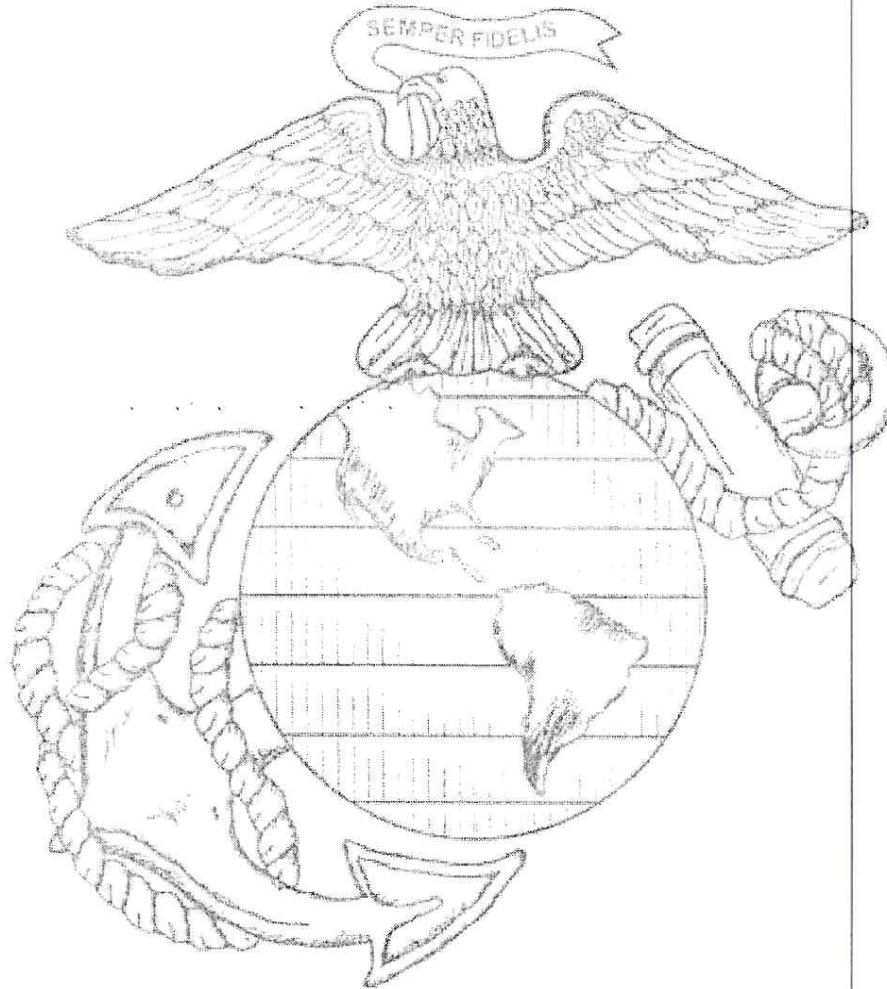


# NEED TO KNOW



# TO BUILD YOUR CHARACTER

# **Need To Have**

## **Character Statements**

### **Photos**

- 1 Boot Camp
- 1 Family (civs)
- Some uniform Pics

### **Academic records**

### **BIR/BTR**

### **Awards + Certs**

### **Cammies (clean and Pressed)**

### **Hair Cut**

### **Personal Statement**

#### **To include**

- Background
- Honest and Faithful service
- Negative aspect
- Positive outweighs the negative
- Conclusion
- Request

**THIS IS JUST A SAMPLE: you will need to change yours to fit yourself; I am giving you this just as an example of what I'm looking for.**

Good morning sir,

I am not proud of what I have done to be here today, but there is more to me as a person and a marine than my poor decision to use drugs and go UA.

I want to start by apologizing to my unit and my fellow marines. When I joined the Marine Corps I knew it wasn't going to be easy, but I wanted to serve my country and make a difference. I had big plans to travel to different countries and was excited to succeed in completing the challenge of boot camp.

When I made it through boot camp, I was so proud. It was an amazing experience that I will never forget. I was excited to check into my first unit and prepare to fight in Iraq. At first I wasn't treated very well, but I accepted it as being the new join and low ranking person in the unit. It was not until I felt my life was in danger that things started spinning out of control.

I know I could have handled my problems better than by going UA and using drugs. I don't blame the Marine Corps for the poor decisions I have made, but now I just want to move on, go to school, and be a productive member of society.

I am telling you this not to take away from what I have done in the past. I know my actions were selfish and misguided and if I could take it all back, I would. I am sorry for my weakness and hope my unit and family can forgive me. Since I cannot change the past, I am concentrating on becoming a better person in the future. I have started by enrolling in the heavy machinery operators course in my home state of Washington and by securing a place to stay when I get out. Whatever happens here today, I know I have grown from this experience and will be a better man in the future.

- Spend time on this statement, this is your opportunity to speak to the judge, tell him about yourself, and let him know about the incident

Things to include:

- 
- past career – everything that you've done in your career – be specific
- the actual incident – it was a lapse in judgment, regret/remorse for actions, etc.; that you took responsibility for your actions.
- INJURIES
  - o How you got them
  - o What type of injuries
  - o Medical record information



## Personal Statement by PFC Walter S. Gibson

Members of the Board, my name is Private First Class Walter Gibson and I am proud to be a United State Marine, but I am ashamed at the way I have acted recently because my recent behavior does not reflect the values of my service. I know that I have done the wrong thing, but I am here today asking you to give me another chance to serve my country.

I grew up in a small town outside of Austin, Texas. Like all Texans, my parents raised me to love my country, and from an early age I knew that I should serve my country in some way. My father worked in the oil business and never served in the military, but my grandfather was a Marine who fought in Korea...so I guess that by talking to him is how I first became fascinated by the Marine Corps. Then, when I was 11 years old September 11<sup>th</sup> happened and it affected me pretty deeply. I can remember coming home from school and seeing my mom crying and that made me mad that someone had hurt my mom enough to make her cry. From then on I was sure that I wanted to go into the Marines when I was old enough. Right when I graduated from High School I joined the Marine Corps. Since I was only 17 years old at that time, I needed my parent's permission to join, but I didn't want to wait any longer. I figured that since I was done with high school, I should get on with it. I could have probably gone to college or started working in the oil fields like my dad, but I knew that I wouldn't be satisfied unless I got a chance to serve the country. I knew that we were at war, but that didn't stop me from enlisting...in fact, it made me want to enlist even more.

I guess I showed some skills with administration, so after boot camp and MCT, I was sent to admin clerk school. After that I was ordered to report to the Marine Detachment here in Newport, RI. Shortly after I got to RI is when my problems started. I thought I would be going to a big base like LeJeune or Pendleton and get to be around Marines all the time. I didn't expect to end up in Rhode Island on a Navy base. Not being around the regular Marine Corps, I started to loose focus and do things that I knew were wrong. My main problem was that I started to drink a lot. I think I felt invincible so I even started driving after I had been drinking. This led to getting a DUI out in town. I was punished for this and I was scared straight for a little while. I also went to alcohol counseling which helped me to realize that I had a problem that needed to be watched very closely. I completed my alcohol training in June of last year and things started to get better after that. My performance at work improved and I started to focus on what it meant to be a Marine again.

However, the reason I am here is because I messed up again. Last month I went to a Red Sox game with a couple of friends and let my guard down. I knew that it was wrong to drink, because I was still underage, but I gave in to peer pressure and had a few beers at the game. Then to make matters worse I decided to drive us home from the game. If there is one decision in my life, that I wish I could go back and change, it is this one. I should not have even taken a sip of alcohol, much less gotten behind the wheel of a car that night.

Members of the board, I take full responsibility for my actions that night. I do not blame anyone. I truly messed up and disgraced my service. I know what I did was wrong and I just want the chance to make it right. I am sorry for the way I acted and I am asking for forgiveness and one more chance. I know that I have been given chances in the past, but I hope that you will believe me when I say that I have had a true "wake up call" and that nothing like this will ever happen again.

Gentlemen, I am specifically asking for you to be merciful and to let me stay in the Marine Corps. I think that if I could stay in the Marine Corps, I could be a positive example to others, do my job well, and help defend this nation. I want to deploy. I would love to get the chance to go to Afghanistan or Iraq and "get in the fight." That is what I wanted to do when I joined the Marine Corps and it is what I still want to do today. If you give me that chance, I promise, I will not let you down and I will make you proud.

I have already taken steps to make sure I do not mess up again. I recently began going to an Alcoholics Anonymous group at a local church. Also, if I get to stay in, I want to go through alcohol rehab training again to prove to myself that I can make it stick this time. I have sold my car and will not be driving for a while. I live on base in the barracks so I will walk to work and get rides from my fellow Marines if I need to go somewhere else. Finally, I would like to pay for the damage I caused to the fence on base. I understand that I caused damage to government property and I want to make that right.

Gentlemen, I am here today to accept full responsibility for my actions and to ask you to consider letting me finish what I have started. I know what I did was wrong and now I want the chance to finish my enlistment in an honorable manner. Please help me go home to Texas with my head held high and help me finish my service to the United States Marine Corps and to the United States of America. Thank you for your consideration.

Prepared For NJS ADSEP Exercise By: Capt J.P. Norman, USMC

CHARACTER STATEMENT FOR \_\_\_\_\_

(PRINT NAME OF MARINE)

**YOUR INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    **FIRST**                    **MIDDLE**                    **LAST**

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number and email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your current duty assignment (describe position/billet)

Description of your military service (i.e. years served, previous billets/duty assignments, personal awards, military, training/education):

Do you anticipate being TAD or transferred from your unit any time during the next three (3) to six (6) months? YES / NO (PLEASE CIRCLE ONE) IF YES, WHEN:

I have known this Marine for \_\_\_\_\_ months. Our relationship was professional / social (circle one) and can be described as follows (i.e. "I was his NCOIC" or "she was my next door neighbor"): \_\_\_\_\_

My observation period was on a (circle one) hourly / daily / weekly basis for approximately \_\_\_\_\_ hours per week.



## QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS MARINE

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED FOR ANSWERS, PLEASE ATTATCH PAGES)

1. What were this Marine's military duties when you observed them? (Describe)

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2. How did/does this Marine perform those duties? (Describe)

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3. How would you rate/rank this Marine in comparison to all other Marines or Sailors with whom you have worked?

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I would place this Marine in the top \_\_\_\_\_ % of all Marines or Sailors I have known.  
(1% being the highest)

4. Would you desire to work with this Marine in the future? YES / NO  
WHY?

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5. Would you be willing to serve with this Marine in combat? YES / NO  
WHY?

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6. What is your opinion about this Marine's honesty/truthfulness? (examples)

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7. Are you aware that this Marine has presently been charged with an offense under the UCMJ?  
YES / NO If yes, do you know the nature of the offense? (describe)

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8. Do you believe this conduct will continue or reoccur? YES / NO  
WHY OR WHY NOT?

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9. Can this Marine be rehabilitated? YES / NO  
WHY OR WHY NOT?

10. How does this Marine deal with stressful situations/environments?

12. PLEASE include any additional comments that you would like to add concerning this Marine.

I have attached \_\_\_\_\_ additional pages.

I swear or affirm that all of the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_