

Tempered Steel



Marines are familiar with the imagery that they, like the finest swords, are fashioned from raw steel, forged in a crucible of adversity, and then sharpened through training, education and discipline into a deadly weapon. However, it is important to note that hardening is not the only important part of the process of making an effective weapon. If steel is hardened too much it becomes brittle and can break more easily. The most effective steel swords have been tempered throughout the hardening process to provide resilience and flexibility.

This concept is important for any warrior to apply to life.

Marine Corps life is full of training meant to forge, harden and sharpen. From the first day in boot camp, through the crucible and on to recurring training through all ranks, Marine Corps training is designed to make Marines tough as steel. But don't forget that toughness is not the same as being hardened. The difference is made through spiritual tempering throughout the process. Faith, values and moral living provide the meaning and direction which allows the marine to successfully keep one foot in the battlefield and the other at home, while exemplifying the values of honor, courage and commitment in both.