MARSOC

MARSOC MISSION

Always faithful, always forward

The Marine Corps is the nation's expeditionary force, ready to respond to any crisis, anywhere. Marines have always fought our nation's small wars, its irregular wars—the wars of the future. MARSOC Marines are Marines first, and they build on their Corps legacy: MARSOC operators go forward to win the war before it starts.

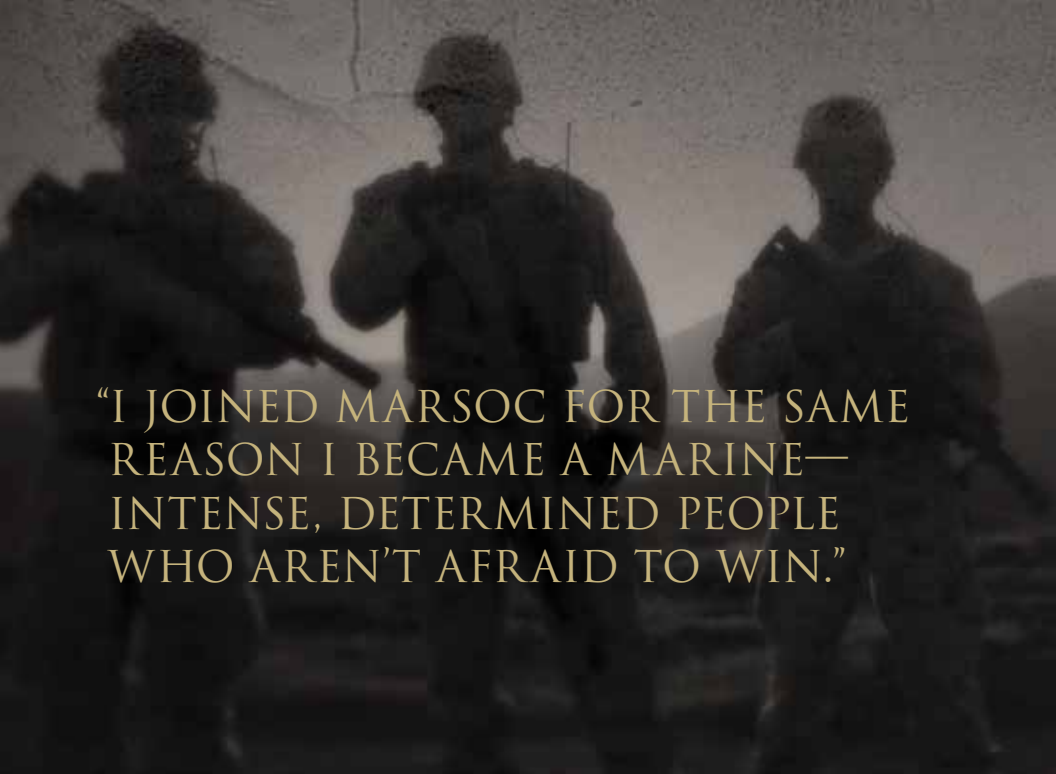
"OUR MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL SECURITY ARE OFTEN UNQUANTIFIABLE AND UNSPOKEN."

MARSOC's mission is to recruit, train, sustain, and deploy scalable, expeditionary forces worldwide to accomplish special operations missions assigned by U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). To accomplish that, MARSOC equips and trains Marines to succeed in austere conditions against a wide range of adversaries. MARSOC executes complex, distributed operations in uncertain environments, achieving silent success and strategic impact.

MARSOC's vision is to be America's force of choice to provide small lethal expeditionary teams for global special operations. With tight-knit teams of agile and adaptable operators, MARSOC will continue to punch well above its weight class.

MARSOC QUALIFICATIONS & STANDARDS

The foundation of MARSOC is its people. Marine special operators benefit from the Marine Corps' philosophy of integrating all warfighting functions in a single warfighter, and its legacy as an expeditionary force capable of conducting the full spectrum of operations anytime, anywhere. They bring the warrior ethos and esprit de corps of the Marines to the table. These core Marine capabilities align neatly with USSOCOM's mission.



"I JOINED MARSOC FOR THE SAME REASON I BECAME A MARINE—INTENSE, DETERMINED PEOPLE WHO AREN'T AFRAID TO WIN."

MARSOC multi-dimensional operators (MDOs) are combat athletes. Like all Marines, they are ready to execute any mission, in any clime or any place. MARSOC Marines conduct missions in unstructured, ambiguous territory, with rapid changes in the human terrain, and are always conscious of the impact their team's actions have on the strategic operating environment. MARSOC Marines appreciate and evaluate the socio-economic and political nuances of a given environment—and are trained to tailor their approach based on that knowledge.

By the time a MARSOC Marine takes on a first mission, he or she has been rigorously screened and tested for the necessary baseline moral fiber and attributes. Training further develops those attributes. Values-based screening ensures that Marines who join MARSOC have always embodied honor, courage, and commitment.

Mental qualifications

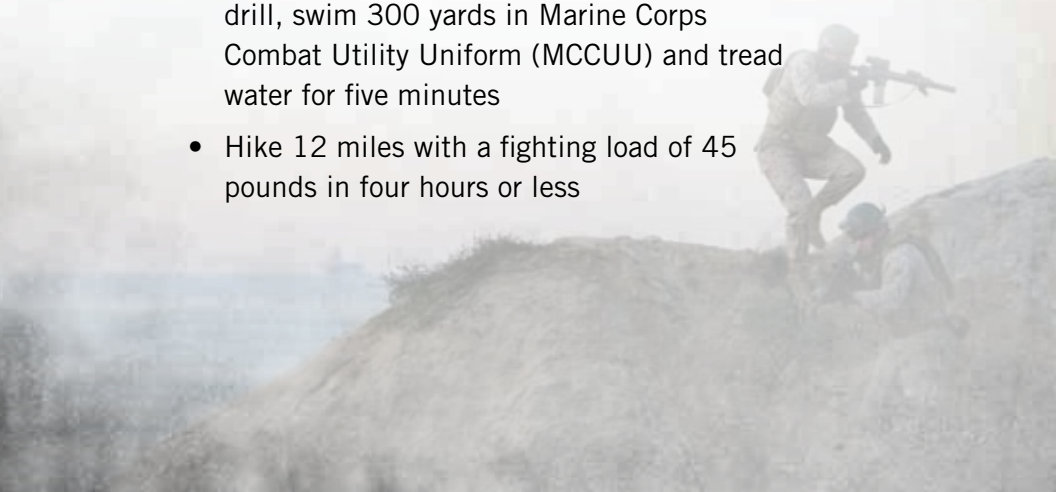
- Minimum general technical score of 105 on Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery
- Demonstrates mental stability and intelligence in psychological evaluations and interviews

Moral qualifications

- Must show strong moral character: maturity, sound judgment, honesty
- Ability to maintain a secret clearance
- Applicants are screened for civilian and UCMJ legal violations

Physical qualifications

- Pass Naval Special Warfare/Special Operations Duty Medical Examination
- Minimum score of 225 on Marine Corps Physical Fitness Test
- Ability to properly conduct abandon-ship drill, swim 300 yards in Marine Corps Combat Utility Uniform (MCCUU) and tread water for five minutes
- Hike 12 miles with a fighting load of 45 pounds in four hours or less



A MARSOC Marine has...

- Integrity
- Effective intelligence
- Physical ability
- Adaptability
- Initiative
- Determination
- Dependability
- Teamwork
- Interpersonal skills
- Stress tolerance
- Spiritus Invictus—
  an unconquerable spirit.

"THE DEFINING MOMENT FOR ME WAS GOING OVER THERE AND REALIZING THAT A HANDSHAKE CAN DO A LOT MORE THAN A MUZZLE BLAST."

MARSOC TRAINING

Constant specialized training sets special operations forces apart from conventional forces. Marines selected for MARSOC have demonstrated attributes such as effective intelligence, adaptability, maturity, initiative and determination that qualify them to perform special operations. MARSOC training is designed to take those baseline attributes and develop multi-dimensional operators (MDOs) tactically proficient across the full spectrum of special operations—and who understand the strategic importance of their tactical actions.

MARSOC employs a systems approach to training and incorporates critical Marine Corps training principles, such as "train as you fight," that ensure training prepares MDOs for real-world engagements. Training develops a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) mix of capabilities, taking into account current and future operations in distributed environments, where subordinate commanders must be prepared to make strategic decisions to achieve mission objectives.

"WE THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX. WE ARE CONSTANTLY TESTING OUR LIMITS."

Transforming selected Marines into Critical Skills Operators (CSOs) and Special Operations Officers (SOOs) begins at the nine-month Individual Training Course (ITC). Training as individuals and units is ongoing—occurring before, during and after deployments. Training builds a full spectrum of combat capabilities to ensure success in direct action. Specialized training also provides capabilities like language fluency necessary for crossing cultural barriers, allowing CSOs and SOOs to connect with the local forces as well as civilians. Commanders are responsible for training and constantly reassess requirements to make sure that training time is used wisely and that training is adapted for the enemy's changing tactics and procedures.

Finally, MARSOC trains for enhanced performance as well as accelerated recovery from injury or stress. The Performance and Resiliency (PERRES) program is a holistic methodology that focuses not just on physical fitness but on the mind and spirit as well.

Investment in its people is critical to MARSOC's ongoing success. MARSOC will continue to empower operators by fostering an environment of learning and education, where visionary thought and open dialogue are encouraged.

ESSENTIAL MARSOC TRUTHS

What we believe

Humans > Hardware
MARSOC will maintain clear selection standards to ensure MARSOC Marines are mature, experienced, and capable warfighters.

Quality > Quantity
MARSOC will establish training procedures so that MARSOC Marines meet or exceed every SOF standard.

Special Operations Forces (SOF) cannot be mass produced
MARSOC will build its capabilities deliberately and methodically.

...and competent SOF cannot be created after a crisis
MARSOC will act decisively to increase U.S. special operations capabilities so its Marines and Sailors are better able to anticipate—and prevent—emergencies.

TEAM—Most special operations require non-SOF assistance.
MARSOF require external augmentation or support to offset limitations in airlift, fires, tactical logistics, mobility, and combat service support (CSS).

What we do

Direct Action
We conduct short strikes and small-scale offensive actions to seize, destroy, capture, recover, or inflict damage in hostile or denied areas.

Special Reconnaissance
We acquire information about the capabilities, intentions, and activities of an enemy.

Preparation of the Environment
We collect intelligence and prepare for future operations at the direction of USSOCOM.

Security Force Assistance
We support the security forces of allied foreign governments to achieve operational objectives the U.S. shares.

Counterterrorism
We prevent, deter, and respond to terrorism.

Foreign Internal Defense
We provide training and other assistance to foreign governments and their militaries to enable them to provide for their national security.

Counterinsurgency
In concert with allied governments, we conduct military, paramilitary, political, economic, psychological, and civic action operations to defeat insurgency.

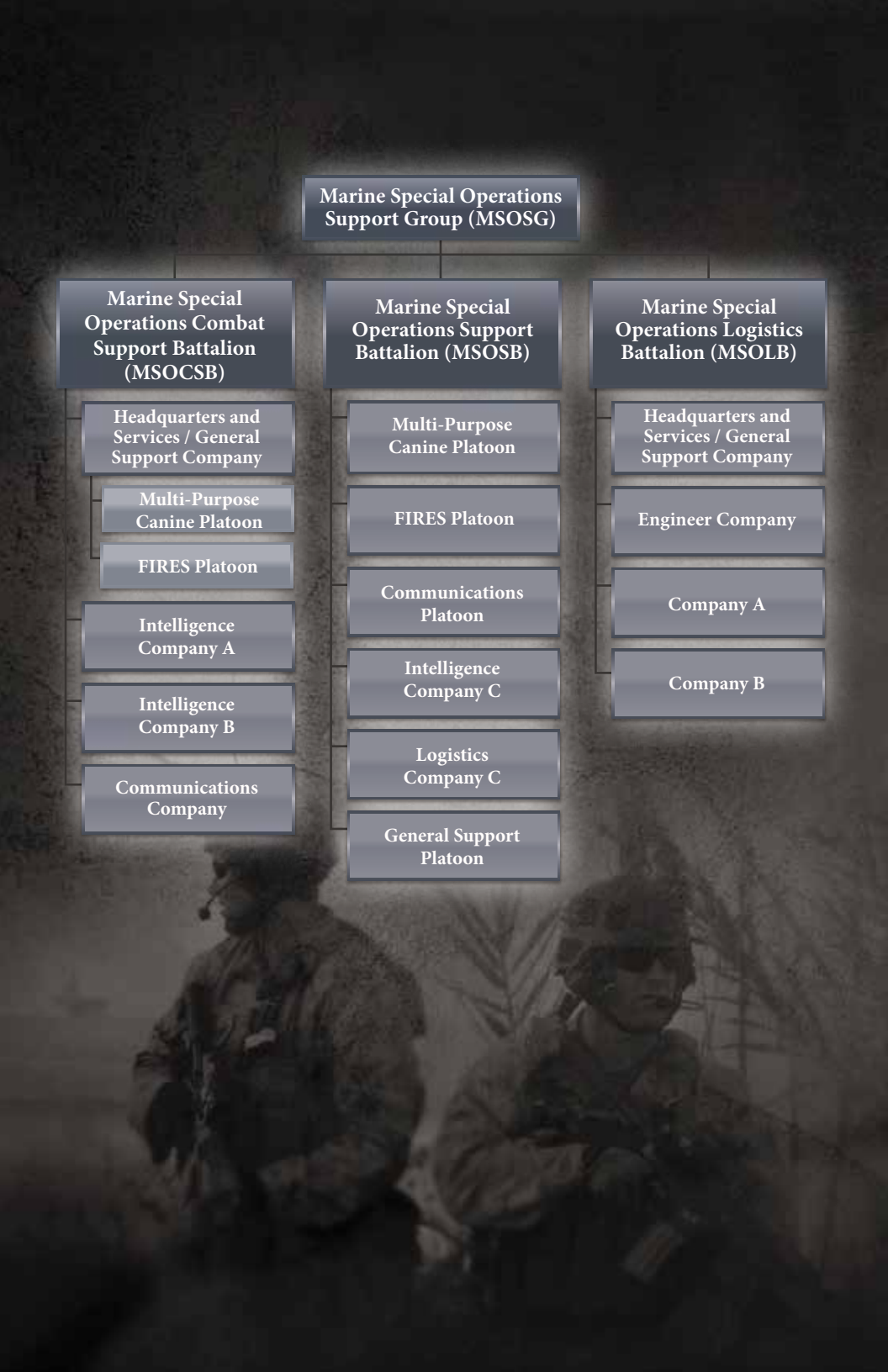
MARSOC COMMAND STRUCTURE

Doing more with less

MARSOC encompasses the Marine Corps Special Operations Regiment (MSOR), Marine Special Operations School (MSOS), and the Marine Special Operations Support Group (MSOSG).

Marine Special Operations Regiment comprises three battalions of four companies each, and will expand as demand for Marine Special Operations Forces grows. A company in turn contains four teams, and is organized by specialty. Each company is commanded by a Marine Major and is trained, equipped, and organized to deploy worldwide in support of the geographic combatant commands. MARSOC units retain the flexibility to operate in distributed environments, far from traditional support assets.

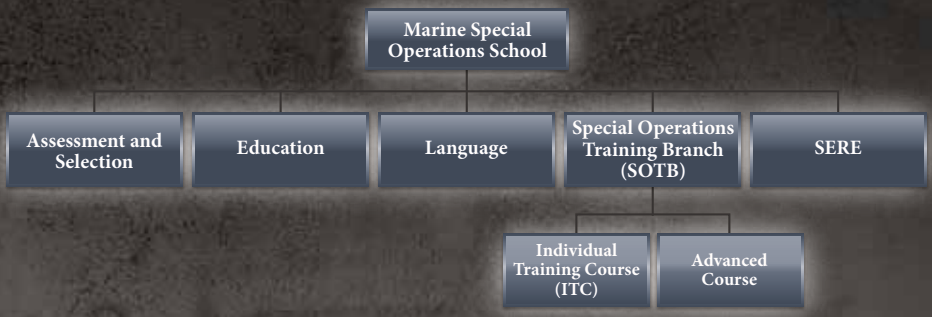
U.S. Special Operations Command coordinates the deployment of MSOR forces.


Marine Special Operations Support Group (MSOSG)
Marine Special Operations Combat Support Battalion (MSOCSB)
Headquarters and Services / General Support Company
Multi-Purpose Canine Platoon
FIRES Platoon
Intelligence Company A
Intelligence Company B
Communications Company
Marine Special Operations Support Battalion (MSOSB)
Multi-Purpose Canine Platoon
FIRES Platoon
Communications Platoon
Intelligence Company C
Logistics Company C
General Support Platoon
Marine Special Operations Logistics Battalion (MSOLB)
Headquarters and Services / General Support Company
Engineer Company
Company A
Company B

Marine Special Operation Support Group (MSOSG) comprises three battalions: Marine Special Operations Combat Support Battalion (MSOCSB), Marine Special Operations Support Battalion (MSOSB), and Marine Special Operations Logistics Battalion (MSOLB). MSOSG provides specially qualified Marine support in communications, operational logistics, intelligence, canine teams, and firepower control. MSOSG can deploy support detachments tailored to a particular mission, as directed by MARSOC.

"NO MATTER WHERE WE GO, MARSOC WILL BE READY."

MARINE SPECIAL OPERATIONS SCHOOL



Marine Special Operations School screens, selects, and trains Marines to be multi-dimensional operators. MARSOC Marines are chosen through a highly competitive process that identifies Marines with the intelligence, maturity and determination to operate autonomously in remote environments.

Assessment and Selection, though physically demanding, also requires potential MARSOC Marines to demonstrate the ability to solve problems on their own. Candidates are evaluated based on the "Whole Marine Concept."

MSOS conducts initial training for selectees in a nine-month Individual Training Course. MSOS also administers advanced training and education in special operations, including Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) tactics, language, weapons employment, communications, and special reconnaissance. Seasoned operators with the experience and judgment to plan and supervise the development of MARSOC's capabilities staff MSOS.

"THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL CAN MAKE AN IMPACT IS VERY APPEALING—AND IT'S ALSO A LITTLE BIT HUMBLING TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE THEATER-WIDE EFFECTS."

Marine Special Operations School also executes the Basic and Advanced Linguist Courses. These courses produce capable speakers in French, Brazilian Portuguese, Indonesian, Dari, Tagalog, Pashto, and Arabic. These languages correlate to targeted areas of interest. These language capabilities, coupled with cultural knowledge, make MARSOC Marines effective and valuable resources, equally capable of focusing on defense, diplomacy or development. BLC/ ALC graduates enhance MARSOC's ability to work bilateral missions, counter insurgency operations, foreign internal defense, irregular and unconventional warfare by communicating directly with partner nation forces.

MARSOC Chaplain and Medical

The Navy-Marine Corps heritage lives on through the service of Navy chaplains, corpsmen, physicians, psychologists, physical therapists and environmental health officers.

Chaplains assume the role of counselor, priest, and mentor to all they serve, regardless of faith. They are a vital part of MARSOC's commitment to care for its most valuable asset: its people.

MARSOC's high operational tempo demands exceptionally trained and dedicated medical staff. The Navy corpsmen and medical professionals attached to MARSOC have been selected for their expertise and ability to maintain a healthy and fit special operations force. Each Marine Special Operations Company includes several Special Amphibious Reconnaissance Corpsmen specially trained in combat diving and basic airborne and amphibious reconnaissance.

HERITAGE

Marines and Special Operations: A Natural Match

MARSOC builds on two centuries of Marine Corps tradition going all the way back to the Shores of Tripoli, epitomizing agility and the amphibious expeditionary nature at the heart of the Corps' mission.

March 2004: Det One deploys to Iraq; this trial run shows that Marines excel at special operations missions.

2003 2004

June 2003: The first Marine Corps U.S. Special Operations Command Detachment, Det One, is activated.

The Marine Raiders of World War II are MARSOC's immediate forebearers. President Franklin D. Roosevelt sought to create a commando-style force, to operate behind enemy lines and conduct amphibious light infantry warfare; the Marine Corps was the natural home for such elite units, and the Raiders were activated in 1942. Four battalions served operationally before disbanding at the end of World War II.

After a successful trial deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004, Marine Corps Special Operations Forces officially joined USSOCOM and MARSOC was created in February 2006.

2006

May 2006: The 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion is activated at Camp Lejeune, NC.

October 2006: The 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion is activated at Camp Pendleton, CA.

Feb 2006: United States Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC) is activated at Camp Lejeune, NC.

August 2006: The first Marine Special Operations Advisory Group deploys to remote parts of Africa and South America, carrying out part of MARSOC's mission to engage with and support the militaries of friendly democracies. They return home from a successful first mission in October 2006.

MARSOC's activation "pairs two of history's most dedicated groups of warriors: the men and women of the U.S. Special Operations Command with the United States Marine Corps," said then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Both groups are "legendary for their agility, creativity, and willingness to take on some of the most difficult assignments America can ask of our military."

January 2007: The first Marine Special Operations Support Group forms and deploys with the 2nd MSOB three months later.

April 2009: Fifty Marines earn the title of special operator upon graduating from the first MARSOC Individual Training Course.

May 2009: 3rd Marine Special Operations Battalion activates at Camp Lejeune, NC.

2007

2009

April 2007: The first USSOCOM-sanctioned assessment and selection board selects 12 Marines for MARSOC out of 43 candidates.

June 2007: The Marine Special Operations School activates by training selected Marines to become special operators.

At its founding, MARSOC aimed to reach Full Operational Capability by October 2008. Through tireless effort and unflagging commitment, the Marines, Sailors, and civilians of MARSOC made it happen. To date three battalions have been activated; all include battle-hardened veterans of Force Reconnaissance, and deploy with Marine Expeditionary Units and Expeditionary Strike Groups to provide maritime special forces capability, and a forward presence in the global war on terrorism.

October 2011: Special Operations Officer (SOO) is designated as its own Free Military Occupational Specialty, 0370.

Today, MARSOC is deployed in every region of the world and conducts combat operations and foreign internal defense in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. MARSOC has been deployed continuously since the deployment of its first units in August 2006. The men and women of MARSOC are contributing to the proud legacy of the Corps—and furthering the reputation of U.S. special forces as elite warriors at the tip of the spear.

2011 2012 TODAY

October 2011: Critical skills operator is designated as its own Military Occupational Specialty, 0372.

October 2012: Activation of the Marine Special Operations Combat Support Battalion (MSOCSB), Marine Special Operations Support Battalion (MSOSB), and Marine SpecialOperations Logistics Battalion (MSOLB).

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