

JJ DID TIE BUCKLEE

The Marine Corps leadership traits every Corporal and Sergeant candidate is tested on — now 15, not 14.

What changed: In October 2024, the Corps added a 15th trait — Empathy — per *Leading Marines* (13 Aug 2024) and *Sustaining the Transformation* (16 Aug 2024). The old mnemonic "JJIDITIEBUCKLE" is now "JJ DID TIE BUCKLEE." Study guides that still say 14 traits are out of date.

J	Justice	J	Judgment	D	Dependability
I	Initiative	D	Decisiveness	T	Tact
I	Integrity	E	Enthusiasm	B	Bearing
U	Unselfishness	C	Courage	K	Knowledge
L	Loyalty	E	Endurance	E	Empathy

The 11 General Orders of a Sentry

Source: MCO 5530.15, Interior Guard Manual.

1. To take charge of this post and all government property in view.
2. To walk my post in a military manner, keeping always on the alert, and observing everything that takes place within sight or hearing.
3. To report all violations of orders I am instructed to enforce.
4. To repeat all calls from posts more distant from the guardhouse than my own.
5. To quit my post only when properly relieved.
6. To receive, obey, and pass on to the sentry who relieves me all orders from the commanding officer, officer of the day, and officers and NCOs of the guard only.
7. To talk to no one except in the line of duty.
8. To give the alarm in case of fire or disorder.
9. To call the corporal of the guard in any case not covered by instructions.
10. To salute all officers and colors and standards not cased.
11. To be especially watchful at night, and, during the time for challenging, to challenge all persons on or near my post and allow no one to pass without proper authority.

The Two Courses, What They Actually Cover

Real curriculum topics and format, sourced to official MCOs, MARADMINs, and DVIDS reporting — not a generic study guide.

CORPORAL'S COURSE

Mandatory before Sergeant promotion (effective 1 Oct 2013)

MarineNet distance-ed prerequisite (EPME4000AA, ~30 hrs) then a resident Command-Sponsored Corporals Course, 15 days to 3 weeks depending on host command.

CONFIRMED TOPICS

- Leadership fundamentals & NCO leadership techniques
- Combat orders and offensive/defensive operations
- Land navigation
- Customs & courtesies, drill with guidons
- NCO Sword Manual

MCO 1553.4B; MARADMIN 630/24; DVIDS reporting

SERGEANT'S COURSE

Gates SSgt-track PME progression

Resident SNCOA course historically ~7 weeks; a Sergeants Course Seminar alternative (14 weeks, one night/week) was piloted 2017 and expanded 2018.

CONFIRMED TOPICS

- Military history & counseling
- Administrative procedures
- Combat operations, call-for-fire, casualty/TACEVAC drills
- Land navigation, weapons handling (M240B)
- Mess Night customs and courtesies (toasting, tradition)

MCO 1553.4B; MARADMIN 630/24; DVIDS reporting

Course length figures come from a 2012 source and may not reflect the current program — treat as illustrative, not current fact.

Corporal's Course became a mandatory prerequisite for Sergeant promotion effective 1 Oct 2013, per the Enlisted Promotion Manual (MCO P1400.32D w/CH-2). MARADMIN 222/26 (15 May 2026) separately cut Sergeant promotion time-in-service from 48 to 30 months — a TIS change, not a curriculum change.