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# OFFICIAL U.S. MARINE CORPS COLOR GUARD

THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS COLOR GUARD PLATOON IS ENTRUSTED WITH OUR NATIONAL ENSIGN ALONGSIDE THE OFFICIAL BATTLE COLOR OF THE MARINE CORPS AT CEREMONIES ACROSS THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND THE UNITED STATES IN ORDER TO RENDER APPROPRIATE MILITARY HONORS AND TO DISPLAY THE MARINE CORPS' ILLUSTRIOUS WARFIGHTING HISTORY. THE 55 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.

IN ORDER TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COLOR GUARD PLATOON, MARINES MUST BE 73 TO 78 INCHES TALL, BE WITHIN HEIGHT AND WEIGHT STANDARDS AND POSSESS OUTSTANDING PHYSICAL STAMINA AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE. MARINES MUST ALSO PASS CEREMONIAL DRILL SCHOOL AND CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER. ALONGSIDE PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES, MARINES MUST POSSESS MORAL CHARACTER, SUPERIOR LEADERSHIP, ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS, AND BE ABLE TO SET THE EXAMPLE FOR ALL OTHERS TO EMULATE.

THE COLOR SERGEANT OF THE MARINE CORPS SERVES AS THE SENIOR SERGEANT OF THE MARINE CORPS AND IS SELECTED FROM THE FLEET MARINE FORCE. THE COLOR SERGEANT CARRIES THE NATIONAL FLAG IN CEREMONIES THROUGHOUT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND AROUND THE NATION. HE IS ALSO ENTRUSTED WITH CARRYING THE PRESIDENTIAL COLORS FOR ALL OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE CEREMONIES. THE 55 STREAMERS OF THE MARINE CORPS BATTLE COLOR REPRESENT MORE THAN 400 U.S. AND FOREIGN AWARDS AS WELL AS CAMPAIGNS IN WHICH MARINES HAVE PARTICIPATED. THEY SPAN THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF THE NATION, FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR TO THE PRESENT. THE COLOR GUARD PLATOON IS ALSO UNIQUE THAT THEY CARRY A BANDED STAFF. THESE 55 SILVER BANDS DENOTE THE TITLE OF THE AWARDS AND CAMPAIGNS OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS THAT ARE SYMBOLIZED IN THE 55 BATTLE STREAMERS. A DUPLICATE OF THIS BATTLE COLOR IS MAINTAINED AND HELD AT THE OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS. "THE COMMANDANT'S FOUR" IS A GROUP OF MARINES WHO ARE CHOSEN TO REPRESENT THE OFFICIAL UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS COLOR GUARD AND BE A REPRESENTATION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS. THEY ARE THE KEEPERS OF THE COLORS FOR CEREMONIAL EVENTS, EVENING PARADES, AND A PART OF THE BATTLE COLOR DETACHMENT WHEN TOURING ACROSS THE NATION.

