

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
FIELD MEDICAL TRAINING BATTALION-EAST  
PSC BOX 20042  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0042

MCECST

**2401-HIST-1004 RANK, CUSTOMS AND COURTESIES**

**TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

(1) Without the aid of references, describe military customs, courtesies, and honors without omitting key components. (2401-HIST-1004)

**ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

(1) Given a list of choices, identify military customs in accordance with the reference, The History of the United States Marine Corps by Allan R. Millet. (2401-HIST-1004a)

(2) Given a list of choices, identify military courtesies in accordance with the reference, The History of the United States Marine Corps by Allan R. Millet. (2401-HIST-1004b)



1. **ENLISTED RANKS**

The Enlisted Ranks are categorized into three different groups. Starting off with Junior Enlisted, Non Commissioned Officer (NCO), and Staff Non Commissioned Officer (SNCO).



a. **Junior Enlisted**

PAYGRADE	MARINE CORPS	NAVY
E-1	Private NONE	Seaman STUDENT NONE

- Roles:
1. Entry level Marine/Sailor.
  2. Platoon member responsible to their fireteam leader.



E-2	<b>Private First Class</b> 	<b>Seaman Apprentice</b> 
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- Roles:
1. Entry level Marine.
  2. Platoon member responsible to their fireteam leader.


E-3	<b>Lance Corporal</b> 	<b>Seaman</b> 
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- Roles:
2. Platoon member responsible to their fireteam leader.
  3. Experienced Lance Corporals can assume the duties as a fireteam leader.

b. **Non-Commissioned Officer**



PAYGRADE	MARINE CORPS	NAVY
E-4	<p>Corporal</p> 	<p>Petty Officer Third Class</p> <p>HAT / COLLAR</p> 

Roles: 1. Experienced Marine assigned as fireteam leader or squad leader.



E-5	<p>Sergeant</p> 	<p>Petty Officer Second Class</p> <p>HAT / COLLAR</p> 
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Roles: 1. Experienced Marine assigned as squad leader, but can assume duties as Platoon Sergeant.




c. Staff Non-Commissioned Officer



PAYGRADE	MARINE CORPS	NAVY
E-6	<p>Staff Sergeant</p> 	<p>Petty Officer First Class</p> <p>HAT / COLLAR</p> 

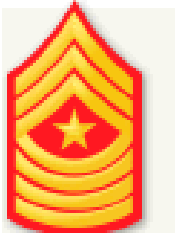

Roles: 1. Senior Marine assigned as Platoon Sergeant, But can assume duties as Platoon Commander.

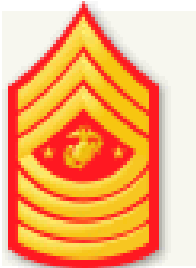

PAYGRADE	MARINE CORPS	NAVY
E-7	<p><b>Gunnery Sergeant</b></p> 	<p><b>Chief Petty Officer</b></p> <p>HAT / COLLAR</p> 

Roles: 1. Senior Marine assigned as Company Gunnery Sergeant; can assume role as Company 1stSgt.

PAYGRADE	MARINE CORPS	NAVY
E-8	<p><b>Master Sergeant (Technical Expert)</b></p>  <p><b>First Sergeant (Administrative)</b></p> 	<p><b>Senior Chief Petty Officer</b></p> <p>HAT / COLLAR</p> 

PAYGRADE	MARINE CORPS	NAVY
E-9	<p><b>Master Gunnery Sergeant (Technical Expert)</b></p> 	<p><b>Master Chief Petty Officer</b></p> <p>HAT / COLLAR</p> 

PAYGRADE	MARINE CORPS	NAVY
E-9	Sergeant Major (Administrative) 	Command Master Chief 

PAYGRADE	MARINE CORPS	NAVY
E-9	Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps 	Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) 



## 2. OFFICER RANKS

Marine Corps Officers wear gold or silver rank insignias on the shoulder lapel of their coats or overcoats. They also wear small replicas of the insignia on their shirt collar. The color and shape of the insignia varies with their rank.



a. Officer ranks within the Marine Corps are categorized into three (3) groups

- (1) Company Grade: WO1 to CW05 and O-1 to O-3
- (2) Field Grade: O-4 to O-6
- (3) General Grade: O-7 to O-10



b. Company Grade

PAYGRADE	MARINE	NAVY
<p><b>Warrant Officer (WO-1)</b></p>	<p>Background is <b>GOLD</b> and markings are <b>SCARLET.</b></p> 	<p>Background is <b>GOLD</b> and markings are <b>BLUE.</b></p>  <p>(Navy Intelligence Field ONLY)</p>



PAYGRADE	MARINE	NAVY
<p><b>Chief Warrant Officer TWO (CWO-2)</b></p>	<p>Background is <b>GOLD</b> and markings are <b>SCARLET</b></p> 	<p>Background is <b>GOLD</b> and markings are <b>BLUE</b></p> 



PAYGRADE	MARINE	NAVY
<p><b>Chief Warrant Officer Three (CWO-3)</b></p>	<p>Background is <b>SILVER</b> and markings are <b>SCARLET</b></p> 	<p>Background is <b>SILVER</b> and markings are <b>BLUE</b></p> 



PAYGRADE	MARINE	NAVY
Chief Warrant Officer Four (CWO-4)	Background is <b>SILVER</b> and markings are <b>SCARLET</b>	Background is <b>SILVER</b> and markings are <b>BLUE</b>
		

PAYGRADE	MARINE	NAVY
Chief Warrant Officer Five (CWO-5)	Background is <b>SILVER</b> and markings are <b>SCARLET</b>	Background is <b>SILVER</b> and markings are <b>BLUE</b>
		



**NOTE:** WO-1 in the Marine Corps is known as Warrant Officer. CWO-2 through CWO-5 are called Chief Warrant Officers.



PAYGRADE	MARINE	NAVY
O-1 (Bar is Gold)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant	Ensign
		



PAYGRADE	MARINE	NAVY
O-2 (Bar is Silver)	1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant	Lieutenant Junior Grade
		

PAYGRADE	MARINE	NAVY
O-3 (Bars are Silver)	Captain 	Lieutenant 



c. Field Grade

PAYGRADE	MARINE	NAVY
O-4 (Leaf is Gold)	Major 	Lieutenant Commander 


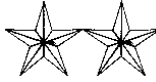
PAYGRADE	MARINE	NAVY
O-5 (Leaf is Silver)	Lieutenant Colonel 	Commander 



PAYGRADE	MARINE	NAVY
O-6 (Eagle is Silver)	Colonel 	Captain 

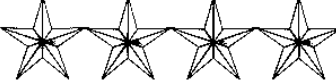

d. General Grade Officers

PAYGRADE	MARINE	NAVY
O-7	Brigadier General 	Rear Admiral (lower half) 



PAYGRADE	MARINE	NAVY
O-8	Major General 	Rear Admiral (upper half) 

PAYGRADE	MARINE	NAVY
O-9	Lieutenant General 	Vice Admiral 

PAYGRADE	MARINE	NAVY
O-10	General 	Admiral 

e. **Senior Officers**

Each branch of the Armed Forces has a senior officer grade of their respective branches of the service.

- (1) Marines: Commandant of the Marine Corps
- (2) Navy: Chief of Naval Operations

3. **MARINE CORPS CUSTOMS AND COURTESIES.**

Since the birth of the Marine Corps, customs and courtesies have helped shape the culture of today's Marine Corps. In this portion of the lesson we will discuss a few of these noteworthy manners:

a. **The Marine's Hymn.** The "Marines' Hymn" is the official hymn of the United States Marine Corps, introduced by the first director of USMC Band, Francesco Maria Scala. It is the oldest official song in the United States Armed Forces. The "Marines' Hymn" is typically sung or listened to at the position of attention as a gesture of respect.

b. **Every Marine is a Rifleman.** The 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Alfred M. Gray Jr., once stated, "Every Marine is, first and foremost, a rifleman. All other conditions are secondary."

c. **Marine Corps Birthday.** Each year on November 10th, Marines across the globe celebrate the Marine Corps birthday with an annual message from the Commandant of the Marine Corps and a piece of cake to honor all who have served with honor and dignity.

d. **Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.** The Silent Drill Platoon first performed in 1948, and is located at Marine Barracks, 8th and I Street, Washington, D.C. The United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon is a 24-man rifle platoon of the United States Marine Corps. Often referred to as The Marching Twenty-Four, the unit performs a unique silent precision exhibition drill. The purpose of the platoon is to exemplify the discipline and professionalism of the Marine Corps.

**REFERENCE (S) :**

MCRP 6-11B Marine Corps Values: A Users Guide for Discussion Leaders

Millet, R. Allan Semper Fidelis, The History of the United States Marine Corps

**NOTES :**

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