a Curriculum Review Board or directed otherwise, the Commanding Officer, SOI-W can nullify the challenger policy. The Sergeant Major, SOI-W and the Operations Chief, SOI-W will assign course challengers based on training history, proficiency, and needs of the school.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. B. Byrne". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "P" and a cursive "Byrne".

P. B. BYRNE