



THE MARINE SECURITY GUARDS



The close relationship between the Department of State and the United States Marine Corps is almost as old as the Corps itself. For over 200 years Marines have served “IN EVERY CLIMB AND PLACE” at the request of various Secretaries of State.

After World War II, an alert, disciplined force was needed to protect American Embassies, Consulates and Legations throughout the world and so the Marine Security Guard program was established in 1949 when six Marines arrived in Bangkok, Thailand. Early assignments were based on the first new posts.

In November 1954, the Marine Security Guard School commenced a formal training program. Qualified for this special duty are recommended by their Commanding Officers and ordered to the Marine Security Guard School for 7 weeks of extensive training, screening and processing. Graduates are issued dress blue uniforms and appropriate civilian attire.

With the emergence of new nations in the former Soviet Union, Africa and the Middle East Marines continue to serve in new and exciting places. Today, over 1100 Marines serve at over 148 posts in 133 different countries throughout the world.

The distinguished reputation enjoyed by all Marine security Guards has been rightly earned by their outstanding performance of duty while accomplishing an important mission for the United States of America.

The constant reference of many American Ambassadors to “My Marines” is a source of great pride to the Corps. With each outstanding graduating class of Marine Security Guards the State Department/Marine Corps team continues in their cooperative effort to best serve in the interests of the United States Abroad.