

FOREWORD

In 1998, the second edition of the Marine Corps Reserve Guidebook was released to satisfy the demand for a compact reference volume addressing those issues pertinent to the needs of the individual Reserve Marine. The feedback from the field as to the usefulness of this ready resource has been overwhelmingly positive. The timely flow of information regarding the requirements and opportunities of the Marine Corps Reserve continues to be an immediate priority here at MCRSC. Hence, this third edition of the Guidebook has been published in hardcopy and on the World Wide Web, via the MCRSC Web Page (<http://mcrsc.mfr.usmc.mil/>). It is the intent of MCRSC that the web publication will be updated with constant and frequent revisions throughout the year, while the hardcopy version (published annually) will serve as a readily available information source. We feel that this policy will best ensure cost-effective information distribution is available to Reserve Marines by providing not only a ready-reference document (hardcopy guidebook) but also a means to facilitate timely communication and access to the most accurate information (web-based guidebook).

This publication is designed for use by all levels of rank and seniority among both officers and enlisted personnel. It addresses prominent topics in plain, concise language—making it indispensable to anyone connected with the Marine Corps Reserve. While comprehensive, this guidebook is not meant to be a substitute for personal contact. Only a trained professional can provide the most up-to-date information in response to your specific queries. Appropriate contact information is located in the appendices of this publication.

However, please remember that information on opportunities in the Marine Corps Reserve is meaningless when it is not put to good use. The Marines and civilian personnel within MCRSC exist to serve you, but you are the best manager of your career! Success is a matter of careful consideration and planning. Use this guidebook as a starting point, but always take the initiative and be proactive in developing your career “course of action”!