

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT  
THE CITADEL  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

MEMORANDUM  
NO. 5

2 May 2023

GRADUATION PARADE 2023

1. Graduation Parade Practice for the Corps of Cadets will take place at 1100 hours, Wednesday, 3 May 2023.
2. Uniform for practice will be Duty under arms and Shako. Graduating Cadet Officers will have swords. The graduating First Class Cadets armed with rifles will not have weapons. Rising company commanders will wear sash and sword. The rising Regimental and battalion Commander's will wear sash and empty scabbard.
2. The graduating Regimental Commander will lead staff on the field as per normal parades. Rising Regimental Commander will lead staff on the field following 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, but in front of the Colors. Graduating Battalion Commanders will lead their staffs and companies on the field as per normal parade. Rising Battalion Commanders will lead their staffs on the field following their respective battalions. The Battalion Colors will follow the rising battalion commander's staff. Graduating company commanders will lead their companies on the field as reflected in Figures #1 and #2. (Rising company commanders will follow in the rear of the company as indicated.) All graduating First Class Cadets, except the company commander and platoon leaders will form to the rear of their assigned companies. Platoon Leaders of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon (A-M Co), and Rising Platoon Leaders of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon (N-PB) will act as right guides for the company.
3. The rising battalion commanders will position themselves and their staffs to the REAR of their battalions and CENTERED on their respective graduating battalion commanders (See Figure #3). When the Regimental Adjutant directs: "Battalion Commanders, Execute your Change of Command", the graduating battalion commanders will execute ABOUT FACE, and have their staffs REVERSE. The rising battalion commanders will move and HALT their staffs when they are three (3) paces from their respective graduating battalion commanders (See Figure #4). The outgoing commander will pass his sword to the rising commander. The graduating battalion commander and the rising battalion commander will exchange salutes and the graduating battalion commander will execute an ABOUT FACE.
4. At the Regimental Adjutant's Command of CENTER, all graduating First Class Cadets to the rear of Band Company through M will execute RIGHT FACE, and those in N through PB will execute LEFT FACE. Company commanders will STAND FAST, platoon leaders will take ONE STEP FORWARD and execute RIGHT FACE (BD through M) or LEFT FACE (N through PB). When the Regimental Adjutant commands, MARCH, all graduating First Class Cadets will march to the First Class Line and close to the center as indicated by Figures #5. After the Adjutant commands, MARCH, he will assume his position on the First Class

Line as will the graduating Regimental Staff, leaving a space in the CENTER for the graduating Regimental Commander.

5. The Regimental Commander will remain at center position until the line of graduating First Class Cadets have closed on the center line and then command all officers to RETURN SWORDS. After the graduating Regimental Commander has commanded RETURN, SWORDS, she will execute a LEFT FACE. The rising Regimental Commander will position himself in front of the graduating Regimental Commander (See Figure #6). They will EXCHANGE SALUTES, then the graduating Regimental Commander will PASS THE SWORD. They will again EXCHANGE SALUTES and the rising Regimental Commander will resume his position in front of his staff. The graduating Regimental Commander will take her position at the center of the First Class Line.
6. The Narrator will give the command FORWARD, MARCH. The graduating first class cadets will then march forward until they reach the line next to the rope barrier. They will MARK TIME upon reaching the line until the Narrator gives the commands, HALT and ABOUT FACE. The rising Regimental Commander and his staff will march to the normal parade position when the graduating First Class marches forward.
7. All rising commanders will have their units execute EYES RIGHT, when they are on the review line. Graduating Seniors will take ONE STEP FORWARD to salute their companies as they pass then step back to the line next to the rope. All will salute the Colors as they approach until they pass each individual's FRONT.
8. When the Band turns to march off the field, the Narrator will command, DISMISSED, to the Graduating Seniors. This will indicate that the parade is over and graduating seniors can join their families and friends.
9. The parade script is attached so all commanders can study it along with this Memorandum and then brief all of the graduating first class cadets, rising commanders, and cadet officers.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDANT:



C.M. Dunne

Colonel USMC (Ret)

Assistant Commandant for Operations

Distribution: 8 per Battalion Staff  
10 per Company Staff  
6 for Regimental Staff