

UNCLASSIFIED

INFORMATION PAPER

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Subj: MARINE CORPS RESPONSE COMBINED RECRUIT TRAINING AT MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT UPDATE

1. Purpose. To inform the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services on the current status of gender integrated recruit training, to include the analysis, lessons learned, and future plans gleaned from the multiple iterations of gender integrated training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island (MCRD PI) from January 2019 to April 2020.

2. Background. On 5 January 2019, 3d Recruit Training Battalion aboard MCRD PI executed their training cycle with one female platoon combined with five male platoons. The 'combined training model' was used as a method to gain efficiency as the number of female recruits is significantly fewer during winter months. The combined training company is co-located, gender-separate, and conducts the scheduled Program of Instruction without deviation. Throughout this training, the Marine Corps remains in compliance with all applicable Title 10 requirements for separate housing and privacy.

3. Key Points

a. India Company, 3d Recruit Training Battalion, aboard MCRD PI graduated on 29 March 2019, as the first Marines to complete the 'combined training model'. The Marines' performance statistics reflected no significant variations when compared to other training companies.

b. On 29 October 2019, the first of a possible eight integrated companies in Fiscal Year (FY) 20 began training at Parris Island. Since then, four integrated companies have graduated on 17 and 24 January, 28 February, and 6 March 2020. Four integrated companies are currently training, with the next graduation on 24 April 2020.

c. The ability to conduct year-round integrated company level training at Parris Island and San Diego simultaneously is limited by a lack of both barracks capacity and female drill instructors. New Military Construction is required to modernize and standardize facilities and increase barracks capacity in order to comply with the National Defense Authorization Act 2020. Additionally, it will require significant time to create the required amount of female Drill Instructors.

4. Way Ahead. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, planning at MCRD PI was underway to develop courses of action for FY21 to conduct another eight iterations of integrated training. The COVID-19 impacts have altered the shipping process, thus creating the need for further detailed analysis in order to efficiently conduct integrated training. Every effort will be made to set conditions to integrate training while continuing to meet the USMC end strength requirements required by law.