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STARFLEET MARINE
CORPS



HISTORY OF
THE
STARFLEET
MARINE CORPS

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Revision 2009

OPEN



STARFLEET MARINE CORPS

STARFLEET Marine Corps History Manual

2009 Edition



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Contents

Part 1 - Introduction1

Part 2 - Historical Perspective2

Part 3 - The Rise of the SFMC6

Part 4 - First Blood: The Klingon Wars.....8

Part 5 - Lessons Learned, Not to be Forgotten10

Part 6 - The “Marines War” - Conflict with Cardassia.....11

Part 7 - The Dominion War12

Part 8 - The SFMC Today: Threats Abound.....17

About the SFMC Academy19

Part 1 - Introduction

This manual was created in the hopes of expanding not only the fictional history of the SFMC, but to eventually hold the actual real world history of the organization.

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Pronoun Disclaimer

In this manual, "he", "him", and "his" are used following the standard English language grammatical convention to use these forms for gender-nonspecific pronouns. No sexist bias is intended. The convention is used merely for ease of writing and reading. There have been and hopefully always will be plenty of female members in the SFMC, and no slight to them is intended.

Acknowledgments

This manual would not have been possible without the help of the countless people who have worked on the fictional history of the SFMC.

Reporting Authority

The governing authority for the SFMC History information is the Commanding Officer, Training Command (COTRACOM). Send questions, comments, or suggestions concerning Support to: tracom@sfi.org

Part 2 - Historical Perspective

As a Starfleet Marine, you are the bearer of a combat tradition that literally spans time and space. Today's Corps is a blend of the military traditions of each of the Federation's member worlds. However, few of the Federation's member worlds have had such an impact on the history and doctrine of the Corps as Earth. Seventy percent of Earth's surface is covered with oceans of water, and the dry land that makes up the other thirty percent is crisscrossed with rivers and lakes. Since humankind began, it has been using these waterways for communication, trade and conquest. Many ancient Earth civilizations lived and died through control of the seas.

The ancient Greeks and Romans enhanced the fighting power of their rowed war vessels by stationing squads of foot soldiers in the prows. These soldiers would harass and distract the enemy by showering sling stones and arrows on opposing rowers from a distance. As the opposing fleets closed, the Romans switched to conventional pilum, shield and short sword, leaping aboard enemy vessels from a specially designed bridge attached to the war galley. These "sea soldiers" were the first professional marines.

In the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries (Earth's Age of Sail), the development of reliable and accurate firearms precipitated the reemergence of the marine. Reprising the role of their ancient counterparts, the Marine Corps of the English, Dutch, and later American navies stationed foot soldiers in the masts and on the decks of their vessels to pick off enemy officers, repel boarders and serve as a raiding force to capture enemy vessels at close quarters. Due to their training in land warfare, Marines often participated in ground operations, disembarking from their ships to conduct raids and provide security and firepower to naval landing parties.

Earth's Ancient Marine Forces

Before we can go forward, we need to look to the past and to take a moment to study the basis of some of the Marine forces of the various nations in Earth's history. These "marines of the world" and their founding history and military successes helped lead to the culmination of what is today, the SFMC. And while the SFMC can generally point to the structure and historical success of the USMC as providing most of its original base elements, the marine history; structures and successes and failures of other nations of Earth, also had a part to play. The first documented use of Marines as a class of soldier in a standing army belongs to the Greeks and Romans. Themistocles, leader of the Athenians, issued a decree that his navy "enlist Marines, twenty to a ship" to turn back a Persian attack. Rome had special legions of "Milites Classiarii" or "soldiers of the fleet". Roman Marines served throughout the remainder of the Empire's life, not only at sea but also on land.

During the Dark Ages, Vikings performed many ship to shore raids. Although not as orthodox as their predecessors, their amphibious tactics would qualify them as Marines.



Spanish Marines

It has already been remarked that it was the development of firearms in the 16th and 17th centuries that saw the use of soldiers in maritime conflicts – and the introduction of the first marines saw these soldiers referred to primarily as "naval infantry" – a term that many of Earth's military forces used for centuries. The very first nation to recognize the strategic and tactical advantages of including such armed personnel on

their ships, were the Spanish - and in the year 1537, the *Infantería de Armada* (Navy Infantry) was created by Carlos the First (king of Spain), when he permanently assigned the *Compañías Viejas del Mar de Nápoles* (Naples Old Sea Companies) to the *Escuadras de Galeras del Mediterráneo* (Mediterranean Galley Squadrons). Thus was born the concept of Marine Forces. For the Spanish, Marines (Naval Infantry) remained a major part of their Armed Forces right up until the end of the Third World War – serving with distinction in many countries and operational theatres.



Royal Marines – United Kingdom

While the USMC is well-recognized as being the most successful and dominant theorist and practitioner of amphibious warfare, the Royal Marines of the United Kingdom provided the major basis for the manner by which the USMC was originally formed.

On the 28th October 1664 an Order-in-Council was issued calling for 1200 soldiers to be recruited for service in the Fleet, to be known as the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot. As the Duke of York was The Lord High Admiral at the time, it became known as the "Admiral's Regiment". The Regiment was paid by the Admiralty, it and its successors being the only long service troops in the 17th and 18th century navy. They were therefore not only soldiers but also seamen, who were part of the complement of all warships. This was the fourth European Marine unit formed (the Spanish were first in 1537; the Portuguese in 1610 and the French in 1622).

The name "Marines" first appeared in official British records in 1672. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the Royal Marines served the British people very well indeed. For example a large seventy-four gun, ship -of -the -line in the year 1797, often consisted of more than twenty percent Marines who served in gun crews, with boarding parties, and as sharpshooters or sentries. The Corps played a major part in fighting to win Britain the largest empire ever created - Marines were aboard the first ships to arrive in Australia in 1788, they fought at Trafalgar, and at many at places far and wide across the globe - providing the British government with the ability to land military troops on virtually any soil at any given time. And so for the next four hundred years, the Royal Marines and the Royal Marine Commandos were at the forefront of many of the military actions that the United Kingdom Armed Forces were involved with.

The badge of the Royal Marines is designed to commemorate the history of the Corps. The Lion and Crown denotes a Royal regiment. King George III conferred this honor in 1802 "in consideration of the very meritorious services of the Marines in the late war." The "Great Globe itself" surrounded by laurels was chosen by King George IV as a symbol of the Marines' successes in every quarter of the world. The laurels are believed to honor the gallantry they displayed during the investment and capture of Belle Isle, off Lorient, in April-June 1761. The word "Gibraltar" refers to the Siege of Gibraltar in 1704. It was awarded in 1827 by George IV as a special distinction for the services of four of the old Army Marine regiments (Queen's Own Marines, 1st Marines, 2nd Marines, 3rd Marines). *Per Mare Per Terram* ("By Sea, By Land"), the motto of the Marines, is believed to have been used for the first time in 1775. The regimental quick march of the Corps is *A Life on the Ocean Wave*, while the slow march is *Preobrajensky*.



United States Marine Corps



The United States Marine Corps was originally organized as the Continental Marines in 1775 to conduct ship-to-ship fighting, provide shipboard security and assist in landing forces. Its mission evolved with changing military doctrine and American foreign policy. Owing to the availability of Marine forces at sea, the Marine Corps served in every conflict in U.S. history. It attained prominence when its theories and practice of amphibious warfare proved prescient, and ultimately formed a cornerstone of the Pacific campaign of World War II. By the early 20th century, the Marine Corps became the dominant

theorist and practitioner of amphibious warfare. Its ability to rapidly respond to regional crises made it an important tool for American foreign policy.

November 10, 1775 is the celebrated birthday of the US Marines. After several attempts by the American colonies to work out some sort of reconciliation between the Crown and the American people, the Colonial Congress decided to take a sterner attitude. A committee of the Congress drafted a resolution to create a new military unit, called the Continental Marines. This resolution was drafted in a popular Philadelphian inn called Tun Tavern, and was later approved by the entire legislative body. From there followed a long and rich history from a Branch of the US Armed Forces, that truly embodied the term "Marine".



The USMC emblem consisted of a globe (showing the Western Hemisphere) intersected by a fouled anchor, and surmounted by a spread eagle. This was finally adopted as the official Marine Corps Emblem in 1955, following the approval by President Dwight D. Eisenhower of the new USMC seal. On the emblem itself, the device is topped by a ribbon inscribed with the Latin motto "Semper Fidelis" (Always Faithful).

The general design of the emblem was probably derived from the British Royal Marines' "Globe and Laurel." The globe on the U.S. Marine emblem signified service in any part of the world. The eagle also indirectly signified service worldwide, although this may not have been the intention of the designers in 1868. The eagle they selected for the original Marine emblem was a crested eagle, a type found all over the world. On the other hand, the eagle pictured on the great seal and the currency of the United States was the bald eagle, strictly an American variety. The anchor, whose origin dates back to the founding of the Marine Corps in 1775, indicated the amphibious nature of Marines' duties.

The Marine Corps adopted *Semper Fidelis* as its official motto in 1883 (*Semper Fidelis* is also the title of the official musical March of the Marine Corps – referred to as the *Marine Hymn*). U.S. Marines used an abbreviated verbal version, "Semper Fi," to voice loyalty and commitment to their Marine comrades-in-arms. Previous mottos of the Marine Corps were (1) *To the Shores of Tripoli*, adopted in 1805; (2) *Fortitude*, adopted in 1812; (3) *From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli*, adopted in 1848; and (4) *By Sea and by Land*, adopted in the 1850's.

No historical referencing of the USMC, brief or otherwise, can be considered complete without some mention of the famous battles and events in which the USMC were the major combatant force. The history of the Corps will always include famous place names such as – the First Barbary War(1801-1805); the Battle of Bladensburg (1812); the Mexican –American War (1846 – 1848) where the Marines



made their famed assault on Chapultepec Palace in Mexico City, later to be celebrated as the phrase "from the Halls of Montezuma" in the Marines' Hymn; Guantanamo Bay during the Spanish-American War of 1898; the Boxer Rebellion in China (1899-1901); the battle at Belleau Wood during World War 1 (1914-1918) where popular media at the time claimed the German opponents gave the Marines the name of *Teufel Hunden* which is a loose translation of "Devil Dogs"; Guadalcanal, Tarawa Atoll, Saipan, Peleliu, Iwo Jima and Okinawa during the Pacific Campaign of World War 2 (1939-1945) where the Marines earned their hardest won glory; the Pusan Perimeter, and the landings at Inchon of the Korean War (1950 – 1953); Da Nang, Hue City and Khe San of the Vietnam War (1968-1973); the

Invasion of Grenada (1983) and the Invasion of Panama (1989); the Persian Gulf War (1990-1991); Somalia (1992-1995); the Iraq War and Afghanistan (2003). Steeped in tradition; resolute in action; efficient and effective in mode of operation – the US Marine Corps soundly established the foot-print for the Marines of the future.

Other Marine Corps

Many of Earth's other countries raised either Marine Corps units, or Branches of their military (especially naval) that could well qualify as "marines". The most obvious of these, were those countries that like France, Spain and the Portuguese, first committed soldiers to accompany their ships as 'naval infantry'. Some of these Marine Corps were founded well before the British or American services.

Some of these nations include:

Portugal – the Special Marines (*Corpo de Fuzileiros*). established 1621

Netherlands – Royal Netherlands Marine Corps (*Korps Mariniers*) founded in 1665

France – the *Troupes de marine* (Marine Troops) which despite the name, were a branch of the French Army and were first raised in 1622.

Germany – the German Imperial Marine Infantry (*Die Kaiserliche Marine*) were first formed by the German Admiralty in 1872

Russia – the Russian Naval Infantry (Морская пехота) were first formed in 1705.

Italy – The Marines of the Italian Navy (*Marina Militare*) were formed as the San Marco Regiment, but originally as the *La Marina Regiment* in 1713.

Japan – the Japanese did not have specified marine forces, but did have the Special Naval Landing Forces (*Rikusentai*). These were originally formed around 1932 but did last after the end of WW2

China: Republic of China – the ROC Marine Corps were formed from the former Navy Sentry Corps in December 1914

China: Peoples Republic of China – The Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy Marine Corps (PLAMC) was established in the 1950's during the Chinese Civil War.

Part 3 -

The Rise of the SFMC

By the 20th century, most nations of the world used marines. Of them all, one organization — the United States Marine Corps, or USMC — stands out. These soldiers developed the art of amphibious landing into a science. "On land, air, and sea," as their anthem said, the USMC combined outstanding tactical flexibility, overwhelming firepower and superior mobility with legendary élan to become known as one of the most feared fighting forces of the century.

The SFMC traces its direct history to the chaos following the Eugenics Wars and the Third World War, in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Although few records survive from that terrible period, we know from the archeological record and surviving accounts that in this fifty years of unceasing and uncompromising warfare, up to two thirds of the world's population was destroyed. Entire nations ceased to exist, societies disintegrated and the world economy was destroyed. The governments that survived were prostrate, bankrupt and nearly powerless. The USMC, which had been one of the most efficient military organizations in the world, was a hollow, battered shell, unable to pay its few troops or even feed them. Far more concerned with getting shattered economies on the mend and repairing fragmented societies than worrying about neighbors who were now just as powerless, the nations of the world turned their backs on the legions of men and women who fought for them.

Not everyone had lost in these wars, however. As humanity turned on itself in its own home world, millions of men and women turned to the skies for a better life. These brave (and often poverty stricken) settlers colonized first the moon, then Mars, digging valuable minerals from the hard soils of these bodies to feed the ever hungrier war machines of Mother Earth. While the nations of the Earth fought first the Supermen, then each other, refugees from all over the dying planet flocked to the safe havens above, providing economic power and cheap labor to develop the MegaCorporations.

After the killing stopped, the MegaCorporations needed a new purpose, and for that purpose, they looked further into the heavens. If Mars and the Moon could be colonized, they theorized, then so could planets beyond our solar system. They developed giant "sleeper" ships which could hold whole colonies in cryogenic sleep for the long trip beyond the solar system. They also needed protection for these colonists, and the cash starved governments of Earth were only too happy to accept hard currency in return for MegaCorp control of their militaries. The Colonial Marines were born. Although perhaps not as polished as their prewar ancestors, the first "Space Marines" were tough and smart. Often fighting previously unknown threats, usually in small units, the Colonial Marines kept the space lanes safe for travel and colonization, spending their blood so that their charges could forge a future. The event that spelled the end of the Colonial Marines and corporate armies, and marked the beginning of the modern Federation, was to write a bloody chapter in the history of Earth.

On October 3rd, 2156, a massive fleet of sublight vessels (by now, Earth had made first contact with Vulcan and had developed its warp drive capabilities) appeared near the Earth colony of Sectis. The colonists were very puzzled by the strange ships, but did have time to transmit a distress signal before they were destroyed by the strange invaders. The Colonial Marines and

their naval counterparts, the Maritime Militia, proved completely ineffective against these invaders, now identified by Vulcan sources as the Romulans.



Although Earth possessed greater technology, there was no centralized chain of command and each corporation was trying to fight its own war. Faced with rising hysteria at home and increasingly serious reversals in the field, the United Nations, now the world's only true government, nationalized all Colonial Marine and Maritime Militia units, forming the United Nations Peace Force in June of 2158. With a united chain of command, the UNPF gradually stabilized the situation, and in March of 2162, decisively defeated the Romulan Fleet in the Battle of Cheron, effectively ending the war.

In 2161, in response to the recent Romulan invasion, five civilizations formed the United Federation of Planets. The naval arm of the UNPF became the basis of the Starfleet, and the UNPF Marines formed the cadre for the Starfleet Marine Corps. As their UNPF and Colonial Marine predecessors had done, Starfleet Marines served primarily as tactical security for Federation Starbases and planetary bases, and as tactical resources for Starfleet vessels. Large-scale ground combat operations were no part of the doctrine of the earliest SFMC. They generally operated in company-size units, with larger elements for administrative purposes only. As history was to show, however, the SFMC was not destined to simply be a well armed security force.

Part 4 - First Blood: The Klingon Wars (2195 to 2199)

In 2195, Federation mettle was tested for the first time by forces from the Klingon Empire. Tensions over trade and expansion along the border between Federation and Klingon space broke out in full scale war in February of that year. The Klingons attacked all along the shared border, sending diversionary forces against minor targets to spread out Starfleet assets and concentrating on major targets with overwhelming force.

The Klingon Fleet would overwhelm or scatter Starfleet resistance in and around the system, then use specialized assault transports to beam down whole Divisions of Imperial Marines to destroy local resistance, which often consisted only of a Strike Group and assorted local conventional forces. Using armor and artillery, with orbital bombardment support, the Klingons usually eliminated the hapless defenders within hours. Those ground forces spared the first wave of attacks faced mop-up operations after the Klingons had taken their primary objectives. Once again, orbital bombardment, followed by lightning transporter attacks, eliminated most opposition before it had a chance to coalesce.

With the Klingon front near collapse, the Federation took the unusual step of nationalizing all conventional planetary forces of its member worlds, and rushing them to the front in a desperate effort to stem the Klingon advance. Using heroic, sometimes suicidal tactics, these soldiers stopped the advance long enough for the Federation to recover and adapt to Klingon tactics. As the Klingon tide was slowed, and then stopped, the marines began to adapt themselves and their tactics to this new adversary. Marine line companies were grouped into Strike Forces, mission specific elements designed to be self-supporting in combat. These Strike Forces were then grouped into larger elements as needed for operations. The SFMC adopted armor and heavy artillery support. In the past, SFMC doctrine called for these elements to be provided by the planetary forces the Marines were to ostensibly support. The poor reliability of these forces, however, forced Marine planners to include these new branches, and as a result, Marine performance and unit survivability improved drastically.

The SFMC also developed specialized assault craft, on the order of the Klingon transports. In the past, the SFMC had simply used attacking starships or freighters. The starships were placed at a severe disadvantage because they had to fend off attacking Klingons while lowering shields long enough to transport men five to ten at a time. Worse yet, equipment often had to be off-loaded to shuttles, which then had to be flown in the face of planetary fire and off loaded at the surface. It could take up to an hour just to get one Strike Group on the ground. Freighters, although they could take advantage of the protection of Federation starships from marauding Klingon fleets, did not have the shielding to withstand planetary fire. Once assault vessels were in service near the end of the war, the Marines could take the war into Klingon space.

One area in which Starfleet started with and maintained an advantage was in the area of aerospace operations. Early on, the Corps realized the value of transatmospheric fighter craft to support ground operations. Inexplicably, the Klingons did not develop such a capability, and sublight craft such as the A-1 Talon

wreaked havoc on unprotected Klingon formations. By August of 2198, the war was far from won, but aggressive counter attacks, improved technology and more advanced tactics began to push the Klingons out of Federation space. When a cease fire was finally signed in 2199, Marines were garrisoning soil that had been Klingon before the war.

Part 5 - Lessons Learned, Not to be Forgotten

Most historians consider the Four Years War to be a “draw.” The cease fire merely recognized the prewar boundaries of the two rivals, changed later by the Organians to include a Neutral Zone. The SFMC survived the war at a horrendous cost. Casualties were 100% for the units that were overrun in the first months of the war. The casualties suffered by the conventional forces thrown at the Klingons to stabilize the front in 2195 were nearly as bad. Overall, nearly one million lives were lost by the Federation in that four years. Best estimates of Klingon casualties run from two to five million.

Faced with maintaining a credible defense during the “Cold War” that would exist for the next 93 years, SFMC planners were determined not to be caught unprepared again. In order to maintain ground force doctrine while still fulfilling its traditional function of supporting starship operations, the two General Assignments, Fleet Marine Force and Garrison Force, were created. All marines were required to rotate through both during their careers to keep skills sharp. The Corps expanded its manpower base and retained the armor, artillery and dedicated transport capabilities created during the war. The Strike Force system was replaced with a more formal Brigade-oriented structure. Special Operations units, first used during the Four Years War to conduct surveillance behind enemy lines, were developed in increasing numbers.

When the Khitomer Accords ended over a century of hostility between the Federation and the Empire in 2293, many heralded the “end of war in our time.” A great deal of pressure was placed on Starfleet and its Corps to severely scale down warfighting capabilities in favor of more peaceful exploration. Although Starfleet did convert much of its postwar Fleet to survey and exploration projects, the Marines, under the leadership of General Robb Jackson, resisted this pressure. As Commandant Jackson said in an address to Marine College graduates in 2296, “The universe is a big place, and not all of it is friendly.” Less than half a century later, his words would prove prophetic.

Part 6 - The "Marines War" - Conflict with Cardassia (2347 to 2367)

As peace "broke out" between the Federation and the Empire, colonization of space increased rapidly. In 2317, the first Federation-Cardassian contact took place, and the "Great Race" to settle the dense (and resource rich) cluster of systems in and around what is today known as the Badlands began. Within 30 years, Cardassians and Federation citizens were locked in conflict. A series of serious incidents and a not entirely unjustified fear of an invasion by the Federation, culminated in a Cardassian Army expedition against the planet of Setlik III in 2347. Mistakenly believing that a secret Special Operations base was on the planet, the Cardassians tortured and killed over one hundred civilians in the raid. When the Cardassian Government, still convinced that the Federation had a base on Setlik III, refused to apologize or make an offer of reparations to victim families, war fever raged in the Federation. Ships and troops were sent, and an undeclared war raged for the next 20 years. This series of engagements and conflicts is often called the "Marines' War" because most of the engagements were fought by ground forces. The conflict itself was not continuous; it would flare for a few months, die down, only to flare again after halfhearted peace talks failed. The most active part of the war was in 2366, shortly before the truce that ended it was signed.

The Cardassians had planned "Operation Hammer," a series of naval and ground force engagements designed to force the Federation out of the Badlands once and for all. Unfortunately for the Cardassians, SFMC Special Operations forces called Omega teams had infiltrated most of the planets the Cardassians were using for staging bases. They quickly detected mission preparations, and one team even managed to steal copies of the top secret operations orders. Just twenty four hours before kickoff, these Omega teams and specially inserted Mecha lances attacked Cardassian supply depots and assembly areas, while Starfleet forces simultaneously attacked the gathering Cardassian fleet. Within weeks, the Cardassians had lost territory they claimed before the war began. When the truce was signed in 2367, the Badlands were firmly in Federation hands.

One of the most controversial weapons systems of the war, and SFMC history, debuted in this conflict. When Mecha were proposed in 2340, Marine planners dismissed the idea, derisively nicknaming the 15m high machines "TMT", or "The Moving Target." A variety of reasons were given for not producing them — the expense, their size and their armament. Most blasphemous of all in Marine eyes, was the fact that Mecha walked! Nevertheless, supporters within the Corps and the Federation Assembly (many of whom were eyeing a lucrative new contract for their constituencies) managed to get the idea adopted, and the first units were sent to the field in 2355. They quickly proved themselves in combat. Although quite vulnerable to armor and artillery on open ground, the rugged and mobile Mecha were unmatched on the rough, uneven terrain of mountains and forests where conventional vehicles dared not go. Between Armor, SpecOps and Mecha, there was simply nowhere for the Cardassians to hide.

Part 7 - The Dominion War (2373 to 2375)

The signing of a treaty of peace with Cardassia did not mean “the end of war in our time” any more than the Khitomer Accords did over 150 years before. At most the major powers of the Alpha and Beta quadrants maintained a delicate balance. So delicate was the balance that one incident could tip the quadrants towards all out war. The entrance of the Dominion into the Alpha quadrant through the Bajoran wormhole was such an incident. With the arrival of the Dominion the Alpha and Beta quadrants destabilized leading not only into all out war, but to multiple alliances of convenience. Alliances between the various powers shifted constantly during this time.

The Dominion war started unlike most wars, that is they did not enter the Alpha quadrant with guns blazing. Instead the Dominion chose to use subterfuge to undermine the already fragile alliances that existed in the Alpha and Beta quadrants. By undermining those alliances the Dominion had hoped to push the more powerful governments into open hostilities with each other, which would in the end weaken them enough so that a Dominion invasion would meet little opposition. The Federation and the Klingons were the first targets of the Dominion. Changelings had infiltrated the Klingon High Command and were feeding false information regarding the recent civilian overthrow of the Cardassian government to Chancellor Gowron. The infiltrators had Gowron convinced that the Dominion was behind the overthrow and therefore Cardassia must be invaded to stop the Dominion. The Federation disagreed and in the end helped the newly formed Detapa Council escape from the Klingon invasion of Cardassia. The Federation’s willingness to help the Cardassians and their refusal to participate in the invasion led Gowron to withdraw from the Khitomer Accords.

Open hostilities between the Federation and Klingon Empire ensued. During this time the SFMC was instrumental in several battles and was used extensively to bolster any planets civilian defense forces. On several occasions forces of the SFMC were able to hold the Klingons back thus preventing several planets from falling. Not only did the SFMC enjoy the thrill of victory, but the pain of loss. Men and material were being lost at an alarming rate; soon losses from this stage of the war surpassed those that had been suffered during the war with Cardassia. While the war raged on the Federation began to grow concerned that a Changeling had replaced the Klingon Chancellor. A plan was devised to determine whether or not this had actually occurred. While carrying out this plan, a group of Starfleet officers led by Captain Benjamin Sisko discovered that it was not Gowron who had been replaced, but his commanding general, General Martok. This fact was revealed to Gowron in spectacular fashion. Captain Sisko’s team was allowed to leave Klingon space unhindered, and Gowron was able to convince the High Council to call for a cease-fire.

Even though a tenuous cease-fire existed between the Federation and the Klingons, the Klingons were still engaged in a war with the Cardassians. Sometime mid-2373 the Cardassian Union allied with the Dominion. This gave the Dominion a foothold in the Alpha Quadrant and they immediately began sending fleets of warships and supply vessels through the Bajoran wormhole and into Cardassian territory on a weekly basis. The Klingons now found themselves facing a foe that they could not fight alone, and they were forced to withdraw from Cardassian space. War with the Dominion was inevitable and only the combined Federation-Klingon forces stood

a chance. With that Gowron resigned the Khitomer Accords, thus officially ending hostilities between the two powers.

The Cardassian Union and Dominion meanwhile, continued to fortify their positions and secure nonaggression treaties with the Miradorn, Tholians, Bajorans, and most notably the Romulans. Dominion intentions were becoming clearer with each treaty they made. The Federation was forced to act, but a preemptive strike was out of the question, there simply was not enough men and material for such a strike to succeed. Instead it was decided that mining the Bajoran wormhole to prevent further Dominion reinforcements from arriving would be sufficient. The mining of the wormhole provoked the Dominion into acting. Even while apparently reaching an agreement with the Federation to allow limited medical and economic supplies through to help rebuild Cardassia, the Dominion secretly planned an attack on DS9. The Dominion plan was to attack and take the station before the Federation had time to complete and activate the minefield. However the Klingons were able to send word to DS9 that a large Cardassian and Dominion fleet was inbound. With this knowledge DS9 was able to prepare its defenses and work toward bringing the minefield on line. Even though the Dominion arrived too late to prevent the successful activation of the minefield they began their assault on the station. No Federation reinforcements were available and in light of the overwhelming force that DS9 faced, Captain Benjamin Sisko was forced to order all Federation personnel to evacuate the station. This would not be the last time that DS9 changed hands during the war. After the evacuation the reason for the lack of reinforcements was made known. While the Dominion was busy attacking DS9 a combined Federation-Klingon task force had attacked Dominion shipyards at Torros III. That assault had required all available vessels.

The opening months of 2374 saw a string of allied defeats, both in space and planet side. Starfleet saw most of its losses through massive space battles involving huge fleets while the Starfleet Marine Corps saw most of its losses in large tactical engagements on various planets. However the SFMC also suffered horrendous losses in space engagements, especially in planetary invasions. Troop carriers were favorite targets of Cardassian and Dominion forces. Each troop carrier destroyed meant the loss of hundreds if not thousands of Starfleet Marines. With losses mounting morale was at an all time low. However the tides of fortune would change in favor of the Allies in the second quarter of that year. That quarter saw the successful implementation of Operation Return, the objective of which was to retake DS9 and the Bajoran Wormhole.

Operation Return was a risky and bold move that only succeeded due in part to the surprise appearance of a huge Klingon attack force. The USS Defiant was able to break through the lines and head toward the Bajoran Wormhole. As the USS Defiant arrived at DS9 the Dominion was able to successfully destroy the minefield placed months earlier by Starfleet. The way was now open for Dominion reinforcements from the Gamma Quadrant. However the Dominion had not taken into account the non-corporeal aliens that dwelt in the Bajoran Wormhole. As the Dominion fleet was en route and in the wormhole Captain Benjamin Sisko was able to convince the aliens to destroy the Dominion reinforcements. From that point on no further Dominion ships would make it through the wormhole. With their reinforcements gone and Allied forces breaking through their lines, the Dominion was forced to withdraw from DS9. This was the first major allied victory. SFMC losses during this engagement were light in comparison to other engagements and most were due to the actual space battle.

With the retaking of DS9 and the wormhole, the war entered a temporary lull. The Dominion had retreated within Cardassian space and engagements along the Cardassian border were rare. Marines soon found themselves with lots of time on their hands, which is a not necessarily a good thing. However they soon found themselves performing daily drills and weapons training. In their off hours marines tried to stave of boredom any way that they could. Some formed musical groups and sang various songs that they found in the cultural databases. Martin and the Brigadiers was one such group. An impromptu group formed by several general staff officers one evening only recorded one song, "You've Lost that Loving Feeling", which they found in the Earth's cultural database. The song soon became the favorite of marines in bars throughout the Federation. Aside from 20th century Earth songs, Klingon warrior songs were almost as equally well received.

While the marines of the SFMC did their best to keep themselves occupied, the Dominion vied for peace, going so far as to offer to withdraw from large portions of territory that had been occupied in the onset of the war. Further analysis of the situation by a special Federation think-tank showed that this was a ploy to obtain the Kabrel system, which would allow the Dominion to produce ketracel-white in the Alpha Quadrant. Since the Dominion was no longer receiving shipments through the wormhole they faced a supply shortage that threatened their position in the war. The Federation did not accept the peace proposal and weeks later the fighting resumed.

Ships patrolling the Cardassian border were frequently engaged and destroyed. Many ships just vanished never to be seen or heard from again. During this time marines dreaded being sent to the border as either a detachment on board ship or as part of a recon element. Any unit sent on either of those missions rarely returned. Soon after fighting resumed SFMC intelligence was able to ascertain that the Dominion had started breeding Jem'Hadar in the Alpha Quadrant negating the need for reinforcements from the Gamma Quadrant.

Later in 2374 the SFMC was dealt its largest defeat yet in the war, the fall and subsequent occupation of Betazed. Tens of thousands of marines fought valiantly to hold the planet, but the Dominion was able to bring an overwhelming force to bear and was successful in routing the defenders. Very few combat ready units escaped the fall of Betazed. Marine casualties for that one particular engagement were 75%. Those units that were unable to withdraw from Betazed and that were not completely destroyed were able to escape to the surrounding countryside. Those units formed the basis of an organized armed resistance that would continue operating until the end of the war. In order to keep the resistance going the SFMC would make high-speed transporter drops to various parts of the planet. This was usually accomplished through specially outfitted transports that were capable of transferring cargo at high warp speeds as they passed by the planet. The SFMC lost 3 out of every 5 transports that made the run. The losses were deemed acceptable though because of the strategic value of Betazed and that the resistance was able to successfully disrupt many of the Dominion's activities.

At the opening of 2375 the Federation and her allies found themselves suffering a severe shortage of manpower, ships and equipment. While the Federation and her allies found themselves struggling to rebuild their shipyards and replace the men and material that had been lost, the Dominion was producing ships and Jem'Hadar warriors at an astounding rate. Worse than the shortage of manpower and material the Federation now faced was the fact that with the loss of Betazed, the core Federation worlds of Vulcan, Andor, Tellar, and Alpha Centauri were vulnerable

to invasion from Dominion forces. With the core worlds of the Federation facing imminent invasion, the SFMC began to ship any available reserves to those core worlds that were deemed most vulnerable to invasion.

The outcome of the war looked grim for the Federation and her allies. It was determined that in order to have any chance of winning the Romulans would need to be brought into the conflict as an ally. This was easier said than done considering that the Romulans had declared themselves neutral in the conflict. However this neutrality was called into question, as they would allow safe passage for Dominion ships traversing their space. No matter how hard the Federation pushed diplomatically to have the Romulans join the conflict as an ally the Romulans refused to do so.

However evidence of a Dominion assassination plot against a high-ranking Romulan senator was uncovered. This evidence caused the Romulans to enter the conflict as part of the Federation Alliance. Within hours of joining the alliance the Romulans attacked 15 bases along the Cardassian-Romulan border. Shortly after the Romulans' initial attack a combined Federation-Klingon-Romulan fleet was able to penetrate Cardassian space and successfully captured the Chin'toka system. Again the SFMC took heavy losses in the operation, mostly from the automated weapons platforms that had been dispersed throughout the system by the Cardassians. Once the weapons platforms were neutralized, the SFMC along with Klingon and Romulan ground forces were able to take and hold the planets in the system. Ground fighting was fierce and brutal, many of the battles fought were resolved in bloody hand-to-hand combat. SFMC losses from both the initial invasion of the system and then the two inhabited worlds were 38%. Losses in the Chin'toka system were the highest ever sustained in a single combat action.

While the allies had established a beachhead in Cardassian space, they soon found themselves bottled up in the Chin'toka system. Any push to carry the invasion forward was stopped by the combined Cardassian-Dominion forces that had encircled the Chin'toka system. By the end of 2375 the war had become a stalemate. During the stalemate of 2375 one notable and infamous battle took place, The Battle of the Joe's. It was during this battle that the USS Cupajoe NX-98134, a Percolator-class assault ship, from the 99th BDE used the SFMC's famous conflict resolution system, RPS, to defuse a particularly difficult situation that resulted in the parties enjoined in the battle reaching an amicable resolution. Each side searched for a way to break the stalemate and move the war forward. The Dominion was able to break the stalemate after enlisting the help of the Breen. When the combined Dominion fleet entered the Chin'toka system they used a Breen energy draining weapon and were able to decimate the Allied forces. Federation and Romulan ships easily fell victim to the Breen weapons, Klingon ships however were somehow immune. The Second Battle of Chin'toka again saw the SFMC taking heavy losses in both space and on the ground. Most of the ground casualties resulted from the orbital bombardment that commenced after the Allied fleet was swept aside. Many SFMC units were left behind, some were able to successfully elude capture and were recovered after the end of the war, some were taken as prisoners of war, and others have not been seen since.

While the Allies reeled from the loss of the Chin'toka system, there came news that the Breen had successfully penetrated Sol space and attacked Starfleet Headquarters on Earth. It was a clear signal that the tides of war had once again shifted, this time in favor of the Dominion. Since Federation and Romulan ships were vulnerable to the Breen weapon the Klingons had to hold the front lines themselves until a countermeasure could be developed. While the Dominion and its allies continued to win battle after battle, an internal struggle was beginning. Sensing that they were

no longer in favor the Dominion, the Cardassians began to organize a rebellion. The Federation wanting to take advantage of an internal rebellion sent Starfleet officers and SFMC Special Operations units in to help instruct and organize the rebellion. While ultimately the rebellion itself was betrayed from within, they were able to capture a Jem'Hadar fighter outfitted with the Breen energy weapon and return it to Federation space. Before the rebellion was crushed it was also able to inflict significant damage to various Dominion infrastructures on Cardassia. With a countermeasure developed and the Dominion trying to rebuild some of its infrastructure on Cardassia, the Allies determined the time was right for a three pronged attack. Federation, Klingon, and Romulan forces would simultaneously attack Cardassia on three fronts.

The Battle of Cardassia has been called the single greatest space battle in recorded galactic history. The start of which saw the Allies taking heavy losses. For a time it looked like the invasion would fail. However the civilian populous on Cardassia haven been emboldened by the actions of the failed rebellion, were able to destroy the main communication complex on Cardassia. This caused a complete breakdown in communications between the Dominion commanders on Cardassia and their forces in space. In retaliation the Dominion ordered the destruction of Lakarian City hoping it would deter further acts of rebellion. It did not have the desired effect. Upon hearing the news of Lakarian City, the Cardassian forces that had been fighting alongside the Dominion suddenly began to fire on Breen and Dominion ships. With the Cardassians changing sides the Breen and Dominion were caught off balance the Federation was able to capitalize on the situation and broke through the Dominion lines. With communications re-established the Dominion ordered all ships back to Cardassian space and ordered the complete annihilation of the population of Cardassia Prime. However this would not come to pass as the Cardassian rebellion was able to capture the Changeling, thus ending the battle.

The war officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Bajor. Shortly thereafter all Dominion forces retreated to the Gamma Quadrant, however the Changeling remained to stand trial for war crimes. The cost of the Dominion war is staggering, billions dead, whole planets reduced to rubble, and thousands of ships destroyed. It will take decades to repair the damage wrought by this war and in some cases there may be no recovery. The SFMC suffered its greatest losses in its entire history during the Dominion war, as of the last tally it was 50%, with 35% of those being lost to space combat. Even when faced with insurmountable odds the SFMC exemplified itself on the field of battle and never swayed from its duty to protect the Federation.

Part 8 - The SFMC Today: Threats Abound

Even with the Dominion defeated the Federation cannot relax. The alliance with the Romulans created during the Dominion war is an uneasy one. There may come a day when the Romulan Star Empire may engage in normal relations, but the Romulans are isolationists and are more comfortable with political intrigue. We have not fought face-to-face since before the founding of the Federation, but Romulan hands can be detected in nearly every major conflict of this century. We must remain vigilant on this border and remember the sacrifices of our predecessors. Conflict with the Borg was brief, intense, and primarily naval in nature, but just because it has curtailed does not eliminate it from Starfleet's or the Corps' future. We have defeated them twice, but still they come, constantly finding ways to adapt to our technology and warfighting. Then there are the threats that have been discovered in the Delta Quadrant. While distant from us currently, there may be a time when travel to the Delta Quadrant will become common place. So we must study the threats that the USS Voyager has discovered there and prepare to one day meet them.

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About the SFMC Academy



The Starfleet Marine Corps Academy was established by Commander Starfleet in 2164 when it was determined that Starfleet Academy could no longer adequately meet the needs of both services. The historical home of the United States' Navy and Marine Corps academies, Annapolis, was selected as the new home of the SFMCA. The head of the Academy, known as Director SFMCA (DCO - Academy), is still headquartered at the main campus in Annapolis.

The motto of the SFMCA is "Facta Non Verba" or, in Federation Standard, "Deeds not Words." This is reflected in the more informal academy slogan, "We lead by example... whether we mean to or not."

The Director SFMCA reports to the Commanding Officer of the Training Command (COTRACOM) who, in addition to the SFMCA, oversees branch schools, enlisted personnel training, advanced technical schools, and periodic skill re-fresher courses. Most of these courses are held either at one of the SFMCA facilities, or at one of the many training facilities in the New Valley Forge system which is home to TRACOM. These facilities, together with an Oberth-class spacedock serving as TRACOM headquarters, comprise Station Valley Forge.

Today, the SFMCA consists of 5 campuses, 8 training worlds, and 42 ranges and field courses throughout the UFP. Together with Station Valley Forge, the SFMCA comprises one of the largest and most advanced military training organizations in the known universe.