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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

**BATTLE COLOR CEREMONY**

## SILENT DRILL PLATOON

The United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon is a highly disciplined platoon that exemplifies the pride and professionalism associated with all Marines. The Silent Drill Platoon is a 24-man rifle unit that performs military drill with hand-polished, 10 and one-half pound, M-1 Garand rifles with fixed bayonets. All drill movements are performed without any verbal commands. The drill exhibition concludes with a series of rifle inspections demonstrating elaborate rifle spins with tosses.

These Marines are individually selected from the Schools of Infantry to serve a tour at Marine Barracks Washington DC. Experienced Marines of the Silent Drill Platoon have the opportunity for selection as one of the two Rifle Inspectors. These inspectors, along with the Platoon Drill Master, are entrusted with keeping and passing on the unique knowledge and history, of the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.



## *"The Commandant's Own"* THE UNITED STATES MARINE DRUM & BUGLE CORPS

The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps was formed in November of 1934 to augment "The President's Own," United States Marine Band, and to support other ceremonial functions. As the only military ensemble of its type in the armed forces, they perform a variety of styles for millions of spectators annually. As traditional buglers, they are part of the time honored tradition of performing daily bugle calls at their home port of Marine Barracks along with standard "honors" for our fallen at Arlington National Cemetery.

"The Commandant's Own" has been a part of the Marine Corps' and America's story. The Drum & Bugle Corps distinguished itself during many national events including the Middle East Peace Accords held at Camp David in 1978, represented the United States during Australia's bicentennial celebration in 1988, along with a joint performance in 2011 with the New York Philharmonic at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center.

In recognition of their distinguished service to our Corps, the 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Michael W. Hagee officially designated The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps as "The Commandant's Own".

## BATTLE COLOR DETACHMENT

The United States Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment celebrates the historic pride of the Marine Corps through the finest in music with ceremonial drill. From Marine Barracks in Washington DC, this detachment features "The Commandant's Own," The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, The United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, and the Official Color Guard of the Marine Corps. Each year, this highly skilled unit of 130 Marines travels worldwide to demonstrate the discipline, professionalism, and "Esprit de Corps" of United States Marines.

Each Spring the detachment performs this ceremony at military installations throughout the United States along with several highly visible events to include The Edinburgh Tattoo in Scotland, Belleau Wood WWI Memorial in France, the 65th Memorial of WWII on the island of Iwo Jima (To), and the Norwegian Military Tattoo. These units are featured during the Friday Evening Parades at Marine Barracks and at the Sunset Parades at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va.



## COLOR GUARD

The United States Marine Corps Color Guard is entrusted with our National Ensign along with the official Battle Color of the United States Marines. The fifty-four colored streamers which adorn the Battle Color represent the illustrious history and accomplishments of the Marine Corps. The Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps carries the National Ensign for ceremonies in the national capital region, the Presidential Color for all White House State functions, ceremonies for the Commandant of the Marine Corps along with tours with the Battle Color Detachment.

The Battle Color bears the same fifty-four streamers authorized for the Marine Corps as a whole. These streamers represent U.S. and foreign unit awards as well as those periods of service, expeditions, and campaigns in which the Marine Corps has participated. They span the entire history of our nation from the American Revolution to current combat operations. The Color Guard section from Marine Barracks Washington has several teams which participate in more than 1,000 ceremonies annually.