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MARINE CORPS ORDER 1500.52E

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Distribution List  
  
Subj: MARINE CORPS WATER SURVIVAL PROGRAM (MCWSP)  
  
Ref: See enclosure (1)  
  
Encl: (1) References  
(2) MARINE CORPS WATER SURVIVAL PROGRAM (MCWSP)

1. Situation. This Order establishes a singular water survival program to include Underwater Egress Training (UET), with training prerequisites, standards, a training continuum of water survival qualification, UET training guidance, and safety structure requirements. It also outlines minimum facilities requirements to conduct the Marine Corps Water Survival Program (MCWSP). The MCWSP places increased emphasis on rigorous aquatic training and individual skill progression, while providing additional training protocols to increase competency in a water environment. This Order complies with the policies delineated per the references. Per reference (a), MCWSP is a supporting effort to the Marine Corps Physical Fitness Program (MCPFP) and is designed to optimize the general and occupational fitness and combat readiness of individual Marines and units. This Order is in accordance with references (a) through (y).

2. Cancellation. MCO 1500.52D.

3. Mission. This Order establishes a MCWSP that provides a continuum of regular aquatic training in order to improve the physical fitness of Marines and enhance survivability skills and capabilities necessary to operate in rigorous aquatic environments.

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent

(1) Purpose. The intent of the MCWSP is to develop Marines' swim and survivability skills, raise self-confidence, and reduce fear while operating or enduring rigorous aquatic environments.

(2) Method. Training and Education Command (TECOM) will accomplish this mission by establishing rigorous, repeatable standards and providing progressive training that will develop Marine's basic water survival skills and continuously enhance overall aquatic skills.

(3) Endstate. The end state of the program is rigorous, standardized, and professional water survival instruction and training that

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enables a force with survivability skills in aquatic environments.

b. Concept of Operations

(1) Scheme of Maneuver. The Marine Corps implements a coordinated program of water survival training focused on the individual Marine. Commanders will lead the MCWSP which is executed by water survival instructors (WSIs) and UET training personnel. The MCWSP builds aquatic skills in a continuum throughout a Marine's career. Beginning during pre-ship, Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC) will incentivize poolers that have certifiable swim skills and familiarize poolers with the MCWSP requirements. Recruits will first obtain MCWSP training and qualification while at recruit depots. During Entry Level Training (ELT), Marines are required to conduct swim qualification to meet their Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). Water survival currency will be incorporated into the Performance Evaluation System (PES).

(2) Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS), Semper Fit, Human Performance Branch, and Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM) resources will support unit commanders and WSIs. MCCS and MCICOM will provide and maintain aquatic facilities to execute MCWSP. Semper Fit will support the MCWSP, where available, via the Swim Survival Skills Training (S3T) program or other MCCS resources.

c. Subordinate Element Missions

(1) Commanding Generals (CGs), Commanders, Officers-in-Charge (OIC)

(a) Ensure all military personnel receive MCWSP training in accordance with the contents of this Order and references (b) through (h). Make appropriate entries into Marine Corps Training Information Management System (MCTIMS) per references (e) through (h).

(b) Ensure all water survival training and certifications are in accordance with the contents of this Order and TECOM approved period of instruction (POI).

(c) Ensure copies of approved MCWSP qualification waived in entirety are forwarded to Commanding General of Training and Education Command (CG TECOM), via the chain of command, within 30 days of disposition.

(d) Ensure compliance with the MCWSP using local inspections as part of the Commanding General's Inspection Program (CGIP).

(e) Ensure commands schedule use of training tanks and pools and report end-of-training data for input into the Range Facility Management Support System (RFMSS) for MCWSP training.

(2) Deputy Commandant for Training and Education (DC T&E)

(a) Provide oversight and service-level policy and guidance on the execution of MCWSP.

(b) Review Entry Level Training (ELT) MCWSP POIs prior to Training Command approval.

(c) Develop and maintain training and readiness (T&R) events

related to MCWSP.

(d) Provide MCWSP input at training input plan (TIP) conferences.

(e) Oversee the TIP process for school seat quotas.

(f) Ensure that MCWSP military construction (MILCON) prioritization and requirements are briefed to DC, T&E and the Capital Investments Working Group MILCON Board.

(g) Provide oversight of UET Programs, to include establishment of the UET support contract.

(h) Develop UET equipment requirements.

(i) Coordinate the procurement of UET equipment.

(j) Coordinate allocation of training equipment to facilitate MCWSP.

(k) Conduct site surveys and maintain certification checklists for a period of three years to ensure training sites institute appropriate safety controls and POI. Certification will cover all sites of potential usage to include United States Marine Corps (USMC) sites, other service facilities, commercial facilities, and partner nation facilities.

(l) Establish policies and procedures to implement water survival support desk functionality in RFMSS to ensure all TECOM, installation training tanks, and MCCA training tanks/pools are available for scheduling and for input of utilization data.

(m) Establish a service wide contracting vehicle for issuing entities/individual units to distribute and/or procure water survival training equipment in order to complete MCWSP and UET training events.

(n) Prioritize and rank all new swim and UET facility builds and submit annually to Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics.

(o) Serve as co-chair, with Installations and Logistics (I&L), for a Marine Corps Water Survival Working Group to ensure an interdisciplinary body maintains an enduring and specific focus to identify and advocate solutions for water survival facility and training issues.

(p) Provide on an annual basis, and update as required, a functional area checklist to Inspector General of the Marine Corps (IGMC).

(q) Provide as required, a program owner to serve as subject matter expert (SME) in support of the IGMC during inspections.

(3) Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (DC M&RA)

(a) Ensure policy, planning, programming, and budgeting of MCCA Semper Fit Aquatic Programs to support execution of MCWSP.

(b) Ensure MCCA aquatic facilities are operational and equipped to support the MCWSP, to include any coordination needed to ensure MCCA

aquatic facilities are scheduled in RFMSS.

(c) Incorporate water survival qualification currency into the PES.

(d) Incorporate water survival qualification into the Junior Enlisted PES.

(e) Ensure MCCA Category A/B pool MCWSP requirements, to include renovations and new builds, are submitted to DC, T&E through the Marine Corps Water Survival Working Group for inclusion into DC, T&E MILCON prioritization list.

(f) Update references (i) through (o) to reflect program changes within this Order.

(4) Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics (DC I&L)

(a) Serve as co-chair, with DC, T&E (TECOM HPB, RTPD, G-3&4), of a Marine Corps Water Survival Working Group to ensure an interdisciplinary body maintains an enduring and specific focus to identify and advocate solutions for water survival facility and training issues.

(b) Document and incorporate MCWSP requirements into future facility planning and installation master plans with the goal of appropriately resourced aquatic facilities and training tanks that are operable during all normal weather conditions, can support training twelve months out of the year during normal business hours (0800-1630), and are accessible to all Marines at each base/station. Facilities at each base/station should be centralized to offer access to as many units as possible. Individual units or regiments, unless the unit is a formal learning center (FLC), should access centralized base/station pools. If the training tank is an FLC, the facility should be offered to individual Marines and units when classes are not being conducted. FLC's are required to be in RFMSS with the use schedule listed to determine availability.

(c) Ensure that all MCWSP MILCON requirements are prioritized by CG TECOM and submitted annually to Deputy Commandant for Installation and Logistics (DC I&L) for incorporation into the overall MILCON prioritization list.

(d) Ensure that all facility upgrade, and repair prioritization and requirements as identified by the Marine Corps Water Survival Working Group are prioritized by CG TECOM and incorporated into the overall facilities priorities lists.

(e) Ensure aquatic facilities are operational and equipped to support the MCWSP, to include any coordination needed to ensure facilities are scheduled in RFMSS.

(f) Ensure all TECOM and MCCA training tanks/pools are identified in RFMSS and available to track utilization and schedule use. Provide installation-level RFMSS functional administrator support to establish Water Survival Support Desk capabilities within RFMSS and ensure training tank/pool managers utilize RFMSS for scheduling and reporting MCWSP training.

(g) MCCA via Semper Fit to assist commanders and WSI and water

survival instructor trainers (WSITs), as requested, in execution of the MCWSP.

(5) Commanding General of Training Command (CG TRNGCMD)

(a) Ensure the Marine Corps Water Survival School (MCWSS) serves as the lead MCWSP school house and ensures the POIs are in accordance with references (c), (d), and (f) by reviewing all MCWSP POI including resident schoolhouse and mobile training team (MTT) conducted by the MCWSS, other FLCs, and Marine Corps Recruit Depots (MCRDs). FLCs are designated as any school that is assigned a course identification designator (CID) and has a certified POI.

(b) Develop training schools' ELT MCWSP POIs for use within Training Command per references (f) and (g).

(c) Approve in writing all WSI courses conducted by a WSIT not associated with ELT sites to include mobile training teams.

(d) Implement new techniques and procedures that may be incorporated into MCWSP.

(e) Conduct a course content review board (CCRB) in accordance with references (e) through (h) to evaluate the MCWSP.

(f) Ensure students at formal schools meet MCWSP standards for their respective MOS requirements per reference (j) and make appropriate system entries into MCTIMS per references (e) through (h).

(g) Conduct annual site assessments for all MCWSP formal schools to include MCWSS, Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific (EWTGPAC), The Basic School (TBS), Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego (MCRDSD), and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island (MCRDPI) to support in the development and review POI's.

(h) Serve as the service level approver for certification/recertification of WSIT.

(i) Conduct or approve the conduct of all WSI and WSIT re-certification courses.

(j) Maintain a MCTIMS data library of all approved course material and provide access and/or distribute materials to commands to ensure MCWSP information quality assurance. The MCWSS will be the main conduit for sharing information, observations, and best practices between all WSI and WSITs force wide.

(k) Inform DC, T&E of all approved program waiver requests.

(l) Develop MCWSP equipment requirements.

(m) Ensure the MCWSS instructs or approves instruction and certifies WSIs and WSITs.

(n) Ensure MCWSS reports all MCWSP-related injuries that meet mishap reporting criteria per references (t) and (u) via the Risk Management Information (RMI) Streamlined Incident Reporting (SIR) system.

(o) Forward all recommended changes to policy concerning MCWSP and UET to DC, T&E for approval.

(p) Be prepared to provide Shallow Water Egress Trainer (SWET) training as directed.

(q) Ensure WSI and WSIT provide aquatic training opportunities to prepare Marines for water survival qualifications.

(6) Commanding General of Marine Corps Recruiting Command (CG MCRC)

(a) Identify, inform, and educate applicants who need extra pre-ship training to prepare them for the rigors of the MCWSP appropriate to their program enlisted for (PEF).

1. Educate applicants on MCWSP requirements and identify local resources that applicants may use to prepare for recruit training.

2. Establish screening procedures to identify individuals with documented swimming proficiency prior to shipping.

(7) Commanding Generals of Marine Corps Recruit Depot (CGs MCRD)

(a) Ensure all recruits conduct required MCWSP qualification and make appropriate entries in MCTIMS per references (e) through (h).

(b) Ensure all recruits are qualified accordingly to the applicable fiscal year PEF requirements or intended Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) requirements prior to detachment that is published in the TECOM annual Recruit Training Physical Standards PEF and intended MOSs letter.

(c) Ensure all recruits are afforded multiple water survival qualification opportunities to qualify up to the water survival competent (WSC) qualification.

(d) Ensure all recruits obtain a WSN qualification prior to detachment.

(e) Ensure all recruits that do not qualify at WSN obtain commanding general approval with appropriate entries in MCTIMS identifying that the graduation requirement of WSB has been met prior to detachment.

(f) Ensure all water survival training and certifications are in accordance with the contents of this Order and approved POIs.

(g) Ensure that any changes to the recruit POI involving water survival training and qualification are routed to DC, T&E for review.

(8) Director of Safety Division (Dir SD)

(a) Provide an annual assessment of MCWSP related injuries (Class A through C) to DC, T&E no later than 1 March for the period 1 January through 31 December to analyze and make appropriate adjustments to the MCWSP, as required.

(b) Interface with Safety Command personnel for the purposes of

obtaining a sanitized version of aquatic mishap reports suitable to post in the mishap library and to disseminate to Marine Corps personnel.

(c) Provide periodic evaluation of UET sites and report recommendations to DC, T&E.

(d) Serve as member of the Marine Corps Water Survival Working Group.

(9) Inspector General of the Marine Corps (IGMC)

(a) Provide DC, T&E inspection checklist standards in order to facilitate the development and maintenance of functional area checklist by the program sponsor.

(b) Notify the policy owner annually to review/update the Inspectors General checklist as appropriate.

(c) Provide inspector assessments of MCWSP execution as required, or via IGMC unit inspection reports to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC).

(d) Provide inspector assessments to determine feasibility of use of TECOM and MCCS training tanks/pools and UET's during the inspection process.

5. Administration and Logistics

a. Submit all recommendations concerning this Order to DC, T&E via the chain of command.

b. Additional MCWSP resources can be found at:  
<http://www.fitness.marines.mil>.

c. Records Management. Records created as a result of this Order shall be managed according to National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)-approved dispositions in reference (p), SECNAV M-5210.1 w/CH-1, to ensure proper maintenance, use, accessibility, and preservation, regardless of format or medium. Records disposition schedules are located on the Department of the Navy/Assistant for Administration (DON/AA), Directives and Records Management Division (DRMD) portal page at:  
<https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx>. Refer to reference (q), MCO 5210.11F, for Marine Corps records management policy and procedures.

d. Privacy Act. Any misuse or unauthorized disclosure of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) may result in both civil and criminal penalties. The Department of the Navy (DON) recognizes that the privacy of an individual is a personal and fundamental right that shall be respected and protected. The DON's need to collect, use, maintain, or disseminate PII about individuals for purposes of discharging its statutory responsibilities shall be balanced against the individuals' right to be protected against unwarranted invasion of privacy. All collection, use, maintenance, or dissemination of PII shall be in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended [reference (r)] and implemented per reference (s).

6. Command and Signal

a. Command. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Total Force.

b. Signal. This Order is effective the date signed. Guidance on phased implementation of this Order will be published via separate correspondence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Watson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

BENJAMIN T. WATSON  
Deputy Commandant  
for Training and Education

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References

- (a) MCO 6100.14
- (b) MCO 5215.1K w/Admin CH-1
- (c) NAVMC 3500.41C
- (d) NAVMC 3500.18D
- (e) MCO 1553.10
- (f) MCO 1553.2D
- (g) NAVMC 1553.2
- (h) MCO 1553.3C
- (i) MCO 1700.39
- (j) MCO 1200.13G
- (k) MCO 1130.53R
- (l) MCO 1900.16 w/CH-2
- (m) MCO 1610.7B
- (n) MCO 5800.16 w/CH-7, Volumes 1-17
- (o) SECNAVINST 1920.6D
- (p) SECNAV M-5210.1 w/CH-1
- (q) MCO 5210.11F
- (r) 5 U.S.C. § 552a
- (s) SECNAVINST 5211.5F
- (t) MCO 5100.29C w/CH-2, Volumes 1-9
- (u) NAVMED P-117
- (v) BUMEDINST 6010.30
- (w) SECNAVINST 1000.10B
- (x) CNAF M-3710.7
- (y) NAVMED P-5010, Chapter 4

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MARINE CORPS WATER SURVIVAL PROGRAM (MCWSP)

Chapter 1

Marine Corps Water Survival Program (MCWSP) Overview

1. Background. The Marine Corps is a naval expeditionary force-in-readiness that operates in maritime spaces. Aquatic familiarity and water survival skills are essential components of the Marine Corps' combat readiness and a unit's physical fitness program. Units that are confident in their ability to work in and around an aquatic environment can use water to their advantage. Marines who are not adequately trained in water survival detract from the combat readiness of their unit.

2. Marine Corps Water Survival Program (MCWSP) Training Continuum. The MCWSP follows a building block approach towards developing and enhancing Marines' abilities to thrive in an aquatic environment. While water survival and swimming skills are first introduced at the recruit depot and Marines are further trained during ELT, the MCWSP provides training opportunities for Marines to improve their aquatic skillset through a continuum of aquatic training, qualification, and certification. Marines should strive to train and improve their aquatic skillset at any chance available.

a. Aquatic Training. Any evolution at an aquatic facility or open water environment that enhances a Marines' competency with water and swimming skills. Some examples include, but are not limited to, lap swimming, pool games, and open water swim with fins. A unit should include aquatic training as a part of the overall physical fitness program per reference (a). Aquatic training provides alternative physical training (PT) methods with lower overall impact on the body for Marines who may need rehabilitation or cardiovascular exercise.

b. Water Survival Qualification. Water survival qualification tests a Marine's ability to adapt and survive in an aquatic environment. Qualifications contained within this Order are water survival basic (WSB), novice (WSN), water survival competent (WSC), water survival proficient (WSP), and water survival advanced (WSA). The WSI and WSITs are considered qualifications when certification requirements have been met. Marines, regardless of MOS, should strive to attain the WSC qualification. Marines are required to maintain a current water survival qualification in accordance with chapter 4 of this Order.

c. Underwater Egress Qualification. Marines are required to demonstrate proficiency in an underwater egress trainer depending on a unit's mission and operational requirements. See chapter 5 for additional information for UET requirements and qualifications.

Chapter 2

General Administrative Procedures

1. Objective. Ensure the timely and accurate recording of performance data in Marine Online (MOL), unit diary/Marine Integrated Personnel System (UD/MIPS), and MCTIMS Unit Training Management Module per references (e) through (h). Maintain a local record of all MCWSP qualifications for a period of three years.

2. Reporting

a. Water Survival Qualifications. Within 30 days, the WSI and WSIT will ensure submission of final water survival qualifications via the NAVMC 11209 Instructor's Course Record to the appropriate command representative for submission into MCTIMS/Marine Corps Total Force System (MCTFS) in accordance with references (e) through (h) and Table 2.1.

Marine Corps Total Force System (MCTFS)/Marine Corps Training Information Management System (MCTIMS) Codes		
Long Title	Short Title	MCTFS Code
Unqualified	WSU	0
Waiver	Medical Waiver Temporary	5
Waiver	Exempt	6
Instructor	WSI	8
Instructor Trainer	WSIT	9
Basic (recruit) Qualification	WSB	B
Novice Qualification	WSN	E
Competent Qualification	WSC	F
Proficient Qualification	WSP	G
Advanced Qualification	WSA	H
Aviation/Flight Crew (Flight Status) Waiver	WSA	J

Table 2.1

b. Multiple Attempts. Marines and recruits are highly encouraged to attend multiple water survival qualification sessions to qualify to the highest possible level. Every official water survival qualification will be entered into MCTIMS regardless of whether qualification level is higher, lower, or same as previous attempts. The most recent recorded attempt represents the Marine's current water survival qualification status.

3. Administrative Actions

a. When a Marine's swim qualification expires, the Marine's command must change the qualification status to Water Survival Unqualified (WSU) in MCTIMS.

(1) Once an active-duty Marine has been in WSU status for more than 180 days without a valid exemption or waiver, Marines shall be administratively counseled. Enlisted Marines shall be counseled in accordance with paragraph 6105 of reference (l), and Officers shall be counseled in accordance with paragraph 010502 of reference (n). Circumstances warranting exemptions include periods of deployment, temporary additional duty, unit field activities, emergency leave, medical convalescent leave, post-partum leave, pregnancy loss recovery, light duty, limited duty, unit training exercise and employment plans (TEEPs) events, formal school attendance, and permanent change of station (PCS). In situations where an exemption or waiver does not apply, which results in a Marine being in a WSU status through no fault of the Marine, Commanders on case-by-case basis may waive the required administrative counseling using a memorandum for the record (MFR).

(2) Once a reserve Marine has been in WSU status for more than 365 days without a valid exemption or waiver, Marines shall be administratively counseled. Enlisted Marines shall be counseled in accordance with paragraph 6105 of reference (l), and Officers shall be counseled in accordance with paragraph 010502 of reference (n). Circumstances warranting exemptions include periods of deployment, temporary additional duty, unit field activities, emergency leave, medical convalescent leave, post-partum leave, pregnancy loss recovery, light duty, limited duty, unit TEEP events, formal school attendance, and PCS. In situations where an exemption or waiver does not apply, that results in a Marine being in a WSU status through no fault of the Marine, Commanders on case-by-case basis, may waive the required administrative counseling using MFR.

"Counseled this date concerning your failure to maintain currency in the Marine Corps Water Survival Program. You are advised that failure to take corrective action and meet established water survival qualification standards may result in processing for administrative separation from the USMC for unsatisfactory performance per paragraphs 6206 and 6215 of MARCORSEPMAN. Specific recommendations for corrective action are: Achieve a swim qualification as soon as possible. Assistance is available through your chain of command. I was advised that within five working days after acknowledgment of this entry a written rebuttal could be submitted and that such a rebuttal will be filed on the document side of my SRB/OQR. I choose (to) (not to) make such a statement."

(3) Receipt of a 6105-counseling entry does not automatically constitute derogatory material on a fitness report. The reporting official must consider the substance of the entry and the provisions per reference (m) to determine if, in their judgment, the entry is sufficiently derogatory in nature to render the fitness report adverse. Ensure the entry is in the Marine Reported On's (MRO) OMPF prior to submission of the fitness report.

4. Medical Considerations. When a Marine is unable to perform or complete a water survival qualification due to an underlying physical or medical condition, an evaluation by an appropriately Privileged Health Care Provider (PHCP) must be conducted in accordance with references (u) through (w). A PHCP for purposes of this Order is a medical officer, nurse practitioner, independent duty corpsman, or a physician's assistant. The PHCP will make a

medical status determination regarding the Marine's ability to complete MCWSP or if referral to a Medical Evaluation Board (MEB)/Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) is warranted. A medical determination is required to excuse a Marine from participating in MCWSP, while a PEB finding is required for an exemption. For example, a Marine may be placed on light duty for 30 days and excused from performing a water survival qualification in March due to a training injury in February, but the Marine is not exempt from completing the water survival qualification.

a. Injury. Marines injured during the conduct of a water survival qualification should stop immediately and receive medical attention from the corpsman. The corpsman will make a recommendation to the lead WSI and water survival safety officer (WSSO) on whether the Marine should continue the qualification. Marines who do not continue training will not receive credit or qualification from the event. If assigned light duty status due to an injury, the Marine will be required to retake the water survival qualification no earlier than 30 days and no later than 90 days from return to full duty (RTFD) status. Marines who are evaluated and not assigned a light duty status will reattempt water survival qualification at the commander or Officer-in-Charge's (OIC) discretion.

b. Illness. Marines encountering rapid onset illness prior to conducting water survival qualification must obtain a light duty chit. Light duty chits will be submitted to the command prior to the scheduled water survival qualification.

c. Post-Light/Limited Duty. Upon return to full-duty status, the Marine will have no less than 30 days and no more than 90 days to requalify. If not requalified, the Marine's qualification level will revert to WSU.

d. Pregnancy/Post-Partum

(1) Marines who are confirmed pregnant by a PHCP are exempt from completing water survival qualification. The Marine must be prepared to complete a water survival qualification no earlier than 12 months after pregnancy or birth event. Following this 12-month exemption, the Marine is expected to meet standards at the next regular requalification interval. Additional time may be recommended by the PHCP and granted, if necessary, due to unique medical circumstances.

(2) Difficult pregnancies, cesarean sections, or still births present unique challenges that may require greater recovery time. Therefore, in pregnancies where complications develop, PHCPs will determine the time needed to RTFD and complete a water survival qualification.

(3) While exempt from water survival qualification requirements, Marines who are pregnant or post-partum can participate in unit aquatic training if cleared by a PHCP. Pregnant Marines will not participate in any aquatic activity that could result in physical contact such as life-saving rescues or activities with equipment such as training rifles.

(4) For pregnancies that do not reach full term, Marines will be required to complete the water survival qualification requirements in a time determined by a PHCP or Obstetrics (OB) healthcare provider. Time limits will not exceed those that are prescribed for a full-term pregnancy. Following the approved exemption period, the Marine is expected to meet standards at the next regular requalification interval. Additional time may

be recommended by the PHCP and granted, if necessary, due to unique medical circumstances. Table 2.2 outlines the Defense Health Agency (DHA) for return to testing recommendations for pregnancy loss per reference (w).

GESTATION (WEEKS + DAYS)	RETURN TO TESTING RECOMMENDATION
First Trimester (≤ 12+0)	60 days no testing
Second Trimester (12+1 to 19+6)	180 days no testing
Second Trimester (20+0 to 27+6)	365 days no testing
Third Trimester (28+0 to term)	365 days no testing

Table 2.2

5. Exemptions

a. If a Marine's MCWSP qualification expires while on exemption status, the Marine will have 180 days from the time the exemption status ends to re-qualify before reverting to WSU.

b. Once authorized, exemptions require administrative action from the unit. The unit must provide a roster to the unit's administrative, or training section listing the exempt Marines and request the code "6" be entered as their MCWSP qualification.

c. The following Marines are exempt from water survival qualification requirements due to the unique nature of the unit and/or access to facilities:

(1) Marines who are serving in the last 6 months of their active service, unless they have indicated their intention to re-enlist or extend, are exempt from MCWSP requirements.

(2) Officers with 13 years or more of service or holding the grade of O-4 or higher, and have a current Water Survival Proficient qualification are exempt from MCWSP requalification, unless required by their occupational duties i.e., active flight status, amphibious assault, embarking on a MEU, or serving in deployable Fleet Marine Force (FMF) units. If an officer is exempt from the swimming portion of MCWSP, but is required to conduct UET per chapter 5, the Marine must requalify to, at a minimum, WSN prior to conducting UET training. A current swim qualification is always a prerequisite to conduct UET.

(3) Enlisted Marines holding the grade of E-7 or higher and have a current Water Survival Proficient qualification are exempt from MCWSP requalification, unless required by their occupational duties or serving in deployable FMF units. If an enlisted Marine is exempt from the swim portion

of MCWSP, but is required to conduct UET per chapter 5, the Marine must requalify to, at a minimum, WSN prior to conducting UET training. A current swim qualification is always a prerequisite to conduct UET.

(4) Marine Corps Security Force personnel stationed outside of the Marine Corps Security Force Headquarters element aboard Camp Allen.

(5) Marine Corps Embassy Security Group personnel stationed outside of the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group Headquarters element aboard Marine Corps Base (MCB) Quantico.

(6) Marines assigned to the MCRC (except personnel located at MCB Quantico, MCRDSD, and MCRDPI).

(7) Marines assigned to Marine Support Battalion, Naval Security Group.

(8) Marines serving in a combat zone.

(9) Marines assigned to inter-service schools.

(10) Marines assigned to joint or combatant commands, joint billets, or Marines serving on exchange tours with foreign military units.

(11) Marines assigned to the Marine Detachment, United States Disciplinary Barracks, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

(12) Personnel assigned to Marine Aviation Training Support Groups.

(13) Aircrew in an active flight status. While in an active flight status, aircrews are subject to the regulations and procedures contained in reference (k) and not to the MCWSP.

(14) Marines assigned to Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, California.

(15) Marines assigned to Marine Forces Europe and Marine Forces Africa.

(16) Marines qualified as combatant divers (0324/0326/8024/8026), assigned to diving duty, and who maintain dive requirement currency.

(17) Marines serving in the individual ready reserve (IRR) and retired reserves are not required to qualify. Other Reserve Component Marines are not exempt from MCSWP qualification or requalification.

d. If a WSI or WSIT is unable to recertify due to operational tempo and training requirements, the individual WSI and WSIT should coordinate with the Director of the MCWSS via chain of command 60 days prior to WSI and WSIT certification expiration. In these unique circumstances, the MCWSS Director can grant WSI and WSIT expiration extensions on a case-by-case basis.

6. Marine Corps Water Survival Program (MCWSP) Waivers. The following waiver guidance applies to the swimming portion of the MCWSP. Separate UET waiver guidance is provided in paragraphs 7.a. through 7.c of Chapter 5.

a. Waivers may be solicited only for short-term situations that

temporarily prevent an individual, group, or an entire unit from completing the training requirements contained in this Order. The intent is for units to request a waiver when it has been determined that time or the lack of sufficient resources will prevent an individual, group, or entire unit from accomplishing MCWSP qualification/requalification. The purpose of granting waivers is to protect individual Marines who were legitimately unable to complete required training from being adversely affected.

b. Waivers must state the circumstances preventing an individual, group, or unit from completing MCWSP qualification/requalification and what steps are being taken by the unit to fulfill those training requirements. Unit "blanket waiver" requests are not permitted. Waiver requests must be submitted with a by-name roster for all individuals requiring waiver. Waivers will only apply and be valid for the period requested and valid for only the calendar year's training requirements within this Order.

c. Selected Marine Corps Reserve units must submit waivers to Commander, Marine Forces Reserve (MARFORRES) no more than 45 days prior to the conduct of training if a facility waiver is required. The facility waiver must include the requirement(s) that need to be waived (i.e., platform, pool size, depth, etc.) as well as distance to nearest Marine Corps aquatic facility, distance to nearest Department of Defense (DoD) aquatic facility, efforts made to find a suitable aquatic facility for training, and justification for request. Due to the unique training challenges faced by MARFORRES, MARFORRES MCWSP training requirements may be waived for two consecutive calendar years by the first general officer in a unit's chain of command.

d. The authority to waive MCWSP training rests with the first general officer in a Marine's chain of command. For separate organizations without a general officer, authorization to waive training must be obtained from DC, T&E (policy and standards division).

e. Commands with a general officer granted waiver must send a copy of the waiver response to DC, T&E within 30 days of approval. For an example of a waiver request format see Chapter 2 of this Order.

f. Given limited resources and accessibility to aquatic facilities, units may seek a waiver allowing modification for T&R Standard "Conduct Self Rescue" during a MCWSP qualification due to lack of platform (to include diving board) or training tower. Waivers will not be approved in entirety if partial swim qualification events can be conducted.

g. A record of all waivers will be maintained by the requesting unit for a period of three years.

#### 7. Underwater Egress Training (UET) Waivers

a. The first general officer in the chain of command may waive the full UET requirement for individual Marines or FMF sailors and units. Unit waivers apply to every member of the unit and are only appropriate when unforeseeable circumstances force a unit to conduct amphibious operations on short notice.

b. DC, T&E retains authority for all other unit and individual waivers for personnel without a general officer in the chain of command.

c. A record of all waivers will be maintained by the requesting unit for

a period of three years.

d. Marines must have a current MCWSP qualification to conduct UET. Waivers will not be permitted for Marines that are not current.

8. Request to Modify Marine Corps Water Survival Program (MCWSP) Qualification

a. Commands will follow the intent of this Order and reference (c) and conduct training and qualifications to the maximum extent possible; however, not all aquatic training facilities contain the requisite platform or platform height for MCWSP qualification in accordance with references (c) and (d). If aquatic facilities are not suitable for conducting MCWSP qualifications, a request to modify training may be submitted to CG TECOM for approval. The request should include O6 level endorsement, be submitted at no less than 45 days before the conduct of MCWSP training, and must include the capabilities of the available facilities, and what attempts have been made to acquire access to a suitable facility per Chapter 2.

b. Approved modifications shall stay in effect for one year from the date of approval and are applicable to all training conducted at the specified aquatic facility.

c. Approved training modifications for WSI and WSIT re/certification or requalification will not be granted.

9. Marine Corps Water Survival Program (MCWSP) Documentation

a. NAVMC 11209 Instructor's Course Record. WSI will complete and submit a NAVMC 11209 in accordance with reference (e). NAVMC 11209 shall be used to ensure MCWSP qualification levels are properly recorded in the current reporting system. WSI will provide a copy of NAVMC 11209 to Marines and retain a copy for a period of three years. Report Control Symbol MC-1500-28 is assigned to this reporting requirement.

b. NAVMC 11626 Marine Corps Water Survival Instructor Trainer (WSIT) Certification Checklist. Outlines the requirements and prerequisites for MCWSI who desire to certify as Water Survival Instructor Trainers (WSIT).

c. NAVMC 11627 Water Survival Instructor (WSI) Pre-Screening Checklist. Outlines the requirements and prerequisites for Marines who want to attend a WSI course.

d. NAVMC 11628 Water Survival Instructor (WSI) Re-Certification. WSI will maintain certification currency by completing the NAVMC 11628 (WSI re-certification checklist). A WSIT will supervise the re-certification.

e. NAVMC 11629 Emergency Action Plan (EAP)

(1) MCWSS, MCRDSD, MCRDPI, EWTGPAC, and TBS must complete NAVMC 11629 at the beginning of each MCWSP evolution for recruit/student personnel.

(2) MCWSS, MCRDSD, MCRDPI, EWTGPAC, and TBS must complete a NAVMC 11629 daily when conducting MCWSP for permanent personnel.

(3) All units other than MCWSS, MCRDSD, MCRDPI, EWTGPAC, and TBS must complete NAVMC 11629 daily when conducting MCWSP. NAVMC 11629 must be

complete and signed by the primary WSI and/or WSIT and WSSO prior to the conduct of water survival training.

(4) WSI will submit a copy of NAVMC 11629 to MCWSS and retain a copy for a period of three years. Report Control Symbol MC-1500-28 is assigned to this reporting requirement.

f. NAVMC 11630 Incident Report. For any Class A-C mishap, the lead WSI and WSIT will submit a NAVMC 11630 to the Director of the MCWSS.

g. NAVMC 11632 Emergency Response Drills. MCRDSD, MCRDPI, TBS, MCWSS, and EWTGPAC may conduct internal weekly monthly emergency response drills (ERD) for recruit classes and must conduct monthly drills involving fire and emergency services. All other units must conduct an ERD daily, prior to commencing MCWSP training. The ERD will be conducted in accordance with NAVMC 11632 ERD. WSI will submit a copy of NAVMC 11632 to MCWSS and retain a copy for a period of three years. Report Control Symbol MC-1500-28 is assigned to this reporting requirement.

Chapter 3

Responsibilities

1. Commander/Officer-in-Charge (OIC)

a. Maintain, at a minimum, one qualified WSI assigned in writing, with current certifications, for every 500 Marines within a unit. When conducting MCWSP events in training tanks or pools, commanders will ensure a 1:10 ratio of WSI to Marines.

b. Ensure WSIs and WSITs conducting MCWSP training are current in all required certifications. Recertify WSIs per NAVMC 11628 (Marine Corps Water Survival Instructor Recertification Requirements) and submit to the MCWSS Director.

c. Ensure unit WSIs and WSITs develop a comprehensive unit water survival program that emphasizes combat readiness by providing Marines the survivability skills for various aquatic conditions.

d. Implement a unit MCWSP and ensure that all Marines under their oversight perform MCWSP qualification and requalification in accordance with the contents of this Order.

e. Facilitate remedial training and aquatic instruction for Marines who do not pass initial water survival qualification, whose qualifications expire and revert to WSU, or who fail the swim assessment during requalification. Water remediation training comprises of 2 or more supervised training hours to prepare Marines for the next available training opportunity.

f. Ensure the timely and accurate recording of data in MOL, UD/MIPS, and MCTIMS per references (e) through (h). Maintain copies of all completed NAVMC 11209, NAVMC 11629, and NAVMC 11632 for three years.

g. Ensure the timely and accurate recording, reporting and investigation of all MCWSP training class A through E mishaps via the RMI reporting system in accordance with reference (n). Reference (n) requires timely and accurate recording, reporting and investigation of all MCWSP hazards or near misses via RMI. Units not having access to RMI should contact their nearest Division or Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) safety personnel for assistance. CG TECOM will be included as an endorser for the memorandum of final evaluation on any mishap report involving MCWSP.

h. Oversee and ensure the development and implementation of an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) in accordance with NAVMC 11632.

i. Populate MCWSS school seat requests in the TIP.

2. Marine Corps Water Survival Instructor Trainer (WSIT)

a. The WSIT is authorized to conduct WSB, WSN, WSC, WSP, WSA, and WSI requalification. A WSIT serving in a billet at MCRDSD, MCRDPI, EWTGPAC, TBS and other designated locations, is authorized to conduct a WSI course with approval from the MCWSS.

b. WSI and WSIT are internal certifications of the Marine Corps and have no relation to external certifications.

3. Marine Corps Water Survival Instructor (WSI)

a. The WSI is authorized to conduct WSB, WSN, WSC, WSP, and WSA qualification and requalification.

b. A WSI, for the purposes of the execution of MCWSP, is a Marine that has completed the MCWSP WSI certification requirements in addition to red cross lifeguard certification. A lifeguard that is only red cross lifeguard certified is not considered to have met the certification requirements to conduct MCWSP qualification, certification, or recertification.

4. Certification and Recertification of Water Survival Instructor (WSI) and Water Survival Instructor Trainer (WSIT)

a. Certification. WSI is considered a certification when Marines successfully pass the WSI course and pass the American Red Cross training. WSI's must maintain a current American Red Cross training certification to be considered a certified WSI. WSIT is considered a certification when Marines successfully pass the WSI course, complete the WSIT criteria per NAVMC 11626, and pass/maintain current American Red Cross training.

(1) The WSI and WSIT certification is valid for two years to align with American Red Cross re-certification requirements. See NAVMC 11628 for a list of pre-requisites to obtain the WSI certification. See NAVMC 11626 for the WSIT certification checklist.

(2) Maintain currency in the following American Red Cross Certifications:

(a) Lifeguard/Lifeguard Instructor

(b) Waterfront Lifeguard/Waterfront Lifeguard Instructor

(c) Standard First Aid

(d) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)/Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for the Professional Rescuer

(e) Oxygen Administration (OA)

(f) Must possess a first-class Physical Fitness Test (PFT) and combat fitness test (CFT).

b. Recertification.

(1) Recertification for a WSIT shall only take place at MCWSS, EWTGPAC, TBS, MCRDSD, MCRDPI, or any other location provided the current recertification standards are utilized in accordance with this Order. See NAVMC 11628/11626 for a list of pre-requisites to obtain the WSI and WSIT certification.

(2) American Red Cross recertification expenses are the responsibility of the WSI and WSIT parent command.

(3) When requesting recertification, the WSI must provide copies of the NAVMC 11209 to the recertifying WSIT to demonstrate competency and

currency within the MCWSP.

(4) It is recommended that a WSI conduct recertification in accordance with NAVMC 11209 and American Red Cross requirements 90 days prior to a WSI certification expiration to remain compliant. The WSI cannot conduct MCWSP training or qualifications until recertified. WSI's that have expired certifications are still permitted to recertify if the Marine has successfully passed the Marine Corps Instructor of Water Survival Recertification requirements per NAVMC 11626 to include the prescreening checklist, pass/maintain current American Red Cross training. WSI's that do not recertify will remain in an inactive instructor status, however, will retain the 0918 MOS, and revert to a WSA qualification that has a 5-year requalification expiration.

5. Certification and Recertification of Shallow Water Egress Trainer (SWET). As directed, SWET chair certification/recertification will be included in the POI and/or can be done separately for new or current WSI.

Chapter 4

Marine Corps Water Survival Program (MCWSP) Qualification

1. Overview. The MCWSP employs water survival skills of increasing ability levels designed to increase aquatic competency, raise self-confidence, and reduce fear.

a. Unit Responsibility. Units must adequately prepare their Marines to survive and operate in an aquatic environment. Each unit is responsible for maintaining a MCWSP that leverages a WSI to facilitate aquatic familiarization and enhancement. Marines may attempt to achieve multiple qualification levels during MCWSP qualification and requalification. For recommended preparatory training refer to <https://www.fitness.marines.mil>.

b. Preparatory Aquatic Training. Outcome based learning classroom preparatory training and aquatic preparatory training is required for any Marine who has 1) fails an initial swim assessment during a requalification attempt, 2) failed a water survival qualification, or 3) has an expired water survival qualification. Prior to participating in water survival qualification, the Marine is required to attend one hour of classroom instruction and a minimum of two, one-hour aquatic preparatory training sessions.

(1) The classroom instruction preparatory training will inform the participants of the MCWSP qualification requirements and aquatic skills.

(2) During the two one-hour aquatic sessions the Marine will practice by demonstrating four survival strokes crawl (front) stroke, side stroke, breaststroke, elementary back stroke, breathing techniques, water treading techniques, and blouse and trouser inflation. S3T can be used for improved general water confidence prior to qualification and as part of preparatory training. A swim assessment will be conducted on each pool training day.

2. Required Instruction

a. Mandatory Classes. The WSI is required to provide a POI prior to the conduct of any water survival qualification on the following topics:

(1) S-A-F-E. Survival techniques utilized to stay afloat or extended periods of time.

(a) Slow and Easy Movements

(b) Apply Natural Buoyancy

(c) Full Lung Inflation

(d) Extreme Relaxation

(2) Explain dangers of hyperventilation and hypoxic blackout.

(a) Hyperventilation is excessive and rapid breathing, can be accompanied by anxiety, panic attack, and/or racing heartbeat.

(b) Hyperventilation decreases the amount CO<sub>2</sub> in a person's body, diminishing the urge to breathe under water and can result in a hypoxic

blackout, and a loss of consciousness underwater.

(c) When performing breath hold activities around an aquatic environment, do not take more than 3 deep breaths before submerging under water. Do not conduct submerged breath holding activities without a certified lifeguard present.

(d) Hypoxic blackout is caused by a loss of consciousness while underwater due to a lack of oxygen, which can lead to drowning without any sign of a struggle. In some cases, an individual experiencing a hypoxic blackout appears to be performing movements because their body may continue to function temporarily. This is dangerous because a person may assume the individual is conscious.

(3) Hypothermia

(a) Definition: a condition in which the body loses more heat than it produces, usually with an internal body temperature of 95 degrees Fahrenheit or lower.

(b) Symptoms: Skin cold to touch, skin blue or gray, vague, or slurred speech, dizziness, uncontrollable shivering, muscular rigidity, disorientation.

(c) Treatment: Gradual re-warming of the inner body core temperature.

(4) Field Expedient Flotation Devices

(a) Blouse Inflation

(b) Trouser Inflation (sling, splash, blow to inflate)

(5) Water Proofing equipment

3. Qualification Requirements

a. Water Survival Unqualified (WSU). Does not meet minimum standard. A Marine is unable to complete the minimum training requirements for WSN or the Marine has an expired water survival qualification.

b. Water Survival Basic (WSB). All recruits will be tested at Water Survival Novice (WSN) and provided multiple attempts if necessary. If recruits pass WSN, they will be afforded at a minimum one opportunity to attempt Water Survival Competent (WSC). Recruits required to meet PEF / IMOS standards will be afforded the opportunity to be qualified accordingly prior to graduation and attendance at ELT. If a recruit does not qualify at WSN, they will be required to qualify at WSB prior to the final day of training to meet the recruit graduation requirement. All recruits that do not qualify at WSN must obtain Commanding General approval with appropriate entries in MCTIMS (see Table 2.1) identifying that the graduation requirement of WSB has been met prior to detachment. A Marine will be required to meet WSN within one year of their graduation date or they will be considered unqualified (WSU) and an appropriate MCTIMS entry should be made. WSB will not be conducted outside of the Marine Corps Recruit Depots and is not a qualification beyond recruit training.

Requirements for WSB include:

- (1) Conduct self-rescue for 25m
- (2) Shallow water gear shed
- (3) Employ flotation gear for 25m
- (4) Stay at the surface for four minutes

c. Water Survival Novice (WSN). Meets the minimum water survival qualification standard.

(1) Possesses the undeveloped foundational skills with an ability to perform a self-rescue under ideal aquatic conditions. A primary goal of WSN is to use the stay at the surface technique long enough to survive in an aquatic environment with an imminent rescue.

(2) WSN is a continuum of the water survival qualification. The WSN qualification will start with a 25-meter swim assessment. Once the assessment is completed, Marines will conduct the remainder of the WSN qualification events that consists of Marines demonstrating their ability to conduct a platform entry, conduct a self-rescue for 50 meters utilizing only one of the four survival strokes (elementary backstroke, breaststroke, sidestroke, and crawl (front) stroke), tread water (stay at the surface technique) for five minutes and at four minutes execute a complete blouse inflation for the remaining time prior to exiting the water, conduct gear shed, and employ flotation gear during a single training session. During the shallow water (chest high water depth that is 4 feet or less) gear shed, Marines will completely submerge underwater and remove all gear before resurfacing within the time limit of 10 seconds. The WSN qualification will start with a 25-meter swim assessment. Once the assessment is completed, Marines will conduct the remainder of the WSN qualification events.

d. Water Survival Competent (WSC). Meets the PEF water survival qualification standard. A Marine will not be deemed capable of self-rescue until they have met the WSC qualification level.

(1) Possesses the developed foundational skills with the ability to perform self-rescue and survive under calm aquatic conditions. A primary goal of WSC is to use the stay at the surface technique to increase the time allotted to survive in an aquatic environment and be rescued.

(2) WSC is a continuum of the water survival qualification that begins with a 25-meter swim assessment will be conducted unless Marines are conducting a same-day advancement qualification from WSN. During WSC qualification, Marines will demonstrate their ability starting with a platform entry and conduct a self-rescue for 150 meters utilizing two of the survival strokes (elementary backstroke, breaststroke, sidestroke, and crawl stroke) during a single training session. Marines must show proficiency in two strokes for a minimum of 25 meters each, tread water for seven minutes and at six minutes execute a complete trouser inflation for the remaining time prior to exiting the water, conducting gear shed, and employing flotation gear. During stay at the surface technique, Marines will tread for at least one minute prior to executing the blouse inflation. During the deep water shed (8 feet or more water depth), Marines will completely submerge themselves underwater and remove all gear before resurfacing within the time limit of 20 seconds. During self-rescue, Marines must demonstrate either the crawl stroke, sidestroke, or breaststroke for a minimum of 25 meters.

e. Water Survival Proficient (WSP). Meets the requirement for most combat arms and aviation MOS's.

(1) Possesses the skills required to survive, rescue one-self, and perform a buddy assist for an active victim in an aquatic environment with and without gear. WSP is recommended as the individual qualification level for units whose mission profile places Marines frequently around an aquatic environment.

(2) WSP is a continuum of the water survival qualification that begins with a 25-meter swim assessment unless Marines are conducting same-day advancement qualification from WSC. During the WSP qualification, Marines will demonstrate their ability to execute a 250-meter self-rescue utilizing three of the survival strokes during a single training session. Marines must utilize the three strokes for a minimum of 25 meters each, stay at the surface technique for 10 minutes demonstrating the ability to utilize blouse and trouser inflation, gear shed in deep water, and employ flotation gear in deep and shallow water. During stay at the surface technique, Marines will tread for ten minutes and at one minute execute a complete blouse inflation. After the Marine demonstrates proficiency with one of the blouse inflation methods, they will be instructed to conduct a trouser inflation. The Marine will demonstrate proficiency in one of the trouser inflation methods and stay at the surface technique for the remaining time. If the Marine cannot demonstrate proficiency in any of the blouse or trouser inflation methods within the allotted time limit, the event will need to be remediated. During the deep water shed (8 feet or more water depth), Marines will completely submerge themselves underwater and remove all gear before resurfacing within the time limit of 20 seconds. During the self-rescue, Marines must demonstrate three of the survival strokes (elementary backstroke, breaststroke, sidestroke, and crawl stroke) for a minimum of 25 meters each.

(3) Rescue-Demonstrate buddy assist for an active victim.

f. Water Survival Advanced (WSA). Possesses the advanced skills required to survive, rescue one-self, and perform a passive buddy assist in an aquatic environment with and without gear.

(1) Marines must be capable of rescuing Marines in an aquatic environment. WSA qualified Marines do not receive additional first aid training as part of MCWSP.

(2) WSA is a water survival qualification that consists of a 25-meter swim assessment unless Marines are conducting a same-day advancement qualification from WSP. Once the assessment is completed, Marines will conduct the remainder of the WSA qualification events where Marines must demonstrate their ability to rescue another Marine in an aquatic environment. WSP qualified Marines will demonstrate proficiency in their abilities to execute a timed 500-meter swim assessment (20 mins or less in a meter-pool and 22 mins or less in a yard-pool), demonstrate water survival strokes, passive buddy assist, and the four life-saving rescues during a single training session.

(3) As long as a Marines' WSA qualification does not expire, the Marine can requalify without attending a unit-provided WSA course by demonstrating the following to a WSI:

(a) Swim 500 meters in 20 minutes.

(b) Demonstrate all four of the survival strokes (elementary backstroke, breaststroke, sidestroke, and crawl (front) stroke) for a minimum of 25 meters each.

(c) Perform four life-saving rescues while demonstrating proper escape, level-off, and tow techniques as required.

(4) WSA qualification is the minimum qualification that provides the requisite skills required for unit commander's risk mitigation when conducting aquatic training outside of MCWSP.

(5) WSA qualified Marines may not conduct MCWSP qualification or requalification but may supervise routine aquatic pool training. WSA qualified Marines may augment a WSI/WSIT instructor to student ratio increasing the ratio from 1:10 to 1:15. Each single WSI or WSIT may be augmented with up to three WSA qualified Marines for an overall ratio of 1:25 per single WSI or WSIT.

f. Table 4.1 depicts the summary of MCWSP qualification requirements, requalification requirements, and preparatory training requirements.

<b>Marine Corps Water Survival Program (MCWSP) Qualification/Requalification Requirements and Preparatory Training</b>					
	Preparatory Training*	NOVICE WSN	COMPETENT WSC	PROFICIENT WSP	ADVANCED WSA
Classroom Instruction	Outcome based learning (1-hour minimum classroom, 2-hour minimum practical application conducted in a pool)	No	No	No	No
Swim Assessment**	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Conduct Self Rescue	Yes	Demonstrate 1 Aquatic Stroke*** - 50m	Demonstrate 2 Aquatic Strokes*** - 150m	Demonstrate 3 Aquatic Strokes*** - 250m	Demonstrate 4 Aquatic Strokes and a separate timed 500m
Stay at the Surface technique	Yes	<u>5 min total</u> 4 min stay at the surface and then complete 1 min blouse inflation	<u>7 min total</u> 6 min stay at the surface and then complete 1 min trouser inflation	<u>10 min total</u> 1 min stay at the surface, complete blouse inflation, then trouser inflation for the remaining 9 mins	None
Conduct Gear Shed****	Shallow Water	Shallow Water	Shallow and Deep Water	Deep Water	None
Employ Flotation Gear	Yes	25m	25m	50m Shallow to Deep	None
Buddy Assist	No	No	No	Active Victim	Passive Victim
Rescues	No	No	No	No	Active/Passive Victim
Classroom Instruction	Outcome based learning (1-hour minimum classroom,	No	No	No	No

	2-hour minimum practical application conducted in a pool				
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Table 4.1

\* Preparatory training is not considered a qualification; table 4.1 depicts required training events.

\*\* Swim assessments will be conducted after completion of the ERP Drill.

\*\*\* Must show ability to conduct a stroke(s) for a minimum of 25m for each qualification level using an approved during testing (crawl stroke(front), elementary backstroke, side stroke, elementary breaststroke).

\*\*\*\*Gear shed requires a flak jacket, Kevlar helmet, and rifle. Shallow water is defined as chest high water (4 feet or less depth). Deep water is defined as at least 8 feet water depth.

4. Requalification Intervals

a. WSB qualification is valid for one year from the date of recruit graduation. WSB is only conducted at the MCRD's and will not be considered a level for requalification.

b. WSN qualification is valid for two years for the active component and two years for the reserve component.

c. WSC qualification is valid for three years for both active and reserve components.

d. WSP qualification is valid for four years for both active and reserve components.

e. WSA qualification is valid for five years for both active and reserve components.

f. Expired water survival qualification levels will revert to WSU. Units must ensure WSU is entered into MCTIMS, in accordance with chapter 2 of this Order, when a Marine's qualifications expire.

g. Water survival qualification/requalification for each level (WSB, WSN, WSP and WSA) will be conducted during one continuous training period. Continuous training is defined as the time a Marine enters the pool deck until they leave the facility.

h. Marines with an unexpired MCWSP qualification may requalify at their current MCWSP level without having to requalify at each of the lower qualification levels (e.g., A Marine with an unexpired WSC qualification will not have to conduct WSN level prior to requalifying at the WSC level). Marines with an expired water survival qualification who requalify on an exempt status may attempt qualification beginning at their last recorded water qualification level and in accordance with chapter 4.1.b.

i. Table 4.2 depicts the MCWSP qualification level and intervals:

<b>Marine Corps Water Survival Program (MCWSP) Qualification Levels and Intervals</b>					
	Preparatory Training Intervals*	NOVICE WSN	COMPETENT WSC	PROFICIENT WSP	ADVANCED WSA

<p>Qualification Interval (active and reserve)</p>	<p>Conduct prior to Novice qualification, when current qualification is lapsed and requalification is necessary, or if a swim assessment is failed</p>	<p>2 Years</p>	<p>3 Years</p>	<p>4 Years</p>	<p>5 Years</p>
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Table 4.2

\* Preparatory training is not considered a qualification; however, Table 4.1 depicts required training events.

5. Mobile Training Teams. Commands and organizations without a WSI may request a MTT from the MCWSS to conduct WSI certifications. All requests must be made, via naval message, no later than 90 days prior to the start of training. The unit requesting the MTT will be responsible for the temporary additional duty cost for MTT personnel.

## Chapter 5

### Underwater Egress Training (UET) and Qualification

1. Background. UET consists of progressive classroom instruction and practical application that is approximately 8 hours in duration. The practical application begins with student familiarization with the regulator in the shallow end of the pool. This activity increases the students' confidence in their equipment before advancing to inverted wall submersion drills. Next, students must demonstrate individual mastery of UET fundamentals in the SWET. During the final exercise, students must demonstrate individual mastery of UET fundamentals in a collective setting in either the Submerged Vehicle Egress Trainer (SVET), the Multi-Use Egress Trainer (MUET), or the Modular Amphibious Egress Trainer (MAET). Marines and FMF Sailors must successfully complete all stages of the training to earn an UET qualification.

#### 2. Underwater Egress Training (UET) Devices and Training Aids

a. Shallow Water Egress Trainer (SWET). The SWET is a skill progression training aid intended for preparatory and remedial training. SWET introduces Marines to water submersion and emergency breathing devices.

b. Submerged Vehicle Egress Trainer (SVET). The SVET is a module used for ground based and amphibious vehicle egress training at USMC UET sites. The front of the SVET mimics the characteristics of a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) and the back mimics the troop compartment of an Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV). The MUET is a future module that will replace the SVET. The MUET mimics the characteristics of an ACV with modular components that can be reconfigured to support realistic training on current (Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, Light Armored Vehicle, and Amphibious Combat Vehicle) and future vehicle platforms. It can be reasonably expected that SVET and MUET will be used interchangeably in the future.

c. Modular Amphibious Egress Trainer (MAET). The MAET provides a training platform for underwater egress from any helicopter/tiltrotor aircraft like a UH-1, CH-53, and MV-22.

#### 3. Prerequisites for Underwater Egress Training (UET) Qualification

a. Marines must have a current MCWSP swim qualification to conduct UET. FMF sailors must have a current MCWSP or Navy swim qualification. The senior service member from each unit participating in UET shall provide the following, for all participants, to UET site managers prior to the commencement of training:

(1) Proof of a current swim qualification.

(2) The required medical screening forms which are available through UET sites and TECOM Range and Training Programs Division (RTPD).

b. Commanders are encouraged to conduct aquatic training as part of their PT plans prior to scheduled UET.

c. SWET trained WSIs and WSITs are authorized to conduct breath hold only SWET chair training as part of preparatory training for UET. Training materials are available through the MCWSS.

(1) WSI and/or WSIT to SWET chair ratio shall be 1:1.

(2) WSI and/or WSIT will not invert the SWET chair.

(3) Commanders will validate that WSI and/or WSIT have received and reviewed SWET chair training from the MCWSS.

(4) Breath hold only SWET chair training shall be supervised by E-6 or higher WSI or WSIT from the training unit.

#### 4. Qualification and Currency

a. Required UET performance steps consist of the completion of the following:

(1) Classroom training and medical pre-screening.

(2) "Wall training" to familiarize student with being upside down and breathing under water.

(3) SWET chair training using "breath hold" method.

(4) SWET chair training using Supplemental breathing device.

(5) Egress from mockup. Full vision; no rotation.

(6) Egress from mock-up. Full vision, 180-degree rotation.

(7) Egress from mock-up. Vision blocked, no rotation.

(8) Complete egress from mockup. Vision blocked, 180-degree rotation.

b. Before conducting helicopter/tiltrotor aircraft overwater flight or amphibious vehicle waterborne operations all Marines and FMF Sailors must be either:

(1) UET qualified.

(2) Waived by the appropriate authority outline in paragraph 7 of this chapter. Waivers should be used sparingly and only after all other options to qualify service members have been exhausted.

(3) Marines and FMF Sailors that require UET must be qualified prior to:

(a) Change of operational posture from their parent command to the gaining Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU).

(b) Deployment date for all other deployment types, e.g., unit deployment program.

(c) The start date of any exercise involving amphibious

shipping.

(d) The start date of any training event involving shore-to-shore operations with amphibious vehicles.

c. Overwater flight is defined as any portion of a scheduled flight plan/path where the pilot has determined that there is a reasonable expectation that the aircraft would be forced to land or choose to land on/in the water during an in-flight emergency. Depth of water is irrelevant to the decision, as the expected violence of an emergency would cause the egress to be dire in even the shallowest of water. Distance from shore is also irrelevant to the decision, as the ability to egress the platform when seconds count is the critical task, not the actual rescue of personnel. All ship-to-shore or shore-to-ship flight is defined as "overwater flight," since during landing/takeoff altitude is such that landing in the water is always a possibility.

d. UET qualifications expire four years after the certification date unless a shorter sustainment interval is directed.

e. Marines who are scheduled to deploy must remain current in UET and MCWSP qualification throughout the expected redeployment date.

f. Both MAET and SVET/MUET teach the fundamentals of UET. Service members are considered fully trained and qualified to conduct both overwater flight and amphibious operations if they have a current:

(1) MAET qualification, SVET/MUET qualification, or SWET qualification with the appropriate waiver.

(2) MCWSP qualification.

g. Frequent rehearsals of UET skills and procedures must be conducted whenever practicable on actual amphibious vehicles and aircraft. UET qualifications provides an initial demonstrated proficiency in the procedures and skills necessary to survive an evacuation (at the surface) or an underwater egress (submerged) situation, but these skills and procedures must be regularly reinforced and refreshed on the actual vehicles. The skills gained at UET are highly perishable and must be practiced regularly. Failure to conduct regular rehearsals and reinforce training provided by UET will result in a degradation of proficiency and lead to an increased risk of injury, or death, during a real-world evacuation or egress situation.

## 5. Underwater Egress Training (UET) Scheduling

a. UET will be scheduled through RFMSS.

b. MEF commanders are responsible for the scheduling and prioritization of school seats for all UET sites geographically aligned to their respective MEF. Reserve units, Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC), and Reconnaissance Marines must be factored into planning and prioritization.

c. Subordinate commanders will determine prioritization of school seats provided by the MEF. They will also determine, by unit, which personnel will complete SVET/MUET, and which personnel will complete MAET. Marines and FMF Sailors who are more likely to conduct waterborne operations in an amphibious assault vehicle, amphibious combat vehicle, or light armored vehicle compared

to overwater flight operations will complete the SVET/MUET. All others will complete the MAET.

d. UET is currently available at the following locations:

- (1) MCB Camp Pendleton, California (Area 53)
- (2) MCB Camp Pendleton, California (Area 21)
- (3) MCB Camp Lejeune, North Carolina
- (4) MCB Hawaii
- (5) MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan

e. UET will be available at the following locations once the planned facilities are completed and appropriately staffed:

- (1) MCB Camp Blaz, Guam

f. The UET located in Darwin, Australia is certified for Marine Corps use.

g. Reserve personnel, requiring UET, will coordinate with the appropriate MEF to accomplish MCWSTP and UET (to include SVET/MUET or MAET) during annual training or initial location training, if mobilized.

h. If the UET school seats provided by TECOM do not meet individual MEF throughput requirements, the shortfall shall be immediately communicated to CG TECOM (RTPD) via the appropriate chain of command.

6. Training and Education Command (TECOM) Approved Equivalent Training

a. The Marine Corps "non-aircrew" egress familiarization training, as defined by reference (o), is an approved equivalent to MAET training and is offered at the aviation survival training centers (ASTC):

- (1) Patuxent River, Maryland
- (2) Norfolk, Virginia
- (3) Cherry Point, North Carolina
- (4) Jacksonville, Florida
- (5) Pensacola, Florida
- (6) Miramar, California
- (7) Lemoore, California
- (8) Whidbey Island, Washington

b. Support agreements are required to schedule this training at ASTCs. Such agreements can be initiated through the naval survival training institute (NSTI).

c. CONUS MEFs may establish support agreements with local ASTCs to address short-term deficiencies in Marine Corps UET school seat availability.

d. TECOM will evaluate several other sites for potential equivalency certification. Units may direct requests for future requests for UET equivalency evaluations to TECOM (RTPD), who maintain a current list of all TECOM approved equivalent UET.

#### 7. Underwater Egress Training (UET) Waivers

a. The first O-6 commander within the chain may waive UET sustainment interval if there is a shift in the expected re-deployment date. This one-time waiver will apply until the unit returns to home station. Commanders must notify the first general officer in the chain of command upon waiving the sustainment interval.

b. The first general officer in the chain of command may waive the full UET requirement for individual Marines or FMF Sailors and units in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. Unit waivers apply to every member of the unit and are only appropriate when unforeseen circumstances force a unit to conduct amphibious operations (e.g., overwater flight or amphibious vehicle waterborne operations) on short notice. Commanders must notify CG TECOM upon waiving the full UET requirement for units per Chapter 3. Copies of approved waiver will be sent to [tecom.forcefitness@usmc.mil](mailto:tecom.forcefitness@usmc.mil).

c. CG TECOM retains the authority for all unit and individual waivers for personnel without a general officer in the chain of command.

d. The SWET is a skill progression training aid intended for use in preparatory and remedial training. Successful completion of SWET chair training does not meet the standards for UET. By extension, SWET chair training does not qualify an individual to conduct overwater flight or amphibious vehicle waterborne operations. However, if the following conditions are met, O-6 commanders may approve a temporary SWET chair only waiver:

(1) Personnel who have previously qualified in the MAET or SVET/MUET. A record of previous training must be included in each official request.

(2) Full MAET or SVET/MUET are unavailable before a specific training event or short-notice operational requirement due to unscheduled maintenance, unexpected contractor non-availability, or another significant issue that prevents training from occurring as scheduled.

(3) All reasonable efforts have been made to reschedule full MAET or SVET/MUET before overwater flight or amphibious vehicle waterborne operations are conducted.

e. SWET waiver limitations:

(1) This waiver is only valid for one year and may not be used for subsequent qualification. A Marine or FMF Sailor may not have back-to-back SWET waivers.

(2) Personnel must complete the full classroom instruction and SWET practical application at a USMC UET site or an ASTC.

f. In extremis, defined as a time constrained situation where a general officer is unable to provide a required waiver, commanders at the O5 (or higher) level may waive any individuals from the UET requirement. Commanders will notify the first general officer in the chain of command as soon as practicable.

## 8. Administration

a. Drop on request is no longer authorized for UET students.

b. Commanders will appropriately document Marines and FMF Sailors who refuse to train (RTT) with a minimum of a page 11 entry for Marines and a page 13 entry for sailors. If a Marine or sailor cannot adequately discharge their assigned duties as a result of UET failure or RTT, O-5 (or higher) commanders may consider the full range of administrative actions available.

c. If an individual Marine or FMF sailor is unqualified in UET they may, at the O-5 (or higher) Commander's discretion, be authorized to deploy in support of global force management requirements; however, they are not authorized to conduct overwater flight or amphibious vehicle waterborne operations without an approved waiver.

d. Marine aviators and aircrew will continue to complete egress training requirements in accordance with the NASTP in accordance with reference (o).

e. Prior to overwater flight or amphibious operations, all passengers must receive a brief on the following items from the aircraft crew chief prior to takeoff, or the vehicle commander prior to waterborne operations in the case of amphibious vehicles:

(1) Proper brace positions for the specific aircraft or vehicle. Brace positions do not apply for amphibious vehicles that are taking on water. Brace positions do apply to aircraft egress, and vehicle rollover situations, when the aircraft or vehicle could end up in the water. Scenarios are designed to reduce flailing and secondary impact.

(2) The helicopter egress system for passengers (HESP) or the water egress capability (WEC). Crew chiefs and vehicle commanders must ensure the serviceability of the gear, brief individuals on their use, and ensure that each individual knows how to use the gear. See Chapter 4 for HESP/WEC briefing materials.

(3) Identify and communicate primary, alternate, and tertiary all potential egress points to passengers.

(4) Talk through the operation of any latches, handles, or other potential obstacles for all available egress points on the aircraft or amphibious vehicle.

f. A full egress rehearsal shall be conducted prior to take-off, or splash in the case of amphibious vehicles, if any passenger has been waived from the full UET requirement.

g. Provide a spreadsheet with the waiver request reflecting with all data capture per Table 5.1.

Waiver Request Data								
					Last UET Qual		Last Swim Qual	
Rank	Last Name	First Name	MI	DOD ID	Type	Date	Level	Date

Table 5.1

h. In cases where training cannot be completed prior to the deadlines in Chapter 5, paragraphs 4.b.(1)-(3), commanders will continue to pursue qualification through any available Marine Corps UET site or TECOM approved equivalent training.

i. MCTFS/MCTIMS codes will be used to report UET training and qualification per table 5.2.

Marine Corps Total Force System (MCTFS) /MCTMS Marine Corps Training Information Management System (MCTIMS) Underwater Egress Trainer (UET) Codes			
Long Title	Short Title	Code	Description
Unqualified	UNQ	EA	UET Unqualified
UET Waiver (temporary)	WAV/EXEMPT	5	Temporary waiver (medical or exemption)
Shallow Water Egress Trainer Instructor	SWETI	EW	SWET Instructor Trainer
Modular Amphibious Egress Training Qualification	MAET	EH	MAET or TECOM-approved equivalent
Shallow Water Egress Training Qualification	SWET	ED	SWET; only valid for one year with waiver.
Submerged Vehicle/Multi-use Egress Training Qualification	SVET/MUET	EB	SVET/MUET for amphibious vehicle passengers
Modular Amphibious Egress Attempt Did Not Complete	MAET DNC	EC	Marine does not meet MAET training requirements during a UET attempt
Submerged Vehicle/Multi-use Attempt Did Not Complete	MUET/SVET DNC	EA	Marine does not meet SVET or MUET training requirements during a UET attempt
Underwater Egress Training Failure/Refusal to Train	UET Failure/RTT	EF	Marine refuses to train or is failed by an instructor while attempting MAET, SVET, MUET, or SWET

Table 5.2

Chapter 6

Marine Corps Water Survival Program (MCWSP) Safety Structure

1. Overview. Commanders/OICs are required to ensure their unit MCWSP is reviewed and executed safely as part of the unit's overall MCPFP.

2. Marine Corps Water Survival Program (MCWSP) Aquatic Training Safety Structure. A certified lifeguard or WSI must be present during a unit's aquatic training.

3. Marine Corps Water Survival Program (MCWSP) Qualification Safety Structure

a. The overall emergency response and safety structure exists to mitigate risks associated with MCWSP. The end state is a standardized structure that will be enforced and followed throughout the Marine Corps anytime MCWSP qualifications or training is conducted. The requirements outlined in this Order are in addition to any requirements established at the local installation where MCWSP training or qualification is to take place.

b. At every water survival qualification event the following safety structure must be in place in order to conduct the qualification:

(1) Primary WSI or WSIT. Responsible for the overall conduct of qualification or training. The primary WSI will direct any rescues in the event of an emergency when multiple WSI and/or WSIT are present. This individual must be a current WSI and meet all the requirements outlined in Chapters 2 and 3.

(2) Water Survival Safety Officer (WSSO). Each MCWSP evolution will have a designated WSSO responsible for supervisory oversight of safety. The WSSO must be an E-6 or above and is not required to be WSI or WSIT certified. The WSSO will not participate in training. Responsibilities of the WSSO include:

(a) Supervise all activities occurring on the pool deck and within the training tank.

(b) In the event of an emergency, act as the sole line of communication between the Primary WSI or WSIT and the responding medical services.

(3) Safety Corpsman or Emergency Response Officer (ERO). The intent of this requirement is to have on-site safety personnel who have current CPR/AED qualifications dedicated solely to safety purposes.

(a) All units except MCRDSD, MCRDPI, TBS, EWTGPAC, and MCWSS will have a corpsman present during the execution of MCWSP qualifications. These units are exempt only when an ERO is present, otherwise a corpsman is required.

(b) The ERO must be WSIT and will not augment the 1:10 student to instructor ratio. Additionally, the ERO will not participate in training or assist the primary or assistant WSI and/or WSIT during training. A WSIT is specifically trained to provide rescue and recovery as well as immediate resuscitative measures. A WSIT is trained and certified by the American Red

Cross to perform the following:

1. Victim rescue and recovery (skill)
2. Spinal Management (SM) (skill)
3. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation for Professional Rescuer (CPR-PR) (certification)
4. Preventative Disease Transmission (PDT) (skill)
5. OA (certification)
6. AED (certification)

(c) The safety corpsman must have a current CPR/AED certification and will not participate in training. The safety corpsman will be trained on the following:

1. AED (certification)
2. SM (skill)
3. CPR (certification)
4. PDT (skill)
5. OA (certification)

(4) Primary and secondary forms of communication capable of contacting emergency services.

(5) Safety vehicle with driver, capable of holding a spine board with a victim on it.

(a) The combination of the safety vehicle requirement and casualty transport training of the WSI provide a safety architecture capable of safely transporting a casualty to a medical treatment facility (MTF). However, commands are still strongly encouraged to utilize Emergency Medical Services (Advanced Life Support/Paramedic) (EMS/ALS) support available via 911 or the local emergency number in the event of an emergency, and only use the Government Safety Vehicle as a last resort.

(6) Completed EAP Drill. Prior to conducting MCWSP qualification, the primary WSI will conduct an EAP drill daily, utilizing NAVMC 11632. The primary WSI is responsible for briefing all personnel in MCWSP safety structure and ensuring they understand their roles in the event of an emergency. The EAP drill, at a minimum, will include:

(a) Function Check of rescue equipment:

1. AED
2. Spine board with supports and straps
3. Oxygen delivery system

4. Rescue equipment (tubes, shepherds crook etc.)

5. Safety Vehicle capable of holding a spine board

(b) Rehearsal of responsibilities (Primary WSI, WSSO, ERO, safety corpsman, and safety swimmers (optional)).

(c) Identification of ingress/egress routes for emergency personnel.

(d) Creation of a strip map with route to the nearest MTF with trauma treatment capability.

(e) Identification of training participants with medical considerations such as: those currently taking medication, immunizations within the previous 12 hours, identification of any open cuts or sores, pregnancy etc. Training participants with any medical considerations will consult the safety corpsman or PHCP prior to conducting training.

(7) Safety swimmers. During water survival qualification events, WSP qualified Marines can serve as safety swimmers, which increases the required instructor to student ratio from 1:10 to 1:15.

(a) The safety swimmers are the hazard moderator(s) for their individual units when aquatic training is conducted at or near the surface of any aquatic environment.

(b) The safety swimmer is qualified to rescue distressed swimmers in an aquatic environment.

(c) The safety swimmer is trained in closed aquatic environments (e.g., pool, closed body of water, manmade) or open water (not man-made body of water, natural, e.g., river, ocean, lake).

(d) The safety swimmer is not qualified to act as a hazard moderator in sub-surface training (e.g., combatant diver training, underwater engineering, etc.).

(e) MCCA assigned lifeguards with current qualifications are allowed to serve as safety swimmers in support during water survival qualification events per NAVMED policy for 1 to 10 instructors to student ratio in pool.

(8) Safety Structure for Water Survival Instructor (WSI) Courses. In accordance with reference (g), WSI courses are considered high risk training and require additional risk mitigation measures. During the conduct of rescues with full gear and open water swimming, the high-risk training safety officer must be present. For all other training, a WSSO will be present.

4. Underwater Egress Training (UET) Safety Structure. Due to the inherent risks associated with UET training and the use of emergency breathing devices while submerged, detailed risk mitigation measures are built directly into the training program. Training will be conducted at approved training locations by dedicated instructors and instructors will meet the minimum training and safety certifications. These specially trained instructors will be the first to respond to in-water incidents and suspected dive related injuries. Units will provide a corpsman who will assist as needed and be

responsible for treatment/stabilization of physical injuries once the student is removed from the water.

5. Incident Reporting

a. Water Survival Incident Report. Report all MCWSP Class A through E mishaps via the RMI system in accordance with reference (t). DC, T&E shall be listed as an endorser on the memorandum of final evaluation when submitting the mishap report in RMI. An accurate, detailed, and timely report assists in the monitoring of the effectiveness of risk mitigations and identification of potential safety hazards. Units who do not have the ability to access RMI should contact their nearest safety office for assistance.

b. Class A Mishap Reporting

(1) All Class A aquatic mishaps will be reported via the current reporting system in accordance with reference (t).

(2) Commanders will ensure all Class A aquatic mishaps are entered into the current reporting system.

(3) Lessons learned from mishaps are requested to be entered into the Marine Corps Mishap Library.

Chapter 7

Marine Corps Water Survival Program (MCWSP) Equipment

1. Marine Corps Water Survival Program (MCWSP) Equipment. MCWSP equipment can be procured by training units through the Marine Corps Supply System and General Services Administration.

a. All MCWSP training and qualifications utilize individual combat equipment (ICE) or personal protective equipment (PPE) to conduct training and qualifications.

b. Equipment Marking. Due to the inherent wear and tear caused by chlorinated water, any Kevlar, ICE, or PPE used for the conduct of MCWSP training or qualification will be clearly marked as "TRAINING USE ONLY" or "TRNG." Once this equipment is utilized for MCWSP it cannot be used for any other non-aquatic uses.

c. ICE and PPE issued from individual issue facilities or unit supply allowances are not authorized for use in the conduct of MCWSP qualification and certification occurring in chlorinated swimming pools.

2. Procurement Lifecycle

a. Management of replenishment and replacement of water survival equipment is the responsibility of each command (training unit).

b. Each command (training unit) conducting water survival qualification and training should determine their life cycle of equipment.

c. The most current MCWSP equipment list is located at [www.fitness.marines.mil](http://www.fitness.marines.mil) under the MCWSP tab. The minimum gear required for water survival qualifications: plate carrier, inert training plate or similar equipment, service rifle-model/rubber rifle, and Kevlar. Goggles, kick boards, and other appropriate learn to swim gear are optional for aquatic training but are not authorized during the conduct of swim qualification events.

Chapter 8

Marine Corps Water Survival Program (MCWSP) Aquatic Facilities

1. Marine Corps Water Survival Program (MCWSP) Aquatic Facility Requirements

a. Aquatic Facility Standard Requirements. To conduct a successful MCWSP evolution, an aquatic facility must meet the following minimum requirements:

(1) The ability to swim at least 25 meters consecutively without stopping or touching a wall. All new aquatic training tanks, Marine Corps aquatics facilities, and MCCS pools should be constructed to meet the "Novice Qualification" and allow for the ability to swim 50 meters consecutively without stopping or touching the wall. This requires new facilities to be constructed at the international standard of 50 meters x 25 meters. No exception should be made to this requirement.

(2) The ability to move from shallow water (less than 4ft depth) to deep water (equal to or greater than 8ft depth).

(3) The ability to step from a platform/diving board 8-10ft tall. If a facility does have a platform/diving board 8-10ft tall, a waiver can be requested for approval to the first general officer in the chain of command. When a platform waiver is approved, all other portions of the water survival qualification will be conducted as required. All new construction should have a platform/diving board 8-10ft tall. No exception should be made to this requirement.

(4) If an aquatic facility was constructed utilizing yards vice meters, then yards vs meters distances can be substituted.

b. The MCWSP leverages both aquatic training tanks, Marine Corps aquatics facilities, and MCCS pools to conduct water survival training and qualifications. Access to a local Marine Corps base facility is desired. However, in the absence of a base facility, a regional facility meeting the full Marine Corps water survival qualification requirements should be available within each major region (National Capital, East Coast, West Coast and Japan) to ensure all units / Marines can conduct training and qualification. All new construction should take regional requirements into consideration when prioritizing a new facility being built. No exception should be made to this requirement.

(1) MCCS aquatics facilities are responsible for ensuring aquatics facilities and pools:

(a) Support training in facilities that are operable during all normal weather conditions.

(b) Available to support training twelve months out of the year during normal business hours (0800-1630). New/renovated Marine Corps aquatics facilities are responsible for ensuring aquatics facilities and pools operate twelve months out of the year.

(c) Are accessible to Marines at each base/station and that training tanks are manned and operable. Each major command and individual Marines must have continual access to train and prepare for aquatic

environments. Facilities at each base/station should be centralized to offer access to as many units as possible.

(d) Ensure MCCA aquatics facilities are properly manned by MCCA lifeguards to ensure Marines are able conduct preparatory training and MCWSP qualification during all business hours twelve months out of the year.

(e) Annually, submit reports to DC, T&E detailing aquatics facilities utilization rates, facilities closure rates, and unable to train rates due to maintenance or safety issues (water temperature, chemical maintenance issues, equipment, and maintenance issues) with resolution actions/plans. MCCA aquatics facilities will submit reports via Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (DC M&RA), MF, MFS.

(2) Installations facilities supporting training are responsible for ensuring aquatics facilities and pools:

(a) Support training in facilities that are operable during all normal weather conditions.

(b) Available to support training twelve months out of the year during normal business hours (0800-1630). New/renovated Marine Corps aquatics facilities are responsible for ensuring aquatics facilities and pools operate twelve months out of the year. The priority of annual funding should address base/regional locations that do not meet this requirement.

(c) Are accessible to Marines at each base/station and that training tanks are manned and operable. Each major command and individual Marines must have continual access to train and prepare for aquatic environments. Facilities at each base/station should be centralized to offer access to as many units as possible.

(d) Annually, submit reports to DC, T&E detailing aquatics facilities utilization rates, facilities closure rates, and unable to train rates due to maintenance or safety issues (water temperature, chemical maintenance issues, equipment, and maintenance issue) with resolution actions/plans via organizational inbox [tecom.forcefitness@usmc.mil](mailto:tecom.forcefitness@usmc.mil).

(e) Ensure maintenance and repair of pools is prioritized to ensure conduct of required training is achievable.

(f) Ensure aquatics facilities are operational and available to support preparatory training for MCWSP.

(3) Individual commands are responsible for augmenting lifeguard support in the conduct of MCWSP through use of WSI and WSIT. Commands must schedule use of pools, training tanks, and aquatics facilities in RFMSS and report end-of-training data for input into RFMSS. Commands are responsible for canceling scheduled use of pools, training tanks, and aquatics facilities in RFMSS for the conduct of MCWSP at prior to the event start, if not able to conduct training. Commands are responsible for procuring swim equipment for the conduct of MCWSP.

(4) In certain use cases, a memorandum of agreement or understanding may be required to determine the funding source and operations, maintenance, and sustainment of an aquatic facility.

(5) Two funding categories of aquatic facilities exist: Category A

and Category B; however, many facilities operate as dual funded facilities (both Category A and B). Both Category A and AB aquatic facilities categories can be leveraged for water survival qualification and training.

(a) The category A Military Aquatics Training Program supports the mission of active-duty military. This program provides physical fitness training in aquatics (aquatic maximum power intense training (S3T, water polo, etc.)) for active duty, use of the facilities for unit PT, military swim qualification or remedial training and instruction, fitness, and unit activities. The water survival program will develop a Marine's foundational water survival ability and continuously enhance overall aquatic skills that will allow the servicemember to remain physically fit and mission ready. This program supports all aspects of military aquatics training. Category A facilities may serve Category B authorized patrons on a case-by-case basis with commander's approval.

(b) A full list of Marine Corps aquatics facilities, and MCCS pools Additional MCWSP resources can be found at:  
<http://www.fitness.marines.mil>.

(c) The Category B Aquatics Program provides authorized patrons with safe swimming and bathing environments and programs and services, which enhances quality of life and supports retention, but does not conduct MCWSP. Customer-driven Aquatics Programs (i.e., swim instruction, recreational activities, and special events) shall be provided. Policy oversight includes swimming pools and wading pools.

(d) The Category A/B Aquatics Program supports both authorized patrons per Chapter 8, paragraph 1.b.(5)(b) and the Military Aquatics Training Program per Chapter 8, paragraph 1.b.(5) and can conduct MCWSP.

APPENDIX A

Glossary of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAV	Amphibious Assault Vehicle
AED	Automated External Defibrillator
ALS	Advanced Life Support
ASTC	Aviation Survival Training Centers
CCRB	Course Content Review Board
CFT	Combat Fitness Test
CG	Commanding General
CG MCRC	Commanding General of Marine Corps Recruiting Command
CG MCRD	Commanding Generals of Marine Corps Recruit Depot
CG TECOM	Commanding General of Training and Education Command
CGIP	Commanding General Inspection Program
CID	Course Identification Designator
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
CPR-PR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation for Professional Rescuer
DC M&RA	Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs
DC I&L	Deputy Commandant for Installation and Logistics
Dir SD	Director of Safety Division
DoD	Department of Defense
DON	Department of the Navy
DON/AA	Department of the Navy/Assistant for Administration
DRMD	Directives and Records Management Division
EAP	Emergency Action Plan
ELT	Entry Level Training
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
ERO	Emergency Response Officer
EWTGPAC	Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific
FLC	Formal Learning Center
FMF	Fleet Marine Force
HESP	Helicopter Egress System for Passengers
HMMWV	High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle
ICE	Individual Combat Equipment
IGMC	Inspector General of the Marine Corps
IRR	Individual Ready Reserve
MAET	Modular Amphibious Egress Trainer
MARFORRES	Marine Forces Reserve
MCB	Marine Corps Base
MCCS	Marine Corps Community Services
MCICOM	Marine Corps Installations Command
MCPFP	Marine Corps Physical Fitness Program
MCRC	Marine Corps Recruiting Command
MCRD	Marine Corps Recruit Depot
MCRDPI	Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island
MCRDSD	Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego
MCTFS	Marine Corps Total Force System
MCTIMS	Marine Corps Training Information Management System
MCWSP	Marine Corps Water Survival Program
MCWSS	Marine Corps Water Survival School
MEB	Medical Evaluation Board
MEF	Marine Expeditionary Force
MFR	Memorandum for the Record

MILCON	Military Construction
MIPS	Marine Integrated Personnel System
MOL	Marine Online
MRO	Marine Reported On
MTF	Medical Treatment Facility
MUET	Multi-Use Egress Trainer
MTT	Mobile Training Team
NARA	National Archives and Records Administration
NSTI	Naval Survival Training Institute
PCS	Permanent Change of Station
PDT	Preventative Disease Transmission
PEB	Physical Evaluation Board
PEF	Program Enlisted For
PES	Performance Evaluation System
PFT	Physical Fitness Test
PHCP	Privileged Health Care Provider
PII	Personally Identifiable Information
POI	Period of Instruction
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PT	Physical Training
OA	Oxygen Administration
OB	Obstetrics
OIC	Officer-in-Charge
RFMSS	Range Facility Management Support System
RMI	Risk Management Information
RTFD	Return to Full Duty
RTT	Refuse to Train
S3T	Swim Survival Skills Training
SIR	Streamlined Incident Reporting
SM	Spinal Management
SVET	Submerged Vehicle Egress Trainer
SWET	Shallow Water Egress Trainer
T&R	Training and Readiness
TBS	The Basic School
TECOM	Training and Education Command
TEEP	Training Exercise and Employment Plan
TIP	Training Input Plan
UD	Unit Diary
UET	Underwater Egress Training
USMC	United States Marine Corps
WEC	Water Egress Capability
WSB	Water Survival Beginner
WSC	Water Survival Competent
WSI	Water Survival Instructor
WSIT	Water Survival Instructor Trainer
WSN	Water Survival Novice
WSP	Water Survival Proficient
WSSO	Water Survival Safety Officer
WSU	Water Survival Unqualified