



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Honoring Legacy & Service: Veterans Day and the 250th Marine Corps Birthday

Every November, Marines, Sailors, and families across the globe pause to honor two deeply meaningful milestones the Marine Corps Birthday (November 10) and Veterans Day (November 11).

This year carries special significance as we commemorate the 250th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps, founded on November 10, 1775, in Tun Tavern, Philadelphia. What began with two battalions of Continental Marines has grown into one of the most respected and enduring fighting forces in the world.



"Honor, Courage, Commitment" 250 Years Strong



Each year, Marines reflect on their proud legacy through the timeless traditions of the Marine Corps Birthday Ball, the reading of General Lejeune's message, and the cake-cutting ceremony, symbolizing the passing of knowledge and experience from the oldest Marine to the youngest. These customs serve as powerful reminders that while uniforms, missions, and battlefields may evolve, the spirit of the Marine Corps its unity, discipline, and devotion to country remains

steadfast. As we celebrate this historic milestone, we also pause to honor Veterans Day, a National Day of Gratitude for all who have served. On November 11, 1918, at the 11th hour, the armistice was signed, ending World War I and giving birth to what was once known as *Armistice Day* now Veterans Day. A Shared Legacy of Service Together, these observances remind us that behind every Marine and every veteran stands a family, a community, and a nation united in appreciation. To our Marines, past and present and to every spouse, child, and loved one who serves alongside them thank you. Your courage, sacrifice, and resilience keep the Marine Corps legacy alive and strong.

"The few. The proud. The always faithful."

Happy 250th Birthday, Marines and Happy Veterans Day to all who have served.

-Bebe Husanini
MCFTB Director





Introducing our LifeSkills Trainer



I'm excited to join MCFTB as the new LifeSkills Trainer, where I look forward to supporting Marines and their families by sharing tools for personal growth and resilience.

Beyond work, I'm a husband, dad, and lifelong learner with a passion for history and meaningful conversations. Over the years, I've worn many hats—each one teaching me something worth carrying forward. I enjoy helping others grow, whether it's in the classroom, around the dinner table, or trying a new workout.

I also appreciate good food, great books, and time spent with people who know how to laugh. Above all, I'm grateful for the journey so far and excited for whatever comes next.

Connecting Hearts, Strengthening Community & Spreading Gratitude

As we move from the season of celebration into the holidays, Marine Corps Family Team Building (MCFTB) invites the Okinawa community to help spread joy and gratitude through our Mission Gratitude: Heartfelt Cards Initiative.

What began as a small idea two years ago has grown into something extraordinary. Last year, with the support of schools, volunteers, and community partners, more than 10,000 handwritten cards and cookies were delivered to Marines, Sailors, and Airmen across Okinawa, Camp Blaz, Camp Mujuk, and Camp Fuji. Each card carried messages and drawings that reminded service members far from home that they are appreciated and never forgotten.

"A Simple Card. A Lasting Impact."

This year, our goal is to collect 15,000 cards between November and December. Join us by writing a short, positive message of thanks or holiday cheer, keeping it inclusive, and adding your creative touch. Drop off completed cards at any MCFTB collection site.

✉ mcftbokinawa@usmc-mccs.org | ☎ 645-3689 / 098-970-3689

Together, let's make this holiday season brighter for our service members.

Marine Corps Family Team Building Presents:

Mission Gratitude
Heartfelt Cards

Winter Holiday Collections Held:
November 17 through December 12

How to Participate:

- Pick up a blank card, decorate it, and write a message thanking a Marine or Sailor for their service.

Card Pick-Up/Drop-Off Locations:

- Marine Corps Family Team Building Office (Camp Foster, Bldg. 445, across from Bonsai Coffee)
- Marine & Family Programs at Camp Foster and Camp Hansen
- Installation Libraries
- MCCS CYP Programs (Camp Foster, Camp Kinser, and Camp Courtney)

Join us in spreading joy and gratitude!

Questions? Call 645-3689 or 098-970-3689
Email: MCFTBokinawa@Okinawa.usmc-mccs.org

MCCS
MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTER



CLASS SCHEDULE

L.I.N.K.S.

Cuppa Conversation

Nov. 4th 0900 @ Sunabe Seawall Walk

Foundations

Nov. 18th 0930-1500 @ Camp Foster
Ocean Breeze

Mentor Workshop

Nov. 25th 1000-1300 @ Camp Foster
Community Center Bonsai Coffee

PJ & Movie Night

Nov. 14th 1700-2000 @ Camp
McTureous Community Center

Family Readiness Program

CTT/FRCTA/FRA

Nov. 5th 0830-1200 @ Camp
Hansen M&F Bldg 2339 Rm 116

DRC/URC Training

Nov. 18-20th 0830-1600 @ Camp
Hansen Ed Center Bldg 2339 Rm
219A

LifeSkills

Premarital Seminar

Nov. 14th 0800-1430 @ Camp Foster
Ocean Breeze



Readiness & Deployment Support

Pre-Deployment Brief

Nov. 6th 1000-1100
Virtual



THE MARINE CORPS BALL EXPERIENCE: WHAT TO EXPECT

Across Okinawa, units, families, and commands will soon gather for the annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball, a cherished tradition that blends pride, ceremony, and camaraderie.

Whether it's your first time attending or a beloved annual celebration, Marine Corps Family Team Building (MCFTB) is here to help you feel prepared, confident, and excited for the experience.

First Time Attending the Ball? We've Got You Covered!

If you're not sure what to expect, join our upcoming L.I.N.K.S. Foundations Workshop (November 18 | 0930-1430) at Camp Foster, Ocean Breeze to learn about:

- Ball etiquette and traditions
- Dress code expectations (for Marines, civilians, and guests)
- The history and meaning behind the ceremony

It's also a wonderful opportunity to connect with other spouses and guests, ask questions, and gain a deeper appreciation for the values that define Marine Corps life.

As we mark this milestone year, let us celebrate with pride, respect, and unity, honoring 250 years of service and sacrifice to our nation and the people who make the Marine Corps family so strong.

Check out the next page for the "USMC Birthday Ball Etiquette Guide" with helpful tips to help you prepare, feel confident, and be Ball Ready!



MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL

Est. November 10th 1775

Etiquette in Black and White

Protocol standards in line with Marine
Corps customs and traditions



What is the Marine Corps Birthday Ball?

The Birthday Ball is one of the most important Marine Corps traditions. It can be the social highlight of the year and a great time to enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie of the Marine Corps, but it's much more than that. Marines come together as a band of warriors to honor those who came before them and those who we have lost. It's a show of respect and community as they look back on the achievements of their Marine Corps. It is a special time for Marines and their fortunate guests. On this day, greetings of "Happy Birthday, Marine" are exchanged.



Ball Attire

Men: A black or a midnight blue tuxedo, or a black dinner jacket.

Woman: A modest floor length formal evening gown.

Comfortable shoes will make a difference during your time standing and on the dance floor!

Ball Traditions

As you enter the banquet hall, you may notice a lone table set for one. This table is set to honor our brothers and sisters in arms who are unable to be with us. Though elements of the table may differ from unit to unit, the sentiment has been the same since the first table was set in 1997 - remembrance! Do not touch, move, or sit at this table.

- Round Table: Everlasting concern for those who are still missing or unaccounted.
- Black/White tablecloth: Mourning (black) and purity of intentions (white). Single
- Red Rose: The blood that shed in sacrifice and the loved ones who keep the faith
- awaiting the return of the missing. Red Ribbon: Our continued determination to
- account for our missing. Cover/Sword/Dog Tags: Signifies the Marine who
- served. The Candle: Lit to symbolize the upward reach of their unconquerable
- spirit. Slice of Lemon: Placed on the bread plate to remind of us of their bitter
- fate. Pinch of Salt: Symbolizes the tears shed by those who were captured, those
- who remain missing and their families. Inverted Glass: Homage to those who
- cannot toast with us this night.
- The Table Set for One: The frailty of one
- prisoner alone against their oppressors.
- The Chair: The chair is empty. They are not
- here. Remember.
- Purple Heart Ribbon: Highest honor
- bestowed in honor of sacrifice.
- Bible: Strength gained through faith.



Prisoner of War (POW) Missing in Action (MIA) Table.

Ball Ceremony

Before the Ceremony -

- Cocktail Hour - This time allows you to take photos; find your seats; take a bathroom break; and socialize before the start of the ceremony.

The Ceremony

- The entrance of the official party which consists the senior Marine and Guest of Honor.
- March on of the Colors; playing of the National Anthem; followed by the entrance of the Birthday Cake.
- The reading of General Lejeune's, the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, message establishing the call to honor the birth of the Marine Corps.
- The cake cutting - the cake is cut with a sword. The first piece of cake is given to the guest of honor. The second is presented to the oldest Marine present representing the wisdom and experience of those who have served. The third piece of cake is presented to the youngest Marine by the oldest, signifying the passing on of knowledge and leadership from the old to the new.
- The Commander or Senior Marine will make some remarks and then the Guest of Honor will offer their remarks.
- The current Commandant's message. This is usually presented in a video.
- The Navy's song "Anchors Away" and the "Marines' Hymn" is played.

After the Ceremony

- Dinner is served.
- Dancing and celebrating begins.

Ball Best Practices

1. Eat something before you come. The Ceremony can be long.
2. Bring a shawl. The room can get cold.
3. Be respectful of tradition.
4. Make sure you use the restroom and are seated before the ceremony begins.
5. Refrain from texting, talking, eating, or drinking or using the restroom during the ceremony.
6. While photography during the ceremony may be allowed at some Balls, please check to ensure it's acceptable at your event.
7. Don't drink more than you can handle. While the Birthday Ball is intended to be a fun occasion, it is still a professional event for Marines.
8. Feel free to socialize and introduce yourself. Remember to say 'please' and 'thank you', and address others as 'Sir' or 'Ma'am'.
9. Remember to have fun! The Marine Corps has a proud and illustrious history. While it is important to be on your best behavior at the Birthday Ball, don't forget the purpose of the evening; to celebrate the Corps and all of its accomplishments.
10. Once the Ceremony and speeches have concluded, relax, enjoy yourself and get ready for dinner!

海兵隊のバースデーボール（創立記念式典）

Est. November 10th 1775

エチケット



海兵隊の慣習と伝統に沿った基本儀礼

海兵隊のバースデー ボールとは？

バースデー ボールは、海兵隊の最も重要な伝統の1つです。これは、一年でも華やかな社交イベントのひとつであり、海兵隊の絆と友情を楽しむ素晴らしい機会です。しかし、それだけではなく、海兵隊員は戦士として集まり、亡くなった先人たちを称え、海兵隊の功績を振り返り、敬意を示すための場です。海兵隊員と幸運なゲストにとっても特別な時間となります。この日には、「ハッピーバースデー、マリン（誕生日おめでとう、海兵隊）」という挨拶が交わされます



ボール（式典）での服装

- ・ 男性: 黒またはミッドナイト ブルーのタキシード、または黒のディナー ジャケット。
- ・ 女性: 控えめな床まで届くフォーマルなイブニングドレス。

歩きやすい靴の方が、立っているときやダンスフロアでは楽かもしれません。

ボールの伝統

宴会場に入ると、1人用のテーブルが1つだけ置かれていることに気づくでしょう。このテーブルは、私たちと一緒にいられない戦友を称えるために用意されています。テーブルの要素は部隊ごとに異なる場合がありますが、1997年に最初のテーブルが設置されて以来、その気持ちは変わりません。追悼です。このテーブルに触れたり、動かしたり、座ったりしないでください。

- ・丸いテーブル: 安否不明または殉職者に対する絶えない想い、思慮を表します。
- ・黒/白のテーブルクロス: 哀悼 (黒) と純粋な想い (白)。
- ・1本の赤いバラ: 犠牲として流された血と、安否不明者の帰還を信じ、待ち続ける愛する人々。
- ・赤いリボン: 安否不明者の行方を追うという絶え間ない決意。
- ・カバー/剣/ドッグタグ: 従軍した海兵隊員を表します。
- ・キャンドル: 彼らの不屈の精神が上へ向かうことを象徴するために灯されます。
- ・レモンのスライス: パン皿の上に置かれ、彼らの苦い運命を思い起こさせます。
- ・塩ひとつまみ: 捕らえられた人々、安否不明者、そしてその家族が流した涙を象徴します。
- ・逆さまのグラス: 今夜私たちと一緒に乾杯できない人たちへの敬意。
- ・一人用のテーブル: 抑圧者に対してたった一人である囚人の弱さ。
- ・椅子: 空席です。今、彼らはここにいません。彼らに思いを馳せてください。
- ・パープルハートリボン: 犠牲を称えて授けられる最高の栄誉。
- ・聖書: 信仰によって得られる強さを表します。



Prisoner of War (POW) Missing in Action (MIA) Table.

ボールのセレモニー

セレモニーの前

- ・ カクテル アワー： 式典が始まる前に写真を撮ったり、席を探したり、トイレ休憩を取ったり、参加者と交流したりできます。

式典

- ・ 上級海兵隊員と主賓で構成される公式パーティーの入場。
- ・ 国旗行進、国歌演奏、続いてバースデーケーキの入場。
- ・ 海兵隊の誕生を祝う呼びかけを定めた、第 13 代海兵隊司令官レジュン將軍のメッセージ朗読。
- ・ ケーキカット - ケーキは剣で切り分けられます。最初のケーキは主賓に渡されます。2 つ目は、最年長の海兵隊員に贈られ、従軍した人々の知恵と経験を表しています。3 つ目は最年長の海兵隊員から最年少の海兵隊員に贈られ、知識とリーダーシップが古い世代から新しい世代に引き継がれることを意味します。
- ・ 司令官または上級海兵隊員が挨拶をし、その後主賓が挨拶をします。
- ・ 現司令官のメッセージ。これは通常、ビデオで発表されます。
- ・ 海軍の歌「アンカーズ アウェイ」と「海兵隊の賛美歌」が演奏されます。

式典後

- ・ デイナーが提供されます。
- ・ ダンスと祝賀が始まります。

マリンボール成功の秘訣

1. 来る前に何か食べてください。式典は長くなることがあります。
2. ショール（羽織るもの）を持参してください。部屋が寒くなることがあります。
3. 伝統を尊重してください。
4. 式典が始まる前にトイレに行って着席してください。
5. 式典中は、テキスト メッセージ、会話、飲食、トイレの使用は控えてください。
6. 式典中の写真撮影は、一部のボールでは許可されている場合もありますが、イベントで許可されているかどうかを確認してください。
7. 飲みすぎには注意しましょう。バースデー ボールは楽しいイベントですが、海兵隊員にとってはプロフェッショナルなイベントです。
8. 自由に交流し、自己紹介してください。「PLEASE」と「THANK YOU」を忘れずに言いましょう。自由に交流し、自己紹介してください。また、他の人には「Sir」または「Ma'am」と呼びかけてください。
9. 楽しむことを忘れないでください。海兵隊には誇り高く輝かしい歴史があります。バースデー ボールでは最高の振る舞いをするのが重要ですが、その夜の目的を忘れないでください。それは、海兵隊とそのすべての功績を祝うことです。
10. 式典とスピーチが終わったら、リラックスして楽しんで、ディナーの準備をしましょう。