

# Module 3

## USMC Culture



# Goals and Objectives

- State the Core Values of the Marine Corps
- Understand common USMC customs and courtesies
- Describe common USMC traditions
- Identify a minimum of two cultural characteristics unique to the Marine Corps
- Understand common USMC leadership principles



# Core Values

- Successful teams share a common vision and adhere to common values
- Marines and Civilian Marines are expected to strive for the same values



**Honor  
Courage  
Commitment**



# Core Values

- What do they mean to you?
  - Honor
  - Courage
  - Commitment



# Traditions

## “Semper Fidelis”

- Marine Corps motto
- Customs and traditions set Marines apart—“Semper Fi” keeps us together
- Latin for “always faithful”
- Underscores the Core Value of commitment





# Traditions

## The Oaths

- Pledges, vows, and oaths are serious aspects of everyday life
- All Marines take an oath to affirm their commitment
- Oaths are part Constitutional requirement, part custom
- Marine Officers take an Oath of Office
- Enlisted Marines take an Oath of Enlistment



## Oath of Enlistment

that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

**So help me God.**

## Oath of Office

that I take this obligation freely without mental reservation or purpose of evasion; that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter.

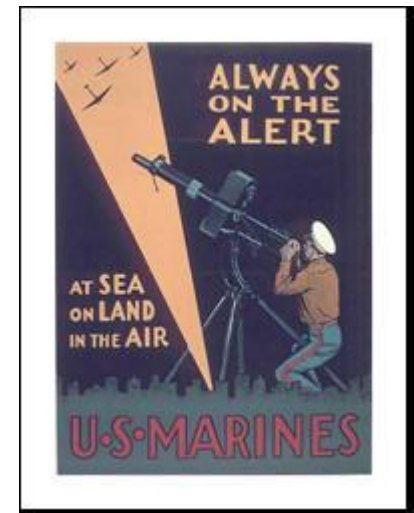
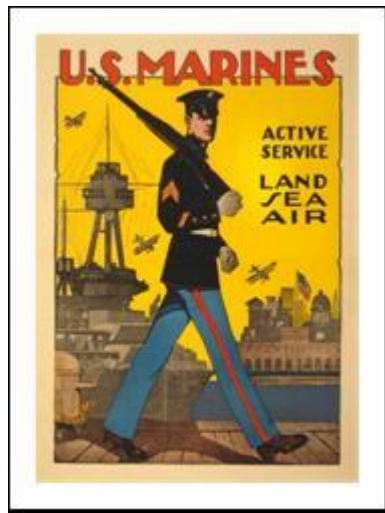
I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
do solemnly swear  
that I will support  
and defend  
the Constitution of  
the United States  
against all enemies,  
foreign and domestic;  
that I will bear  
true faith and allegiance  
to the same;



# Traditions

## The Marines' Hymn

- Revered tribute to warriors and the proud battle history of the Corps
- Written in 1859, words appeared on recruiting posters in 1898
- Oldest service song
- When played, Marines come to attention and others are respectfully quiet





# Traditions

## Marine Corps Birthday



- Officially 10 November 1775
- Very important date to all Marines
- Major General John Archer Lejeune set the standard and penned the birthday message
- Celebrated on the battlefield or in garrison
- Birthday Balls—often elaborate and include a formal dinner, dancing, and a pageant
- Cake-cutting ceremony



# Symbols and Icons

## Eagle, Globe, and Anchor

- USMC emblem and icon of greatness. Since 1868.
- Eagle represents our Nation
- Globe represents our worldwide service.
- Anchor represents the Naval origins and amphibious nature of the Corps



# Symbols and Icons

## Ceremonial Swords

Officers wear the Mameluke Sword

- Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon received one as a gift after the victory at Derna Tripoli
- Enlisted sword fashioned after cavalry sword
- They are the two oldest weapons in our nations arsenal today in continued use

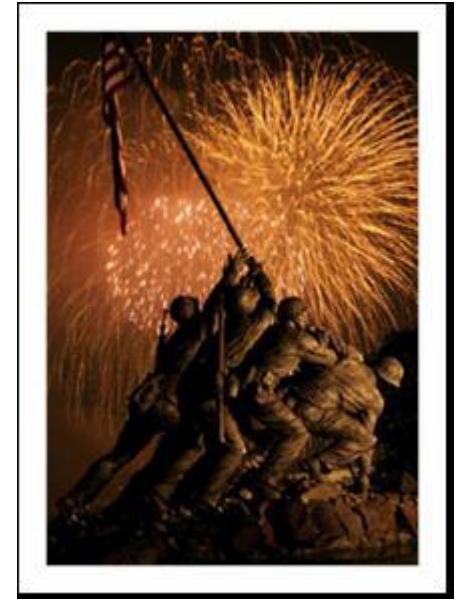




# Symbols and Icons

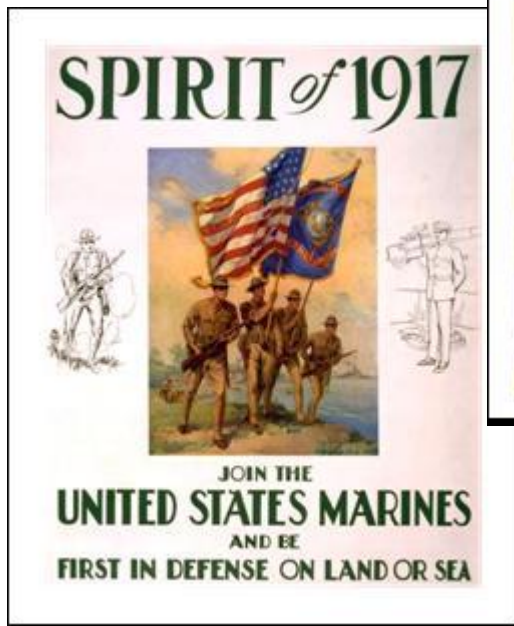
## Marine Corps War Memorial

- Dedicated to all Marines whose lives have been lost in defense of our nation
- Depicts the flag raising at Iwo Jima
- Located near Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington, DC
- 32-foot-high memorial with 60-foot flagpole



# Customs and Courtesies

- Traditional form of politeness of arms
- Courtesy is a prerequisite for discipline—afforded to all ranks at all times
- Discipline and courtesy contribute to esprit de corps





# Customs and Courtesies

## United States Flag

- U.S. flag represents the nation
- Everyone should show proper respect for the U.S. flag
- Stand and cover your heart when in review or when the flag is being raised/lowered
- Same respect should be shown for the playing of the National Anthem



# Customs and Courtesies

## Salute

- Gesture of respect and comradeship
- Greeting between senior and junior ranks
- Junior renders the salute and the senior returns it
- Historically, the salute conveyed friendly intentions
- Salutes can be hand, rifle, or “eyes right”



# Customs and Courtesies

## Parades

- Held to mark important events
- Marines march in formation
- Music plays a major role and is typically provided by a Marine Band
- Parade is a universal symbol of professionalism, discipline, and esprit de corps
- Evening Parade at Marine Corps Barracks and Sunset Parades are premier examples





# Customs and Courtesies

## Ceremonies and Social Occasions

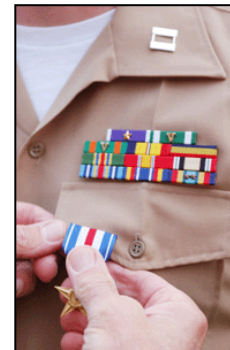
- Birthday Ball
- Change of Command/Post and Relief
- Promotion and Retirement Ceremony
- Award Ceremony
- Wetting Down
- Hail and Farewell



# Cultural Characteristics

## Uniforms

- Uniforms are functional, traditional, and distinctive
- Main uniform types are Field, Service, and Dress
- Insignias and medals or ribbons are worn on the uniform to show unit, personal, and professional achievements





# Cultural Characteristics

## Dress Uniform

- Evening Dress contains many historical elements

*Can you point out four?*



# Cultural Characteristics

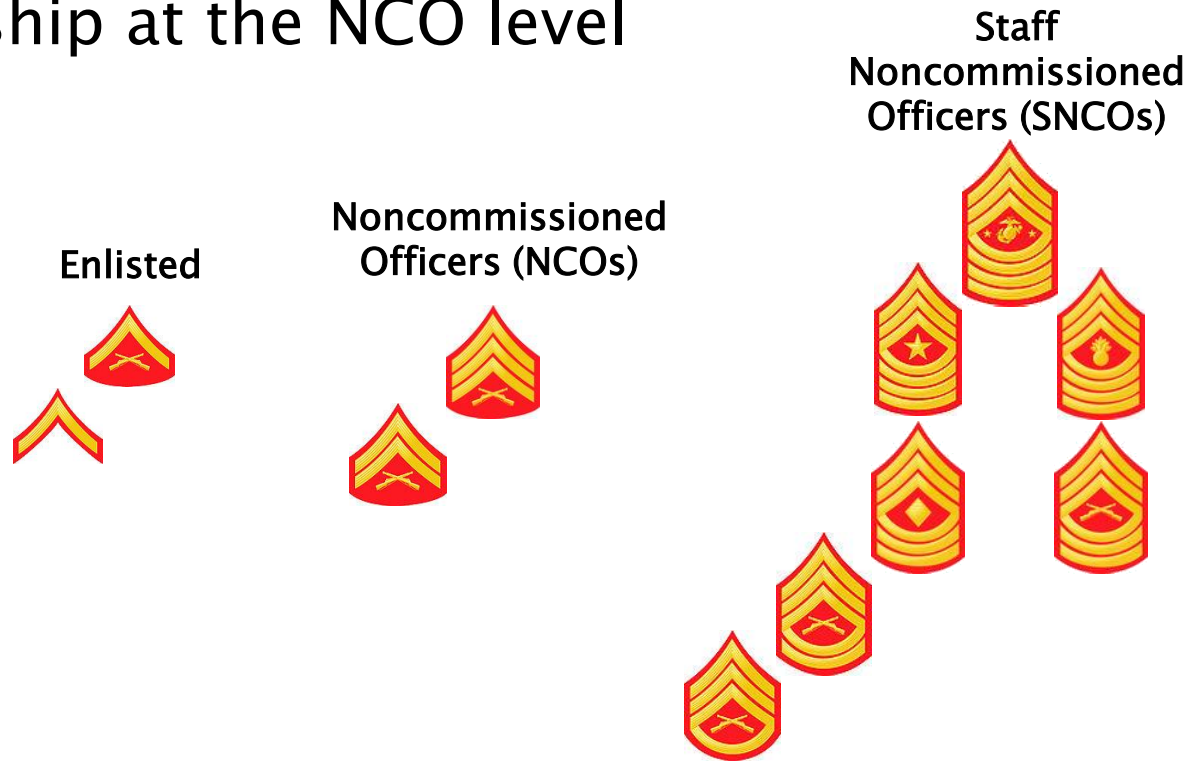
## Rank

- Visible sign of achievement
- Denotes a level of leadership
- Indicates the level of responsibility for personnel, equipment, and mission
- Responsibility grows with each increase in rank
- USMC has three rank structures
  - Enlisted
  - Warrant Officer
  - Officer



# Enlisted

- Within the enlisted ranks, Private has no insignia
- Increasing responsibility accompanies each step up in rank
- Marine Corps prides itself on strong leadership at the NCO level



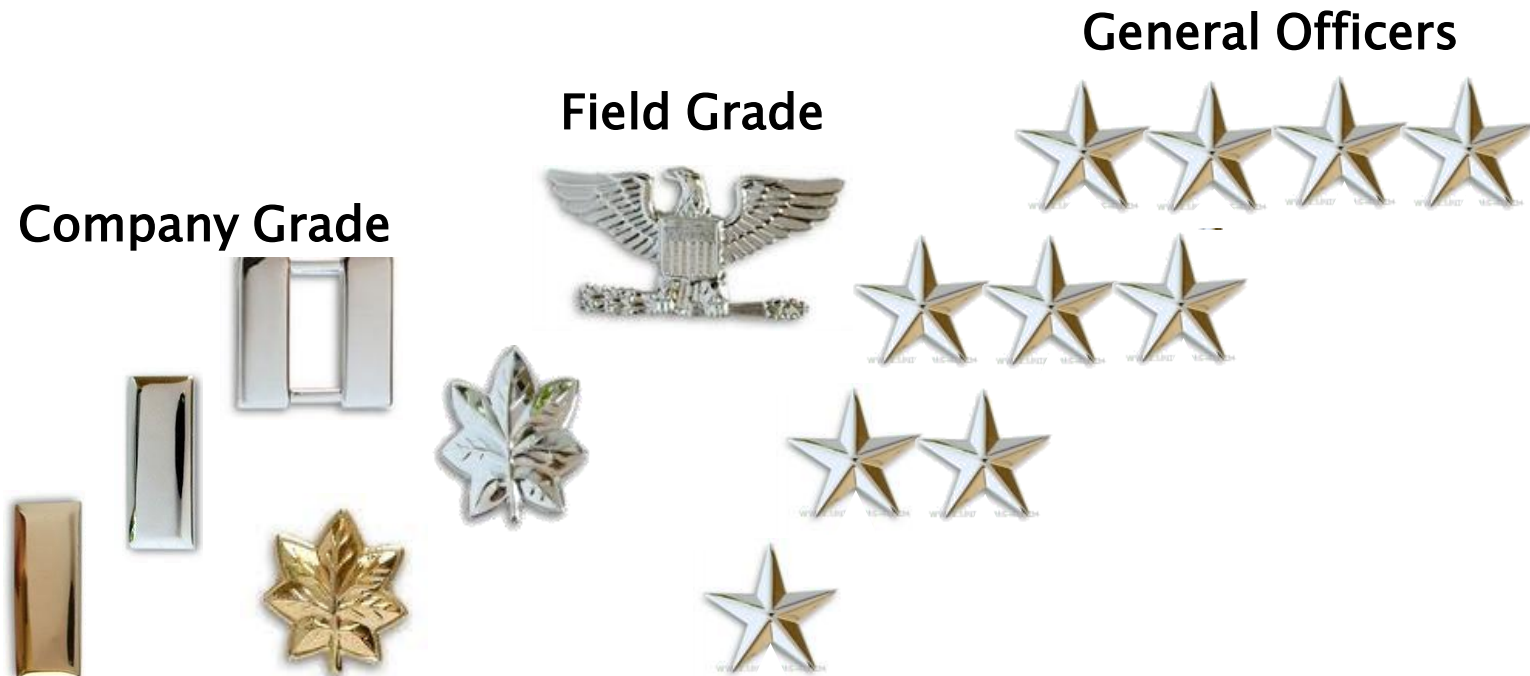
# Warrant Officer

- Technical officer specialist with extensive knowledge, training, and experience with a particular system or equipment
- Advances from the SNCO ranks
- Attends Warrant Officer Basic Course



# Officer

- Officers comprise 12% of the total active force
- 57% are company grade
- Officers are commissioned





# Cultural Characteristics

## Military Time & Dates

- Based on 24-hour clock
- Used operationally and is based on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), known to the USMC as “Zulu time”
- Daily use is based on local time
- Date is written **21 Mar 08**



# Cultural Characteristics—Jargon

- Marine and Naval history influence phrases and terms
- Acronyms are prevalent
- When you are unsure about what was just said, ask!

All Hands

Good to Go

NAF

Secure

SSN

TAD

Head

PT



# Cultural Jeopardy

Core Values	Traditions	Symbols & Icons	Customs & Courtesies	The Corps
<u>\$100</u>	<u>\$100</u>	<u>\$100</u>	<u>\$100</u>	<u>\$100</u>
<u>\$200</u>	<u>\$200</u>	<u>\$200</u>	<u>\$200</u>	<u>\$200</u>
<u>\$300</u>	<u>\$300</u>	<u>\$300</u>	<u>\$300</u>	<u>\$300</u>
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# Wrap-Up

The Marine Corps has a unique culture based on years of tradition and custom. The symbols and icons remind us of its rich heritage, and the day-to-day nuances reinforce the legacy.

