



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-0001

MCO 1560.24D  
MRON  
5 Aug 92

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1560.24D

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Distribution List

Subj: BROADENED OPPORTUNITY FOR OFFICER SELECTION AND TRAINING  
(BOOST) PROGRAM

Ref: (a) MANMED

Encl: (1) Sample Format of Application  
(2) Guide for Interview Boards  
(3) Commanding Officer's Checklist for BOOST Applications

1. Purpose. To promulgate policy and procedures concerning the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training Program.

2. Cancellation. MCO 1560.24C

3. Background

a. The BOOST Program provides an opportunity for selected personnel of all ethnic groups from educationally deprived or culturally differentiated backgrounds to compete more equitably for selection to the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP), the Naval Academy or Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC). BOOST provides an educational program for selected Marines to prepare them to compete for selection into these programs.

b. This program is open to all active duty enlisted Marines who meet eligibility requirements.

c. Marines possessing the requisite qualifications for application to participate in one of the officer producing programs listed in paragraph 3a are ineligible for BOOST.

4. Eligibility Requirements. Eligibility requirements for this program are as follows:

a. Status. Enlisted personnel, either married or single, of the Regular Marine Corps or Marine Corps Reserve on active duty.

b. Grade. By 1 July of the year of application, lance corporal or above with 1 year of active duty service following recruit training.

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c. Age. At least 19 but must not have reached 25 years of age by 1 July of the year in which assignment to the BOOST Program is made.

d. Education. High school graduate or have successfully passed the GED high school level tests with a minimum score of 45 percentile in each of the five areas.

e. Classification Testing. Must have an EL score of 110 or above on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) or a minimum combined score of 800 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

f. Obligated Service. Must agree to enlist, reenlist, or extend as necessary to have 3 years of obligated service in the Regular Marine corps upon assignment to the BOOST Program.

g. Physical. Commissioning standards, as set forth in chapter 15 of the reference, will be used to determine an applicant's physical status.

h. Citizenship. Must be a citizen of the United States of America.

i. Security Clearance. An applicant must be capable of obtaining a satisfactory national agency check and be eligible to receive a secret clearance.

## 5. Application

a. Applications will be submitted to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (MRC) in accordance with the date published in MCBul 1560 that solicits applications for the program. The format of enclosure (1) will be followed. It is imperative that all information and enclosures required in enclosure (1) be included in the application. Incomplete applications will not be considered by the selection board.

(1) Enclosure (1) of the application, the "Report of Interview Board," will be prepared in accordance with the guidance contained in enclosure (2) of this Order.

(2) Enclosure (2) of the application, "Report of Medical Examination (SF88)," will be completed in duplicate. Commands should closely review the forms to ensure correctness and that all required blocks are completed.

(a) If eyesight in block 59 is other than 20/20, blocks 60 and 61 must be completed. The statement "by lenses" is unacceptable.

(b) Block 71, Audiogram, must be completed.

(3) Enclosure (3) of the application, "Report of Medical History (SF93)," will be prepared in duplicate.

(4) Enclosure (4) of the application will be a handwritten statement by the applicant of no more than one page stating the reasons for participation in the program. The statement must indicate circumstances as to how the applicant has been socially, educationally, or economically deprived.

(5) Enclosures (5) through (9) of the application will be certified copies of the applicant's NAVMC's 118(23), (8a), and (12), DD295 (Application for the Evaluation of Educational Experiences During Military Service), and current Visual Audit Sheet (VAS).

(6) Enclosure (10) of the application will be an official copy of the applicant's high school transcripts bearing an authorized signature and/or the school seal. If applicable, a GED high school test report will be included. Official transcripts of any college work attempted will be forwarded from the institution directly to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (MRON).

b. Each commanding officer will convene a board of three officers, as well as personally interview each applicant to evaluate the Marine's potential for successful completion of college if selected for one of the programs outlined in paragraph 3a and for subsequent commissioning as a Regular Marine Officer. The board in its deliberations should include counseling of the prospective applicant as to the dual nature of the program for which the Marine is applying. The commanding officer's endorsement should be similar in content to that required in section C of the Marine Corps Fitness Report (NAVMC 10835).

c. The commanding officer will forward the ORIGINAL ONLY of the application and enclosures with a completed "Commanding Officer's Checklist for BOOST Applications," enclosure (3) of this Order, to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (MRON). Any additional material reflecting educational or professional activities which might be helpful to the selection board should also be included.

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d. Applications that arrive at Headquarters Marine Corps after the (published) deadline will not be considered by the selection board and will be returned to the command.

6. Pertinent Information

a. A board will be convened annually at Headquarters Marine Corps to select Marines for assignment to the BOOST Program.

b. The board will select those Marines found to be best qualified on the basis of their total records including, but not limited to, the substance of the applications, the recommendations of their commanding officers, the interview board reports, previous academic records, and performance as Marines.

c. Marines selected for the BOOST Program will be ordered to report to the Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Western Recruiting Region, San Diego, for administrative purposes and to further report to the Service Schools Command, San Diego for participation in the program.

d. The board convening date, application deadline date, and assignment to San Diego will be published in MCBul 1560 which solicits applications for the program.

e. All BOOST selectees will be assigned into their current grade, with full pay, allowances (excluding proficiency pay), promotional opportunities, and normal leave.

f. While in the BOOST Program, participants will concentrate on improving their skills in the areas of mathematics, physical science, and the communication skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Included in the program are educational and personal counseling, development of study skills and time management, well organized intramural activities, and opportunities for participation in social and cultural events.

g. While in the BOOST Program, a joint determination will be made by the individual, BOOST officials, and Headquarters Marine Corps as to which of the applicable programs the Marine is best qualified. On the basis of this determination, an application will be submitted for consideration for the appropriate program in accordance with the provisions contained in the applicable orders pertaining to that program.

h. While in the BOOST Program, participants who are disenrolled because of the lack of application, misconduct, or upon their own request (voluntarily) will be required to serve the remainder of their obligated service regardless of the fact

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that they did not complete the BOOST Program. Each applicant selected for participation in the BOOST Program will be required to sign a "Statement of Agreement" concerning obligated service prior to reporting to the BOOST School. The "Statement of Agreement" will be sent to each selectee as an enclosure to an information letter after the selection board adjourns. This will allow sufficient time for the "Statement of Agreement" to be completed and returned to the Commandant of the Marine Corps prior to the selectee commencing the BOOST Program.

7. Waivers. Waivers of the requirements of the program will be considered on a case-by-case basis (the maximum age cannot be waived). Requests for waivers shall be submitted as a part of the applicant's basic letter and a recommendation as to its approval made in the commanding officer's endorsement.

8. Dissemination. Commanding officers are directed to give wide dissemination to this Order to ensure that its provisions are fully understood by enlisted personnel within their commands.

9. Reserve Applicability. This Order is not applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.



C. J. ANUAK  
By direction

DISTRIBUTION: PCN 10201990800

Copy to: 7000110 (55)  
8145005 (2)  
7000009, 144/8145001 (1)

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Sample Format of Application

From: (Grade, Name, Social Security Number, MOS, Component)  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (MRON)  
Via: Commanding Officer

Subj: BROADENED OPPORTUNITY FOR OFFICER SELECTION AND TRAINING  
(BOOST) PROGRAM

Ref: (a) MCO 1650.24D

Encl: (1) Report of Interview Board  
(2) Report of Medical Examination (SF88) in duplicate  
(3) Report of Medical History (SF93) in duplicate  
(4) Handwritten Statement  
(5) Certified Copy of NAVMC 118(23)  
(6) Certified Copy of NAVMC 118(8a)  
(7) Certified Copy of NAVMC 118(12)  
(8) Current Visual Audit Sheet/VAS  
(9) Application for the Evaluation of Educational  
Experiences during Military Service (DD295)  
(10) High School Transcripts (and GED test results if  
applicable)

1. In accordance with the reference, it is requested that I be considered for the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) Program.

2. Upon assignment to the BOOST Program, I agree to extend or reenlist in order to have the required 3 years of obligated service.

3. (Waiver request and justification if applicable).

4. Photograph (4 by 5 inches in service uniform, uncovered).  
Date Taken \_\_\_\_\_

Latest PFT Score \_\_\_\_\_  
Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

ENCLOSURE (1)

## Guide for Interview Boards

1. General. This counseling guide is intended to assist commanders and interview boards interviewing enlisted applicants for the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) Program. As a preface to the guide, commanders should also benefit from random comments growing out of recent experience in the program, as follows:

a. Personal interest will pay dividends. It is just as necessary to identify and encourage the likely prospect as it is to isolate and discourage the unlikely prospect.

b. The prospect must volunteer freely if the program is to continue to produce applicants who are to develop into potential commissioned officers.

c. Desire and enthusiasm are definite assets but there is no substitute for scholarship. Scholarship, however, will not assure success unless accompanied by dedication.

d. Under no circumstances should an applicant be denied the opportunity to decline the training.

2. Counseling Guide--Explain in Detail to the Applicant

a. The applicant should be closely questioned as to the sincerity of the applicant's intentions to pursue diligently the course of instruction provided by the BOOST Program with the objective of becoming competitive for selection to either MECEP, NROTC, or the Naval Academy and ultimately serve as an officer in the Marine Corps.

b. If the applicant is accepted for student training at the BOOST School, the applicant must realize that one commits oneself to a struggle in a competitive field with other enlisted applicants for the programs available upon completion of the program.

c. The applicant may wish to know of the career opportunities afforded the Regular Marine officer, and that acceptance into and graduation from one of the available commissioning programs carries with it an obligation to accept a commission in the Marine Corps and to serve thereafter for at least 4 and as many as 8 years.

ENCLOSURE (2)

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d. The applicant should be advised that, as a competitor, final selection for participation in BOOST will be made by the board on the basis of the guidelines set forth in paragraph 6b of this Order. Participation in the BOOST Program does not in itself guarantee qualification for, or admission to, any of the officer commissioning programs available to BOOST graduates.

e. The applicant should review the applicable references available through normal administrative channels, and be aware of the general nature of the course of instruction at the BOOST School, in which all candidates must demonstrate a continuing proficiency in the subjects offered.

f. Normally, the course of study at the BOOST School will convene in mid-June and graduate the following year in early June (approximately 12 months).

g. Marines at the BOOST School are tested periodically in academic subjects and physical aptitude (strength and vigor) and are evaluated constantly for military aptitude and degree of dedication for a service career.

h. The applicant should know that if disenrolled for any reason from the BOOST Program, the applicant will be reassigned for duty elsewhere in a previously held MOS.

3. Report

a. A report should be submitted to the commanding officer for each applicant and included as enclosure (1) to the individual's application. The evaluation contained in paragraph 2 of the report shall be made as a result of observations of the applicant's appearance, articulation, manner, bearing, deportment, attitude, knowledge exhibited through extemporaneous responses to questions on the Marine Corps and current events, and any other characteristics considered by the board.

b. The recommended report format is as follows:

From: Senior Member, BOOST Interview Board  
To: Commanding Officer

Subj: INTERVIEW AND COUNSELING FOR THE BOOST PROGRAM;  
CASE OF (NAME, GRADE, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER)

Ref: (a) MCO 1560.24D

ENCLOSURE (2)



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1. The applicant has been interviewed, as required by the reference, for the BOOST Program. The evaluation contained in this report is based on the guidance contained in paragraph 3b in the "Guide for Interview Boards," enclosure (2) to reference (a).
2. The applicant is believed to be: (Select appropriate or similar phrase).
  - a. Highly motivated toward the BOOST Program and a career in the Marine Corps as a commissioned officer.
  - b. Highly motivated toward the BOOST Program but uncertain as to a military career.
  - c. Undecided about the BOOST Program and a career but desires to attend the BOOST School to see if this is the life the applicant desires to lead.
  - d. No longer motivated.
  - e. Unsuitable for consideration (reason cited below).
3. Applicant has been counseled and fully understands all items in paragraph 2 in the "Guide for Interview Boards."
4. Other remarks considered pertinent.
5. The applicant (is) (is not) recommended for consideration (with enthusiasm, confidence, etc., as appropriate).

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(Signature)  
(Senior Member of Interview Board)

ENCLOSURE (2)

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DATA SHEET

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2
LAST NAME:	_____
FIRST NAME:	_____
MID INIT:	_____ _____
SSN:	_____ _____
GRADE:	E _____
PRESENT MOS:	_____ _____
RACE/ETHNIC CODE (per MMSCODESMAN)	_____ _____
AGE (as of 1 Jul 93):	_____ Y Y /M M
EL OR SAT SCORE:	_____ _____
EDUCATION (HSG OR GED)	_____ _____

-----CMD/HQMC-----USE-----ONLY-----

CHECKLIST

CMD	HQMC	CMD	HQMC	
___	___	___	___	PHOTO
___	___	___	___	PHYSICAL
___	___	___	___	SRB PAGES (8a,12, ROS)
___	___	___	___	DD 295
___	___	___	___	BIR/BTR
___	___	___	___	CITIZEN (YES OR NO)
___	___	___	___	AGE (19-25)
___	___	___	___	EL (110 OR HIGHER)
___	___	___	___	SAT (800 OR HIGHER)
___	___	___	___	GRADE (LCPL OR ABOVE)
___	___	___	___	EDUCATION (HSG OR GED)
ENDORSEMENT				
RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED				
				MRON USE ONLY
				MISSING            WAIVERS
				TEST SCORES        EL
				BIR/BTR            OTHER
				SRB PAGES
				PHYSICAL
				ORD'D/REC'D
				PHYSICAL    ___/___
				FICHE        ___/___
				MBS (Sgt)    ___/___

ENCLOSURE (3)