

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
Marine Corps University  
*User's Guide to Marine Corps Values*

**CUSTOMS, COURTESIES AND TRADITIONS**

1. Introduction. The Marine Corps is the finest fighting organization in the world. As a member of the Corps, you should have an appreciation of the customs and traditions that helped shape the Corps we know today.

2. Overview. The purpose of this discussion is to explain the customs and courtesies of the United States Marine Corps. The traditions of the Marine Corps, its history, its uniforms, the Marine Corps way of doing things, make the Corps what it is and set it apart from any other military organization. These traditions are closely guarded by Marines, and it is the responsibility of all Marines to carry on with these traditions and pass them on to the Marines who follow. Marines should do more than just know these traditions; they should make these attitudes and traditions part of their personal code. To do so is to carry on the traditions of the Marines who went before.

3. References. The following provide additional information on customs and courtesies of the Marine Corps:

Handbook for Marine NCOs  
NAVMC 2691, Marine Corps Drill & Ceremonies Manual  
Marine Battle Skills Training Handbook 1  
MCO P10520.3, Flag Manual  
Marine Corps Museum Historical Pamphlets  
Marine Corps Manual  
MCO P1020.34, Uniform Regulations  
SECNAVINST 1650.1, Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual  
MCO P1560.27, Marine Corps Unit Awards Manual

4. Discussion Leader Notes. Not applicable.

5. Discussion

a. Traits of the Marine Corps. The qualities that the Marine Corps stands for may seem old-fashioned, but these qualities have shaped the Corps since 1775.

(1) Quality and competence. It is expected that the performance of Marines, both individuals and units, will be outstanding in both garrison and in combat.

(2) Discipline. Of all of the principles of the Marine Corps, its insistence on discipline is the most uncompromising and most important.

(3) Valor. After the seizure of Iwo Jima, Fleet Admiral Nimitz characterized the performance of the Marines who took the island when he stated that "Uncommon valor was a common virtue." The rich history of the Corps is highlighted by the acts of over 300 Marines who have received the Medal of Honor. Valor and courage are hallmarks of Marines.

(4) Pride. Every Marine is intensely proud of Corps and Country and does his/her utmost to build and uphold the reputation of the Corps.

(5) Loyalty. "Semper Fidelis" is the motto of the Corps. Loyalty to the Corps, and loyalty to each other, is required of every Marine.

(6) The infantry. The Corps is unique in that, no matter what MOS a Marine eventually pursues, each is first a rifleman, and every officer is trained to function as an infantry officer.

(7) Conduct in action. Courage is expected of every Marine in battle. It is expected that no wounded or dead Marine will ever be left on the field of battle or left unattended. Marines never surrender unless they have been cut off entirely and can no longer make use of their weapons.

(8) Core values. Honor, courage, commitment. Generations of American men and women have given special meaning to the term United States Marine. They have done so by their performance on and off the battlefield. In order for us to maintain this great reputation, we must continue to keep these core values ingrained in our hearts and our minds. Reaffirm these core values and ensure they guide your performance, behavior, and conduct every minute of every day.

b. Uniforms and personal grooming. The Marine Corps has always prided itself on the appearance of individual Marines. As a Marine, it is your responsibility, on and off duty, to maintain the Marine Corps reputation for smart, professional, and correctly worn uniforms. Although you may see other service members doing things such as removing blouses or loosening ties at social functions, Marines don't do that. The Marine Corps Uniform Regulations is the "bible" on uniforms, insignia, and grooming. You are responsible for knowing these regulations, setting the example through strict compliance, and enforcement of these regulations. MCO P1020.34 is the order on Marine Corps uniform regulations.

c. Bearing. While in uniform never put your hands in your pockets, chew gum, whistle, smoke while walking, embrace or hold hands or hold an umbrella, not even as an escort. Additionally, Marines never wear a cover while indoors, unless under arms. You should always wear your cover while riding in a vehicle. The way you carry yourself as a Marine says as much about the Marine Corps as any tradition or honor. You are judged daily by your subordinates, peers, seniors and the American people by the way you carry yourself and the bearing you project.

d. Military courtesy. Military courtesy is the traditional form of politeness in the profession of arms. Military courtesy embraces much more than the salute or any other ritual. Courtesy is a disciplined state of mind. It must be accorded to all ranks and on all occasions. Courtesy to a senior indicates respect for authority, responsibility, and experience. Courtesy towards juniors expresses appreciation and respect for their support and for them as fellow Marines. Courtesy paid to the Colors and the National Anthem expresses loyalty to the United States. Military courtesy is a prerequisite to discipline. The Marine Corps has always stood at the top of the services in its full and willing observance of the twin virtues of soldierly courtesy and discipline.

(1) The military salute. Over the centuries, men-at-arms have rendered fraternal and respectful greetings to indicate friendliness. In early times, armed men raised their weapons or shifted them to the left hand (while raising the empty right hand) to give proof of their friendly intentions. During the Middle Ages, knights in armor on encountering friendly knights raised their helmet visors in recognition. In every case, the fighting man made a gesture of friendliness--the raising of the right hand. This gesture survives as today's hand salute, which is the traditional greeting among soldiers of all nations.

(a) Individuals entitled to a salute. As a service member, you will salute all officers who are senior to you in rank in any of the Armed Forces of the United States or of friendly foreign governments, officers of the Coast Guard, Geodetic Survey, and of the Public Health Service who are serving with the armed forces of the United States.

(b) In addition there are certain appointed or elected civilian members of both our National and State governments who are so honored. Among the individuals of the United States you customarily salute are the following.

President of the United States  
Vice President of the United States

State Governors  
Secretary of Defense  
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
Senators and Congressmen  
Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force  
Assistant Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air  
Force

(c) Among the members of the friendly foreign governments whom you salute are:

Heads of State  
Ambassadors  
Ministers of Defense or other civilian leaders of defense establishments and their assistants at or above the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Navy and Air Force

(d) When not to salute. In some situations, the salute is not appropriate. In general, you do not salute when:

[1] Engaged in routine work when a salute would interfere.

[2] Indoors, except when under arms.

[3] Carrying articles with both hands or being otherwise so occupied as to make saluting impractical.

[4] The rendition of the salute is obviously inappropriate.

[5] Engaged in driving an automobile. However, whenever practical, you should return the salutes of others providing the vehicle can be driven safely.

[6] In places of public assemblage such as theaters or churches, and in public conveyances.

[7] You are in the ranks of a formation. However, if at ease in a formation, you come to attention when addressed by a senior.

[8] When within sight of enemy soldiers.

(e) Special situations.

[1] Enlisted Marines may give and receive salutes from other enlisted Marines when in formation and rendering reports.

[2] After a senior has been saluted, if he remains nearby and no conversation takes place, no further salutes are necessary. On the other hand, if directed to report to a senior in the same area, you should salute when reporting and again when taking your leave.

[3] A Marine salutes indoors only when under arms. This normally means a duty status with a weapon. In this situation, the Marine remains covered and should salute; Marines not under arms do not salute indoors. In an office, Marines need not cease work when an officer enters unless called to attention. When addressed by an officer, the person so addressed should rise.

[4] In the naval services, protocol does not call for saluting when uncovered except for the return of uncovered salutes rendered first by Army and Air Force personnel. The exception in this case follows the general rule that, "social customs or military courtesy should always be interpreted so as to prevent awkward situations." Therefore, the naval service establishes an exception whereby an uncovered salute may be returned. When uncovered, naval officers initiate salutes by coming to a position of attention.

(d) Rules for saluting officers and uncased colors

[1] Out-of-doors. Salute in the open air, the interior of such buildings as drill halls and gymnasiums when used for drill or exercises of Marines, on the weather decks of a man-of-war, or under roofed structures such as covered walks and shelters open at one or both sides to the weather.

[2] Under arms. A Marine is under arms when he has a weapon in his/her hand, is equipped with sidearms, or when wearing equipment pertaining to arms, such as sword sling, pistol belt, or cartridge belt. Any Marine wearing an "MP" or "SP" brassard is considered under arms.

[3] When not in formation. When an officer approaches enlisted Marines who are not in a formation, the first to recognize the officer calls the group to attention as soon as the officer comes within six (6) paces. The salute is held until returned. The Marines remain at attention until the officer has passed or until he/she commands "carry on."

[4] Overtaking. When you overtake an officer proceeding in the same direction, draw abreast on the left, render a hand salute and say "By your leave, Sir/Ma'am." The officer acknowledges the salute and replies "granted." When you overtake a Marine junior to you, pass on the right if possible.

[5] Saluting distance. The maximum distance within which salutes are rendered and exchanged is prescribed as 30 paces. The salute should be rendered when six paces from the person (or color) to be saluted.

[6] Uncased colors. Colors and standards not cased are saluted when either you or they approach or pass within six paces. Hold your salute until the colors have passed or you have passed the colors by six paces.

[7] Prisoner chaser. An exception to the normal saluting practice is in the case of the prisoner chaser. A prisoner chaser does not salute an officer except when addressed by an officer in the line of duty.

[8] Morning and evening colors. Members of the color detail render the hand salute as appropriate during raising the flag at morning colors. Members of the color detail render the hand salute as appropriate during the lowering of the flag at evening colors.

(2) Forms of address

(a) General. Although the Marine Corps is an integral part of the naval service, its rank structure is similar to the Army. In written correspondence, both formal and social, full rank precedes the name and is written out. In conversation, all generals are General; all colonels are Colonel, etc. Full rank precedes the name of commissioned officers; customarily, rank may be abbreviated in routine correspondence of an official nature but is written out in business or social correspondence. The rank also precedes the names of warrant officers. When in civilian dress, a captain and a lieutenant are introduced as "of the Navy" to distinguish the rank from other services. In conversation, all admirals are Admiral. All chaplains are introduced by rank.

(b) Addressing officers and enlisted men

[1] General. It is appropriate and strongly recommended that a person be greeted by name and grade; e.g., "Good morning, Captain Jones," or "Good evening, Corporal Clark." If you are unsure of an enlisted Marine's name or grade, "Good morning, Marine" is appropriate as is "Good morning, Sir," or "Good Morning, Ma'am" in the case of an officer. In your everyday relationships with other Marines, it is imperative that you be familiar with the common courtesies extended to officers and enlisted Marines.

[2] Addressing officers. Use "Sir" or "Ma'am" whenever addressing officers more senior; however, if acquainted with the officer, it is preferable to use both grade and name; e.g., "Good afternoon Colonel Sands." Whenever addressing a general officer, it is customary to use "General" in lieu of "Sir" or "Ma'am." When verbally addressing generals, lieutenant colonels, and first and second lieutenants, use their short title; i.e., "how are you, Lieutenant?" or "Good morning, Colonel." It is an old (although not required) tradition that, when you address a senior officer, you speak in the third party; for example, "Would the Captain care to check the rifles, now?" or "Sir, Lieutenant Janson reporting for duty."

[3] Speaking to enlisted Marines. To promote pride and respect among your juniors, address them by name and grade. Avoid casual use of first name or nicknames. Senior enlisted Marines should also be addressed by their full grade and name. Such terms as "trooper" and "EMs" should never be used. Always refer to a Marine by grade, not pay grade. A sergeant is a "sergeant," not an "E-5."

[4] Informal situations. First names and nicknames are proper with contemporaries or junior officers during social functions, during business hours in the privacy of the office, and in the Club.

[5] Miscellaneous. A common word in reference to a Marine captain is "Skipper"; however, it is more proper when used in addressing a captain company commander ("Skipper" is reserved for the Captain of the ship when at sea). It should also be noted that a Marine warrant officer wearing the bursting bomb insignia may be called "Gunner."

[6] Rank abbreviations. In official correspondence, rank and ratings are abbreviated and fully capitalized in the naval services, and are partially capitalized in the other services. The relative ranks of commissioned officers' abbreviations differs slightly from service to service. A good example would be our abbreviation, 2ndLt, and the Army's version, 2LT. As you can see there are exceptions to the rule.

[7] Addressing prominent civilians. The "Honorable" is the most preferred form for addressing most American officials. This phrase is always used with the full name and never any other title, (i.e., The Honorable John Dalton vice The Honorable Mr. Dalton or The Honorable Secretary of the Navy).

### (3) Service Afloat

(a) Nautical terms. Many Marine Corps customs are derived from many years of service afloat. Even ashore, Marines customarily use nautical terms. Floors are commonly referred to as "decks," walls are "bulkheads," ceilings are "overheads," and corridors are "passageways." The order "Gangway!" is used to clear the way for an officer ashore just as it is afloat. Among other terms in common usage are "two-block," "to tighten or center (a necktie); "head;" "scuttlebutt" a drinking fountain, or an unconfirmed rumor. In the Marine Corps, the expression "Aye, aye, Sir" is used when acknowledging a verbal order. "Yes, Sir" and "No, Sir" are used in answer to direct questions. "Aye, aye, Sir" is not used in answer to questions as this expression is reserved solely for acknowledgment of orders.

(b) Boarding a small boat or entering a car. When boarding a small boat or entering a car, juniors enter first and take up the seats or the space beginning forward, leaving the most desirable seat for the senior. Seniors enter last and leave first.

(c) Last to leave ship. Marines are always or should be the last, other than the ship's captain, to leave a ship being decommissioned. Although the tradition is an old one, it first appears in Navy Regulations of 1825. "Where a vessel is to be put out of commission, the Marine officer with the guard shall remain on board until all the officers and the crew are detached and the ship regarded turned over to the officers of the navy yard or stations."

(d) Boarding ship. When boarding a U.S. Navy ship, face aft and salute the national Ensign. Then, face the Officer of the Deck, salute, and request permission to come aboard. Reverse the process when debarking.

#### (4) Ceremony

(a) Parades and ceremonies. Another custom which you will be directly involved with is that of holding a parade or review to mark important events such as the presentation of awards, a change of command, or a retirement. During an official visit, the visiting dignitary is usually received by rendering "Honors." These usually consist of a gun salute, "Ruffles and Flourishes" and other martial music. The Marine Officer's Guide outlines exactly what honors are rendered to what dignitary. As a participant or spectator, you are required to stand and salute. Remember, when participating in parades or ceremonies, the Drill and Ceremonies Manual contains the proper procedures to be used during these events.

(b) "First of foot and right of the line." Marines form at the place of honor--at the head of column or on right of line--in any naval formation. This privilege was bestowed on the Corps by the Secretary of the Navy on 9 August 1876.

(c) National Anthem and the Marines' Hymn

[1] National Anthem. When the National Anthem is played or "To the Colors" or "Retreat" (Evening Colors) is sounded, all military personnel come to attention, face toward the music and salute. You hold your salute until the last note of the music, but remain at attention until "Carry On" is sounded. If the National Anthem is being played incident to a ceremony involving the colors, face toward the colors rather than the music.

[a] Marines in formation. Formations are halted and brought to attention, and the commander salutes facing in the direction of his unit's original front.

[b] Personnel in vehicles. During playing of the National Anthem, all vehicles within sight or hearing of the ceremony stop. Passengers do not debark, but remain seated at attention.

[c] In civilian clothing. Come to attention, and if wearing headgear, remove it and place it over your left breast with your right hand. Otherwise, place your right hand over your left breast.

[2] Marines' Hymn. The history of the Marines' Hymn is very sketchy; however, the melody was written by Jacques Offenbach and was performed for the first time on November 19, 1859. Although there is no record of the hymn's author, the words appeared on a recruiting poster in 1898. When the Marines' Hymn is being played outdoors, stop and come to attention. If it is played indoors, stand up and come to attention. You should memorize all three stanzas of the Hymn and be prepared to sing it out loud at any time.

e. The Marine Corps Birthday

(1) The United States Marine Corps of today has had a continual existence since 1798, when President John Adams signed into law an act reestablishing the Corps. However, the traditional and official founding date of the Marine Corps is celebrated on 10 November. On this day in 1775, the Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, authorized the raising and enlistment of two battalions of Marines for service with the newly formed naval forces of the colonies. This all started at

Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, making it the birthplace of the Corps.

(2) Marine Corps Birthday celebration customs. All Marine Corps activities, if at all practical, shall provide for suitable observance of the Marine Corps birthday on 10 November. When 10 November falls on a Sunday, the birthday will be celebrated on the preceding Saturday. Such observances shall be appropriate to the size and mission of the activity concerned - - in accordance with the local conditions and within financial means of personnel of the host activity. The Drill and Ceremonies Manual outlines procedures for Birthday observances.

(a) Troop formations, to include parades, are to be held when practical. The reading of General John A. Lejune's birthday message should be included.

(b) Social observances to include the birthday ball and the traditional cake-cutting ceremony.

(c) The first piece of cake to honor the oldest Marine present.

(d) The second piece of cake to honor the youngest Marine present.

f. Colors of the Corps. The official colors of the United States Marine Corps are scarlet and gold. These colors are displayed on such items as our official standards, unit guidons, insignia, and uniforms. Scarlet and gold were adopted as the official colors of the Marine Corps in 1921, by order of the Commandant, Major General John A. Lejeune.

g. Marine Corps Emblem

(1) The basic design of the emblem was officially adopted in 1868. It is a symbolic representation which Americans, both civilian and military, immediately identify as "Marines." Prior to 1868, the Marines wore various emblems based mainly on the spread eagle and fouled anchor. In 1868, the seventh Commandant, General Zeilin, decided on a single, distinctive emblem centered around the globe.

(2) The emblem represents what we stand for, our past, and our future. There are three basic components of the Marine Corps emblem:

(a) Anchor. The first part of the emblem is the anchor. It is not just a plain anchor but a "fouled" anchor.

The anchor emphasizes the close ties of the Marine Corps with the U.S. Navy.

(b) Globe. Emphasizing the close ties between the U.S. Marine Corps and the British Royal Marines, the idea of a globe as part of the emblem was borrowed from the emblem of the Royal Marines. However, the Royal Marines' emblem shows the Eastern Hemisphere, whereas the U.S. Marine Corps' emblem shows the Western Hemisphere. This was only natural since the United States is located in the Western Hemisphere and many of the early Marine combat operations and noncombatant duties were in the Western Hemisphere. Today, of course, the globe can also symbolize the "global" Marine Corps commitments and responsibilities which have evolved in the 20th century.

(c) Eagle. The third part of the emblem is the eagle. The eagle is the national symbol of the United States, and is the one part of the emblem which readily identifies the Marine Corps with the United States. The eagle proudly carries a streamer in its beak which bears the motto of the Corps, "Semper Fidelis."

h. Marine Corps Seal. On 22 June 1954, President Eisenhower signed Executive Order 105.38 "Establishing a Seal for the United States Marine Corps." General Lemuel C. Shepard, Jr., 20th Commandant designed the seal which consists of the Marine Corps emblem in bronze, the eagle holding in its beak a scroll inscribed, "Semper Fidelis," against a scarlet and blue background, encircled by the words, "Department of the Navy - United States Marine Corps."

i. Flags and colors

(1) Colors/standards. Specialized flags carried by military units. Each arm or branch of the service has its own colors. The Marine Corps colors/standards are scarlet with gold fringe trim. The Marine emblem is centered on the flag with a white scroll below. Marine Colors are carried beside the National Colors. Standards are Marine Colors that are mounted, such as flags mounted in the Commanding Officer's office.

(a) Organizational standards/colors. Carried by supporting establishment commands. Scroll on the flag says "United States Marine Corps".

(b) Battle Colors/Standards. Carried by Fleet Marine Force units (FMF). The scroll has the unit's name followed by FMF on it. Battle streamers that have been awarded to the unit are displayed just below the mast head.

(2) Guidons. Guidons are small rectangular flags, made in Marine Corps colors. They are carried by companies, batteries, or detachments.

j. Awards and Decorations

(1) Personal decorations. Personal decorations are awarded to individual Marines for heroism, gallantry, or valor. Examples include the Medal of Honor, Purple Heart and the Navy Cross. Personal decorations can also be awarded for meritorious service, such as, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

(2) Unit decorations. Unit decorations are awarded to a Marine unit for outstanding performance, inside or outside the United States. The French Fourragere is one such example. It is the senior unit award, and the first collective award, won by the U.S. Marines. Other examples of unit awards include the Navy Unit Commendation and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

(3) Campaign or service medals and ribbons. These awards are issued to "all hands" who take part in a particular campaign, or serve during a specific time period for which the award is authorized. An award can also be earned for notable achievement in a non-combat environment. An example would be the Antarctica Service Medal.

(4) Marksmanship badges and trophies. Badges are awarded to individuals who demonstrate special proficiency or skill in marksmanship. Trophies are awarded at various levels to include: United States and international distinguished shooter competitions, and Marine Corps rifle and pistol championships.

k. The Marine Corps Uniform

(1) The scarlet trouser stripe. A red stripe first appeared on uniform trousers in 1798, and reappeared in 1840 and 1859, partly as a result of the military fashions of the day. The popular story, which cannot be supported by fact, is that the red stripe commemorates the blood shed by Marines in the Battle of Chapultepec in 1846.

(2) The quatrefoil. The quatrefoil is an interwoven braid in the shape of a cross of figure eights found on top of the Marine officer's barracks covers. Officially, the quatrefoil first became an authorized part of the uniform in 1859. The quatrefoil was the fashionable military style of the era. Popular belief tells us that the quatrefoil was worn on the caps of Marines fighting on the decks of ships in order that they

might be easily recognized by the Marine sharpshooters located above in the ship's rigging.

(3) Mameluke sword. Until the invention of gunpowder, the sword was once one of the primary combat weapons used by the military. The association of the Marine Corps with the Mameluke sword began in the early 19th century. The "Mamelukes" were an elite Muslim military force from Eastern and Northern Africa. They used a sword that had a gold hilt, ivory handle, and a curved blade. Tradition states that in recognition of Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon's heroic actions in the Tripoli expedition, Prince Hamet Bey presented him a Mameluke sword.

(4) The NCO sword. Noncommissioned officers of the Marine Corps are the only NCOs in any branch of the regular United States Armed Forces who still have the privilege of carrying what is considered to be a commissioned officer's weapon. The Marine NCO sword rates as one of the oldest U. S. weapons still in use (second only to the Mameluke sword). While limited by regulation to "when in charge of troops on ceremonial occasions," the sword is part of our intangible *esprit de corps*.

(5) Field hat. This was the rugged, picturesque, expeditionary headgear of the Corps from 1898 until 1942 and became a universal favorite. As a result, although the hat became outmoded during World War II, General Cates, the 19th Commandant, authorized its use on the rifle range in 1948 and took steps to issue field hats to all medalist shooters in the Marine Corps matches. Subsequently, in 1956, General Pate, the 21st Commandant, directed that field hats be worn by all recruit drill instructors, and the hat has become a symbol of Marine Corps recruit training.

#### 1. Common Terms, Sayings, and Quotations

(1) First to Fight. Marines have been in the forefront of every American war since the founding of the Corps. They entered the Revolution in 1775, even before the Declaration of Independence was signed! Marines have carried out more than 300 landings on foreign shores. They have served everywhere, from the Arctic to tropics; their record for readiness reflects pride, responsibility, and challenge.

(2) Leatherneck. This nickname goes back to the leather stock or neckpiece, which was part of the Marine Corps uniform from 1775 to 1875. The leather collar was designed to protect the jugular vein from saber slashes. It also insured that Marines kept their heads erect and maintained military bearing. Although no longer used, it is commemorated by the standing collar on the dress blue and dress white uniform.

(3) Uncommon valor was a common virtue. Refers to the victories in World War II, especially at Iwo Jima, the largest all-Marine battle in history. Admiral Nimitz's ringing characterization of Marines fighting on Iwo Jima was applied to the entire Marine Corps in World War II: "Uncommon valor was a common virtue."

(4) Devil Dogs. In the Belleau Wood fighting in 1918, the Germans received a thorough indoctrination into the fighting ability of Marines. Fighting through supposedly impenetrable woods and capturing supposedly untakeable terrain, the men of the 4th Marine Brigade struck terror in the hearts of the Germans, who referred to Marines as the Teufelhunden, meaning "fierce fighting dogs of legendary origin" or as popularly translated, "Devil Dogs."

(5) The Marine Corps Motto. That Marines have lived up to their motto, *Semper Fidelis* (always faithful), is proven by the fact that there has never been a mutiny among U.S. Marines. This motto was adopted about 1883. Before that, there had been three mottoes, all traditional rather than official. The first, *Fortitudine* (with fortitude), appeared about 1812. The second, *By Sea and by Land*, was obviously a translation of the Royal Marines' *Per Mare, Per Terrem*. Until 1848, the third motto was "To the Shores of Tripoli," in commemoration of O'Bannon's capture of Derne in 1805. In 1848, after the return to Washington of the Marine battalion which took part in the capture of Mexico City, this motto was revised to "From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli." The current Marine Corps motto is shared with England's Devonshire Regiment.

(6) The President's Own. Established by an act of Congress in July 1798 (more than a century before the bands of the other three services), the Marine Band has performed at White House functions for every president except George Washington. Thomas Jefferson was especially fond of the band. Because of its traditional privilege of performing at the White House, the band is spoken of as "the President's Own."

(7) Retreat, Hell! We just got here! Fighting spirit and determination against heavy odds is a sound tradition in the Marine Corps. Nowhere is there a more graphic illustration than an incident which occurred in World War I. Legendary or true, it personifies the aggressive attitude of Marines. The occasion was the third great German breakthrough of 1918, when the 4th Marine Brigade and its parent 2d Infantry Division were thrown in to help stem the tide in the Belleau Wood sector. The 2d Battalion, 5th Marines had just arrived at its position when an automobile skidded to a stop and a French officer dashed out and approached

the commanding officer. He explained that a general retreat was in progress and that orders were for the Marines to withdraw. The Marine officer exclaimed in amazement, "Retreat Hell! We just got here!" The Marines proceeded to prove their point. The battalion deployed and took up firing positions. As the Germans approached, they came under rifle fire which was accurate at ranges beyond their comprehension. Not in vain had the Marine Corps long stressed in its training the sound principles of marksmanship. The deadly fire took the heart out of the German troops, and the attack was stopped.

m. Military etiquette. There are several Marine Corps customs and courtesies, which while possibly unwritten, are important for you to know.

(1) The CO's wishes. When the commanding officer states "I wish," "I desire," or similar expressions, these have the force of a direct order and should be complied with on that basis.

(2) Reporting to seniors. Juniors must report immediately in correct uniform when requested by a senior. If in the field, on the drill field, or on a parade ground, it is necessary for juniors to proceed and report on the double.

(3) Walking with a senior. When walking with a senior, walk to the left, one pace back, and in step with that senior.

n. Social Occasions

(1) Bosses' Night. At periodic intervals the staff noncommissioned officers of a company, squadron, battery, or similar size unit invite the officers of the unit to the SNCO mess for an evening get-together known as "Bosses' Night." Some important ground rules that make for a good "Bosses' Night" are:

(a) Always set a reasonable time limit. Do not stay "all night."

(b) Do not turn Bosses' Night into a grievance session.

(c) Do not drink to excess.

(2) Hail and farewell. When you become attached to, or depart from a unit, you may be "hailed or farewelled." That is your unit's way of saying "Welcome aboard" or "thanks for a job well done." At a hail you and your spouse will be introduced. At a farewell, you'll normally receive a memento and be asked to say a few words.

(3) Wetting Down. After a promotion, it is customary to celebrate by spending your first pay raise on your fellow Marines at your favorite tavern. Tradition has it that the new grade insignia was placed in the bottom of a glass of spirits, and the Marine drank the glass dry. Remember... alcoholic beverages must be consumed with moderation.

(4) Dining In/Out. This event is a variation of the traditional mess night. "Dining in" means that the mess is open to guests from within the unit, while "dining out" opens the mess to honored guests outside the unit.

o. Social do's and don'ts. Common sense, tact, and ordinary courtesy are the fundamentals of social success in the Marine Corps. First impressions are most important. Remember, you don't get a second chance to make a first impression.

(1) Be on time. One of the most valuable habits that you can acquire is that of being on time. Promptness and responsibility go hand in hand.

(2) Exhibitionism. Exhibitionism means drawing attention to yourself in a public place. Shouting, whistling, clowning, loud laughter, booing, or doing something foolish or unusual, is unacceptable conduct, especially at a social function. Do not draw undue attention to yourself. If there is any chance that you will be recognizable as a Marine, your conduct must be impeccable.

(3) In the company of ladies. A man offers his arm only to give assistance when needed, as an escort at a formal dinner or as an usher at a wedding. Never grasp or take hold of the woman's arm, unless an accident is to be avoided. She will take your arm, you do not take hers. When in uniform and covered, use your left arm to escort so that you may render or return salutes.

(a) On the Street. A man walks on the curb side, outboard of a lady, thus sheltering her. In a crowd, when she needs assistance, or in heavy traffic, or going up steps, the man gives her his arm. Aboard a train, aircraft, or bus, a woman is offered the window seat. On a bus or street car, a Marine always gets up and offers his seat to a woman with packages or children, an elderly lady, or a pregnant woman.

(b) Decorum. When you are with a lady, don't embarrass her by off-color jokes, loud talking, violent gestures, or other actions that may attract undue attention. Except in crowded situations where the man obviously has to "run

interference," you should let the lady precede you, as when boarding a bus or going down a theater aisle.

(c) Assistance. If a lady seems to need help, you should offer your assistance. But don't presume on your act of courtesy or helpfulness by imposing on the lady or trying to strike up an unwanted acquaintance with her.

(d) On your feet. At a social occasion, such as a dinner party, men should stand when a woman enters the room, remain standing until she sits down, and rise again upon her departure. A man is not expected to stand every time a hostess reenters or leaves a room. Stand up for introductions, greetings, and farewells. When a senior officer, dignitary, or elderly person comes to your table, stand.

(e) Seating a lady. A man assists the woman to his right with her chair when she sits down at the dining table, and when she rises.

p. Reporting to a New Command. Report to a new command in the service "A" uniform. Ensure that you have your original orders, medical and dental records, OQR or SRB, and all receipts pertaining to lodging and transportation.

q. Summary. Always remember that you are a United States Marine. You are representing the legions of Marines who have preceded you and built the traditions and reputations of the Corps with their blood and at times their lives. Never do anything to bring shame or discredit upon our Corps or disgrace the honor of those who have gone before. You are the future of the Corps, and upon your shoulders rests the reputation of the greatest fighting force the world has ever seen.

## 6. Appendices

- Appendix A: Glossary of Traditional Marine Corps Terms
- Appendix B: Significant Events in Marine Corps History
- Appendix C: Noteworthy Individuals in Marine Corps History
- Appendix D: Significant Battles in Marine Corps History

CUSTOMS, COURTESIES AND TRADITIONS  
Appendix A

GLOSSARY OF TRADITIONAL MARINE CORPS TERMS

<b>TERM</b>	<b>MEANING</b>
ADRIFT	Loose from towline or moorings; scattered about; not in proper stowage
AFT	Referring to or toward the stern (rear) or a vessel
ALL HANDS	All members of a command
ASHORE	Any place outside of a naval or Marine Corps reservation
AS YOU WERE	Resume former activity
AWEIGH	Said of the anchor. As soon as the anchor has broken away from and is no longer fastened to the bottom
AYE, AYE, SIR	Required official acknowledgement of an order meaning I have received, understand, and will carry out the order or instruction
BELAY	To make fast or to secure, as in "belay the line," to cancel or to disregard a statement just made
BELOW	Downstairs; lower deck
BREAKOUT	Take out of stock or storage
BRIG	A place of confinement; a prison
BROWN BAGGER	A married Marine
BOW	The front portion of a ship
BRIDGE	The portion of a ship's structure from which it is controlled when underway
BROW	A portable walkway from the pier or jetty to the ship's quarterdeck
BUTTKIT	An ashtray
C.P.	Command Post in the field
CARRY ON	The order to resume previous activity
CHIT	A receipt or authorization; a piece of paper
FANTAIL	The main deck of a ship at the stern

FIELD DAY	Barracks cleanup
FIELD SCARF	Regulation Marine Corps uniform neck tie
FORECASTLE	The upperdeck at the bow on which the ground tackle is located
GALLEY	Shipboard kitchen; kitchen of a mess hall; mobile field mess
GANGWAY	An opening in the rail giving access to the ship. A command announcement to stand aside to let someone through
GATOR	An amphibious ship; one who serves in the amphibious Navy
GEEDUNK	The place (aboard ship) where candy, ice cream, soda, and smokes can be purchased
HATCH	Door or doorway
HEAD	Latrine or toilet
LADDER	Stairs
LIBERTY	Absence of enlisted from the ship or command for less than 96 hours for purposes of rest and recreation which is not charged as leave
OVERHEAD	Ceiling
PASSAGEWAY	A hallway
PETTY OFFICER	A Navy NCO, E-4 through E-9
POLICE	To straighten or to tidy up
PORT	Left
QUARTERDECK	The ceremonial location on board ship when the ship is moored or at anchor (it is located close to the brow or accommodation ladder and is the watch station for the Officer of the Deck).
RATE	A sailor's occupational speciality
SCUTTLEBUTT	Gossip or unfounded rumor; also a drinking fountain
SEABAG	The bag used to stow personal gear
SECURE	Stop; finish; end; make fast; put away in storage
SHIPPING OVER	Reenlisting
SICK BAY	Hospital or dispensary

SKIPPER	Commanding Officer
SKYLARK	Goof-off; to loiter
SMOKING LAMP	When smoking lamp is lit, smoking is authorized
SQUARE AWAY	To straighten, make ship-shape, or to get settled. Inform or admonish someone in an abrupt manner.
STARBOARD	Right
STERN	The blunt end (rear) of a ship
SWAB	A mop
TOPSIDE	Upstairs; upper deck
TURN TO	Begin work; get started
WARDROOM	On board ship, the officer's living room and dining area; also used to signify all of the officers serving on the ship

**CUSTOMS, COURTESIES AND TRADITIONS**  
**Appendix B**

**SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY**

The Marine Corps was created on 10 November 1775, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at Tun Tavern, by a resolution of the Continental Congress which "raised two battalions of Marines." In 1834, The Marines came under the department of the Navy. The National Security Act of 1947, amended in 1952, states the present structure, missions, and functions of the Marine Corps.

a. 1775 - The Continental Congress authorized the formation of two battalions of Marines, under Captain Samuel Nicholas, who is traditionally considered the first Commandant of the Marine Corps.

b. 1776 - The first Marine landing took place during the Revolutionary War. Marines invaded New Providence Island in the Bahamas and seized guns and supplies. The uniform of the day had a stiff leather stock that was worn around the neck, thus the nickname "Leatherneck."

c. 1798 - Congress recreated the Marine corps as a separate military service.

d. 1805 - Marines stormed the Barbary pirates' stronghold at Derna on the "shores of Tripoli." Marines raised the "Stars and Stripes" for the first time in the Eastern Hemisphere.

e. 1847 - During the Mexican War, Marines occupied the "Halls of Montezuma" during the Battle of Chapultepec in Mexico City. The royal palace fell to invading Marines, who were among the first United States troops to enter the capital. Marines also helped to take California.

f. 1859 - Marines, under the command of Colonel Robert E. Lee, U.S. Army, stormed the United States arsenal at Harper's Ferry to put down an attempted slave revolt led by abolitionist, John Brown.

g. 1861 - Marines saw limited action during the Civil War. Due to resignations, an aging officer corps, and inadequate personnel, effectiveness was hindered. Marines served primarily with naval detachments at sea, rarely conducting operations ashore, manning ship's guns.

h. 1868 - An emblem consisting of an eagle, a globe, and an anchor was adopted by the Marine Corps. Brigadier General Jacob

Zeilian, 7th Commandant, modified the British (Royal) Marine emblem to depict the Marines as both American and maritime. The globe and anchor signify worldwide service and sea traditions. The spread eagle is a symbol of the Nation itself.

i. 1898 - In response to a declaration of war against Spain, Marines conducted offensive operations in the Pacific and Cuba. Marine actions led to the establishment of several naval installations overseas.

j. 1900 - In support of foreign policy, Marines from ships on the Asiatic station defended the American Legation in Peking, China during the Boxer Rebellion. The Marines were part of a multinational defense force that protected the Legation Quarter against attack. This small defense force held out against the Boxers until a relief force was able to reach Peking and end the rebellion.

k. 1901 - During the years 1901 to 1934, the Marine Corps was increasingly used to quell disturbances throughout the world. From the Far East to the Caribbean, Marines landed and put down insurrections, guarded and protected American lives and property, and restored order. Due to the extensive use of Marines in various countries and locations in the Caribbean, these actions come to be known as the "Banana Wars."

l. 1913 - The Marine Corps established its aviation unit. Marine Major Alfred A. Cunningham was the first pilot.

m. 1917 - Marines landed as part of the American force in France. Marines, participating in eight distinct operations, distinguished themselves and were awarded a number of decorations, among them the French Fourragere, still worn by members of the 5th and 6th Marines.

n. 1933 - The Marine Corps was reorganized into the Fleet Marine Force, formally establishing the "Command and administrative relations" between the Fleet and the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps Equipment Board was established at Quantico, Virginia, and Marines began to devote long hours to testing and developing materials for landing operations and expeditionary service.

o. 1941 - The United States was thrust into war following the devastating surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by Japanese forces. Marines defended against the attack and similar attacks throughout the Pacific during the opening stages of the war. The Marine Corps was the principle force utilized by the allies in execution of the strategy of "island hopping" campaigns. The earlier development of amphibious doctrine proved to be

invaluable in carrying out this strategy. The strength of the Marine Corps reached nearly 500,000 during World War II.

p. 1950 - Conflict in Korea tested Marine Corps combat readiness. The Marines responded to the attack by North Korean forces by quickly assembling the First Marine Provisional Brigade from the under-strength 1st Marine Division. These Marines shipped out and were later used, to rescue the crumbling Pusan perimeter. Marine forces further displayed their combat readiness and versatility by making an amphibious landing over the seawalls at Inchon. Marine aviators flew helicopters for the first time in battle.

q. 1958 - The Marine Corps completed reorganizing the combat structure of its Fleet Marine Force. The Marines created units equipped to conduct landing operations in either atomic or nonatomic warfare. The Marine Corps had the ability for the Fleet to go where it was needed, to stay there, and to readily project its power ashore as the cutting edge of sea power. This concept was put to use when Marines landed near Beirut, Lebanon at the request of the Lebanese government to support its army against internal strife. The Marines helped stabilize the situation and were withdrawn after a few months.

r. 1965 - Marines landed in South Vietnam, which committed the Marine Corps to the longest war in its history. Marines conducted numerous large scale offensive operations throughout the course of the war, as well as participating in the pacification program designed to win the support of the local populace. Also, in response to an attempted coup of the local government, Marines landed in the Dominican Republic to evacuate and protect U. S. citizens. The Marines formed the core of a multinational force that quickly restored the peace.

s. 1982 - Marines deployed to Lebanon as part of a multinational peacekeeping force in an effort to restore peace and order to this war-torn country. This action further displayed the Marine concept of a "Force in Readiness." On 23 October, 1983, a suicide truck bomb attack on the headquarters building killed 241 Americans and wounded 70 others. The last Marine unit withdrew in July of 1984.

t. 1983 - Following assassination of the Prime Minister and the violent overthrow of the government of Grenada, Marines participated in Urgent Fury, a joint military operation, in response to a request for intervention from neighboring Caribbean nations. The Marines' rapid response led to the securing of the island and the safeguarding of hundreds of American citizens living there.

u. 1989 - In response to the increasing unrest in Panama, the President of the United States ordered a joint military operation, Just Cause, to overthrow the military government of Panama headed by General Manuel Noriega. United States forces, including Marines, accomplished this mission and installed a civilian government. This same government had been denied office after free elections were illegally declared invalid by Noriega's government. General Noriega, under indictment in the United States for drug trafficking and racketeering, was arrested and sent to the United States for trial.

v. 1990 - Following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi forces, Operation Desert Shield was launched. This joint military operation was designed to hold the advance of Iraqi forces and to position multinational forces assembled for possible offensive operations to expel the invading force. This operation validated the Marine Corps' Maritime Positioning Force (MPF) concept and enacted the plan of tailoring units to accomplish a mission as part of a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF).

w. 1991 - Operation Desert Storm was Launched after the Iraqi government refused to comply with United Nation's resolutions. Marine aviation was heavily used when the air phase commenced in January of 1991. When massive bombing failed to dislodge Iraqi forces, Marine ground forces swept into Kuwait and liberated the country, causing severe damage to the Iraqi military capability.

CUSTOMS, COURTESIES AND TRADITIONS  
Appendix C

NOTEWORTHY INDIVIDUALS IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

a. PRESLEY NEVILLE O'BANNON. First Lieutenant O'Bannon is remembered for heroism in the battle for the harbor fortress of Derna (Tripoli) in the Mediterranean. O'Bannon's Marines were the first U.S. forces to hoist the flag over territory in the Old World. The "Mameluke" sword, carried by Marine officers today, was presented to O'Bannon in 1805.

b. ARCHIBALD HENDERSON. Brevet Brigadier General Archibald Henderson became Commandant in 1820 and held this command until his death in 1859, a period of 39 years. General Henderson led the Corps through the Indian Wars, the War with Mexico, the "opening" of China, and the disorder's in Central America. The "Grand Old Man of the Marine Corps," as he is often called, introduced higher standards of personal appearance, training, discipline, and strived to have the Marine Corps known as a professional military force, capable of more than just sea and guard duties.

c. JOHN H. QUICK. Sergeant Major Quick is remembered for his performance at Cuzco Well (Guantanamo Bay, Cuba), where he participated in an operation to seize an advanced base for the Atlantic Fleet battalion of Marines. The Sergeant Major won the Medal of Honor for semaphoring for an emergency lift of the naval bombardment while under Spanish and American shellfire. The landing at Guantanamo demonstrated the usefulness of marines as assault troops. When employed with the fleet, Marines gave added strength for the capture and defense of advanced bases, becoming a primary mission of the Marine Corps (1898).

d. DANIEL DALY. Sergeant Major Daly is recognized for earning two Medals of Honor: (1) Chinese Boxer Rebellion and (2) First Caco War in Haiti. When his unit had been pinned down and their attack was stopped during the Battle of Belleau Wood, then Gunnery Sergeant Daly yelled to his men, "Come on, you sons of a b-----, do you want to live forever?"

e. SMEDLEY D. BUTLER. Major General Butler is recognized for earning two Medals of Honor: (1) Veracruz and (2) First Caco War in Haiti. By the end of 1916, the Marine Corps was recognized as a national force in readiness and for leadership gained from continual combat and expeditionary experience.

f. JOHN A. LEJEUNE. Major General Lejeune served as 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, 1920-1929. Lejeune was the first Marine officer ever to command an army division in combat, in France during World War I (1918).

g. LEWIS B. ("CHESTY") PULLER. Lieutenant General Puller served in Nicaragua, through several periods of political unrest and rebellious activity. Puller and a force of about 32 Marines became famous for their ability to engage rebel groups and bandits while scouring the jungles in a wide area of Nicaragua to the Honduran border. Puller became known as the "Tiger of the Mountains" (1930). The Marine Corps' mascot, an English bulldog named "Chesty," is named for this brave and fine Marine Corps officer.

h. JOSEPH L. FOSS. Captain Foss was a Marine pilot instrumental in taking, the Japanese airfield at Guadalcanal. For his participation, the Captain was awarded the Medal of Honor. By the end of World War II, Foss was the second-ranking Marine ace, with 26 victories ("kills") to his credit (1942).

i. GREGORY R. ("PAPPY") BOYINGTON. Major Boyington is recognized for his prowess in aerial dogfights. "Pappy" commanded VMH-214, the Black Sheep, during World War II. By the end of the War, the Major was recognized as the Marine Corps' top ranking flying ace with 28 victories ("kills") (1945).

j. IRA H. HAYES. The Fifth Amphibious Corps of Marines, commanded by Major General Harry Schmidt, was assigned to take Iwo Jima. Corporal Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian, was one of the Marines immortalized in the now famous photograph (not shown) taken of the second flag raising on Mount Suribachi, shortly after the Japanese stronghold was taken on 23 February, 1945.

k. OPHA MAE JOHNSON. Private Johnson became the Marine Corps' first enlisted woman on 13 August, 1918. Her enlistment was a reflection of the dramatic changes in the status of women brought about by the entry of the United States into World War I. Marine Reserve (F) was the official title by which the Marine Corps' first enlisted women were known. They were better known as "skirt Marines" and "Marinettes."

l. ANNIE L. GRIMES. CWO Grimes was the third black woman to become a Marine and the first black woman officer to retire after her "full 20."

m. MARGARET A. BREWER. Brigadier General Brewer, then a Colonel, served as the director of Women Marines (WM) during the period 1973-1977. She was the seventh and last director of WMs, the only post-World War woman to hold the position. Margaret

Brewer became the Marine Corps first woman general officer on 11 May 1978.

n. MOLLY MARINE. "Molly," a monument in New Orleans to women who serve and have served as Marines, was dedicated on the Marine Corps birthday in 1943. The first statue of a woman in uniform anywhere in the world was that of Joan D'Arc, in full armor, in Orleans, France; it is only fitting that the first statue of a woman in uniform in the United States reside in New Orleans.

CUSTOMS, COURTESIES AND TRADITIONS  
Appendix D

SIGNIFICANT BATTLES IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

a. The BATTLE OF BLADENSBURG: In August of 1814, 103 Marines and 400 sailors made a vain attempt to block a force of 4,000 disciplined British troops from advancing on Washington. The Marines stopped three headlong charges before finally being outflanked and driven back. The British then moved down Bladensburg Road to Washington where they burned a number of public buildings before retiring to their vessels in the Chesapeake Bay.

b. The BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS: In January of 1815, Marines under the command of General Andrew Jackson soundly defeated British Forces that were attacking the city of New Orleans. The British lost approximately 2,000 men while American losses were less than 100.

c. The BATTLE OF BELLEAU WOOD: Marines fought one of their greatest battles in history at Belleau Wood, France, during World War I. Marines helped to crush a German offensive at Belleau Wood that threatened Paris. In honor of the Marines who fought there, the French renamed the area "the Wood of the Brigade of Marines." German intelligence evaluated the Marines as "storm troops" -- the highest rating on the enemy fighting scale. In reference to the Marines ferocious fighting ability, German troops called their new enemy "Teufelhunden" or "Devildogs," a nickname in which Marines share pride.

d. The BATTLE OF WAKE ISLAND: In 1941, following the air attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese struck Wake Island on 8 December. Despite being heavily outnumbered, the Marines mounted a courageous defense before finally falling on 23 December. This small force of Marines caused an extraordinary number of Japanese casualties and damage to the invading force.

e. The BATTLE OF GUADALCANAL: On 7 August 1942, the 1st Marine Division landed on the beaches of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands and launched the first United States land offensive of World War II. This battle marked the first combat test of the new amphibious doctrine, and also provided a crucial turning point of the war in the Pacific by providing a base to launch further invasions of Japanese-held islands. Amphibious landings followed on the remaining Solomon Islands including New Georgia, Choiseul (Feint), and Bougainville.

f. The BATTLE OF TARAWA: The Gilbert Islands were the first in the line of advance for the offensive in Central Pacific. The prime objective was the Tarawa Atoll and Betio Island which had been fortified to the point that the Japanese commander proclaimed that it would take a million Americans 100 years to conquer it. On 20 November 1943, Marines landed and secured the island within 76 hours, but paid a heavy price in doing so. Because of an extended reef, landing craft could not cross it, and Marines were offloaded hundreds of yards from the beaches. This led to heavy losses from drowning as well as enemy fire.

g. The BATTLE OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS: Due to the need for airfields by the Air Force and advanced bases for the Navy, the Marianas were invaded. This was accomplished by landings on the islands of Saipan, Guam, and Tinian. During June and July of 1943, Lieutenant General Holland M. Smith led a combined invasion force of Marines and soldiers that totaled over 136,000. This was the greatest number of troops, up to that time, to operate in the field under Marine command.

h. The BATTLE OF IWO JIMA: On 19 February 1945, Marines landed on Iwo Jima in what was the largest all-Marine battle in history. It was also the bloodiest in Marine Corps history. The Marine Corps suffered over 23,300 casualties. The capture of Iwo Jima greatly increased the air support and bombing operations against the Japanese home islands. Of the savage battle, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz said, "among the Americans who served on Iwo Island, uncommon valor was a common virtue."

i. The BATTLE OF OKINAWA: In April of 1945, Marines and soldiers landed and secured the island of Okinawa. This marked the last large action of World War II. Due to the death of the Army commander, Major General Roy S. Geiger assumed command of the 10th Army and became the only Marine officer ever to have commanded a field Army.

j. The BATTLE OF THE CHOSIN RESERVOIR: After pushing far into North Korea during November 1950, Marines were cut off after the Chinese Communist Forces entered the war. Despite facing a 10-division force sent to annihilate them, Marines smashed seven enemy divisions in their march from the Chosin Reservoir. The major significance of this retrograde movement was that Marines brought out all operable equipment, properly evacuated their wounded and dead, and maintained tactical integrity.

k. The SECOND BATTLE OF KHE SANH: In January 1968, Marines defended the firebase at Khe Sanh from an attack force of two North Vietnamese Army (NVA) divisions. Despite heavy bombardment, the Marines held out for over two and a half months before finally forcing the enemy forces to withdraw.

1. The BATTLE OF HUE CITY: During the Vietnamese holiday of Tet in January 1968, Communist forces launched a surprise offensive by infiltrating large numbers of their troops into the major population centers of Hue City, South Vietnam. A near division-size unit of NVA troops occupied the city of Hue and the Citadel. Marines fought in built-up areas for the first time since the Korean War foregoing the application of heavy arms to minimize civilian casualties. Fighting was house-to-house with progress measured in yards. the city was secured on 25 February 1968.

**RESOURCES:**

*Marine Corps Museum Historical Pamphlets*  
*Marine Corps Manual*