



History has recorded the fact that the use of fighting men, trained to fight on land or sea, as part of the regular complement on ships of war has been a common practice since five centuries prior to the Christian Era. Even in this day of long range weapons, fast and heavily armored ships, there remains a need for a force within a ship's organization trained and equipped for operations ashore or afloat. In keeping with the traditions of the Navy, the USS NEW JERSEY is a fighting ship complete with her own detachment of Marines.

The Marine Detachment is a complete fighting unit composed of two officers and sixty-six men. Each member of the unit is trained and qualified as an infantryman and they maintain this qualification by continuous training while aboard and actual practice operations ashore when the opportunity arises. The detachment is prepared for operations ashore as the ship's landing force or, in the event of necessity, as the nucleus of a landing party made up of both sailors and marines.

Under normal conditions the Marine Detachment functions as the Eighth Division under the direction of the Gunnery Department. In this capacity the marines man the 40mm anti-aircraft guns. In addition they are responsible for the care, cleaning, and maintenance of the ship's sixteen twin 20mm machine guns, also a part of the New Jersey's anti-aircraft defense. Detachment officers are assigned duties as machine gun control officers; during shore bombardment they are employed as naval gunfire air and ground spotters.

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