

Guided Discussion - USMC Customs, Courtesies, and Traditions

<u>TIME</u>	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>
	<p>Good morning my name is _____ today we will be talking about Marine Corps customs, courtesies, and traditions.</p> <p>The ground rules for this discussion are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) No personal attacks on anyone's opinions(2) Allow each participant to express themselves(3) Drinking coffee and soda is allowed(4) Make head calls at your leisure, just don't interrupt the group(5) Keep your language clean as not to offend others(6) PARTICIPATION BY ALL!!!!!! <p>Gain Attention</p> <p>On November 10, 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of Continental Congress. Since that date many thousand men have borne the name "Marine". In memory of them it is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the birthday of our corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history.</p> <p>The record of our corps is one which will bear comparison with that of the most famous military organizations in the world's history. During 90 of the 146 years of its existence the Marine Corps has been in action against the Nation's foes. From the Battle of Trenton to the Argonne, Marines have won foremost honors in war, and in the long eras of tranquility at home, generation after generation of Marines have grown gray in war in both hemispheres and in every corner of the seven seas, that our country and its citizens might enjoy peace and security.</p> <p>In every battle and skirmish since the birth of our corps, Marines have acquitted themselves with the greatest distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term "Marine" has come to signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue.</p> <p>This high name of distinction and soldierly repute we who are Marines today have received from those who preceded us in the corps. With it we have also received from them the eternal spirit which has animated our corps from generation to generation and has been the distinguishing mark of the Marines in every age. So long as that spirit continues to flourish Marines will be found equal to every emergency in the future as they have been in the past, and the men of our Nation will regard us as worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as "Soldiers of the Sea" since the founding of the Corps.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">John A. Lejeune, Major General Commandant</p>	

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	<p>Key points for this discussion will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Discuss the purpose of the Marine Corps customs, courtesies, and traditions (2) Discuss Marine Corps customs (3) Discuss Marine Corps courtesies (4) Discuss Marine Corps traditions <p>Learning Objective: After this guided discussion, you will have a better understanding of our customs, courtesies, and traditions.</p>	
<u>TIME</u>	<p><u>DISCUSSION</u></p> <p><u>KEY POINT 1</u></p> <p>1. How many of you heard the speech I just read? Can you tell the group what is significant about the message?</p> <p>- On November 1st, 1921, John A. Lejeune, 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, directed that a reminder of the honorable service of the Corps be published by every command, to all Marines throughout the globe, on the birthday of the Corps.</p> <p>2. Why do you think the Marine Corps has customs, courtesies, and traditions? Could the customs, courtesies, and traditions be the reason you joined the Marine Corps?</p> <p>- Over our history we have developed customs and courtesies that are similar to many other military organizations but others that are quite unique to our Corps.</p> <p>- Our customs, courtesies and traditions are part of our heritage and are associated with the reputation as the world finest fighting force that persuaded us to join. Whether it was the idea of becoming something special, the image of a Marine in dress blues on a poster, the precision of the silent drill team, the glory of the flag flying over the Marine Corps War Memorial or any other of the symbols associated with our Corps something influenced you to become a Marine.</p> <p>3. What is the purpose of our customs, courtesies, and traditions?</p> <p>- All organizations have formal rules and regulations that govern individual and group conduct and behavior. These maintain good order and discipline. In addition many organizations and cultures have another set of rules that can be both formal and informal. These are customs, courtesies and traditions. Overtime the Marine Corps have developed its own unique customs, courtesies, and traditions. It is important that you understand what these are and their importance to the strength of a unit. This strength includes unit discipline, esprit de corps, morale, and cohesion.</p>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>

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	<p>Interim Summary: We just finished discussing the purpose of the Marine Corps customs, courtesies, and traditions and how our customs, courtesies, and traditions are part of our heritage and are associated with our reputation as the world finest fighting force. Now let's talk Marine Corps customs.</p>	
<u>TIME</u>	<p><u>KEY POINT 2</u></p> <p>1. What are customs? Why do you think the Marine Corps has customs?</p> <p>- Customs are the practices of preserving ideas and actions from generation to generation.</p> <p>- Customs strengthen a unit by providing a link with our past, strengthening unit cohesion by instilling a sense of pride in the unit, esprit de corps and morale.</p> <p>2. Who can name some Marine Corps customs?</p> <p>- Some Marine Corps customs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Corps Birthday • Parades • Ceremonies • Mess night <p>Interim Summary: We just finished discussing some of the Marine Corps customs such as...</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Now let's talk about Marine Corps courtesies.</p>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>
<u>TIME</u>	<p><u>KEY POINT 3</u></p> <p>1. Can someone please tell the group the definition of courtesies?</p> <p>- Courtesies are a set of rules of behavior. It allows for a set of rules that makes it easier for people to live with each other.</p> <p>- As part of a military culture this is essential. We all belong to units that must fight as a team. We also understand that within this unit there is a rank structure and chain of command.</p> <p>2. What does having courtesies do for the Marine Corps? What are some of our courtesies?</p>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>

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	<p>- The courtesies of the Marines Corps allow for the harmonious interaction of all Marines.</p> <p>- Some Marine Corps courtesies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saluting • Reporting to seniors • Addressing officers <p>Interim Summary: We just finished discussing some of the Marine Corps courtesies such as...</p> <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <p>Now let's talk about Marine Corps traditions.</p>	
<u>TIME</u>	<p><u>KEY POINT 4</u></p> <p>1. Can someone please tell the group the definition of traditions?</p> <p>- Traditions are the transmission of knowledge, opinions, doctrines, customs and practices from generation to generation by word of mouth or example.</p> <p>2. What are some of the Marine Corps traditions?</p> <p>- Some Marine Corps traditions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our motto • Our conduct in battle • Change of command ceremony <p>- Concepts such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marines never leave our dead, wounded or equipment behind on the field of battle. <p>- Examples of our combat traditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "First to fight" • "The Marines have landed and the situation is well in hand" <p>3. Why do you think having traditions is important to the Marine Corps?</p> <p>- Marine Corps traditions have helped create a fighting force that has become recognized as an American institution.</p> <p>- Our traditions foster camaraderie and provide us with an example to emulate.</p>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>

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	- Traditions provide us with a link to our past.	
<u>TIME</u>	<u>SUMMARY/CONCLUSION</u> Today we have discussed the Marine Corps customs, courtesies, and traditions. I am confident that you now have a better understanding of our customs, courtesies, and traditions. Closing Statement: It is essential that all Marines know and apply the customs, courtesies and traditions of our Corps. They are a part of our heritage and will ensure our continued success in the future. As a warrior they provide us with a link to our past, guide our actions in the present and provide us with a means of passing on to future generations of Marines a part of who we are. <i><u>END OF DISCUSSION</u></i>	<u>REMARKS/NOTES</u>
	<u>RESOURCES</u> - US Marine Corps, Martial Arts Center of Excellence. Instructor Outline. Knife Techniques. Gray Belt. MA-2.01. Revised 03/24/10. - MCWP 6-11: Leading Marines - MCU History Division	