

THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT



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Trading his trombone for a drum major's mace, Cpl. Kevin Hertlein leads the Parris Island Marine Band through the town of Hampton, S.C., for its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade Jan. 13. "Parades are important since they are one of the most practical functions the band conducts as ambassadors of the Corps," said Hertlein. Besides giving Hertlein his first chance to perform as drum major, the parade also helped with the band's ongoing training for its performances during Mardi Gras in New Orleans on Feb. 9-12 when the band will march in four parades, each ranging from five to nine miles. "The length of these parades is really no different than a conditioning march, plus we are also performing," said Gunnery Sgt. David Wilson, bandmaster who will serve as drum major for the Mardi Gras parades. "We need to look sharp and sound just as great covering that last 100 yards of the last parade that we do as we did when we stepped off for our first performance. And the preparation we're doing now is the key to that."

Photo by Cpl. Vincent White

Depot tax center to open for free filing

Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers
Staff Writer

The Parris Island tax center is scheduled to open Jan. 30 to provide free income tax filing assistance to Beaufort-area military personnel.

The center, located in building 911, is available to active-duty service members, retirees, family members and Department of Defense civilian employees for help with both state and federal returns.

The tax center will be open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. for walk-ins and appointments and from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for appointments only. It will remain open until April 20, three days after the official end of the tax season for any late appointments.

In coordination with the Internal Revenue Service, the Parris Island legal assistance office supervises the annual operation of the center, which is staffed by Marines as part of the federally sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, said Capt. Angel Alfaro, the center's officer in charge.

Last year, Parris Island tax preparers prepared 997 federal tax returns and 832 state returns that resulted in approximately \$2.6 million in refunds - saving personnel approximately \$160,000 in preparation fees, Alfaro said.

The Marines assigned to the tax center have completed advanced tax preparer training, two levels of certification higher than is required through the VITA program, said Alfaro.

Users of the tax center are asked to bring their military

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Females have option for pullups in 2013

Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill
Staff Writer

Female Marines have the option of doing pullups instead of the flexed-arm hang as part of their physical fitness test this year, while all women will be required to perform pullups beginning Jan. 1, 2014.

The change was announced in a Corpwide message released Nov. 27, 2012, ending any differences in the test's exercises between male and female Marines.

However, scoring standards for women are different for pullups as they already are for the three-mile run portion of the test to account for physiological variances between the genders.

Both genders will need to complete three pullups in order to pass the event, but men would earn 15 points compared to 40 points for females under the current scoring. To achieve a perfect 100 points, males need 20 pullups, while females require eight.

The flexed-arm hang has been required for females since 1975, but there have always been concerns for its validity as a test of upper-body strength, according to information provided by Marine Corps Combat Development Command. Pullups, on the other hand, are a more accurate test of physical strength, while the arm-hang tests static muscle endurance.

"It's something we have been looking at for a number of years," said Lt. Gen. Richard P. Mills, MCCDC commanding general. "We've done the studies. It's popped up a number of times and when it was discussed this time, we decided it was the right time to do it. We decided to execute because there is no reason why we shouldn't do this."

The flexed-arm hang will continue to be used in

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Photo by Sgt. Esdras Ruano

Recruits with Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, serve themselves at the salad bar Oct. 25, 2012, at the battalion's mess hall, which won the W.P.T. Hill Memorial Award for the third straight year. The award recognizes the best mess halls in the Marine Corps.

Parris Island mess hall No. 1 in Marine Corps

1st Battalion wins award for third straight year

Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill
Staff Writer

One of Parris Island's recruit mess halls was named the best in its class in the Marine Corps for the third year in a row Jan. 8.

First Recruit Training Battalion's mess hall claimed the Maj. Gen. W.P.T. Hill Memorial Award in the full food service contracted garrison

mess hall category.

"The food service staff at Parris Island keeps winning because they take pride in what they do on a daily basis and they were the best in their category to compete," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Rodney O'Bannon, one of the competition's judges this year.

Operated and staffed by a civilian contractor since 2002, the mess

hall's 75 employees, with 30-35 on duty at any given time, prepare and serve approximately 3,600 meals daily, said Wayne Skuthan, the facility's general manager.

Mess halls throughout the Marine Corps are judged on operations, sanitation and food quality to earn the award, established in 1971 to

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CMC calls Corps to hit books

Gunnery Sgt. Bill Lisbon
Public Affairs Chief

Worried that a decade of combat deployments and myriad demands on Marines’ time has atrophied their scholarly studies, the Corps’ commandant ordered troops to hit the books recently.

The revised Commandant’s Professional Reading List was released Jan. 2 along with direction that could hurt nonreaders’ promotion potential.

“Over recent years, I have become increasingly concerned that Marines are not reading enough anymore. Many are not reading at all,” wrote Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, in a Nov. 27, 2012, letter to all Marines foreshadowing the list’s publication.

Not only has the commandant directed all Marines read at least three titles from the list each year, he’s tasked leaders to reflect completion of the books on their Marines’ fitness reports and in proficiency and conduct marks. How Marines demonstrate completion of the annual requirement will be left to the discretion of commands, according to All-Marine Message 1/2013.

The list consists of three sections. The “Commandant’s Choice” list contains four books all Marines must eventually read. Another section is organized with books for different groups of ranks. The final section consists of books related to specific areas such as aviation, leadership or cultural studies.

The “Commandant’s Choice” books are “A Message to Garcia” by Elbert Hubbard, “The Warrior Ethos” by Steven Pressfield and the Marine Corps publications “Leading Marines” and “Warfighting.”

“These are books the commandant thought had value and were important for all Marines to read and understand,” said Maj. Michael Margolis, Professional Program Branch head in the Lejeune Institute of Marine Corps University in Quantico, Va.

Study of military history offers an inexpensive chance to learn from past experience and “avoid making the same mistakes twice,” wrote Amos.

“Faced with a period of fiscal austerity and an uncertain world, it’s more important now than ever before to dedicate time to read and to think,” Amos wrote.

Besides tomes of historic battles and battlefield diaries, books pertaining to current events, strategic thinking and leadership round out the list.

“The list represents only a starting point and will ideally whet the appetite for further reading and study,” wrote Amos.

The commandant encourages Marines to discuss the issues raised by the books to “broaden their perspectives and benefit from the experiences of others,” states the message.

“Reading is a critical continuing action. We need to find the time for it just as we find time weekly for individual and unit physical conditioning,” wrote Amos.

The reading list’s official website features book summaries, discussion questions for senior Marines and information on how Marines can obtain hard copies, digital copies and audio formats for the books. Many of these books are available online through the website at no cost.

The website address is: <http://guides.grc.usmcu.edu/usmcreadinglist>. The website also has an official Twitter handle: @USMCReadingList.

“We’re creating the history of the Marine Corps now,” Margolis said. “And knowing where we came from helps us to carry that legacy. It’s not just us. We’re contributing to something greater than ourselves.”

Cpl. Chelsea Flowers Anderson contributed to

Commandant’s Professional Reading List

Marines are now required to read at least three books from the professional reading list each year.

Commandant’s Choice

- “A Message to Garcia” by E. Hubbard
- “Leading Marines (Marine Corps Warfighting Publication 6-11)” by U.S. Marine Corps
- “The Warrior Ethos” by S. Pressfield
- “Warfighting (Marine Corps Doctrinal Publication 1)” by U.S. Marine Corps

Entry Level Enlisted: Recruit/Poolee

- “Battle Cry” by L. Uris
- “Corps Values” by Z. Miller
- “Making the Corps” by T. Ricks
- “The Red Badge of Courage” by S. Crane

Entry Level Officer:

Candidate/Midshipman

- “Battle Cry” by L. Uris
- “Corps Values” by Z. Miller
- “I’m Staying With My Boys” by J. Proser and J. Cutter
- “Making The Corps” by T. Ricks
- “My Men Are My Heroes” by N. Helms
- “The Killer Angels” by M. Shaara

Primary Level Enlisted:

Private through Corporal

- “Enders Game” by O. Card
- “Gates of Fire” by S. Pressfield
- “Marine! The Life of Chesty Puller” by B. Davis
- “My Men Are My Heroes” by N. Helms
- “Rifleman Dodd” by C. Forester
- “The Last Stand of Fox Company” by B. Drury and T. Clavin
- “The Marines of Montford Point, America’s First Black Marines” by M. McLaurin

Primary Level Officer: Warrant Officer/

Second Lieutenant/First Lieutenant

- “All Quiet on the Western Front” by E. Remarque
- “Battle Leadership” by A. Von Schell
- “Gates of Fire” by S. Pressfield
- “Marine! The Life of Chesty Puller” by B. Davis
- “Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War” by K. Marlantes
- “The Art of War” by Sun Tzu
- “The Defense of Duffer’s Drift” by E. Swinton
- “The Forgotten Soldier” by G. Sajer
- “The Last Stand of Fox Company” by B. Drury and T. Clavin
- “The Marines of Montford Point, America’s First Black Marines” by M. McLaurin
- “U.S. Constitution”
- “With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa” by E. Sledge

Career Level Enlisted:

Sergeant/Staff Sergeant

- “First to Fight: An Inside View of the U.S. Marine Corps” by V. Krulak
- “Islands of the Damned” by R. Burgin and B. Marvel
- “Outliers” by M. Gladwell
- “Quartered Safe Out Here” by G. Fraser
- “Soldiers of God” by R. Kaplan
- “Storm of Steel” by E. Junger
- “The Defense of Duffer’s Drift” by E. Swinton
- “The Forgotten Soldier” by G. Sajer
- “The Killer Angels” by M. Shaara
- “U.S. Constitution”
- “With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa” by E. Sledge

Career Level Officer: Chief Warrant Officer 2/

Chief Warrant Officer 3/ Captain

- “Attacks” by E. Rommel
- “Black Hearts” by J. Frederick
- “First to Fight: An Inside View of the U.S. Marine Corps” by V. Krulak
- “Infantry in Battle (Fleet Marine Force Reference Publication 12-2)” by U.S. Marine Corps
- “Into the Tiger’s Jaw” by F. Petersen
- “Islands of the Damned” by R. Burgin and B. Marvel
- “On Killing” by D. Grossman
- “Outliers” by M. Gladwell
- “Quartered Safe Out Here” by G. Fraser
- “Sources of Power” by G. Klein

- “The Virtues of War” by S. Pressfield
- “U.S. Constitution”
- “War Made New” by M. Boot

Intermediate Level Enlisted: Gunnery Sergeant/Master Sergeant/First Sergeant

- “All Quiet on the Western Front” by E. Remarque
- “American Spartans” by J. Warren
- “Fields of Fire” by J. Webb
- “Flags of Our Fathers” by J. Bradley
- “Helmet For My Pillow” by R. Leckie
- “On Killing” by D. Grossman
- “The Age of the Unthinkable: Why the New World Disorder Constantly Surprises Us and What We Can Do About It” by J. Ramo
- “The Changing Face of War” by M. Van Creveld
- “This Kind of War” by T. Fehrenbach
- “U.S. Constitution”
- “We Were Soldiers Once and Young” by H. Moore and J. Galloway

Intermediate Level Officer: Chief Warrant Officer 4/Chief Warrant Officer 5/Major/Lieutenant Colonel

- “Battle Cry of Freedom” by J. McPherson
- “Blink” by M. Gladwell
- “Boyd: The Fighter Pilot Who Changed the Art of War” by R. Coram
- “Brute: The Life of Victor Krulak” by R. Coram
- “Carnage and Culture” by V. Hanson
- “Command Culture” by J. Muth
- “Defeat Into Victory” by W. Slim
- “Forgotten Warriors” by T. Hammes
- “Hot, Flat and Crowded” by T. Freidman
- “Just and Unjust Wars” by M. Walzer
- “Military Innovation in the Interwar Period” by W. Murray and A. Millet
- “Ripples of Battle” by V. Hanson
- “The Age of the Unthinkable: Why the New World Disorder Constantly Surprises Us and What We Can Do About It” by J. Ramo
- “The Warriors: Reflections on Men in Battle” by J. Gray
- “This Kind of War” by T. Fehrenbach

Senior Level Enlisted:

Master Gunnery Sergeant/Sergeant Major

- “Achilles in Vietnam” by J. Shay
- “Assignment Pentagon: How to Excel in a Bureaucracy” by P. Smith and D. Gerstein
- “Command Culture” by J. Muth
- “Forgotten Warriors” by T. Hammes
- “Hot, Flat and Crowded” by T. Freidman
- “Just and Unjust Wars” by M. Walzer
- “No Bended Knee” by M. Twining
- “The Face of Battle” by J. Keegan
- “The Mask of Command” by J. Keegan

Senior Level Officer:

Colonel/General Officers

- “Another Bloody Century” by C. Gray
- “Assignment Pentagon: How to Excel in a Bureaucracy” by P. Smith and D. Gerstein
- “Dereliction of Duty: Johnson, McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Lies That Led to Vietnam” by H. McMaster
- “Diplomacy” by H. Kissinger
- “How Wars End” by G. Rose
- “Landscape of History: How Historians Map the Past” by J. Gaddis
- “Little Book of Economics: How the Economy Works in the Real World” by G. Ip
- “Military Power: Explaining Victory and Defeat in Modern Battle” by S. Biddle
- “Modern Strategy” by C. Gray
- “Supreme Command: Soldiers, Statesmen and Leadership in Wartime” by E. Cohen
- “Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln” by D. Goodwin
- “The Federalist Papers” by A. Hamilton
- “The Guns of August” by B. Tuchman
- “The Landmark Thucydides” by R. Strassler
- “The Revenge of Geography” by R. Kaplan

See All-Marine Message 1/2013 for the complete list.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Rct. James Brown, Platoon 3009, Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, lays motionless while looking downrange as a simulated enemy flare burns behind him during the night movement course Jan. 18 on Parris Island. Brown, 28, from Conway, N.C., had to wait until the flare burned out before continuing to advance toward the enemy under the cover of darkness. Mike Company is scheduled to graduate Feb. 8.

NEWS BRIEF

Notice to Boaters

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is scheduled to conduct live-fire training Monday-Wednesday from 6 a.m. to midnight. The marsh and waterways in the range impact area, to include Archers Creek, Ribbon Creek and Edding Creek, will be closed to boater traffic.

For questions regarding firing times and waterway closures, please contact the Weapons and Field Training Battalion range control at 843-228-3170.

Tax

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Parris Island opened its first tax assistance center in 1994.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the tax center at 843-228-3906.

identification, Social Security cards for each family member claimed on the return, W-2, W-2G, 1099-R and 1099-Misc forms, and any other documents that may relate to income, said Alfaro.



THE PARRIS ISLAND BOOT

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Daniel Benedict

Members of the U.S. armed forces, members of Congress, security personnel and spectators cheer for the arrival of President Barack Obama during the 57th presidential inauguration in Washington on Jan. 21. More than 5,000 service members from all five branches of the military worked to support the inauguration.

THE 57TH PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama took the ceremonial oath of office for his second term as the 44th U.S. president and commander in chief on the steps of the U.S. Capitol Jan. 21, honoring the men and women in uniform who have preserved America’s freedoms throughout its history.

More than 5,000 military members – some participating in the inaugural parade, others playing musical accompaniment, firing artillery rounds into the sky or providing behind-the-scenes support – were among more than a half million people who gathered on the National Mall to watch Obama and Vice President Joe Biden enter their second term.

Recognizing the drawdown of forces in Afghanistan and the ramping down of more than a decade of conflict, Obama offered high praise during his inaugural address for U.S. service members, their contributions and sacrifices.

“Our brave men and women in uniform, tempered by the flames of battle, are unmatched in skill and courage,” he said. “Our citizens, seared by the memory of those we have lost, know too well the price that is paid for liberty. The knowledge of their sacrifice will keep us forever vigilant against those who would do us harm.”



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Wesley Farnsworth

Obama expressed hope for a more peaceful future, noting that Americans understand that “enduring security and lasting peace do not require perpetual war.”

Americans are “heirs to those who won the peace and not just the war, who turned sworn enemies into the surest of friends,” the president said. “And we must carry those lessons into this time as well.”

The president affirmed the nation’s resolve to defend its people and uphold its values through both the “strength of arms and rule of law” and with an arm extended to its friends as well as adversaries to help lay conditions for long-term peace.

“We will show the courage to try and resolve our differences with other nations peacefully – not because we are naïve about the dangers we face, but because engagement can more durably lift suspicion and fear,” he said.

Meanwhile, “America will remain the anchor of strong alliances in every corner of the globe,” he said. “We will renew those institutions that extend our capacity to manage crisis abroad, for no one has a greater stake in a peaceful world than its most powerful nation.”

The United States will support democracy around the world, “because our interests and our conscience compel us to act on behalf of those who long for freedom,” Obama said. “And we must be a source of hope to the poor, the sick, the marginalized, the victims of prejudice – not out of mere charity, but because peace in our time requires the constant advance of those principles that our common creed describes: tolerance and opportunity; human dignity and justice.”

Obama urged the nation to put partisanship aside and come together to support their universal ideals. “With common effort and common purpose, with passion and dedication, let us answer the call of history, and carry into an uncertain future that precious light of freedom,” he said.

President Barack Obama reviews members of the U.S. Marine honor guard as they march past the commander in chief Jan. 21 in Washington. Military involvement in the presidential inauguration dates back to April 30, 1789, when members of the U.S. Army, local militia units and Revolutionary War veterans escorted George Washington to his first inauguration ceremony.



Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Opal Vaughn

President Barack Obama makes opening remarks during the Commander In Chief’s Ball in Washington on Jan. 21. Throughout the 57th presidential inauguration, Obama highlighted the spirit of service and selflessness of U.S. troops and their families.



Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Sun L. Vega

First Lady Michelle Obama dances with Gunnery Sgt. Timothy Easterling during the Commander in Chief’s Ball in Washington on Jan. 21. Easterling, a native of Barnwell, S.C., is currently assigned to Marine Barracks Washington as a distance learning instructor. In 2009, Easterling, working as a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialist, helped plan and execute the Chemical Biological Incident Response Force’s participation in the presidential inauguration and four subsequent presidential State of the Union addresses.



Pfc. Connor Brown salutes as the presidential motorcade drives to the Capitol en route to the swearing-in ceremony Jan. 21. More than 1,200 service members from all branches of the military completed the cordon for the 57th presidential inauguration.



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Katryn Tuton



Photo by Lance Cpl. Caitlin Maluda

Marines from Parris Island and the 6th Motor Transport Battalion, a reserve unit based in Red Bank, N.J., start to turn toward their targets on the Phantom Fury Range during a combat marksmanship coach's course Nov. 6, 2012. The range, completed in March 2012, provides a flexible live-fire training area for Marines preparing for deployment.

Newest Parris Island range opens fire for more Marines

Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill
Staff Writer

While most weapons ranges on Parris Island are used to train recruits' basic rifle marksmanship, the depot's latest edition aims to help Marines as well as local cops prepare for firefights.

The Phantom Fury Range opened last year to add a flexible live-fire training area to Parris Island's arsenal.

"We built this range to give the Marines and civilians a better training area for their predeployment training or live-fire training," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Eric Brown, platoon commander with Range Company.

The range also provides law enforcement agencies, such as local police departments, with a range to practice situations they never could before, such as firing at the enemy while getting out of a vehicle.

This range is 50 yards long and 50 yards wide, and can accommodate many different weapons, such as the M16-A4 rifle, the M16-M4 carbine rifle, 12-gauge shotgun, and a 9 mm pistol. It also provides standing targets used for lateral firing, unknown distance firing and other drills.

Parts of predeployment training such as firing at night or firing while moving were not possible on pre-existing ranges due to lack of space and equipment, said Sgt. Bryan Harman, a 25-year-old range coach from Columbus, Ga.

The Marines and civilians fired at the Khe Sahn Range here before Phantom Fury Range was com-

pleted, but were limited in what drills they could perform because of time and equipment restraints.

Construction on the range started in November 2011 and was finished in March 2012.

Built by Marines from Weapons and Field Training Battalion, the range also serves as a reminder of a battle some of them fought in.

"We named it Phantom Fury to memorialize the troops that were wounded or killed during Operation Phantom Fury," said Brown.

The operation, led by Marines to clear insurgent strongholds in the city of Fallujah, Iraq, during November and December 2004, was the largest urban battle since Hue City in Vietnam, said Brown, a 39-year-old from Millwood, W.Va., who fought during the operation.

The weapons battalion Marines used available supplies from within their own unit to build the range, which was previously just an empty field.

"Building this range opened up a whole new world of possibilities for the surrounding areas," said Brown. "We are the only base in the geographical area that can facilitate all courses of fire in one location."

Other military installations can offer the courses of fire the Phantom Fury Range provides, but not all together, which is one of the positive things about this range, said Brown.

"Different commanders for different units are always looking for better training grounds for their troops," said Brown. "Parris Island now has the capability to help other units prepare properly."

PULLUPS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

female recruit's physical fitness tests until October 2013 as well as for the initial strength test, which all recruits must pass before beginning training, said Tim Bockelman, Recruit Training Regiment's physical fitness advisor.

"We are already starting to make the changes in recruit training," said Bockelman. "We have put assisted pullup machines in the squad bays of female recruits, and we are coming up with more exercises that focus on upper-body strength."

Less than 1 percent of female recruits do not complete recruit training because they cannot pass the flexed-arm hang portion of their final physical fitness test, said Bockelman.

"Our goal is to not let those numbers change when the new portion is implemented," he said.

Meanwhile, female Marines on Parris Island are preparing.

"I have seen more females in this gym working on upper-body exercises lately than ever before," said Jonathan Hutchison, manager of the Parris Island gym.

Weekly classes geared toward upper-body strength for females are planned in the coming month at the gym, said Hutchison.

"My goal is to do eight pullups by spring," said Capt. Rachel Nolan, commanding officer for Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion. "I want to show the female Marines that they aren't impossible if they work for it."

For more information, including workout plans, visit <http://fitness.usmc.mil/fpft>.



Photo by Lance Cpl. MaryAnn Hill

Lance Cpl. Tiffany Peppe, a Marine from Headquarters and Service Battalion, does a pullup Jan. 23 on Parris Island. Peppe, a 19-year-old from Salem, N.H., was practicing for her physical fitness test in 2014, when females will be required to perform pullups instead of the flexed-arm hang. Female Marines will have a choice this year to do the flexed-arm hang or pullups.

Have you “liked” us yet? If not, head over to www.facebook.com/ParrisIsland

MCRD PARRIS ISLAND EXPANDED FAMILY DAY SCHEDULE

MCRD Parris Island has expanded the events and activities available to families who are coming aboard the Depot to see their son or daughter graduate and become a Marine. The adjacent schedule outlines the events that are now offered to our new Marines' families and loved ones. The times and locations of these events are subject to change. For the most current information, please visit <http://www.mccs-sc.com/recruitfamilies>.



Wednesday

Welcome to Family Orientation Day at Parris Island

6AM-10PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Open
6AM-6PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Food Court Open
7AM-5PMEngraving Shop open
7:30AM-4PMDouglas Visitors' Center open - please register upon arrival
Java Café (9AM-11:30AM)
Graduation Station (8AM-4PM)
9AM-4PMFamily Check-in at the Douglas Visitors' Center; Java Café open 9AM-12PM
10AM-1:230PM.....Marine Corps 101, including a "Behind the Scenes" tour, at Douglas Visitors' Center
LUNCHTraditions (Officer/SNCO Club), Food Court, Subway, Golf Course, Back Yard Burgers
1:30PM-3:30PMFamily Orientation Brief at the Lyceum
5PM-6PMSteak Night at Traditions (Officer/SNCO Club). Reservations required

Thursday

Welcome to Family Liberty Day at Parris Island

6AM-4PMDouglas Visitors' Center open - please register upon arrival
Java Café (6AM-2PM)
Graduation Station (6AM-4PM)
6AM-10PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Open
6AM-6PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Food Court Open
7AM-5PMEngraving Shop open
7AMMotivational Run - Peatross Parade Deck
8AMDepot Museum Opens
8:15AMAll Weather Training Facility (AWTF) Opens
9:30AM-10AMBattalion Commander's Brief to Families & Liberty Ceremony (AWTF)
10AM-2PMMarksmanship Training Unit Open House
10AMLiberty Begins
10:30AM-1PMFamily Day Buffet at the Lyceum - new Marines eat for free!
2PMWarrior's Prayer at the Recruit Chapel
3PMLiberty Ends
3PM-4PMMarine Corps 101 at Douglas Visitors' Center
5PMMeet & Greet with Depot Command at Traditions Lounge
5:30PMWelcome from the Command
5:45PMFamily Day Dinner with Depot Command at Traditions (Officer/SNCO Club)
Advance reservations guarantee admittance

Friday

Welcome to Graduation Day at Parris Island

6AM-2PMDouglas Visitors' Center open
Java Café (6AM-12PM)
Graduation Station (6AM-12PM)
6AM-10PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Open
6AM-6PMMarine Corps Exchange (MCX) Food Court Open
7AM-5PMEngraving Shop open
7:45AMMorning Colors at Barrow Hall
9AM-10AMGraduation at Peatross Parade Deck (weather permitting)
11AM-1PMLunch Buffet at Traditions (Officer/SNCO Club)

MESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

encourage excellence in food service while improving quality of life for Marines.

Skuthan said he demands attention to detail, team passion and commitment to the mission from his employees.

"We occasionally ask the recruits to rate our mess

hall," said Skuthan. "I would say about 90 percent of them say it's better than they expected, which is what we strive for."

Before Sodexo won the contract to operate at least six - now five - mess halls on Parris Island, Marine cooks ran the kitchens and recruits provided the bulk of mess hall manpower during one of their training weeks.

"It is especially honorable for a recruit mess hall to

be recognized with this prestigious award - the intense pace at the recruit locations requires a well-trained staff and a commitment to excellence. It's great to see that excellence acknowledged," said Greg Verone, president of Sodexo's government services division, after Parris Island first won the award for 2010.

The award will be formally presented May 18 during the National Restaurant Association's awards ceremony in Chicago.

