

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT, SAN DIEGO

RECRUIT GRADUATION AUDIENCE GUIDE

- This guide provides a step-by-step walkthrough of the recruit graduation ceremony.
- It's designed to be accessible to all guests, including those who are hard of hearing, multilingual, or unfamiliar with military tradition.
- Each portion of the ceremony includes a brief explanation, followed by the actual narration as it is spoken during the event.
- No names or ranks are included, so this guide can be used at any graduation, regardless of company.

Glossary

- **Parade Rest** - A position of rest with your feet spread 12 inches apart and your hands behind your back.
- **Attention** - A position where you're standing upright, heels together, and hands at your sides.
- **Present Arms** - Position where one performs a military salute. If holding a sword, the sword is used to salute.
- **Order Arms** - Returning to 'attention' after saluting.
- **Guide** - The Marine marching at the head of the platoon.
- **Guidon** - The red flag held by the platoon or Series guide.
- **Platoon** - Smallest organized unit of Marines, led by the senior Drill Instructor. There are 6 platoons.
- **Series** - One half of a company, consisting of 3 platoons.
- **Company** - Unit consisting of all platoons within the company. There are 4 Companies in the battalion.
- **Battalion** - Unit Consisting of all companies within the battalion. There are 3 training Battalions in the regiment.
- **Regiment** - Unit which oversees all training battalions.

Pre-Parade Serenade

- Around 0940, the graduating companies march onto the parade deck from the right. They stop at their first set of ceremonial marks and are commanded to Parade Rest. They will remain in this position until the next command.
- At the same time, the parade staff members quietly fall in beneath the archways on both sides of the reviewing stand.
- A few minutes later, straight ahead, the Marine Band enters the parade deck. Centered on the reviewing area they begin their march on.
- Then the narrator will state:

NARR:

As the band enters the Parade Deck, we ask that you refrain from crossing the Parade Deck or crossing in front of the reviewing area. If you must cross, please go to the far ends. Once you have reached the seating area, we ask that you remain seated, keeping the area directly in front of the bleachers clear.

Feel free to take photographs and videos from anywhere in the seating area. We ask that you silence all electronic devices. Please look around you and do not leave any trash or personal belongings. At the conclusion of today's ceremony, we ask that you exit the parade deck behind the bleachers.

Thank you!

- After the band marches forward and halts, the musicians in the front row begin to peel outward, some stepping to the left, others to the right. This movement creates a wide arc, spreading the band out so that more musicians are facing the audience directly. It's called a "concert split" because it creates a concert-style formation, better for projection and visual effect.
- The conductor steps forward, and the band begins their first ceremonial selection.
- When they complete their first song, then the narrator will state:

NARR:

A Marine band has been a part of the Depot's history since 1914, when the 4th Marine Regiment band was originally stationed in

San Diego. In 1921, the Second Advanced Base Band was officially formed. In those early years, the band marched in local parades and played weekly concerts at the Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park, which is a tradition that continues today, as the band still performs on that very same stage.

In 1948, the band adopted its current title: Marine Band San Diego. For over a century, the band has sustained the Corps' rich military history with performances locally, across the nation, and throughout the globe where they have thrilled countless millions with their inspiring renditions of traditional and contemporary music.

Each member of the band has completed recruit training and maintains combat skills, giving true meaning to the title, "Marine Musicians."

Marine Band San Diego is under the leadership of the Band Officer, Warrant Officer Megan Harper, and the Band Master, Master Sergeant Fredrick Kern.

Today the band is led on the march by the Drum Major and is under the direction the Enlisted Conductor.

- After the narration the Marine Band performs a second ceremonial piece.
- Once their performance ends, the Drum Major steps to the front. The band reforms into a block, tightening back into rows and columns. Then, in a choreographed turn, the band marches to the rear, reversing their direction in a flowing, snaking movement. They march away and conduct a left turn, heading toward their final position on the far-left side of the field.
- As they band marches away, the narrator will state:

NARR:

Another round of applause for Marine Band San Diego!

For its first 136 years, the Marine Corps had no formalized plan for training recruits. Major General Willaim Biddle sought to change this, and in 1919 he established the Corps' first formal training schools: One in Parris Island South Carolina, and one in Mare Island, California. By 1923, west coast recruit training was moved here, where it has remained ever since.

Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego is the Corps' oldest west coast installation. Originally constructed in 1911 to serve as an expeditionary base, it was constructed atop a tidal marshland called "Dutch Flats" overlooking the San Diego Bay. The base was built with the intention of being "The most beautiful and picturesque post in the United States".

The buildings you see in front of you were inspired by Spanish Colonial revival architecture and are known as the arcade. The arcade was designed by world famous architect Bertram Goodhue, who is also credited with creating San Diego's Balboa Park and The United States Naval Academy. Over 25 buildings here are the original structures from over 100 years ago and they are proudly included on the national register of historic places.

For over a century, the depot has served as the recruit training center for the western united states, covering over 3 million square miles of the population. The Western Recruiting Region tasks over 3,000 recruiting staff across more than 700 Recruiting Stations with the mission of finding Americas finest young men and women and offering them the challenge of becoming a United States Marine. Through 13 weeks of rigorous training, the Drill Instructors, Officers, and staff of the depot have worked tirelessly to train your new Marine. While some individual techniques and methods may have evolved over the years, you can rest assured that they received the toughest, most physically and mentally demanding recruit training offered anywhere in the world.

More than 1 million Marines have been trained here, and have marched across this parade deck, just as your Marines will today. Like those before them, the Marines of (the graduating company) accept their responsibilities to safeguard the traditions of the Marine Corps as they step forward to join our rich heritage. Ahead of them lie bright futures that will no doubt add to the proud Marine legacy that they now rightfully claim as their own.

- As the band positions themselves, a Marine marches from the archway, centering himself in front of the reviewing area, while leading a bulldog on a leash. The Marine stands at attention and renders a salute while the narrator shares the dog's background.
- The Narrator will state:

NARR:

If you turn your attention to the center reviewing stand, you will see LCpl Bruno. LCpl Bruno is a two-year-old full blooded English bulldog born in Fallbrook, California on October 22, 2022. He is named after Major General Bruno Hochmuth, who was the first general officer killed in action during the Vietnam war. Major general Hochmuth was also the Commanding General of the Depot from November 1963 to February 1967.

LCpl Bruno continues the tradition of a long line of Marine Corps bulldog mascots, dating back to 1921, when Brigadier General Smedley Butler appointed Sergeant Major "Jiggs" as the first bulldog mascot for Marine Corps Barracks, Quantico.

LCpl Bruno is being escorted by the Office of Communications Strategy and Operations.

- Once the narration is complete, the dog handler lowers the salute and marches off.
- Following the mascot's departure, the Commander of Troops (**COT**) marches out and takes position: Centered and facing the Reviewing Area.
- The COT is the senior Marine responsible for leading the execution of the ceremony. The COT will give all primary drill commands and oversee the movement of the companies and staff throughout the event.
- The COT gives the command "**FALL IN**". The parade staff marches forward from under the archways. The staff carry ceremonial swords which will accompany their drill movements and will be used during the rendering of salutes. They form 2 lines centered on the COT and then turn to face him/her.
- The COT executes an about face.
- The narrator then states:

NARR:

Spiritual development plays an important part in the making of a United States Marine. The Chaplain will deliver the graduation prayer.

Will the guests, please rise.

- The chaplain steps forward to deliver a brief prayer. They conclude with "**Amen**".
- After the prayer, the narrator states:

NARR:

Thank you, please be seated.

- Next, the Commander of Troops commands, "**TAKE YOUR POST**"
- The Adjutant (**ADJ**) steps away from the staff formation and marches toward their designated position a few paces away from, and in line with, the Band.
- As the lead ceremonial staff officer, the ADJ's main job is to formally start the ceremony. The ADJ is the Marine who sets the stage and signals key transitions.

March On Sequence

- As the ADJ marches across the parade deck, the narrator will state:

NARR:

The Commanding General of Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego welcomes you to what is a historic event in the life of all Marines, their graduation from recruit training. Approximately 40 weeks each year for the past 100 years, new Marines have departed San Diego for service with units of the Marine Corps around the globe. The primary mission of the recruit depot is to provide basic training to recruits enlisted west of the Mississippi River, which represents approximately 51% of all applicants in the Marine Corps each year.

The Depot is also home to Recruiter's School and Drill Instructor school. All of our efforts here are geared toward one end... Producing America's finest fighting force...the United States Marines Corps.

This morning the graduating company will form and march in the parade. Following the pass in review, the graduating marines will return front and center of the reviewing stand for final dismissal.

The staff for today's parade is comprised of Marines from the Recruit Training Regiment.

- After the narration, the ADJ draws their sword.
- The ADJ commands "**SOUND ATTENTION**" and the Band immediately plays 'Attention'.
- From the right side of the parade deck, the Battalion Drill Master calls the companies to Attention. The company snaps from parade rest to the position of attention, standing tall, heels together, with their arms held straight and close to their body.
- Then the narrator will state:

NARR:

The marching units are now being called to attention, and the adjutant's command, 'sound adjutants call', will begin today's parade.

- The ADJ commands "**SOUND ADJUTANTS CALL**" and the Band immediately plays 'Adjutants Call'.
- On the beat of the drum, the graduating companies are commanded "**FORWARD MARCH**" and begin marching forward. They march from right to left across the parade deck, keeping in step with the music. Each platoon is led by their Senior Drill Instructor and follow behind their Series Officer or Chief Drill Instructor. Each unit halts precisely at their designated mark and waits silently in formation as the music concludes.
- At the same time, the formation of parade staff march about 20 yards straight forward and halt nearly center on the Parade deck.
- While the platoons march, the narrator states:

NARR:

Marching in today's parade are the graduating Marines from today's graduating Company. Among the Marines are 2 Marines who displayed outstanding performances in 2 individually graded events. The company high shooter and the most physically fit Marine. They will be receiving awards from the Marine Corps Association and Foundation. Present today is the company honor graduate's recruiter. Also present today is the Primary Marksmanship Instructor with the highest platoon shooting average.

Recruit training is comprised of subjects which produce basic Marines that function effectively in garrison, are trained in

rudimentary individual field and combat skills, and practice the personal and professional traits which distinguish them as Marines.

Examples of these traits are:

Discipline, which is the achievement of self-control and self-awareness which assures respect for authority, instant and willing obedience to orders, and the self-reliance to maintain or improve those traits which exemplify a Marine.

Military bearing, meaning to consistently demonstrate military presence and personal awareness, as well as properly wear and maintain one's uniforms.

And, Esprit de corps, which is acquiring the common spirit of the Marine Corps that inspires enthusiasm, pride, teamwork, aggressiveness, camaraderie, and the burning desire to work with and for others toward excellence in common goals.

For 250 years, Marines have fought and won whenever and wherever the Nation calls. In the harshest conditions, over the most brutal terrain, and against the most formidable enemies, Marines defend the ideals of freedom with grit and tenacity.

Marines today remain in combat, forward-deployed throughout the world confronting every challenge with courage, loyalty, and faithfulness. They are resolved to be most ready when the Nation is least ready. To defend freedom anytime and anywhere. To stand ready to aid those devastated by natural disasters. To pay tribute to those who have forged our proud legacy and to honor the families and loved ones who faithfully stand beside us.

For the Marines of the graduating company, today marks the end of the thirteen-week recruit training cycle. Thanks to an intensive physical training program, their strength and endurance have doubled since their arrival aboard the Recruit Depot. They have marched countless miles at Camp Pendleton, as well as on this parade deck. Like all Marines, they have been trained as basic riflemen.

With their transformation complete, they are Marines, qualified to take their places in the ranks of the world's finest fighting organization.

- After the music ends, the Marines receive the command "**LEFT FACE**" and turn to face their senior drill instructor.
- With all platoons now facing the audience, the command "**DRESS RIGHT, DRESS**" is given, prompting each Marine to turn their head sharply to the right and raise their left arm to shoulder height. This ensures precise spacing and alignment across the formation.
- During this, the narrator states:

NARR:

- The platoons are now being aligned from left to right in order to get them into their exact positions for the parade.
- During the alignment, the ADJ marches to the center of the field in front of the parade staff.

Colors Sequence

- Once aligned, the platoons are commanded "**READY, FRONT, COVER**" and return to the position of attention facing the audience.
- The narrator then states:

NARR:

The next portion of the ceremony will be our National Anthem. We welcome veterans and members of the Armed Forces to join us in rendering appropriate honors with a military salute. For guests who have not served in the military, it is proper etiquette during the National Anthem to place their right hands over their hearts, and for those in the audience wearing headgear to remove it.

Will the guests please rise for the presentation of the colors.

- The ADJ will command "**MARCH ON THE COLORS**"
- Following that command, the Band begins playing "You're a Grand Old Flag".
- The Color Guard, consisting of one Marine carrying the American flag, another carrying the Marine Corps flag, and one Marine on either side with a rifle, steps off and marches to center, directly in front of the staff formation. Once in position, they halt and prepare to render honors.
- Then the ADJ will command "**PRESENT, ARMS**"

- At once, the entire company raises their right hand to the brim of their cover and renders a salute. Immediately after, the COT issues the same command to the staff.
- Then the narrator will state:

NARR:

"Ladies and gentlemen, our National Anthem."

- The band plays The Star-Spangled Banner.
- As the final note ends, the ADJ cuts his salute and commands the staff to cut their salute.
- The ADJ commands "**ORDER, ARMS**" to the company and the Marines return to attention.
- Then the narrator will state:

NARR:

"Thank you, please be seated."

- The ADJ then commands "**POST THE COLORS**".
- The color guard inverts their formation and begins marching away toward their position in line with the company.
- The narrator will state:

NARR:

At the command "post the colors", the color guard moves into position within the parade. This signifies that the entirety of the parade has been formed and is ready to be presented to the command.

SOUND OFF SEQUENCE

- Once the color guard is in place, they lower their flags and rifles.
- At this point, the parade is now fully formed. From left to right on the parade deck, the Band is on the far left, serving as the base of the formation. All 6 platoons stand facing the audience with the Color Guard in the center. The parade staff are facing the troops in the center of the parade deck, directly in front of the Color Guard. This formation sets the stage for the formal presentation of the graduating Marines.
- The narrator will state:

NARR:

Following the command 'parade rest', the parade adjutant will give the command 'sound off', which signals the band to parade forward of the assembled marines, while playing military marching music.

- The ADJ commands "**PARADE, REST**" followed by "**SOUND OFF**". The entire formation moves to the position 'parade rest'.
- The band then performs the traditional "Sound Off".
- While playing military music, the band marches down the line of troops, turns mid-field, and marches back in the opposite direction in a maneuver known as "trooping the line."

PRESENTATION OF THE COMMAND

- With the sound off complete, the ADJ calls the entire regiment to attention and orders "**PRESENT ARMS**".
- The entire company renders a salute to the COT.
- The ADJ then performs an about face, raises their sword in salute, and announces to the COT that the parade is formed.
- Then the narrator will state:

NARR:

The Parade Adjutant now presents the assembled command to the Commander of Troops.

- The COT acknowledges and then instructs the ADJ to take their post. The ADJ rejoins the staff.
- The staff draws swords in unison, and the COT orders the companies to 'Order Arms'.
- The ADJ moves to center and receives a report from each Series Officer, who confirms that all platoons are present. The ADJ then announces to the COT, "All present or accounted for."
- The COT responds, "Publish the order" prompting the ADJ to turn around and read the official order of the day aloud.

Officers Center Sequence

- The ADJ reads the following order:

- "Attention to orders. Headquarters, Recruit Training Regiment, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California, [date]. The Officer of the Day today is Captain [X]. The Officer of the Day tomorrow is Captain [Y]. By order of T. A. Maese, Colonel, United States Marine Corps, Commanding Officers, Center, MARCH"
- On the command 'MARCH' the band plays "Officer of the Day March". In time with the music, the unit commanders and guidon bearers march toward the center. They create a formation in the center of the field, march toward the parade staff, and render a salute in unison to the COT. When complete, they march in the same manner back to their original positions.
- During this, the narrator will state:

NARR:

At the command, "Officers, center march," all unit commanders and guidon bearers march to the front and center of the formation. Historically, it was at this point that commanding officers would issue orders and instructions to the unit commanders. Following this, the unit leaders would face about, return to their units, and pass the information along to their Marines.

- Once all Marines are back in their positions, the music stops, and the company is commanded to "PARADE REST".

BATTALION COMMANDER SPEECH

- Once the entire formation is at parade rest and is facing the audience, the narrator will state:

NARR:

Throughout our Nation's history, millions of men and women have earned the title, "United States Marine." Many who have helped shape our history join us here today.

In keeping with the tradition of "Once a Marine, always a Marine," we would like to recognize them. At this time, those in the audience who have served as Marines, please rise...

A round of applause for their dedicated service to Corps and Country.

- After the applause...

Thank you, please be seated.

And now, please welcome the Battalion Commander for the graduating company.

- The Battalion Commander steps forward and begins to make remarks to the crowd.
- At one point, the Battalion Commander will say "Excuse me as I turn my back and address our nation's newest Marines."
- He/She will say "Good morning, Marines."
- In unison, the graduating Marines snap to attention and respond loudly and confidently: "**Good morning, Sir/Ma'am! OORAH!**"

PASS IN REVIEW

- The Battalion Commander finishes speaking and returns to their seat.
- The narrator will state:

NARR:

Now taking their position in the reviewing area is today's Parade Reviewing Official.

- The COT commands to the company to "**PRESENT ARMS**", renders honors to the Parade reviewing official, and then returns the company to "Order Arms".
- The narrator will then read the biography of the Parade Reviewing Official.
- Following the narration, the Parade Reviewing Official salutes and commands "**MARCH, THE COMMAND IN REVIEW**"
- The COT will about face and command: "**PASS IN REVIEW. RIGHT, FACE**"
- The entire company will execute a facing movement and now face toward the left side of the Parade deck. The Series Guidon Bearers place themselves in front of their series, and the Senior Drill Instructors get in front of their platoons.
- The Narrator will state:

NARR:

The pass in review is a tradition within all military units, allowing the unit commander to formally inspect the Marines under their charge.

- The Band positions themselves further down the parade deck, and the Drum Major prepares the band to play
- With the band in place, the COT commands: "**FORWARD, MARCH**"
- The entire company steps off at once, staying in step with the music. They march down the parade deck, making a series of turns in order to position themselves closer to the reviewing area.
- As the company marches, the narrator will state:

Narr:

Over the entire history of the Depot, Marines that have crossed this parade deck have deployed into conflicts around the world where we have earned our trust and dependability.

Places such as:

Guadalcanal, where Marines worked with United States Soldiers to win the first offensive victory during World War II.

Iwo Jima, where uncommon valor was a common virtue, and Marines raised the national flag on top of Mt. Suribachi.

Incheon, where Marines assaulted three beaches simultaneously and outflanked North Korean forces.

Hue City, where Marines defeated North Vietnamese forces during the Tet Offensive.

Grenada, where military members were part of Operation Urgent Fury to help stabilize the local government.

Kuwait, where Marines were a part of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and fought to liberate the country from Iraqi forces.

Fallujah, where Marines surrounded the city within 24 hours to commence Operation Vigilant Resolve and take the city back from Al-Qaeda forces.

Marjah, where Marines worked with Afghan, British, Canadian, Danish, and Estonian forces to remove Taliban forces from the last stronghold in Helmand Province.

Even now, Marines are stationed worldwide to answer the call when they are needed. This parade deck has had many legendary Marines march across it, and they have never forgotten the feeling of earning their place among our ranks.

To honor our nations colors, as the American flag passes directly in front of you, please rise. Once it passes, you may be seated.

- As each unit approaches the Reviewing Stand, the platoon commander gives the command "**EYES, RIGHT**".
- The Guidon-Bearer thrusts the guidon staff forward, parallel to the ground, and all Marines in the unit snap their heads to the right as a salute to the Reviewing Official. The platoon commanders present their sword as they pass the reviewing area.
- As each platoon passes, the narrator announces them. This continues for each platoon, including the staff at the head of the formation, the band, color guard, and the series commanders or chief drill instructors.
- After clearing the reviewing stand, the command "**READY, FRONT**" is given, and all heads return forward.
- The company continues marching all the way to the opposite side of the Parade deck.
- At the edge of the field, they will conduct two turns and then begin marching back to their final position directly in front of the bleachers.
- The Marine band positions themselves directly in front of the reviewing stand and halt, still playing a drum cadence to keep the Marines marching in time.
- As the Marines march away, the Narrator will state:

NARR:

As we continue today's ceremony, if you turn to page 21 of your graduation pamphlets you will find the Marine's Hymn.

The Marines' Hymn has a history dating back to 1859 and has a long-standing tradition for Marines to face the direction of the music and stand at attention when it is heard.

It is now directed that all Marines present and who have served honorably, and, ladies and gentlemen, you are all encouraged to join – sing the words to the first verse as Marine Band San Diego performs Anchors Aweigh followed by The Marines' Hymn.

Will the guests please rise.

- The Marine Band plays 'Anchors Aweigh' and 'Marine's Hymn' and then continue to play a drum cadence for the marching Marines.
- The narrator states:

NARR:

Thank you, please be seated.

- To the right of the reviewing area, the parade staff have now come to a halt and are dismissed by the reviewing official.
- As the platoons continue to march, the narrator states:

The Marine Corps' uniqueness and strength as an elite fighting force is directly attributable to the magnificent efforts of the Drill Instructors and Company Officers who train and supervise the recruits.

The distinct qualities of spirit and discipline – the heart and soul of every Marine – have been developed, nurtured, and engrained in recruits through their observance and relationship with their Drill Instructors and Officers.

Recruit training is the very foundation of the Corps.

Each year, recruit training provides thousands of America's finest young men and women with the basic knowledge and skills to function in a profession characterized by its own set of high values and tough standards.

"The most important thing we do in the Marine Corps is make Marines. The individual Marine is the Corps." That is what we do here.

For the Marines graduating today, the long arduous journey of the last thirteen weeks is but a small step into the future of the Marine Corps.

As they prepare to fill the ranks of our Corps, they do so with unquestionable support for the high ideals and standards of the United States of America and the United States Marine Corps.

Although the graduating company prepares for their final dismissal from recruit training, their initial training is not over.

Soon after graduation, they will report to the School of Infantry, Camp Pendleton, California, where they will continue to be trained to serve as an effective member of a Marine rifle squad.

The intense initial training that every Marine undergoes is designed to instill the fundamental premise that every Marine is first and foremost a rifleman.

- As they approach their final mark, each platoon halts sequentially. When commanded, each platoon performs a left face, one platoon at a time. Now all platoons are facing the Reviewing Area.
- Once all platoons are in position, the Company First Sergeant and the Company Commander step forward in front of the Reviewing Stand.
- The Narrator States:

NARR:

And now, we would like to introduce you to the Marines responsible for ensuring the success of the difficult transition required to become a Marine.

The Company Commander is: [NAME]

The Company First Sergeant is: [NAME]

Please join me in a round of applause for the Company Staff of the Graduating Company!

Retiring the Guidons

- The company First Sergeant steps away, and the Company Commander turns around.
- The Narrator states:

NARR:

The next portion of the ceremony will be the traditional function of retiring the guidons.

- The Company Commander commands: "**GUIDES, CENTER, MARCH**"
- On the command, the guides step away from their platoons, face the center, and march as the band performs a drum cadence.
- As they march, the narrator states:

NARR:

The guidons have been carried by the platoons throughout recruit training and are being retired to symbolize the disbanding of platoons.

All similar units in the Marine Corps carry such guidons, which identify the unit and are a source of pride to each individual member. Note that the honor of carrying these guidons is bestowed upon those Marines who displayed outstanding leadership qualities, motivation, and character, and they were selected as the platoon honor graduates.

The platoon honor graduates compete for the titles of series and company honor graduate. They are considered the top Marines graduating today and have demonstrated the highest potential for future leadership and responsibility in the Marine Corps.

- The guides halt, centered on the Company Commander. The music stops as the last guide is in place.
- The guides face the company commander, march toward him/her, and halt. They then thrust the guidon forward, performing "**PRESENT GUIDON**".
- Once the company commander returns the salute, they perform "**ORDER GUIDON**".
- The narrator then states:

NARR:

The guidons will now be returned to the drill instructors.

- The band begins to perform "National Emblem March".
- From beneath the archway, a single-file line of drill instructors emerges. They march out and center themselves on their platoon guide.
- The company commander gives a series of commands, and the guidons exchange hands from the guides back to the drill instructors. The drill instructors face away and march off in a single file line once again. Then the music stops.
- The narrator then states:

NARR:

The honor graduates will now be presented a plaque by the Battalion Commander and the Battalion Sergeant Major.

Please hold your applause until all honor graduates have been recognized.

- After being saluted by the guides, the Battalion Commander and Sergeant Major approach the first guide.
- All guides are announced with their name and hometown and then are presented with their award. When complete, the Battalion Commander and Sergeant Major return to their seats.
- The COT commands to the guides: "**POST, MARCH**" and they return to their platoons as the band performs the drum cadence.

Dismissal

- To complete the ceremony, the COT orders the company First Sergeant to take command of the formation and dismiss the company. They exchange salutes and take their positions.
- The first sergeant turns to face the Marines.
- The narrator then states:

NARR:

The company 1stSgt will now give the command to the Senior Drill Instructors to dismiss their platoons. Needless to say, this will be the most welcomed command they have received throughout recruit training.

- The First Sergeant commands: "**SENIOR DRILL INSTRUCTORS, DISMISS YOUR PLATOONS**"
- The senior Drill Instructors reply, "**AYE AYE FIRST SERGEANT**" and face their platoons.
- One by one, they command: "**PLATOON, DISMISSED**" and each platoon responds, "**AYE AYE STAFF SERGEANT, OORAH**".
- The Marines step backward, about face, and are now officially dismissed to embrace their family.
- The narrator then states:

NARR:

Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes today's ceremony!