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BOOK REPORT GUIDELINES

1. Book title:
2. Who reviewed the book:
3. Author:
4. Year published:
5. Publisher:
6. Number of pages:
7. Cost of book (If possible):
8. Picture of book cover:
9. Area of study the book covers (e.g. tactics, logistics, command and control, leadership etc...), in other words, what was the book about, (keep it short):
10. Your opinion of the book (Should it remain on the Commandants Reading List):
11. Detailed book review of no less than 300 and no more than 800 words. The following elements must be answered to complete this review:
 - a. List what you think are the strength and weaknesses of the book are. This will help you when it is time to write the body. Once the subject matter is decided, you are ready to begin drafting your book report.
 - b. The book review is made up of three distinct parts: Introduction, Body and Conclusion. Specifically, the following information is required within each part.

Introduction: The opening paragraph should have the basic information about the book to include title, author, topic, and if the author has written other books on the particular subject.

Body: The opening paragraph should be a brief synopsis of the book. You do not need to address every chapter or every important point. Refer to your subject matter and focus your opening remarks to it. After the brief synopsis you will need to address other subject matter ideas as they relate to your main subject matter. This portion should be two to four paragraphs long.

Conclusion: At this point you need to summarize the books contribution to the area of study. Your opinion of the book should be restated at this time, and whether you would recommend the book for reading by other Marines.

SAMPLE BOOK REPORT

1. Title: Making The Corps
2. LCpl Hard A. Marine
3. Author: Thomas E. Ricks
4. Publisher: Scriber
5. Published: 1997
6. Number of Pages: 309
7. Cost: \$24.00
8. Book Cover: Attached
9. This book is about leadership and the current direction of the Marine Corps.
10. My opinion of this book is that every Marine should read it. It must be read more than once to appreciate what the book is saying. I do not agree with the author on most of his points and believe the average civilian, who has no experience with the military, will have a false picture of the Marine Corps. I think this book should be added to the U. S. Marines Reading List.
11. INTRODUCTION: My book report is on "Making the Corps" by Thomas E. Ricks. Mr. Ricks is considered one of the most esteemed military journalists in the United States. He currently is a Pentagon correspondent for the Wall Street Journal. He has won writing awards and has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

BODY: The book begins as do most about the Corps, in the land that time forgot, Parris Island. It tells the story of Platoon 3086 from receiving through graduation and then the experiences of some of the Marines once they have gone to Marine Corps Training and their first units.

For everyone that has experienced Boot Camp, the author describes the challenges of the men to become Marines. A point he brings out that is being taught to recruits and we do not understand, is when one Drill Instructor is IPTing a recruit and other recruits challenge the Drill Instructors authority by going to the quarter deck with the recruit in trouble. The DI asks the recruits what they are doing and they tell the DI they are sticking up for their friend. This challenge of authority is being taught and it needs to be corrected immediately. We have observed this from new Marines over the last year and now we understand why it is happening. We originally thought it was a society issue but according to the book, it is something being instilled in Boot Camp. That discipline aspect is replaced by the need to stick up for your friends as one unit. I think a mistake has been made here.

The author discusses several of the Marines who failed to graduate by going UA. This is always going to happen and there is nothing we can do. One issue he talks about is the culture shock of going to MCT. The new Marine is welcomed to MCT by NCOs that the infantry battalions don't want in their units. They are the bottom of the barrel NCOs most of the time, and the book holds true to my statement as the Marines talk about the NCOs being drunkards, liars, thieves, and caring about them. This is 180 degrees of what they had just experienced from their Dis. We need to let these Marines know that the values taught in boot camp only hold true to a very small percentage and that the majority revert back to their old ways. It is virtually impossible to transform a Marine after 18 years or more of learning societies illnesses. A way to resolve this MCT dilemma is to give that type of cadre duty some prestige and make it something that a hard charging Corporal or Sergeant would want to do. The larger issue is why do we have personnel in our Corps that are in these positions of responsibility. This is not part of my report, but I am more than willing to discuss this in another forum.

Another issue raised is the way we refer to the civilian populace as “Nasty, undisciplined, and inferior to the military.” This is definitely the opinion of many military members, myself included. However, that is why we are in the Marine Corps, to protect the rights of the American people to be however they want to be. I do believe that we are coming to a time where Government and the Military are going to have some very different points of view on how the military should be ran. The main reason for this is due to the dwindling number of politicians with military experience. Hopefully the Joint Chiefs are way ahead of us and are being proactive in trying to teach members of government how the military is organized and works before people who do not have the knowledge to make them, make decisions. The issue of the military being involved in disputes on our own land was also mentioned. Hopefully, we will not have to experience another L. A. riot or a militia uprising, but unfortunately it may happen and we must be prepared for that day.

Race and Gender discrimination was an issue also raised. Race and Gender discrimination have no place anywhere and needs to be thwarted quickly. Those involved must be severely punished. No matter what race, gender or religion, we must all fight alongside each other for the common good of the nation. Also what I’ve have seen over the past couple of years is reverse discrimination in some units I’ve been in. This must be stopped with just as much zeal. It isn’t a large issue, but it is going on. The author also makes comments to this in his book.

CONCLUSION: Overall, I think this is a good book and would recommend it for reading by all Marines and inclusion onto the U. S. Marines reading List. There are some things I disagree with. I also felt that to get a full appreciation of what the author was trying to portray about the Marine Corps, you must read the book more than once.

(Photo copy of the Books Cover)

(Name of Book Report)

Marines' name

(Signature)

Date of Report

Unit

SgtMaj J. R. Junebug

(Signature)

Date

Unit



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