



PARADE SEASON

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

2018

DRUM MAJOR MACE



Historically the ceremonial mace was used as a symbol of authority of military commanders. The earliest ceremonial maces were practical weapons intended to protect the king's person, borne by the Sergeants-at-Arms, a royal bodyguard.

By the 14th century, these sergeants' maces had started to become increasingly decorative, encased in precious metals. As a weapon, the mace fell out of use with the disappearance of heavy armor.

ABOUT THIS BOOK

This book commemorates the 2018 parade season Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC), Marine Barracks Washington, and HQMC Communication and Strategy Operations Branch visual information production services team is honored to render honors and present documentation of this auspicious event.

The historical account of each parade and guest of honor is a combined effort of Marine Corps photographers and graphic designers who individually record, design, and handcraft each parade book.

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U.S. Marine Sunset Parade

The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps performs martial and popular music for hundreds of thousands of spectators each year. Comprised of over 85 Marine musicians, dressed in ceremonial red and white uniforms, it is known worldwide as a premier musical marching unit.

Throughout the summer months, the unit performs in the traditional Evening Parades held at Marine Barracks Washington and in the Sunset Parades at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Drum & Bugle Corps travels more than 50,000 miles annually, performing in nearly 500 events across the nation and abroad.

The history of the unit can be traced to the early days of the Marine Corps. In the 18th and 19th centuries military musicians, or “field musics,” provided a means of passing commands to Marines in battle formations. Through the 1930s, Marine Corps posts were still authorized a number of buglers and drummers to play the traditional calls and to ring a ship’s bell to signal the time.

The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps was formed in 1934 to augment the United States Marine Band. The unit provided musical support to ceremonies around the Nation’s Capitol and during World War II was tasked with presidential support duties. For this additional role, they were awarded the scarlet and gold breast cord by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, which they still proudly display on their uniform.

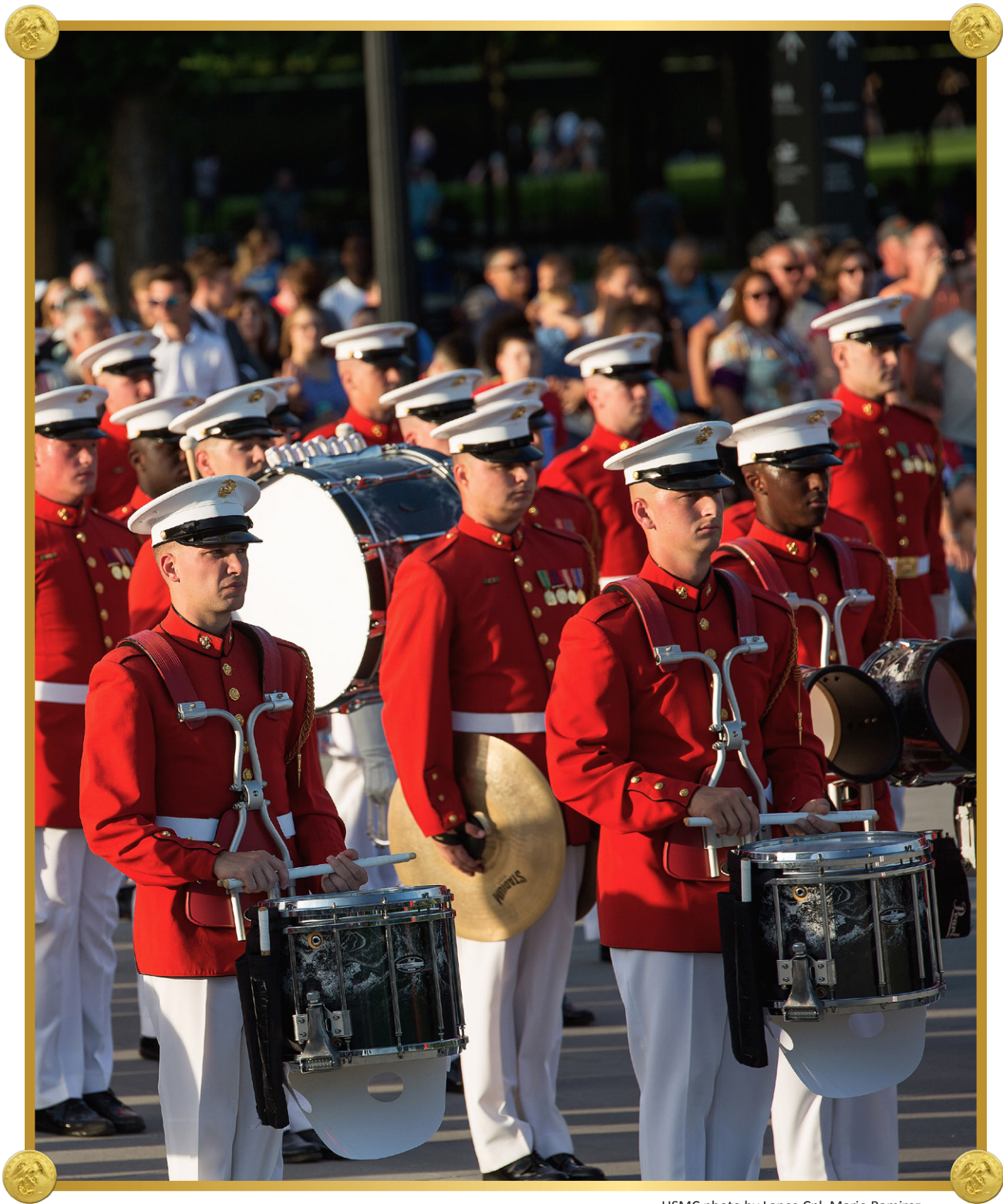
In the early 1950s, the unit gained considerable acclaim performing for an increasing number of civilian audiences. Music composed specifically for their unique selection of instruments helped establish their reputation for excellence during this period. These factors also led to the unit’s formal designation as “The Commandant’s Own”— a title noting their unique status as musicians for the commandant of the Marine Corps.

In the tradition of their “field music” predecessors, these musicians in “The Commandant’s Own” are Marines in the truest sense of the word. Every enlisted member is a graduate of Marine Corps Recruit Training and is trained in basic infantry skills. Prior to enlisting, each Marine must pass a demanding audition for service in the Drum & Bugle Corps. Following Recruit Training and Marine Combat Training, the Marines are assigned to “The Commandant’s Own.”

The unit travels the world along with the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon and the Official Color Guard of the Marine Corps as the United States Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment.



United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps



USMC photo by Lance Cpl. Mario Ramirez

The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps has been officially designated as “The Commandant’s Own.”

United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps

The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps (D&B) has been officially designated as “The Commandant’s Own” due to the historical connection with the Commandant of the Marine Corps. The D&B is entirely separate from its sister military band, the United States Marine Band (“The President’s Own”) as well as the 10 active-duty United States Marine Corps field bands.

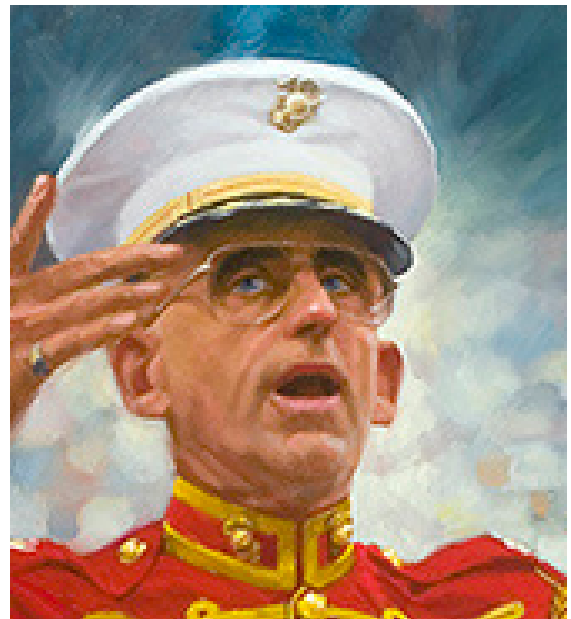
In 1968, Truman Crawford became musical arranger and instructor for the D&B. During his 30-year career he had a large impact on the D&B comparable to that of John Philip Sousa.

A native of Endicott, New York, Truman Crawford performed in a local fife and drum corps from the age of eight. He saw his first drum and bugle corps, the United States Air Force Drum and Bugle Corps of Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C. while in high school. After graduating high school in 1953, Crawford auditioned for the Air Force D&B and was accepted as a baritone bugler. He gained rapid promotion, becoming the unit’s senior noncommissioned officer and musical director. Crawford transformed the unit from a staid, martial music unit into a swinging, contemporary musical ensemble before the corps was disbanded in 1963.

Leaving the Air Force after the corps’ demise, Crawford moved to Chicago, where he continued to write arrangements for drum corps many of which he had begun while in the Air Force.

Due to his reputation and popularity in the drum corps world, in 1966, Crawford was asked to join the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps as chief musical arranger.

Re-entering the service as an enlisted Marine, he was later commissioned as a lieutenant and became commander of the D&B. During his 30-year career in the United States Marine Corps, Crawford rose to the rank of colonel and was decorated with the Legion of Merit, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal among other honors. As he had done with the Air Force corps, Crawford made “The Commandant’s Own” into a smoothly swinging contemporary musical group.



Colonel Truman Crawford
Director for the Drum & Bugle Corps

Lincoln Memorial



USMC photo by Lance Cpl. Morgan Burgess

Architect Henry Bacon modeled the Lincoln Memorial after the Parthenon in Athens, Greece. Bacon felt that a memorial to a man who defended democracy should echo the birthplace of democracy. The towering memorial is 190-feet long, 120-feet wide, 99-feet tall and constructed with a Colorado-Yule marble.

For almost a century, the Lincoln Memorial steps witnessed history-making moments such as the “I Have a Dream” speech and the Marion Anderson concert and the daily secular pilgrimage of thousands. The steps begin at the edge of the Reflecting Pool and rise up to the former roadbed of the circular roadway that surrounded the memorial - now a plaza. The steps then continue upward toward the memorial entrance, pausing on its ascent in a series of platforms. Flanking the steps are two buttresses each crowned with an 11’ tall tripod carved from pink Tennessee marble.

The memorial is surrounded by 38 fluted Doric columns, one for each of the 36 states in the Union at the time of Lincoln’s death. When you walk up the steps, two additional columns are located at the entrance behind the colonnade. These columns are 44’ tall with a base diameter of 7’5”. Each column is composed of 12 individual drums. The columns, like the exterior walls and facades, are inclined slightly inward. This is to compensate for perspective distortions which would otherwise make the memorial appear asymmetrical.

Above the colonnade, inscribed on the frieze are the names of 36 states and the dates on which they entered the Union. Their names are separated by double wreath medallions in bas-relief. The cornice is composed of a carved scroll with lions’ heads between them and ornamented with palmetto. The next step up on the memorial above the colonnade is called the attic frieze. Here, at the top of the memorial, the names of the 48 states present at the time of the dedication are inscribed. A bit higher is a garland joined by ribbons and palm leaves, supported by the wings of eagles. All ornamentation on the friezes and cornices was done by Ernest C. Bairstow. An homage to Alaska and Hawaii was added at a later date.

Lincoln Memorial



USMC photo by Lance Cpl. Mario Ramirez

Crowd marshalls with Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. volunteer to present guests at the Lincoln Memorial with brief historical facts about the Marine Corps and the Sunset Parades.

United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps



USMC photo by Lance Cpl. Mario Ramirez

United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps members flood the parade deck at the Lincoln Memorial Washington, D.C.



USMC photo by Lance Cpl. Damon McLean

Drum & Bugle Corps xylophonists play in unison with snare and thundering bass drums.

United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps



USMC photo by Lance Cpl. James Bourgeois

Gunnery Sgt. Josh Dannemiller, assistant drum major, "The Commandant's Own" U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, conducts a musical ballad during a Tuesday Sunset Parade.

Formation of the Battalion



USMC photo by Cpl. Kayla Staten

Draw sword.



USMC photo by Cpl. Kayla Staten

Sound attention.

Formation of the Battalion



USMC photo by Lance Cpl. Mario Ramirez

As the parade staff marches from concealed positions directly to the reviewing area, the main body of four platoons of immaculately attired Marines surges onto the parade deck.



USMC photo by Lance Cpl. Mario Ramirez

The adjutant then commands, "Battalion, Fix Bayonets." In the absence of subsequent oral commands, the Drum and Bugle Corps renders musical cues to which the Marines respond by removing silver bayonets from their scabbards and fixing them to the imposing M-1 rifles.

Presentation of the Colors



USMC photo by Cpl. Kayla Staten

The color guard seen above is unique. In addition to the National Flag carried by the Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps, it includes the official Battle Color of the United States Marines. The 54 streamers and silver bands displayed on the Battle Color commemorate the military campaigns in which Marines have participated. They span the entire history of our nation . . . from the American Revolution to the present time. Decorated with palms, oak leaf clusters, and stars, representing more than 400 foreign awards and all campaigns, they are visible symbols of the pride, professionalism and esprit de corps of the United States Marines.



USMC photo by Lance Cpl. James Bourgeois

Captain Billy R. Grissom, company commander, Alpha Company, Marine Barracks Washington D.C., and Lance Cpl. Joshua Lawson, guidon bearer, Alpha Company, MBW, render honors during the playing of the National Anthem during a Tuesday Sunset Parade at the Lincoln Memorial.

Silent Drill Platoon Performance



USMC photo by Lance Cpl. Mario Ramirez

The Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon is a 24-man rifle platoon that performs a unique precision drill exhibition. This highly disciplined platoon exemplifies the professionalism associated with the United States Marine Corps.

The Silent Drill Platoon first performed in the Sunset Parades of 1948 and received such an overwhelming response that it soon became a regular part of the parades at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C.

The Marines execute a series of calculated drill movements and precise handling of their hand-polished, 10.5 pound, M1 Garand rifles with fixed bayonets. The routine concludes with a unique rifle inspection sequence demonstrating elaborate rifle spins and tosses.

These Marines are individually selected from the Schools of Infantry located at Camp Pendleton, California, and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, based on interviews conducted by Barracks personnel. Once selected, Marines are assigned to Marine Barracks Washington to serve a two-year ceremonial tour. Beyond their ceremonial duties, the Marines collaterally train in the field as riflemen. To remain proficient, these Marines hone their infantry skills at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, throughout the year.

Once the year's Silent Drill Platoon Marines have been selected each fall, they begin their rigorous training at Marine Barracks Washington and later move to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, in order to perfect the routine before beginning a tour of the Corps' continental installations. Throughout the year, they perform in front of hundreds of thousands of spectators at Marine Barracks Washington and at numerous events across the country and abroad.

Silent Drill Platoon Performance



USMC photo by Lance Cpl. Mario Ramirez

Forming the "Bursting Bomb" sequence.



USMC photo by Lance Cpl. Mario Ramirez

Performing the "Bursting Bomb" sequence.

Silent Drill Platoon Performance



USMC photo by Lance Cpl. Mario Ramirez

Sling inspection sequence during the rifle inspection.

Experienced members of the Silent Drill Platoon have the opportunity to audition to become rifle inspectors. They must go through inspection tryouts graded by the rifle inspectors of the previous year. Only two Marines per year are selected to become rifle inspectors. They, along with the platoon's drill master, are entrusted with keeping and passing on the unique knowledge and traditions of the Silent Drill Platoon.

Silent Drill Platoon Performance



USMC photo by Lance Cpl. Kayla Staten

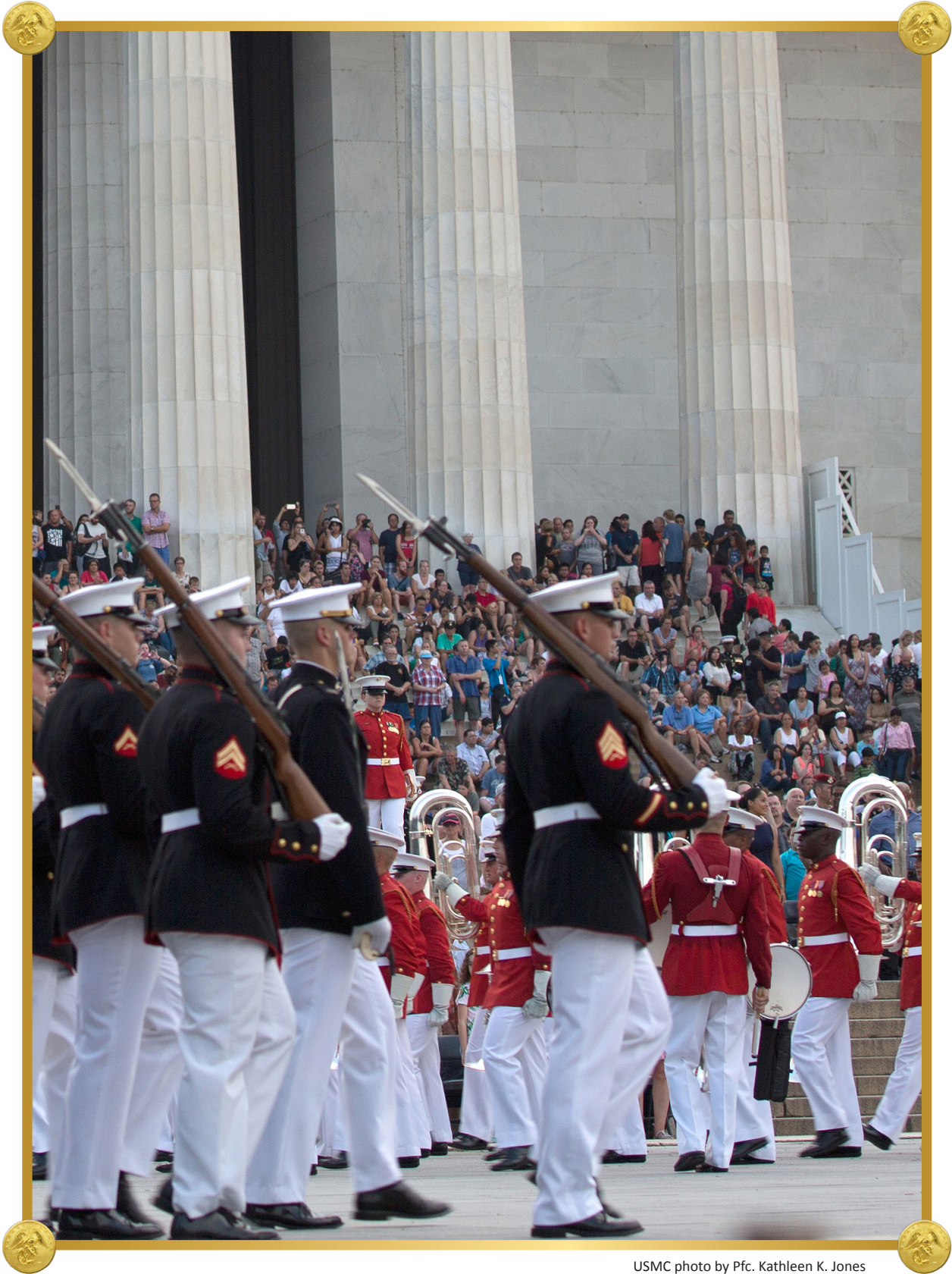
Over the shoulders sequence during the rifle inspection.



USMC photo by Lance Cpl. Mario Ramirez

Single Spin sequence during the rifle inspection.

Pass in Review



USMC photo by Pfc. Kathleen K. Jones

Taps



USMC photo by Pfc. Kathleen K. Jones

The solemn rendition of “Taps,” by a lone bugler proclaims the conclusion of the Sunset Parade. The name Sunset Parade, however, belies the true character of the formation. It is more than a parade. It represents the evolution and culmination of such ceremonies as tattoo, retreat, and lowering the flag. It combines the essential elements of many traditional ceremonies. It has become a grand pageant. It is an historic military ritual that perpetuates the traditions and discipline of the United States of America and its Marines.



OFFICER'S SWORD



In April 1805, a major American victory came during the Derna campaign, which was undertaken by U.S. land forces in North Africa. Supported by the heavy guns of the USS Argus and the USS Hornet, U.S. Marines and Arab mercenaries under William Eaton captured Derna and deposed Yusuf Karamanli. Lieutenant Presley O' Bannon, commanding the Marines, performed so heroically in the battle that Hamet Karamanli, who was retored to power, presented him with an elaborately designed sword that now serves as the pattern for the swords carried by Marine officers.

The phrase "to the shores of Tripoli," from the official song of the U.S. Marine Corps, also has its origins in the Derna campaign.

"HISTORY.COM STAFF, 2010"

NCO SWORD

Adopted in 1859, the United States Marine Corps NCO sword is carried by Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) and Staff Non-Commissioned Officers (SNCOs).

Currently used solely for ceremonial purposes, the M1859 NCO sword was introduced by the sixth Commandant of the Marine Corps, Colonel John Harris in recognition of the leadership of NCOs/SNCOs in combat.

