

U.S. Marine Corps Uniforms 1983

Twelve Full-Color Prints



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AND THE
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**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)

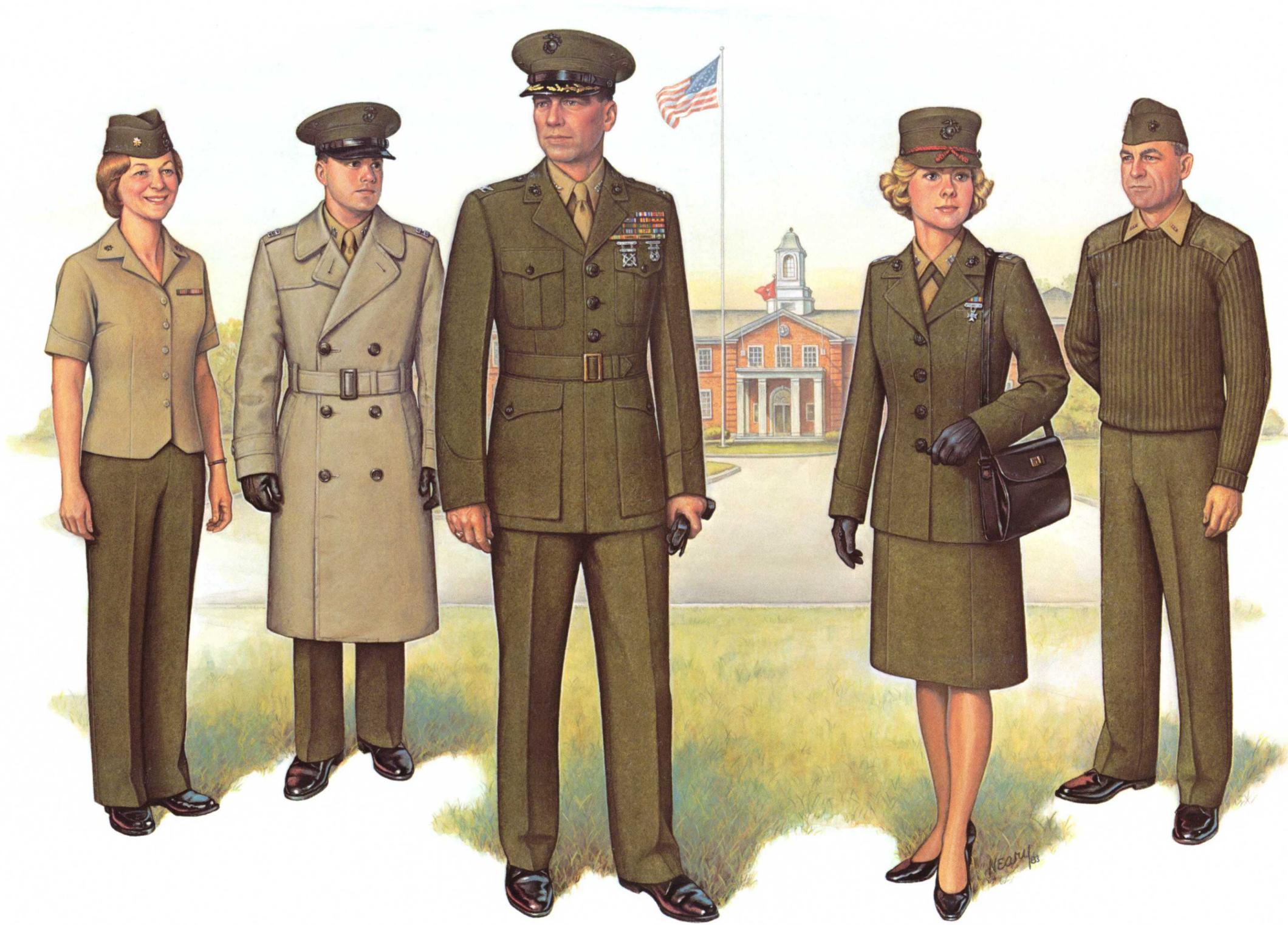
Second from the left is a male captain in the service uniform with the all-weather coat. The coat can be worn with all service, dress, and utility uniforms. It includes a removable liner. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 4116) The

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)

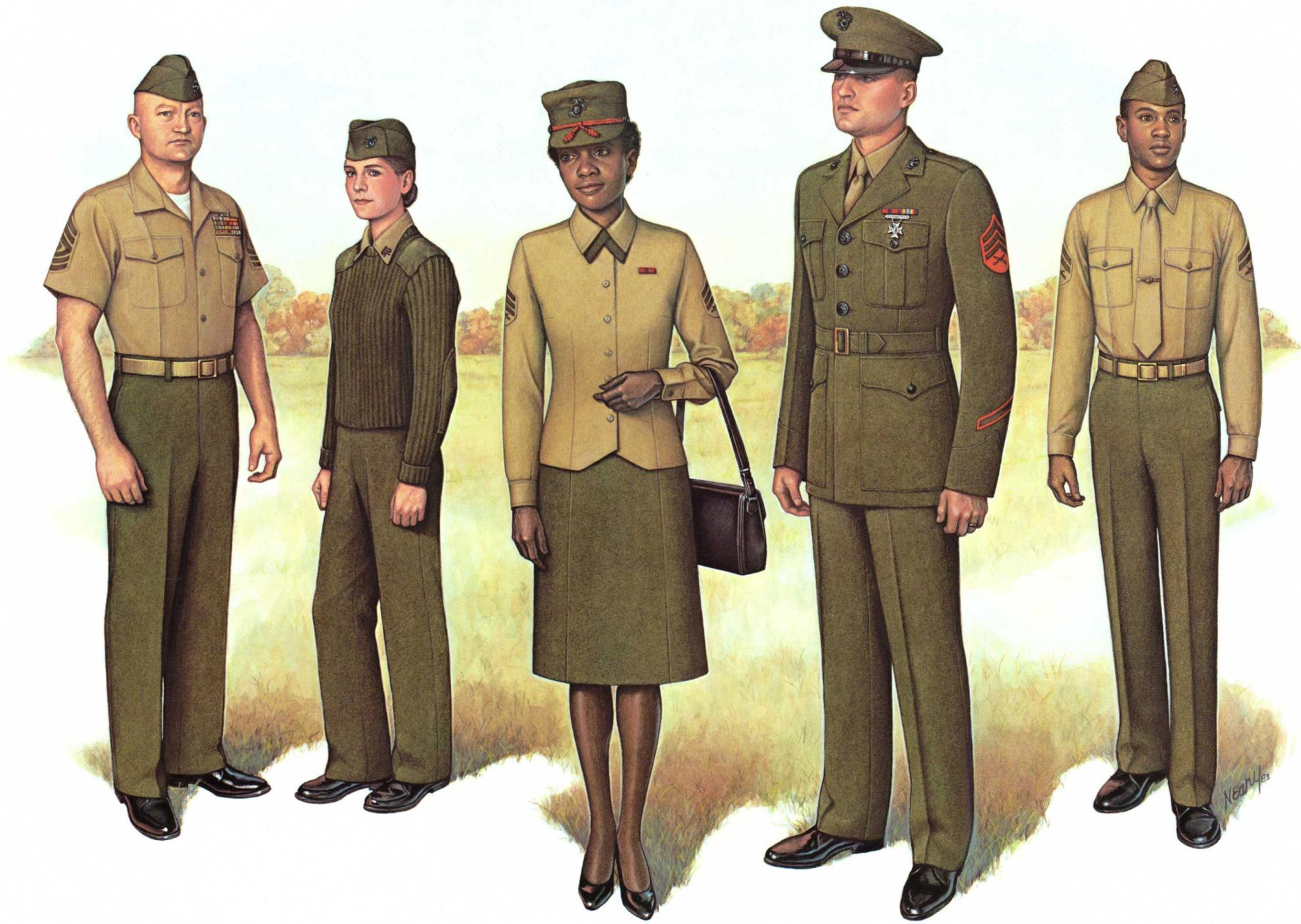
Second from the left is a female corporal in the service uniform with the service sweater worn in lieu of the service coat. The sweater is an optional item of uniform, not a part of the uniform allowance. When enlisted Marines wear the service sweater, metal grade insignia is worn on the shirt collar. (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-

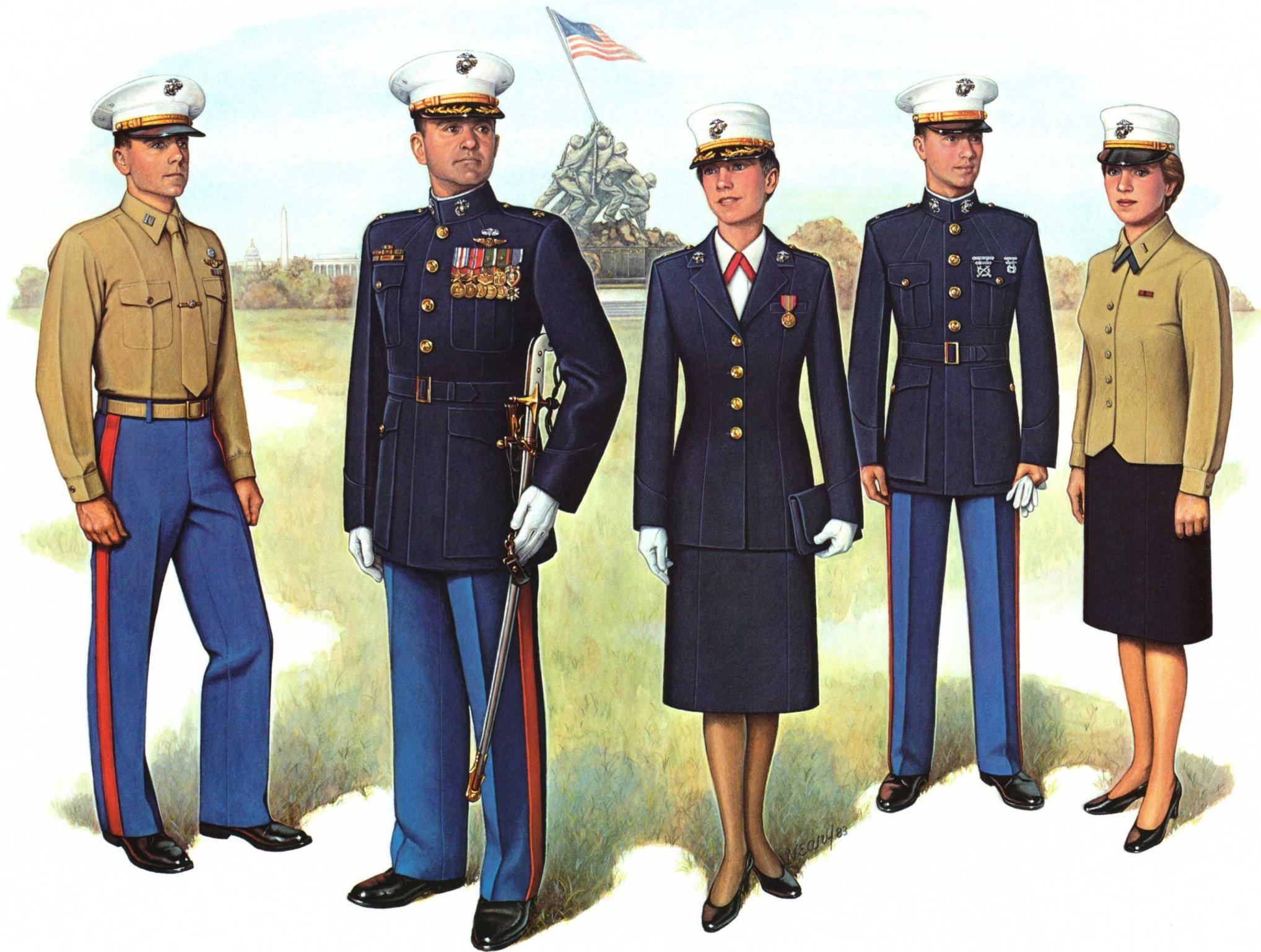
manding officer desires to pay special honors to the occasion. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, paragraph 3103) When a dress "A" uniform is prescribed, medals are worn on the left breast, and ribbons for which no medal has been struck are worn on the right breast. (Marine Corps Uniform Regulations,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

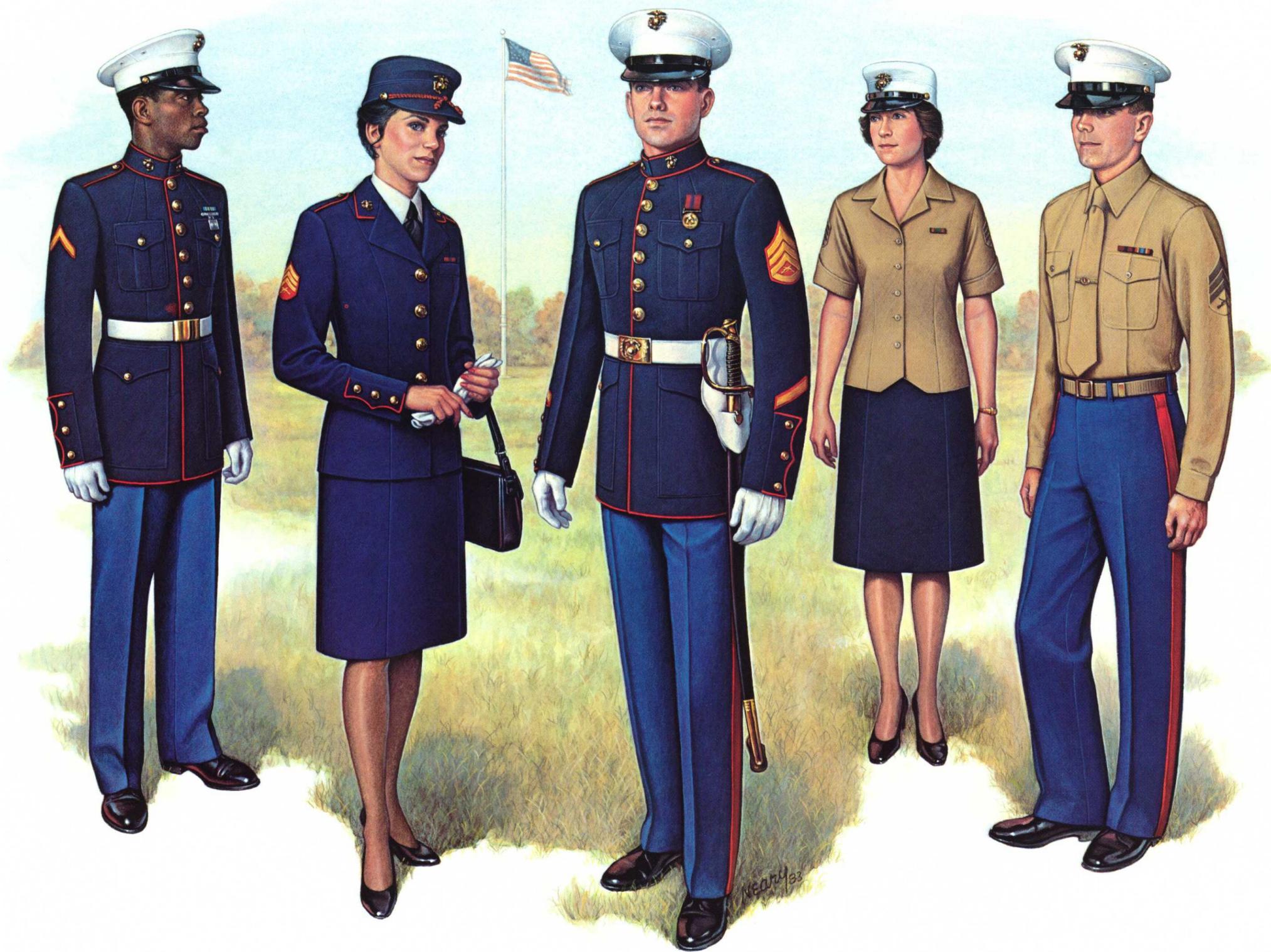
Second from the left is a female sergeant in the blue dress "B" uniform. The style of this uniform was modified in 1981, and while the uniform shown in this figure is authorized for wear during

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"