

# U.S. Marine Corps Uniforms 1983

*Twelve Full-Color Prints*



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AND THE  
PERMANENT MARINE CORPS UNIFORM BOARD  
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1983

**FOR MARINE CORPS UNITS RECEIVING  
THIS SERIES OF PRINTS:**

The prints and texts are a supplement to Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, 1983 (MCO P1020.34D). Their intended use is to have them framed and hung in such areas as unit offices, recreation rooms, mess halls, and clubs. A Marine Corps directive has been issued prescribing this use and citing the specifications of standard frames available through GSA.

To frame the texts contained in this pamphlet the staples should be removed and the pages separated by cutting carefully along the fold line. Each text should then fit the standard GSA 10" x 14" frame. Associated prints and texts should be hung together.

Neither the illustrations depicted on these plates, nor their explanatory texts, supercede any current edition of Marine Corps Uniform Regulations.

# U.S. Marine Corps Uniforms 1983

## *PLATE I—OFFICERS' SERVICE UNIFORMS*

Green as a color for Marine Corps uniforms dates from the American Revolution and the Continental Marines who wore a uniform coat of moss green. When not wearing their green regimental coat, they wore a green linen hunting shirt as a forerunner to the green utility uniforms of the past 40 years.

In 1833, President Jackson decreed that the Services would revert to the uniform colors worn during the War of Independence. This meant a return to green for the Marines who had been wearing blue since 1798. Green dyes of this period were not sunfast. The green uniform, exposed to rigors of the Seminole War, lasted only until 1840. The blue uniform was again the uniform until 1912 when a forest green uniform was adopted. Except for its standing collar, this uniform was almost identical to the service uniform of today. In 1926, reflecting British World War I officer uniforms, the service green uniform collar was converted to a rolled lapel with which a khaki shirt and tie were worn. This uniform, with minor modifications, has continued to the present.

Shown in this plate are various categories of the service uniform worn by Marine officers. At the left is a female major in the service "C" uniform. This uniform normally includes a green skirt; however, slacks may be authorized under specific conditions prescribed in uniform regulations. Slacks will not be worn on occasions for which the wearing of the skirt is more appropriate. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4218)

The service "C" uniform is routinely worn as a working uniform during summer months or in warm climates. It is also authorized for wear by Marines on leave or liberty. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3207)

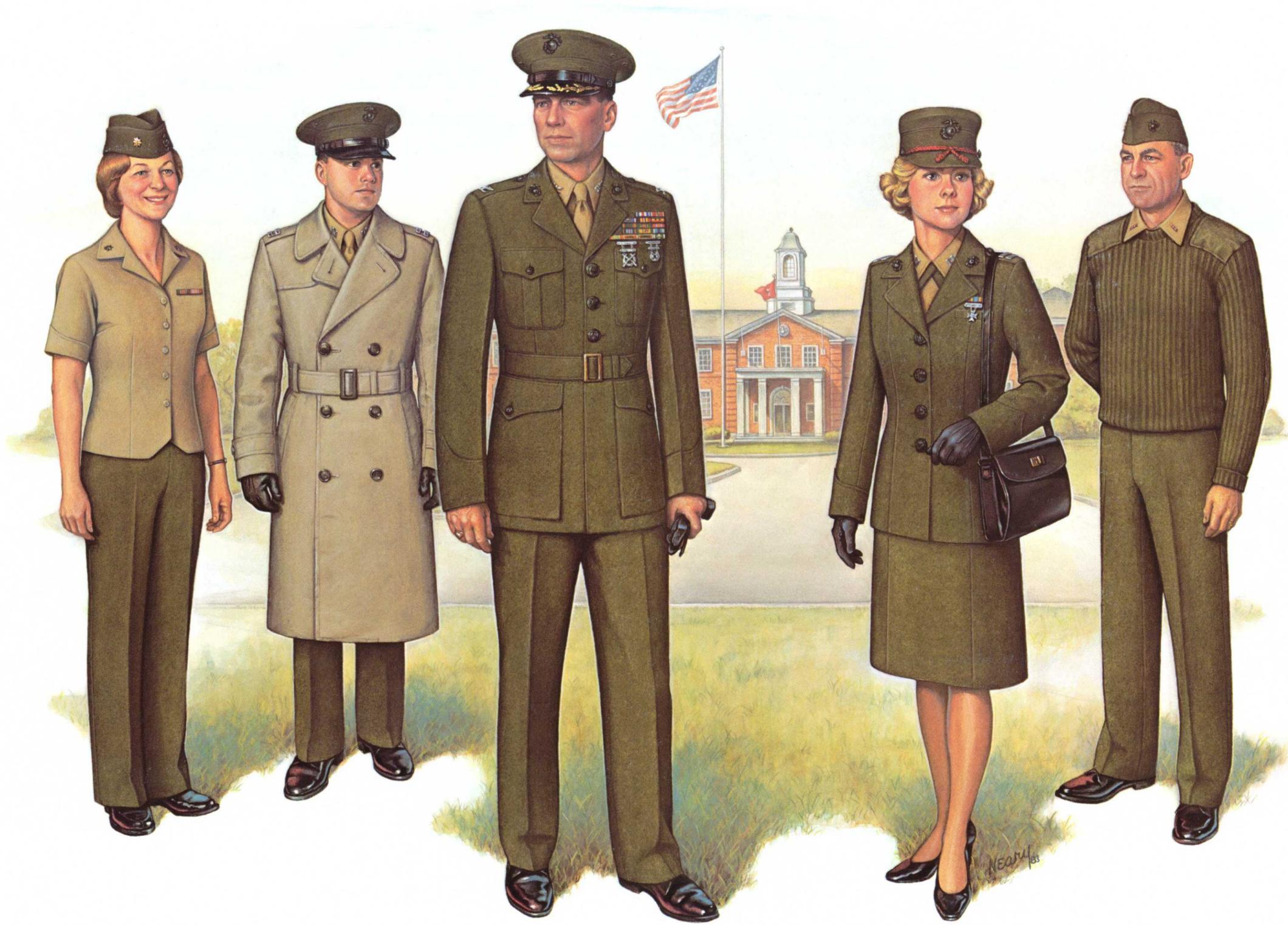
Second from the left is a male captain in the service uniform with the all-weather coat. The coat can be worn with all service, dress, and utility uniforms. It includes a removable liner. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4116) The

figure is shown wearing the frame cap in lieu of garrison cap. The frame cap may be worn by officers with service uniforms at their option, unless in formation with enlisted Marines. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4104)

The figure in the center is a male colonel in the service "A" uniform. This uniform is normally prescribed as the "Uniform of the Day" throughout the Marine Corps. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3100) The uniform is available in summer or winter weight fabrics. This figure is also shown wearing the frame cap in lieu of garrison cap. The gold ornamentation on the visor designates a field grade officer and is worn on the cap frames of Marine officers in the grades of major through colonel. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4104) When the service "A" uniform is worn with an outer coat during the winter uniform period, black gloves will either be worn or carried. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4113)

The figure fourth from the left is a female captain in the service "A" uniform. Slacks may be worn with this uniform in lieu of the skirt, but should not be worn on occasions for which the wearing of the skirt is more appropriate. The black handbag is carried by all women Marines in service uniforms except when in formation. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4209)

At the far right is a male Marine chief warrant officer (CWO-4) in the service uniform with the service sweater worn in lieu of the service coat. The service sweater may be worn in lieu of the service coat during duty hours, or while commuting to and from one's quarters. It may not be worn while in uniform on leave or liberty. Within these guidelines, the sweater may be worn over the long sleeve khaki shirt on a year-round basis, and may be worn over the quarter-length sleeve khaki shirt at those locations, and during those periods, in which the quarter-length sleeve shirt is authorized as an outer garment. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4129)



Service "C"

Service Uniform with  
All-Weather Coat

Service "A"

Service "A"

Service Uniform with  
Service Sweater

# U.S. Marine Corps Uniforms 1983

## *PLATE II—ENLISTED SERVICE UNIFORMS*

Although green uniforms were worn by Marines in both the American Revolution (1775-83) and as a result of Andrew Jackson's decree from 1833-1840, the antecedent for today's uniform was the forest green uniform adopted in 1912. Twentieth century warfare had dictated a change from the colorful service uniforms of the past to earth tones. The 1912 uniform coat differed chiefly from today's uniform in that it had a high collar similar to that of the blue dress coat and was made of kersey rather than serge. Except for a brief period during World War I, it was not until 1922 that enlisted Marines were authorized to wear the collar insignia. During the late 1920s the "roll collar" was adopted. Today's cloth belt was substituted for the "fair leather" service belt during World War II. The red-bordered chevrons and service stripes have been worn with little change since 1912.

Shown at the left is a male first sergeant in the service "C" uniform. Enlisted grade is denoted by green on khaki chevrons worn on the shirt; there is no enlisted grade insignia on the garrison cap. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 5303) The service "C" uniform is routinely worn as a working uniform during summer months or in warm climates. It is also authorized for wear by Marines on leave or liberty. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3305)

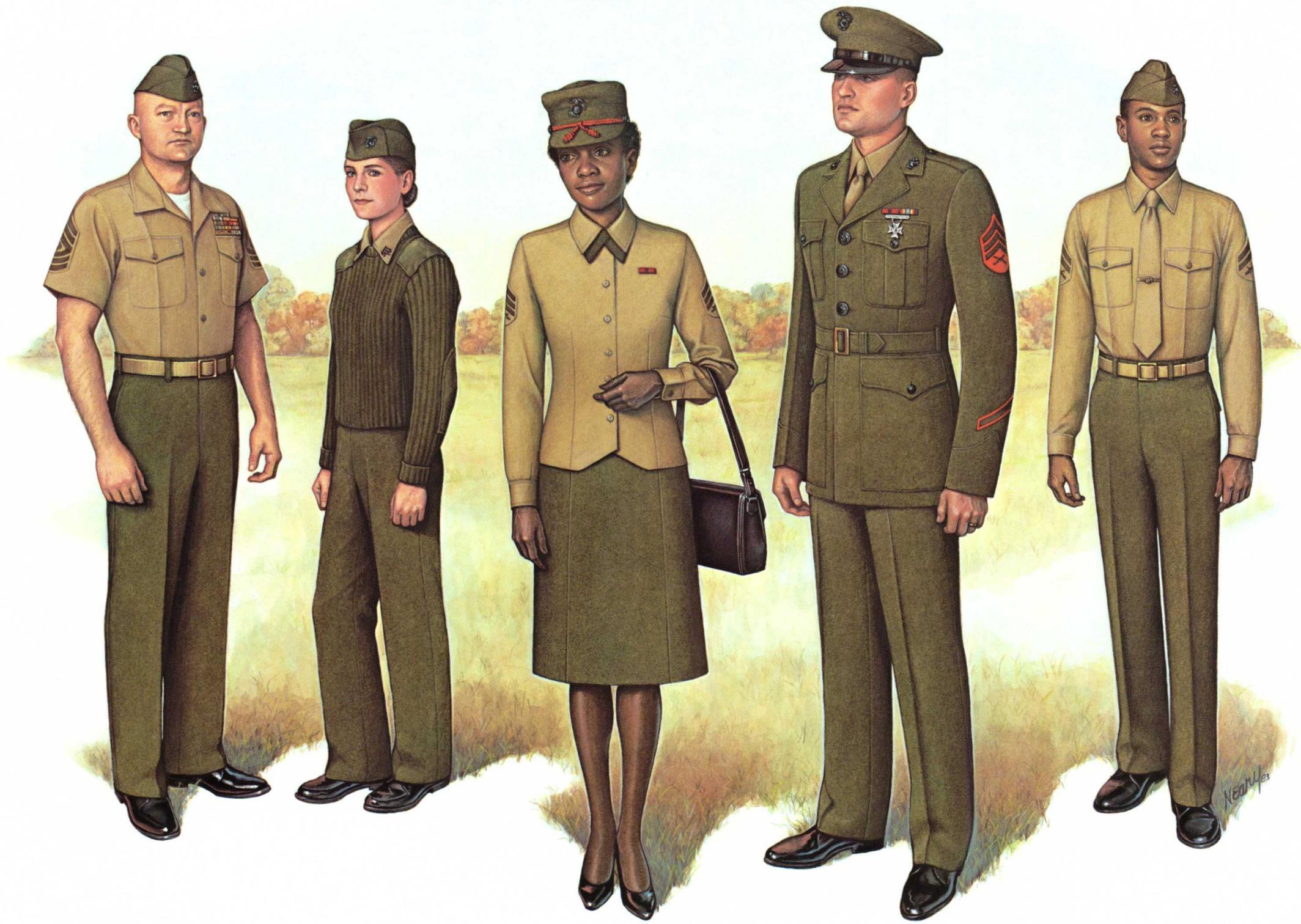
Second from the left is a female corporal in the service uniform with the service sweater worn in lieu of the service coat. The sweater is an optional item of uniform, not a part of the uniform allowance. When enlisted Marines wear the service sweater, metal grade insignia is worn on the shirt collar. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 5403) This figure is also shown wearing slacks in lieu of the skirt. Slacks are authorized only under circumstances for which wearing of the skirt is not appropriate. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4218) When slacks are worn, the

prescribed footwear is oxfords, as shown. Pumps will not be worn. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4207) Finally, this figure is shown wearing the garrison cap in lieu of the service cap. Women Marines are issued both caps and may wear either, at their option, unless a particular cap is specified by the local commander. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4204)

The figure in the center is a female sergeant in the service "B" uniform. This figure is shown with the service cap in lieu of the garrison cap and with the skirt rather than slacks. When the skirt is worn, footwear will normally be pumps. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4207) The service "B" uniform is authorized as a working uniform and will not be prescribed as the "uniform of day." (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3400)

The fourth figure from the left is a male sergeant in the service "A" uniform with the frame cap in lieu of the garrison cap. The service "A" uniform is the basic "uniform of the day" throughout the Marine Corps. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3300) On enlisted service uniforms, both grade and length of service are shown by sleeve insignia worn on each sleeve. Green on scarlet chevrons denote rank. The green on scarlet service stripe on the lower sleeve is awarded for a period of four years' service. Additional stripes are worn for each additional four-year period of service. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 5305)

At the far right is a male corporal in the service "B" uniform, with garrison cap. Removal of the service coat distinguishes this uniform from the service "A" uniform. The wearing of ribbons on the service "B" uniform is at the option of the individual unless ribbons are prescribed by the local commander. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 6301)



Service "C"

Service Uniform with  
Service Sweater

Service "B"

Service "A"

Service "B"

# U.S. Marine Corps Uniforms 1983

## *PLATE III—OFFICERS' BLUE DRESS UNIFORMS*

Blue as a color for Marine Corps uniforms dates from the activation of the United States Marine Corps in 1798. The uniforms first provided were War Department surplus, presumably from disbanded rifle battalions of the United States Army's Legion. Except for a brief return to green in the 1830s, blue continued as the color for Marine service uniforms until 1912 and for dress uniforms to the present. The dress uniform has remained unchanged except for minor details since 1912 and has its antecedents in the undress enlisted coat of 1859. The uniforms of 1798 were piped or trimmed in red, and red trim has continued to this day in the red trouser stripes on Marine officers' dress blue uniforms. Sky blue trousers have been worn since 1840.

Shown in this plate are various categories of the blue dress uniform worn by Marine officers.

At the left is a male captain in the blue dress "C" uniform. This uniform is worn at those commands authorized a blue uniform allowance when climatic conditions make it impractical to wear the blue dress coat. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3105) When the quarter-length sleeve shirt is worn with this uniform, the uniform is designated as blue dress "D." (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3106)

Second from the left is a male major in blue dress "A" with sword. This uniform may be prescribed for parades, ceremonies, or reviews when a com-

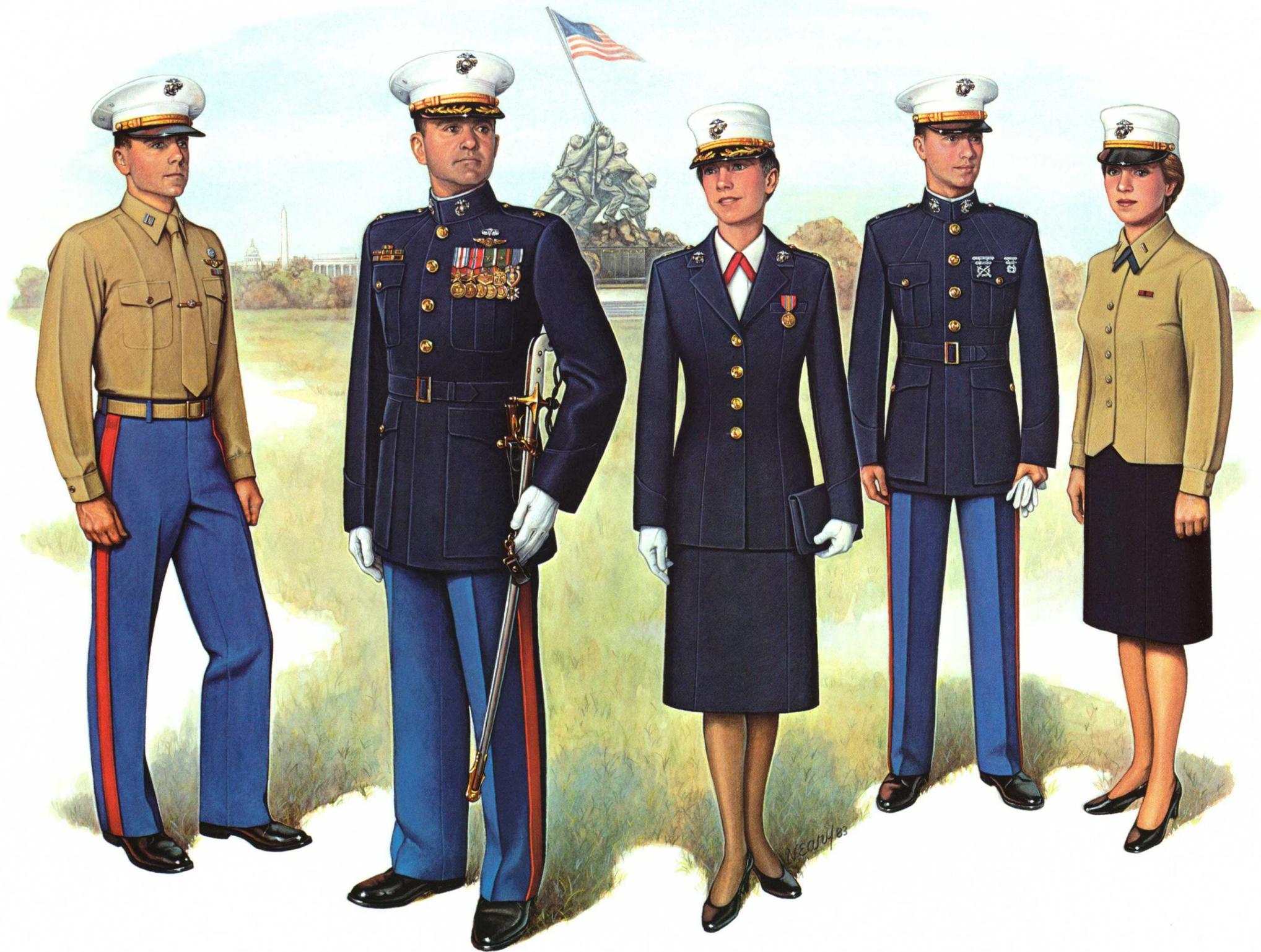
manding officer desires to pay special honors to the occasion. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3103) When a dress "A" uniform is prescribed, medals are worn on the left breast, and ribbons for which no medal has been struck are worn on the right breast. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 6202)

The figure in the center is a female major in blue dress "A." The uniform shown on this figure is the result of a redesign intended to render the female uniform more harmonious with that worn by male Marines. Uniforms worn by enlisted women will also more closely parallel those of enlisted men.

Although this uniform is shown with a skirt, sky blue slacks are also a component and may be prescribed under certain conditions set forth in uniform regulations. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4218)

Fourth from the left is a male lieutenant in blue dress "B." This uniform differs from the blue dress "A" uniform only in that ribbons and badges are worn in lieu of medals. This is the uniform prescribed for Marines reporting for sea duty. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3104)

At the right is a female lieutenant in blue dress "C." This uniform is the women's equivalent to that worn by the male captain at the far left. This uniform is worn when climatic conditions make it impractical to wear the blue dress coat. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3205)



Blue Dress "C"

Blue Dress "A"

Blue Dress "A"

Blue Dress "B"

Blue Dress "C"

# U.S. Marine Corps Uniforms 1983

## *PLATE IV—ENLISTED BLUE DRESS UNIFORMS*

Enlisted Marines have worn red-trimmed blue uniforms since 1798 when the United States Marine Corps was activated to serve in the new "Frigate Navy." Their blue uniforms were worn for all military duties, except fatigues, and generally followed the pattern worn by officers. Prior to the adoption of forest-green service uniforms in 1912, the only exception was in the 1834-1840 period in which the green color of Revolutionary War Continental Marines' uniforms was temporarily revived. From the 1850s to 1912, all enlisted Marines' winter dress, undress, and fatigue uniforms were blue. Since 1912 the blue uniform has been reserved for dress except for ships' detachments, embassy guards, and other high visibility duties. The enlisted blue coat remained virtually unchanged, except for quality of cloth, until 1949 when breast and shirt pockets were added. This uniform, with minor changes, is still worn today.

Shown in this plate are various categories of the blue dress uniform worn by enlisted Marines.

At the left is a male private first class in the blue dress "B" uniform. When the blue dress "B" uniform is prescribed, ribbons and badges are worn in lieu of medals. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3302) The waistplate worn with this uniform is plain for sergeants and below, and ornamented for staff noncommissioned officers. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4102) The blue dress trousers worn by this figure do not include a red stripe.

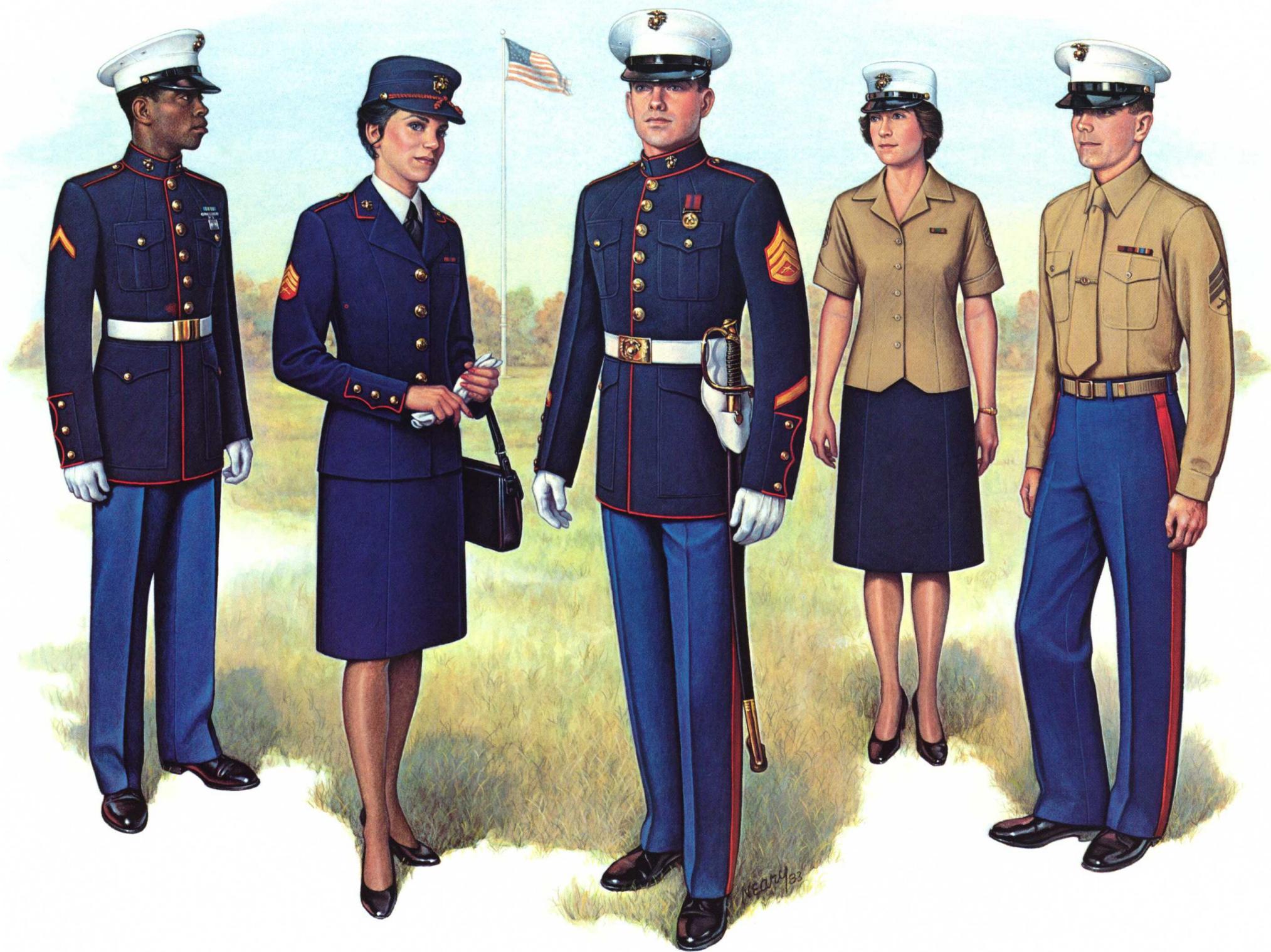
Second from the left is a female sergeant in the blue dress "B" uniform. The style of this uniform was modified in 1981, and while the uniform shown in this figure is authorized for wear during

1983, it is gradually being replaced by a uniform similar to that shown in Plate III. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3400)

The figure in the center is a male staff sergeant in the blue dress "A" uniform, with sword. When the blue dress "A" uniform is prescribed, medals are worn on the left breast and ribbons for which no medal has been struck are worn on the right breast. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 6202) The red trouser stripe is a distinguishing mark of Marine corporals and above (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 5306), and the ornamented waistplate is worn by staff noncommissioned officers. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4102) The sword worn on the left side is the noncommissioned officers' sword. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 8111)

The fourth figure from the left is a female sergeant in the blue dress "D" uniform. The white cap and darker blue skirt shown will gradually replace the old style blue cap and skirt. The blue dress "D" uniform is usually worn under climatic conditions which render it impractical to wear the blue dress "A" or "B" uniform. The blue dress "D" uniform is not authorized for wear while on leave or liberty. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3404)

At the far right is a male sergeant in the blue dress "C" uniform. As with the blue dress "D," this uniform is usually worn when climatic conditions make it impractical to wear blue dress "A" or "B." (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3303) The blue dress "C" uniform is not authorized for wear while on leave or liberty.



Blue Dress "B"

Blue Dress "B"

Blue Dress "A"

Blue Dress "D"

Blue Dress "C"

# U.S. Marine Corps Uniforms 1983

## *PLATE V—EVENING DRESS UNIFORMS*

Shown are the various evening dress uniforms worn by Marine officers and staff noncommissioned officers.

A direct descendant of the Model 1839 officers' shell jacket, the evening dress jacket is one of the Marine Corps' tangible links with the past. The officer's shell jacket closed down the front with a series of hooks and eyes and was relegated to fatigue status in 1859 before reemerging as the mess jacket in 1875. The new, open-front mess jacket hooked at the collar and from 1904 to 1917 was termed the "blue" mess jacket to differentiate it from the "white" mess jacket. On 7 October 1917, the "blue" mess jacket was redesignated as the evening dress jacket, while the "white" jacket remained as mess dress. In an economy move after World War II, the ornate sleeve rank insignia, which first appeared in 1892, was replaced by the simplified version still worn today. From 1839 to 1949, this jacket had 16 small Marine Corps buttons down the front, but in 1949 the number was changed to 13.

Shown at the left is a male gunnery sergeant in staff noncommissioned officers' evening dress uniform. This uniform is distinctive compared to the officer's uniform in that it is semi-formfitting and worn with a black bow tie and sky blue trousers. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4114, 4127)

Displaying miniature medals and the staff noncommissioned officers' 1890s style embroidered insignia of grade, the staff noncommissioned officers' evening dress uniform is appropriate for "black tie" occasions. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3300)

The male and female officers' evening dress "A" uniform is normally worn for year-round affairs of state at the White House or embassies and other "white tie" formal social events. The evening dress "B" uniform is prescribed for "black tie" social events during the winter months and evening celebrations such as the Marine Corps' birthday.

Second from the left is a female lieutenant colonel in the evening dress "A" uniform, which is always worn with long skirt. (Marine Corps

Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3201) The figure is shown wearing a Presidential Service Badge and miniature medals. Illustrated here are the new-style white dress shirt with black necktab, clutch purse with black slip-on cover, and black suede or fabric pumps. The white waistcoat is not prescribed for women; the red cummerbund is worn with both women's evening dress "A" and "B."

The figure in the center is the Commandant of the Marine Corps in the evening dress "B" uniform with the scarlet waistcoat (for general officers) in lieu of the cummerbund. All general officers have distinctive sleeve and cap visor ornamentation. The Commandant wears gold ornamentation on the front half of the braid band of his cover as well. The white shirt is designed for wear with cuff links and studs. The trousers have gold braid with red center stripe on each outer seam. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraphs 4118, 4122) The Commandant is shown wearing his miniature medals and his Joint Chiefs of Staff identification badge.

The fourth figure from the left is a male major in the evening dress "A" with boatcloak. Evening dress "A" is distinguished from evening dress "B" by the white waistcoat. Officers in the grade of major through colonel wear "field grade" gold sleeve and visor ornamentation. The boatcloak is an optional item and may be worn for social functions with the evening dress or blue dress, when appropriate to season. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4103)

At the far right is a male captain in the evening dress "B" uniform. For officers in the grade of colonel and below, the scarlet cummerbund is worn with this uniform. Company grade officers (captains and below) wear gold embroidered sleeve ornamentation in the shape of the traditional quatrefoil. As shown, miniature breast insignia, one-half of the regular size, shall be worn on the evening dress jacket. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 5101) Insignia of grade for all officers will be embroidered and displayed on each shoulder strap. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 5108)



Evening Dress  
(Staff NCO)

Evening Dress "A"

Evening Dress "B"

Evening Dress "A"  
with Boatcloak

Evening Dress "B"

# U.S. Marine Corps Uniforms 1983

## *PLATE VI—MESS DRESS AND WHITE DRESS UNIFORMS*

Shown are various categories of the white dress and mess dress uniforms.

As early as the 1830s, Marine officers wore white uniforms during the summer months. Originally worn only for fatigue duties, the white linen shell jacket was replaced by a white undress coat in 1892. The white dress uniform, very similar to that worn today, was first specified in the 1912 *Uniform Regulations*. When the Marine Corps Women's Reserve was formed in 1943, the *Uniform Regulations* for that organization included a white summer dress uniform for officers.

White mess dress uniforms for officers first appeared in 1904 although blue mess jackets had been worn since 1875. The blue mess dress was redesignated as evening dress in 1922. Mess dress was adopted by women officers in 1964, changing in 1972 and again in 1982. Male staff noncommissioned officers were allowed to wear white mess dress beginning in 1971, while their female counterparts were allowed this uniform in 1973.

At the left is a male gunnery sergeant in mess dress. This uniform is authorized for wear by staff noncommissioned officers on an optional basis; those Marines desiring to obtain this uniform must purchase it at their own expense. Regulations regarding the wear of this uniform by Marine staff noncommissioned officers are parallel to those prescribed for officers. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3102)

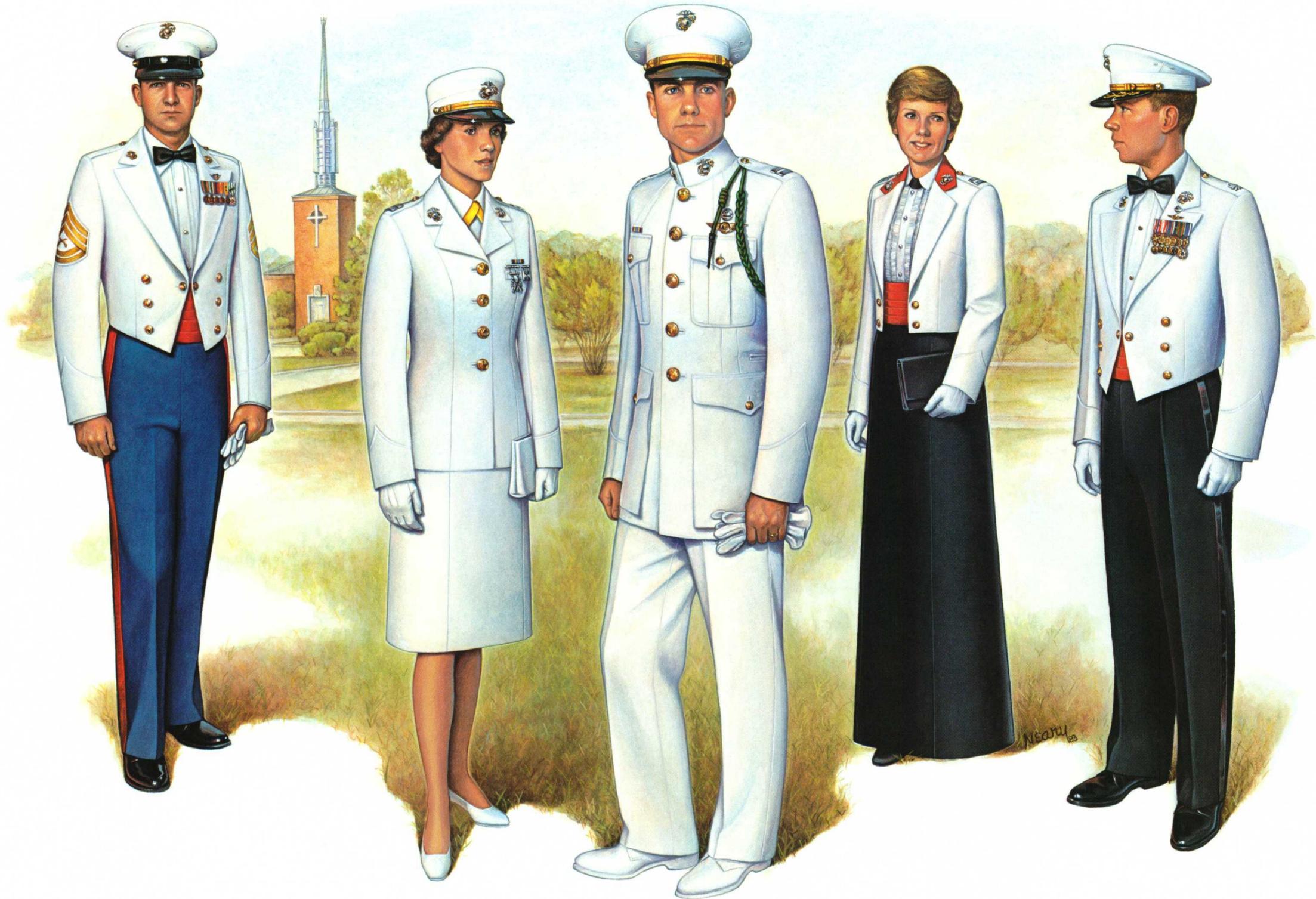
Second from the right is a female captain in white dress "B." When this uniform is prescribed, ribbons and badges are worn on the left breast. Medals are not worn. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 6301) The white dress is a summer uniform, and white dress "B" may be prescribed for a variety of social or official functions. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3204)

The figure in the center is a male captain in white dress "A." When this uniform is prescribed, large medals and breast insignia are worn on the left breast, and ribbons for which no medal has

been struck are worn on the right breast. Marksmanship badges are not worn. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraphs 6202 and 6203) On the figure's left shoulder, is the fourragere, which represents multiple awards of the French Croix de Guerre (Cross of War) to the 5th and 6th Marine Regiments during World War I. Members serving with these units are authorized to wear the fourragere while assigned. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 6302) The white dress "A" uniform is normally prescribed, during the summer uniform period, for ceremonies, solemnities, and entertainments when the senior officer present considers it desirable to pay special honors to the occasion. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3103) The sword may be prescribed for wear by male officers with the white dress "A" or "B" uniform.

The fourth figure from the left is a female captain in mess dress. This uniform is authorized for wear by officers of all ranks, but is not a required uniform for company grade officers. It is generally prescribed for social affairs during the summer uniform period at which civilians would normally wear dinner dress (black tie). Women officers, depending upon the degree of the formality of the function, may choose to wear either the long black skirt shown, or a short black skirt. Miniature medals and breast insignia will be worn on the left front panel of the jacket. No cap is worn with the women's mess dress uniform. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraphs 3202 and 6204)

At the far right is a male lieutenant colonel in mess dress. The uniform differs from the enlisted uniform shown at the left in that black tuxedo trousers are prescribed for wear by officers. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4122) Miniature medals will be placed on the left lapel with the top of the holding bar approximately one inch below the left lapel notch, and miniature breast insignia are then centered one-eighth of an inch above the miniature medals. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraphs 6204 and 5101)



Mess Dress  
(Staff NCO)

White Dress "B"

White Dress "A"

Mess Dress

Mess Dress

# U.S. Marine Corps Uniforms 1983

## *PLATE VII—U.S. MARINE BAND (THE PRESIDENT'S OWN)*

The uniforms of the United States Marine Band are unique to this unit, and regulations governing their wear are contained in Chapter 7 of the *Marine Corps Uniform Regulations*.

Traditionally, uniforms of the military musicians have been reversed colors of the regiments in which they served. This custom was begun in the late 17th century to distinguish musicians from soldiers in the smoke and confusion as musicians sent the signals for battle movement and commanders had to find them quickly.

The enlisted band member on the extreme left is depicted wearing the full dress uniform. This uniform is worn for all band performances, both concert and ceremonial. White trousers are worn during the summer season, blue trousers during the winter. Women band members are issued the same uniform, with oxford shoes, for ceremonial duties. However, for concerts, the women wear the full dress jacket, cut to the waist, and a blue or a white full-length skirt, depending on the season. The white belt is not worn with the women's full dress jacket.

Shown second from the left is an enlisted woman band member in special full dress. This uniform consists of the special full dress jacket, the full-length blue skirt, and pump shoes. The men's special full dress uniform would include the special full dress coat and blue trousers. This uniform, traditionally referred to as "The White House Coat," is worn for orchestral and small ensemble performances. In contrast to the full dress uniform, the men's dress jacket has no ornamentation other than three small buttons on each sleeve and a single row of seven large buttons down the front. This uniform is worn without the white belt.

Pictured in the center is the director's full dress uniform. The director is the only band member who wears this black coat, trimmed in red. His rank insignia is displayed on the gold shoulder knot worn on the shoulders. The band officers, drum major, and assistant drum major are the only

members of the band who wear rank/grade insignia on their full dress uniforms. The gold ornamentation on the visor of the frame cap and the sleeve devices designate field grade status. The black trousers, with gold stripe, are worn during the winter months. White trousers are worn for band performances during the summer season. The gold belt is worn only by the band officers and the drum major. The band officers may wear white gloves at the discretion of the director.

Pictured second from the right is the assistant director's full dress uniform. This uniform is similar to the director's uniform in all respects with the exception of the color of the full dress coat. The same regulations that apply to the director regarding the wearing of the black and the white trousers apply also to the assistant director's full dress uniform.

The drum major's full dress uniform is shown at the far right. The most elaborate of the enlisted uniforms, it is topped off by the bearskin. This headgear has been worn by U.S. Marine Band drum majors since 1859. The embroidered baldric, worn over the left shoulder, is designated to display unit title and crest. A listing of the major campaigns in which the Marine Corps has participated is included on the front and rear of the baldric. The small drum sticks denote the office of drum major. The mace is the symbol of office. It is used primarily to transmit musical and martial commands to the band while on the march. The white leather gauntlets are designed to protect the hands while transmitting those signals. The cuffs of the gauntlets guard against the coat sleeves becoming entangled with the mace on movements that require particular flourishes. The noncommissioned officers' sword is worn for all ceremonial occasions. Blue trousers are worn during the winter season, while white trousers are worn during the summer. The white piping centered on the noncommissioned officers' stripe and the musical lyre in the dress chevrons, denote that the wearer is a musician, Military Occupational Specialty 9811, U.S. Marine Band.



Full Dress (White)

Special Full Dress

Director's Full Dress

Assistant Director's  
Full Dress (White)

Drum Major's  
Full Dress

# U.S. Marine Corps Uniforms 1983

## *PLATE VIII—MARINE BARRACKS CEREMONIAL UNIFORMS*

Shown are the various ceremonial uniforms worn for parades and ceremonies by Marines stationed at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

The Barracks Marines wear white trousers for reasons of comfort and contrasting appeal during the summer season. The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps wore the traditional blue coat from 1934 to 1957 when Colonel Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., directed that they wear the scarlet coats to enhance the colorful pageantry of the evening parade.

At the left is a male first lieutenant in the blue-white dress "A" uniform worn when climatic conditions make it impractical to wear the blue dress "A" uniform. This uniform consists of the same items as the blue dress "A" uniform except that the trousers are white wash-and-wear material, and the white long-sleeved shirt is not worn underneath the coat. When either blue dress "A" uniform is prescribed, medals are worn on the left breast. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 6203, 6204) The form-fitting sack coat is modified to accommodate the officers' Sam Browne belt. The medals, buttons, belt buckles, and swords are anodized.

Second from the left is the Barracks mascot, Corporal Chesty VII, in the blue-white dress "A" uniform. His uniform is tailored from the same uniform materials used in the Marines' uniforms. The white tab is attached with "Velcro" to allow exchange with a blue tab for the blue dress "A" uniform. Not shown is his good conduct medal which is worn on the left side between the chevrons and his left shoulder.

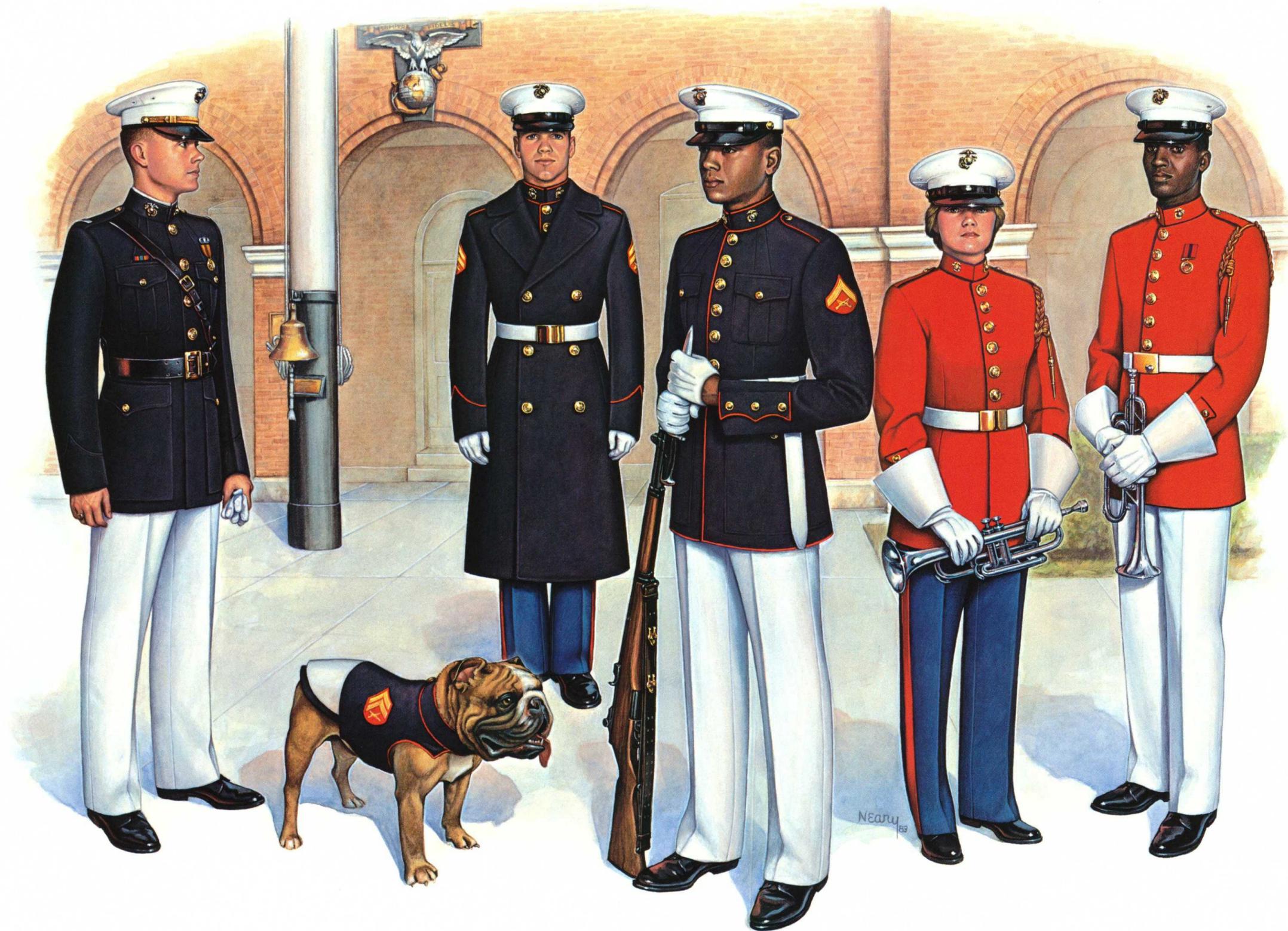
In the center foreground is a male lance corporal in the blue-white dress "A" uniform. The blue coat is altered to include the worked eyelets for interchanging the buttons and two brass hooks in the back of the coat to allow for the even wearing of the white belt around the waist. The waistplate, plain for sergeants and below and ornamented for staff noncommissioned officers, is anodized. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4102) The white trousers are the same wash-and-wear material as the officers' trousers. The shoes are modified

with steel cleats on the heels and toes to reduce the wear and tear on the shoes from the numerous ceremonies; however, cleats are worn only by those marching in an actual ceremony.

In the center background is a male corporal in the blue dress "A" uniform with blue overcoat. The basic uniform is unchanged except that the white belt is removed from the blue coat and worn outside the overcoat. The overcoat is made of navy blue gabardine material and is designed exactly like the old wool green overcoat. The same alterations are made for the button holes, and slits are prepared in the back of the coat to allow for the protrusion of the brass hooks for the white belt. Not shown is a navy blue raincoat procured from the Navy for wear with either blue dress uniform.

Second from the right is a female Marine from the Drum and Bugle Corps in the red-blue dress "A" uniform. Unique to this unit, women wear the same frame cap with white vinyl cover as the men. The coat is also the same as the men's. It is tailored to present a form-fitting appearance and is similar in design to the blue dress coat except that there are no pockets and the colors are reversed, dark blue piping on a scarlet tropical worsted coat. Insignia of rank/grade and service stripes are not worn on the scarlet coat, except by the leader and drum major. The scarlet and gold dress cord, which is worn over the left shoulder by all members of the Drum and Bugle Corps, was authorized by General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. The same white belt with brass hooks in the coat and the plain and ornamented waistplates described above for the other Barracks units are worn with this uniform. White leather gauntlets are also worn with this uniform.

At the far right is a male Marine from the Drum and Bugle Corps in the red-white dress "A" uniform worn during the summer season. It is exactly the same as the red-blue dress "A" uniform except for the white wash-and-wear trousers. When either red dress uniform is prescribed, anodized medals are worn on the left breast in accordance with guidelines established for bandsmen. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 7301)



Blue-White  
Dress "A"

Blue-White Dress  
"A" (Mascot)

Blue Dress with  
Dress Overcoat

Blue-White  
Dress "A"

Full Dress

Full Dress  
White "A"

# U.S. Marine Corps Uniforms 1983

## *PLATE IX—AVIATION CLOTHING*

Shown is a sampling of special aviation clothing and equipment worn by Marines in 1983.

The history of aviation clothing and equipment is a story of form following function. For the most part aviation "uniform" items are related to personal safety and survival. When First Lieutenant Alfred A. Cunningham reported to the Superintendent of the Naval Academy in 1912 for "duty in connection with aviation," automobile touring goggles and a football helmet may well have been among the items of flight equipment he was issued. (In fact, sporting goods companies, such as Abercrombie & Fitch and Spalding, were some of the major early suppliers of aviation equipment.) Since those early years flight equipment has steadily progressed in design, so that today it provides Marine aircrewmembers with far greater personal safety than ever before. The helmet has evolved from an item designed to merely protect the head from crash impact, to a piece of equipment affording numerous additional benefits, such as face and eye protection from burns or cockpit implosion; ear protection against harmful high sound levels; and improved communications. Flight clothing has changed from jerseys, riding breeches, leather puttees, and cumbersome single-piece flying suits, to a modularized system of equipment offering superior survival protection consonant with the aircrewman's operational flying environment.

Equipment and clothing required to meet the needs of nonflying aviation maintenance personnel have seen a slower evolution, and while many improvements have been made, the cotton coveralls worn in 1983 still bear a striking similarity to the "mechanics suit" used in 1916.

At the left is a Marine helicopter pilot dressed in flight equipment typically issued to all rotary-wing aircrewmembers. The SPH-3 protective helmet he is wearing is especially effective in providing sound attenuation, and his flight suit, which is made of

Aramid cloth, is extremely resistant to high temperatures. The pilot's basic survival equipment is contained in the SV-2B survival vest and attached LPA/LPU life preserver. Flyer's boots, composed of a leather upper body, steel "safety toes" and non-slip soles, complete the display of aviation clothing for helicopter pilots. All these items are normally required to be worn during flight.

The next figure, second from the left, shows an enlisted plane captain. He is wearing a HGU-25/P cranial helmet and eye goggles. The helmet provides him with impact protection and sound attenuation, while the goggles protect his eyes from flying debris. He is wearing coveralls made of sa-teen cotton, and his footwear is the same as described for the helicopter pilot.

The figure in the center is a radar intercept officer (RIO) who is displaying equipment normally worn by aircrewmembers operating high-performance aircraft. The RIO is wearing the lightweight, form-fitting HGU-33/P helmet, with a MBU-12/P oxygen mask attached. An MA-2 torso harness, SV-2B survival vest with LPA/LPU life preserver, and a CSU-15/P anti-G garment ("G suit") make up the remaining equipment which is regularly worn over the flight suit while flying. The RIO is wearing GS/FRP-2 fire-resistant gloves. These gloves are worn by all aircrewmembers during flight.

At the far right is an aviator wearing the leather flying jacket, type G-1, with a service uniform. The leather flight jacket is designed for use during actual flight operations, but Marines who have been issued the jacket are also permitted to wear it with service "B" and "C" uniforms during duty hours and while traveling to and from their domiciles. When the flight jacket is worn with the service uniform, only one officially approved unit patch is authorized, and it will be placed on the right front of the jacket, level with the nametape on the left side.



Flying Ensemble  
(Rotary Wing)

Protective Coversalls

Flying Ensemble  
(Fixed Wing)

Service Uniform with  
Flight Jacket

# U.S. Marine Corps Uniforms 1983

## *PLATE X—FIELD UNIFORMS*

Green linen or cotton hunting shirts were worn by Continental Marines. Work or fatigue uniforms of the same material were worn by Marines as early as 1808, but such uniforms generally were not used as combat uniforms until World War II. From 1898 to World War II, the Marine Corps' commitment was mostly in the tropics, and cotton khaki was worn in the field. Blue denim coveralls or overalls and jacket were issued for dirty work. The familiar sage-green herringbone twill (HBT) utility jacket and trousers were introduced in 1941 and cap in 1943 and worn in all of the Pacific campaigns as a work and combat uniform. After undergoing several slight modifications during World War II a camouflage utility uniform printed with a green pattern on one side, brown on the other, was issued to raiders, parachutists, and scout-snipers. The "green sateen" uniform which replaced the HBT was developed and procured by the Army and was designated a universal issue uniform to be worn by all services. In 1968 the green sateen utilities were replaced in Vietnam by the Army green poplin jungle uniform. Subsequently, personnel in Vietnam wore the camouflage pattern rip-stop poplin jungle utilities. These were phased into the recruit issue in 1978, and were later replaced beginning in 1982 by the current woodland camouflage utility uniform.

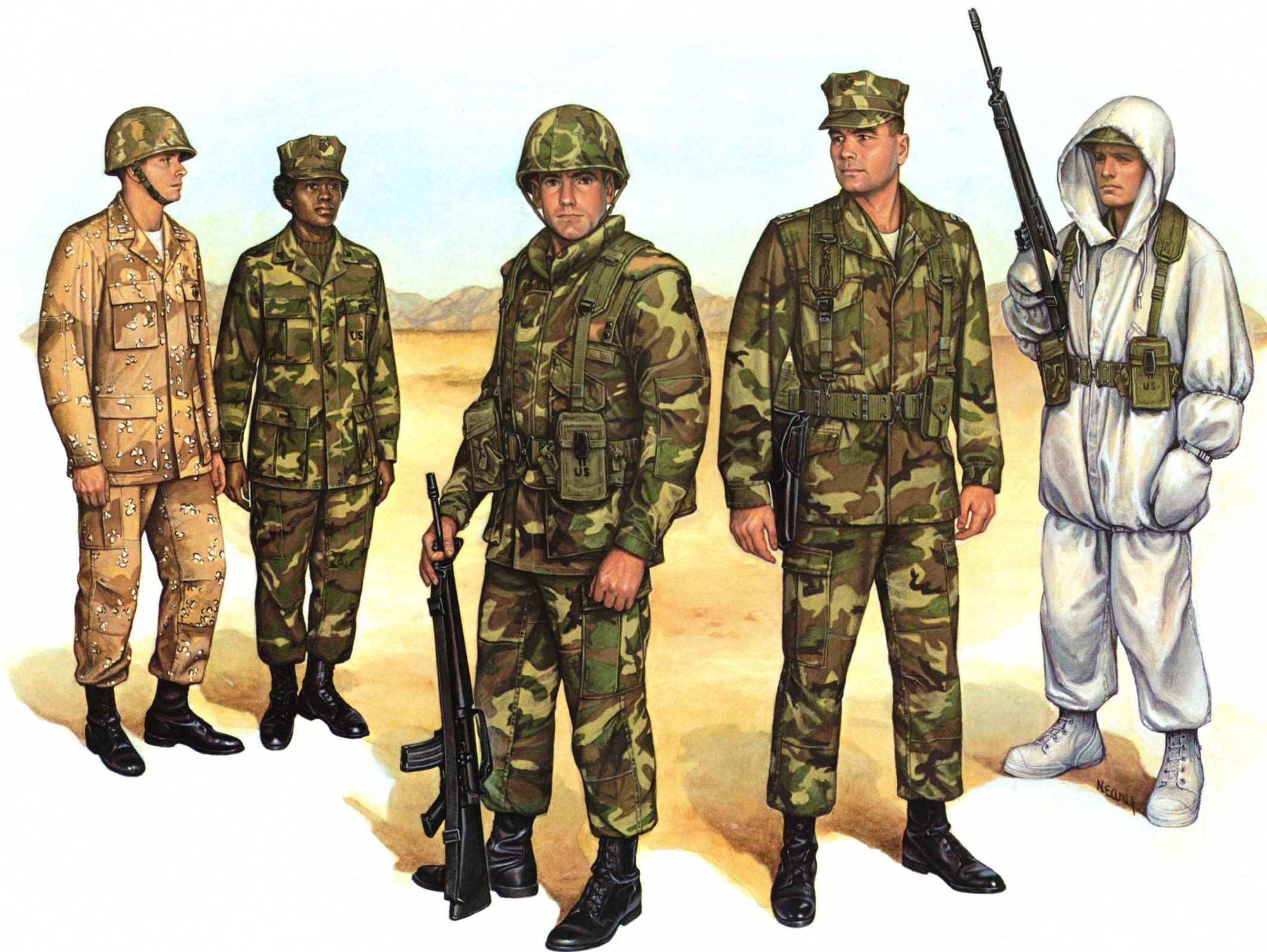
Shown in this plate are the various different field/utility uniforms. At left is a male captain in the desert camouflage utility uniform. This uniform, which is issued, when required, as organizational property, is intended for personnel engaged in combat in a desert environment. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 8100) Although a white undershirt is shown here, brown undershirts are being phased into the Marine Corps Supply System for future organizational issue and wear with this uniform.

Second from the left is a female enlisted Marine wearing the older-style "poplin" camouflage utilities. As shown here, the service sweater, when worn, is worn under the utility coat. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4129) Enlisted Marines shall wear their metal/plastic insignia of grade on the utility coat and field coat. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 5303) The utility uniform is only authorized for wear for field type exercises, for work conditions where it is not practical to wear the service uniform, and within the Fleet Marine Force where the wear of utility uniform is an enhancement of readiness. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraphs 3108, 3209, 3306, 3408)

The figure in the center is a male enlisted Marine wearing the "woodland camouflage" utility uniform with "782" field equipment. The Marine is also wearing the newly introduced lightweight camouflage body armor. When the helmet is worn, the appropriate camouflage helmet cover will normally be worn to match the surrounding terrain.

The fourth figure from the left is a male captain wearing the "woodland camouflage" utility uniform with the recently adopted camouflage field coat and "782" field equipment. The field coat is not presently authorized for wear with the service uniform. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 8108)

The Marine at far right is wearing the Arctic camouflage uniform. The items shown here include the white parka, overpants, and cold weather dry boots (also known as "Mickey Mouse" boots). This uniform, issued as organizational property, would be worn for combat or exercises when the surrounding terrain is predominantly white. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 8100)



Desert Camouflage  
Utilities

Camouflage Utilities  
with Service Sweater

Camouflage Utilities  
with Body Armor

Camouflage Utilities  
with Field Coat

Arctic Camouflage  
Uniform

# U.S. Marine Corps Uniforms 1983

## *PLATE XI—UNIFORM ACCESSORIES AND OFFICER INSIGNIA*

Shown in this plate are a variety of uniform embellishments worn predominantly by officers, although some items may be worn by enlisted Marines.

Many of the uniform embellishments and insignia are well over 100 years old. Grade insignia, except for that of warrant officers adopted in 1948, date from before the Civil War. The bursting shell insignia of marine gunner and chief marine gunner dates from 1917. The Mameluke hilted officers' sword dates from the early 19th century with the first official pattern being the 1826. The current pattern was adopted in 1875. The quatrefoil first appeared on the top of officers' caps in 1859 having been copied from French uniform embellishments then in vogue. The basic naval aviator wings date from World War I, while the other wings date from World War II or later. Pistol expert and sharpshooter badges date from 1912. Gold braid on the evening dress uniforms date from 1875, but the current pattern was adopted in 1949.

Across the top of the plate are the insignia of grade for officers from warrant officer to general. These insignia are worn on all uniform coats. When the uniform coats are not worn, these insignia will be worn on the shirt collar. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraphs 5106-5108, 5206) An example of a colonel's evening dress insignia of grade is provided to the right of the sword.

The breast insignia displayed (Naval Aviator, Naval Flight Officer, Naval Aviation Observer, Navy/Marine Corps Parachutist) are worn in miniature on the evening and mess dress uniforms and in standard size on all other uniforms. Enlisted personnel frequently wear the parachutist insignia, but rarely the others. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraphs 5101, 5300).

The officers' dress and service collar insignia shown are worn in pairs, with anchors pointing inward, on officers' dress and service coats. The service collar insignia is worn on the garrison cap with anchor pointed forward. The service and dress cap insignia are worn on the service and dress frame caps, respectively. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraphs 5105, 5203)

The pistol marksmanship badges are authorized for wear by Marines who have qualified with the

pistol. These badges shall not be worn on evening or mess dress, dress "A," or utility uniforms, but may be optional or prescribed for all other uniforms. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 6500).

Just below the marksmanship badges are side views of officers' trouser legs. The service and blue dress trousers are similar to the enlisted items except for the width of the red stripe. The evening dress and general officers' blue trousers do not have an enlisted equivalent. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4122)

The officers' sword, with Mameluke-style grip, may be prescribed with all uniforms except evening dress, mess dress, or utilities, but is normally worn only for ceremonies. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4121)

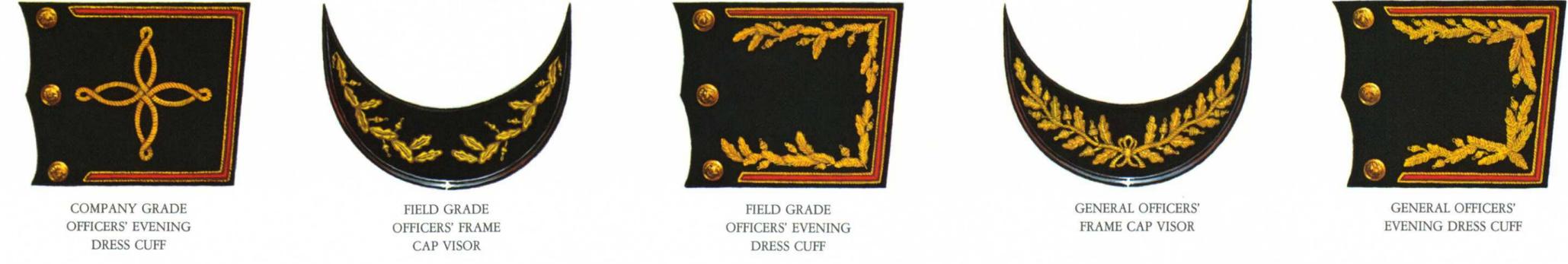
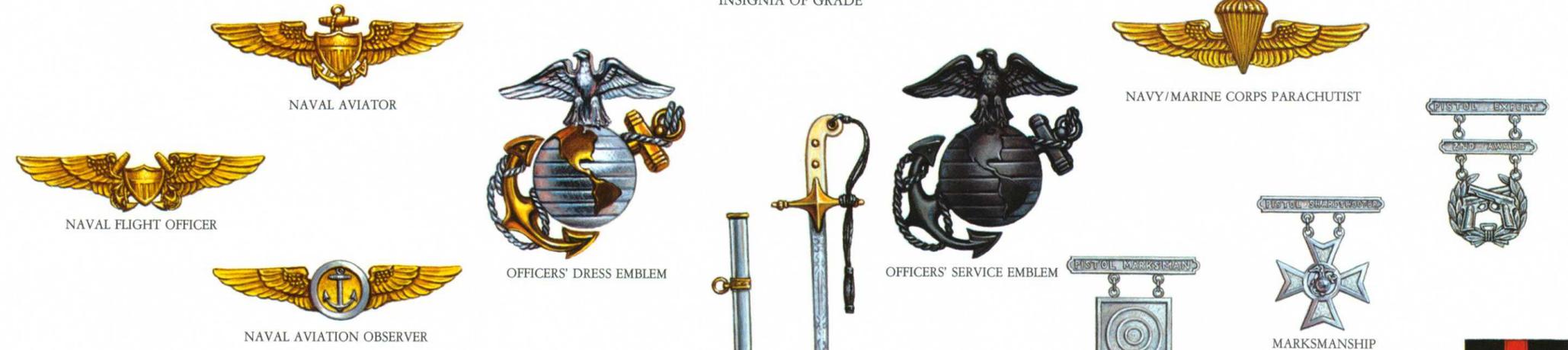
To the right of the sword is the Marine Gunner Distinguishing Insignia. These "bursting bombs" are worn on the service and dress uniforms of warrant officers formally designated by the Commandant as "marine gunners," serving as "general duty" or "non-technical" warrants in combat arms occupational fields. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 5104)

To the left of the sword is the quatrefoil worn on the top panel of the male officers' dress cap cover. A similar device in green is worn on the top panel of officers' service cap covers. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4104). The silver-and-gold necktie clasp shown is optional and may be worn by officers in lieu of the standard gold-colored necktie clasp. A necktie clasp must be worn with the service necktie whenever the khaki shirt is worn as an outer garment. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraphs 4105, 4108)

At far left are examples of officers' service and dress coat cuffs. The chevron-shaped cuffs are sewn down and have no buttons or piping as do the enlisted dress cuffs. The elaborate cuff ornamentation for the evening dress jacket is shown at the bottom of the plate. Between the evening dress cuffs are the dress frame cap visors with ornamentation that field grade and general officers wear with both the service and dress cap covers. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4104, 4114).



INSIGNIA OF GRADE



# U.S. Marine Corps Uniforms 1983

## *PLATE XII—UNIFORM ACCESSORIES AND ENLISTED INSIGNIA*

Shown are a variety of uniform accessories worn predominantly by enlisted Marines, although some items are also worn by officers.

The button dates to 1804 with the only change being from six to five-pointed stars in 1834. The red stripe on noncommissioned officers' trousers first appeared on the Marine uniforms of 1798. The eagle, globe, and anchor insignia was adopted in 1868. The current pattern was adopted in 1954. Rifle expert and sharpshooter badges of similar form date from 1912 or earlier. The Good Conduct Medal was initiated in 1896 and the Expeditionary Medal in 1929. The noncommissioned officers' sword is of the pattern carried by Marine officers from 1859 to 1875. It was copied from the Army foot officers' sword M1850. Service stripes were first adopted in 1875. Air crew wings and the Army-type parachutist wings date from World War II. Chevrons have denoted Marine noncommissioned officers' ratings since 1859. Bronze buttons and emblems date from 1912 to 1964, when they were changed to black.

Across the top and bottom of the plate are various enlisted chevrons. Those on the top row are worn on the blue dress uniform and those on the bottom row alternate between those worn on the khaki shirt and those worn on the service coat. Below the blue dress corporal's insignia is the slightly smaller woman's grade insignia, with an example of the metal/plastic grade insignia to the lower left. The metal/plastic grade insignia are normally worn on the all-weather coat, raincoat, field coat, khaki shirt with sweater, and the utility coat. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraphs 5303, 5403)

The breast insignia displayed (Scuba Diver, Marine Aerial Navigator, Naval Aircrew, Basic Parachutist, Combat Aircrew, Basic Explosive Ordnance Disposal) are worn in miniature on the evening and mess dress uniforms and in standard size on all other uniforms. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraphs 5300, 5101)

The enlisted dress and service collar insignia shown are worn in pairs, with anchors pointed inward, on the dress and service coats. The service collar insignia, with anchor pointed forward, is worn on the garrison cap. The service cap insignia is

worn on the fiber helmet, campaign hat, and the service cap, while the dress cap insignia is worn only on the dress cap. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 5302)

The rifle marksmanship badges are authorized for wear by Marines who have qualified with the service rifle. These badges shall not be worn on evening or mess dress, dress "A," or utility uniforms, but may be optional or prescribed for all other uniforms. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 6500)

Just below the marksmanship badges are side views of the trouser legs as worn by enlisted Marines. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraphs 4122, 5306) The NCO sword, maintained as organizational property, is normally only worn for various ceremonies and then only with the blue/blue white dress, or service uniforms. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 8111)

To the right of the sword are the three waistplates worn by enlisted Marines. The "duty belt" waistplate shown is issued as organizational equipment. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraphs 8115, 8116). The other two waistplates are the standard waistplates worn with the white belt for the blue dress uniforms. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4102) At left and right of the sword are large versions of the Marine Corps Good Conduct and Expeditionary Medals, respectively. Large medals are worn on the dress "A" uniforms.

To the right of the waistplate is the necktie clasp, which must be worn with the service necktie. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4105)

At far right are examples of enlisted service and dress coat cuffs and service stripes. Service stripes are worn, one stripe for every four years' service "creditable for retirement." (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 5305) The buttons of the dress sleeve are shown in detail above and the service button is shown in detail at far left. Uniform buttons are considered "distinctive insignia" of Marine Corps uniforms and may not be worn with civilian attire. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 5301, 1204)



MALE BLUE DRESS INSIGNIA OF GRADE



SERVICE BUTTON



METAL/PLASTIC INSIGNIA OF GRADE



FEMALE BLUE DRESS INSIGNIA OF GRADE



ENLISTED SERVICE INSIGNIA



ENLISTED DRESS INSIGNIA



SCUBA DIVER



DRESS BUTTON



MARKSMANSHIP BADGES



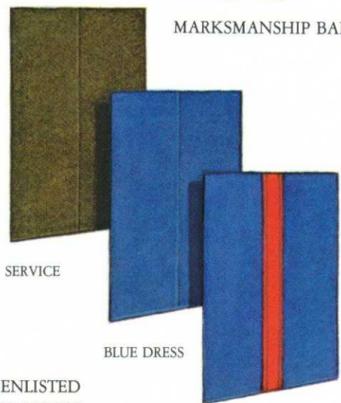
COMBAT AIRCREW



MARINE AERIAL NAVIGATOR



NAVAL AIRCREW



SERVICE

BLUE DRESS

ENLISTED TROUSERS

NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS' BLUE DRESS



BASIC EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL



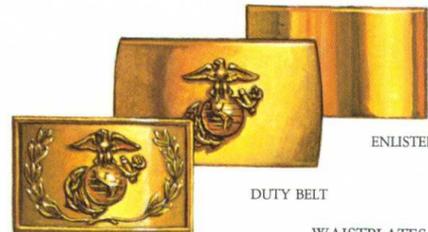
GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL



NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS' SWORD AND SCABBARD



EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL



STAFF NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER

ENLISTED

DUTY BELT

WAISTPLATES



ENLISTED NECKTIE CLASP



BASIC PARACHUTIST



BLUE DRESS

SERVICE

ENLISTED SLEEVE AND CUFF WITH SERVICE STRIPES



PRIVATE FIRST CLASS



LANCE CORPORAL



CORPORAL



SERGEANT



STAFF SERGEANT



GUNNERY SERGEANT



MASTER SERGEANT



FIRST SERGEANT



MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT



SERGEANT MAJOR

KHAKI SHIRT/SERVICE COAT INSIGNIA OF GRADE