

MCRC FROST CALL 017-02 DATED 22 FEBRUARY 2002
(corrected copy)

From: Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruiting Command

Subj: ACCESSION POLICY REGARDING TATTOOS, BODY PIERCING,
ORNAMENTATION, AND BRANDING

Ref: (a) MCO P1100.72B
(b) ALMAR 194/96
(c) ALMAR 127/97
(d) MCRC Frost Call 006-99 dated 3 Nov 98

Encl: (1) Tattoo Screening Form

1. Purpose. To reiterate to MCRC the Marine Corps policy regarding tattoos, body piercing, ornamentation, and branding.

2. Background. Several recruits have arrived at recruit training at both Recruit Depots, that had tattoos, branding, and/or ornamentation not in accordance with established directives. Table 3-16, (**INELIGIBLE CATEGORIES THAT ARE NOT WAIVERABLE**), Item 12, found on page 3-167 of reference (a) states, "*Questionable moral character, history of alcohol or drug dependency/addiction, sexual perversion, history of anti-social behavior, body piercing, branding, offensive tattoos, or chronic, frequent, or active venereal disease or herpes*", are **INELIGIBLE CATEGORIES, NO WAIVERS AUTHORIZED**. The Marine Corps policy was established in reference (b) and amplified in reference (c).

3. Information. It is in the best interest of the Marine Corps to evaluate each applicant with regard to tattoos and/or brands when determining enlistment eligibility. This is paramount due to the growing number of organizations that exist with allegiances that supersede that of national defense. Recruiters, MEPS Liaisons, Operations personnel, and Command Groups members must be cognizant of the Marine Corps policy.

a. Prohibited areas. Any tattoos, branding, or ornamentation on the head and/or neck **are strictly prohibited**. The neck, for this purpose will be defined as any portion above the area covered by a standard low collar undershirt. **Use of crewneck, mock turtleneck, turtleneck undershirts, or standard quarter length sleeve khaki shirt, as a basis for determination of the neck area is prohibited.**

b. Prejudicial to good order and discipline. In other areas of the body, tattoos, ornamentation, or brands that are sexist, excessive, racist or eccentric in nature are prohibited. A

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screening form is attached as enclosure (1) to assist in accessing the appropriateness of these body markings. The screening form will be used if the applicant admits any tattoos, or any tattoos annotated by the CMO on DD 2807-2 or DD 2808-2. Commanding Officers are responsible for identifying and denying enlistment of applicants who have inappropriate body markings. Clarification of questionable cases can be referred to the MCRC Commanding General, via the region.

c. Gang or Extremist Groups

(1) Any applicant who has a tattoo, that features and/or depicts vulgar or anti-American content, brings possible discredit to the Marine Corps, or associates the applicant with any extremist group or organization, regardless of location on the body, is **INELIGIBLE FOR ENLISTMENT** and will not be processed

(2) Any applicant who has tattoos, brands, or ornamentation relative to a gang membership or gang activities is potentially ineligible for enlistment. Markings in this category must be fully researched and commented by the Commanding Officer, of the Recruiting Station, on the DD 1966/4, prior to enlistment authorization. Local law enforcement authorities can provide information and should be utilized when questions arise. An example of a DD1966/4 statement:

"I HAVE REVIEWED THE TATTOOS OF SNA AND THEY ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH MCRC FC 017-02.

(Signature)

I. M. COMMANDER MAJOR RS ANYTOWN

d. Dental Ornamentation. Dental ornamentation as outlined in reference (c), is also prohibited, and enlistments are not authorized.

e. Delayed Entry Program. Applicants in the DEP prior to release of this policy are subject to this policy.

f. Entry Level Separation. Recruits receiving an ELS due to the tattoo policy, and have had their tattoos removed or covered, may be exempt from the two year wait. Waiver requests will be submitted to the Commanding Generals of the respective region. Waiver requests must include the applicants affiliation that is signified by the now removed or covered tattoo, to insure compliance with paragraph 3.c. above.

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5. Action.

a. Recruiting Regions, Districts, Recruiting Stations.

(1) Reference (d) is cancelled.

(2) **Deviation from this policy and those contained in references (a), (b), and (c) are prohibited.**

(3) Instruct all recruiters to utilize the Tattoo Screening Form, enclosure (1), if the applicant declares a tattoo, or if the CMO documents any tattoos on the applicants DD 2807-1 or DD 2808. Additionally, local commanders must emphasize the importance of this policy.

(4) All RS Commanding Officers must document on the DD1966/4 any gang related or associated tattoo of each applicant.

(5) The enclosed Tattoo Screening Form will be used to conduct an interview with a commissioned officer. **This interview can be face to face, or conducted telephonically.** Use of the facsimile machine is authorized for telephonic interviews. The Tattoo Screening Form will be forwarded to recruit training as part of the recruits SRB and a copy placed in the residual file for future reference.

6. Point of contact is LtCol S. B. Wittle, MCRC G-3 Enlisted Recruiting at commercial (703) 784-9403 or DSN 278-9403.



D. L. MCMANUS
By direction

TATTOO SCREENING FORM

NAME _____ SSN _____ DATE _____

1. Does the applicant have any tattoos? Y N

2. Are any of the tattoos on the neck or on the head? Y N

3. How many total tattoos does the applicant have? _____

4. How many tattoos are visible if the applicant was wearing a quarter length short sleeve shirt)? _____

5. Are any of the tattoos gang related/extremist group (i.e. gang, race, band, organized group, ethnic, political, militia, any hate groups, or hate for a person, or group of persons etc..?)

Y N

Explain _____

6. Are any of the tattoos a result of a specific activity? (i.e. specifically an activity, or as the result of any violation of any law(s))? Y N

Explain: _____

7. Are any of the tattoos eccentric or excessive? Y N

Explain: _____

8. Has the applicant ever had a tattoo removed? Y N

9. Can the subject matter of the removed tattoo be verified? Y N

Explain: _____

NOTE: IF THE APPLICANT HAS RESPONDED "YES" TO ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, HE MUST BE INTERVIEWED BY A COMMISSIONED OFFICER TO DETERMINE THAT THE APPLICANT IS ELIGIBLE FOR ENLISTMENT.

NAME _____ RANK _____ POSITION _____