

# *“The Commandant’s Own”*

## United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps

Major Nathan D. Morris, Commanding Officer

Captain Courtney R. Lawrence, Director

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### ANNOUNCES A VACANCY FOR HIGH BRASS

Interested trumpet and mellophone players are encouraged to submit the enclosed Applicant Fact Sheet along with their current résumé and **audio recordings** to [auditions.drumcorps@marines.usmc.mil](mailto:auditions.drumcorps@marines.usmc.mil) by **Monday, December 1, 2025**. Well-qualified candidates will be notified and invited to attend the live audition held on **Monday, January 5, 2026**, at Marine Barracks Washington, 8th & I Streets SE in Washington, D.C. No specific audition time will be assigned; candidates will be heard in the order in which they appear and register.

"The Commandant's Own," founded in 1934, is the only active duty drum and bugle corps currently serving in our armed forces. Its mission is to provide music and drill ceremony to the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Commanding Officer of Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. The Drum & Bugle Corps performs martial and popular music for hundreds of thousands of spectators each year. Comprised of over 70 Marine musicians dressed in ceremonial red and white uniforms, it is known world-wide 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 Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. The Drum & Bugle Corps travels more than 50,000 miles annually, performing in nearly 500 events across the nation and abroad.

Upon accepting employment with “The Commandant’s Own,” United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, the hired candidate must be able to satisfy all requirements for enlistment in the United States Marine Corps and will be required to complete Marine Corps Recruit Training and Marine Combat Training prior to reporting for duty at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C.

Candidates that wish to be considered must submit **WAV or MP3 audio recordings** of the following excerpts:

Performed on Bb Trumpet or F Mellophone

1. No. 2, from *Études for Trumpet* (Brandt) [mm.1 – mm.8]
2. No. 15, “Legato” from *Practical Studies for the Cornet* (Goldman) [mm.1 – mm.24]

Performed on Bb Trumpet only

3. “To the Color”
4. “Taps”

The live audition will consist of the following:

A. Repertoire of the candidate’s choice – **Not to exceed three minutes** Bb Trumpet or F Mellophone (i.e. solos, excerpts, or etudes demonstrating the candidate’s range, lyrical, and technical abilities.)

B. Excerpts (enclosed) – **To be selected from the following:**

Performed on Bb Trumpet or F Mellophone

1. No. 2, from *Études for Trumpet* (Brandt) [mm.1 – mm.8]
2. No. 15, “Legato” from *Practical Studies for the Cornet* (Goldman) [mm.1 – mm.24]
3. “Semper Fidelis” (Sousa) [mm.1 – mm.42] no repeats - play only 2<sup>nd</sup> endings

Performed on Bb Trumpet only

4. Bugle Calls
  - i. “To the Color”
  - ii. “Taps”

C. Marching Assessment (enclosed) – Candidates must demonstrate competency in basic marching techniques using the provided marching exercises.

D. Combined Marching & Playing Assessment (enclosed) – Candidates must perform the following excerpt from memory while marching the provided exercise.

1. “Semper Fidelis” (Sousa) [mm.51 – mm.82] Bb Trumpet or F Mellophone

**-Candidates may be dismissed based on their performance after any assessment-**

For further information, please write or call:

Audition & Enlistment Coordinator • Russell Road 3280 • Quantico, VA 22134

Office Phone: (571) 559-4538 • Cell Phone: (571) 288-1707 • [www.drumcorps.marines.mil](http://www.drumcorps.marines.mil)

# *"The Commandant's Own"*

## United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps

Major Nathan D. Morris, Commanding Officer

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Please print or type.

### APPLICANT FACT SHEET

**NOTICE:** Prior to submitting this form, please verify that you meet the standard basic qualifications necessary to become a member of the U. S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps. To review a list of these requirements, please visit our website at: <https://www.drumcorps.marines.mil/Career-Info/>

<b>PERSONAL INFO.</b>	First Name:	Middle Initial:	Last Name:	
	Position(s) for which you are applying:			
	Street Address:		Apartment:	
	City:		State:	Zip Code:
	Primary Phone:		Secondary Phone:	
	E-mail Address:		Are you a United States Citizen? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	Date of Birth:		Date available for enlistment:	
	How did you learn about this audition?			
<b>MILITARY</b>	Do you have prior U. S. Military service? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		If so, how long did you serve? Years: Months:	
	Are you now on active duty or reserve status? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		When does your contract end?	
	<b>If currently serving on active duty, please include with your application an authorized conditional release from your present command.</b>			
<b>REFERENCES</b>	Name:	Name:		
	Title/Position:	Title/Position:		
	Phone:	Phone:		
	E-mail:	E-mail:		
Please return this completed application, your current résumé, and all required recordings to <b>auditions.drumcorps@marines.usmc.mil</b> If you need assistance in submitting application materials, please contact the Audition & Enlistment Coordinator at:  OFFICE PHONE: (571) 559-4538      MAIL: "The Commandant's Own," United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps Marine Corps Recruiting Command CELL PHONE: (571) 288-1707      Russell Road 3280, Quantico, VA 22134				
NOTE: Items submitted through the U. S. Mail are not delivered in a timely manner as they are diverted to an off-site security screening center before being forwarded to our facility. This process may cause a significant delay in the delivery of your materials.  You will receive e-mail confirmation upon receipt of your application materials. Candidates who are invited to the live round will be notified promptly. If you are unable to attend or have further questions, please call (571) 559-4538 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. eastern time on weekdays. In the event of severe weather or other events that could impact the audition, please refer to your e-mail or the U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps' website for updates.				
<b>PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT FOR U. S. MARINE DRUM &amp; BUGLE CORPS APPLICANTS</b>				
This statement is provided in compliance with the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) which requires Federal agencies to inform individuals who are requested to furnish personal information about themselves.				
1. <u>Authority.</u> 10 U.S.C. 5063, MCO P5211.2				
2. <u>Principal Purposes.</u> The information that will be requested from you in the selection process and personal interview is intended to provide a basis on which to evaluate your suitability to hold a position with the United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps.				
3. <u>Routine Uses.</u> In addition to being used by U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps' staff in the audition and evaluation process, pertinent information will be provided to other government activities in a preliminary screening to determine your ability to obtain a security clearance, which is a requirement for duty with the United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps.				
4. Disclosure of this information is voluntary, but failure to do so could result in the inability of the U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps' staff to evaluate your suitability for a position in the United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps and could preclude further participation in the audition process.				
Applicant's Signature:			Date:	

# *“The Commandant’s Own”*

United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps

## HIGH BRASS AUDITION

JANUARY 5, 2026

Marine Barracks Washington

8th & I Streets SE

Washington, DC

The live audition will consist of the following:

A. Repertoire of the candidate’s choice – **Not to exceed three minutes** Bb Trumpet or F Mellophone (i.e. solos, excerpts, or etudes demonstrating the candidate’s range, lyrical, and technical abilities.)

B. Excerpts (enclosed) – **To be selected from the following:**

1. No. 2, from *Études for Trumpet* (Brandt) [mm.1 – mm.8] Bb Trumpet or F Mellophone

♩ = 90

*f*

4

6 *mp* *f*

2. No. 15, “Legato” from *Practical Studies for the Cornet* (Goldman) [mm.1 – mm.24] Bb Trumpet or F Mellophone

Moderato ♩ = 60

*p*

6 *mf*

12 *mf* *p*

18

For further information, please write or call:

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3. "Semper Fidelis" (Sousa) [mm.1 – mm.42] no repeats - play only 2<sup>nd</sup> endings Bb Trumpet or F Mellophone

**March Tempo.**

The musical score for "Semper Fidelis" is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *ff* and includes a slur over the first two measures. The second staff starts at measure 8 and includes dynamics *[f]*, *f*, and *[mf]*. The third staff starts at measure 15 and includes dynamics *f*, *sf*, *[mf]*, and *[f]*. The fourth staff starts at measure 22 and includes dynamics *[ff]*, *[f]*, *[f]*, *[ff]*, *fff*, and *[f]*. The fifth staff starts at measure 30 and includes a dynamic marking of *[ff]*. The sixth staff starts at measure 38 and includes dynamics *[f]* and *p*, with a 7-measure rest and the instruction "[Opt. 1-3 valves]".

4. Bugle Calls

i. "To the Color" Bb Trumpet only

**QUICK TIME**

The musical score for "To the Color" is written in treble clef with a common time signature (C). It consists of two staves of music. The first staff is marked "QUICK TIME" and ends with "FINE". The second staff is marked "DC al FINE".

ii. "Taps" Bb Trumpet only

**SLOW**

The musical score for "Taps" is written in treble clef with a common time signature (C). It consists of one staff of music marked "SLOW".

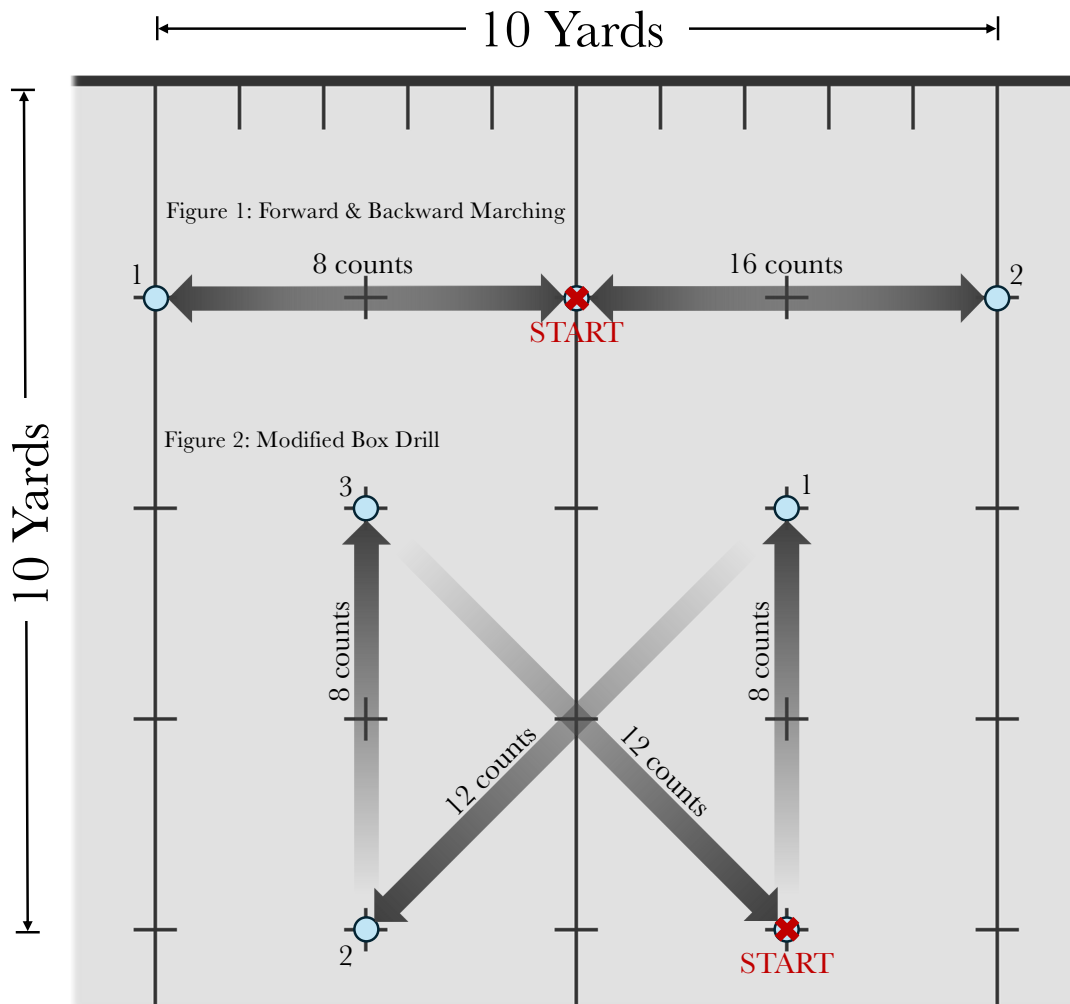
C. Marching Assessment (enclosed) – Candidates will demonstrate competency in basic marching techniques using the provided marching exercises. (To be performed in the playing position; instrument parallel to the ground.)

Forward & Backward Marching (see Figure 1):  
The following drill sequence will be performed with a metronome twice; once at 100 bpm, and again at 144 bpm. The candidate will begin at the START position, facing position 1.

Counts	Instructions
8	Forward march to position 1
4	Hold
8	Backward march to the START position
4	Hold
16	Backward march to position 2
4	Hold
16	Forward march to the START position
4	Hold (exercise complete)

Modified Box Drill (see Figure 2):  
The following drill sequence will be performed with a metronome at 120 bpm. The candidate will begin at the START position, facing the 'front sideline.' Shoulders should remain parallel to the 'front sideline' for the duration of the exercise.

Counts	Instructions
8	Forward march to position 1
12	Backward march to position 2
8	Forward march to position 3
12	Backward march to the START position
8	Forward march to position 1
12	Backward march to position 2
4	Hold (exercise complete)



D. Combined Marching & Playing Assessment (enclosed) – Candidates must perform the following excerpt from memory while marching the Modified Box Drill (see Figure 2 above).

1. “Semper Fidelis” (Sousa) [mm.51 – mm.82] Bb Trumpet or F Mellophone

51 ♩ = 120 March Tempo.

