

MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON  
CROWD EDUCATOR PROGRAM



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# MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON CROWD EDUCATOR PROGRAM

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In an effort to streamline presentations and facilitate flexibility of match ups, the following outline or “talking points” are to be used. It is intended to increase professionalism, uniformity or information, make partnering easier, and to clarify objectives.

Since our primary function is to personalize our guests’ experience at the Marine Barracks Evening Parade, the following outline should be used in the same order that companies appear on the parade deck. Those companies not appearing on the deck are to be discussed in the following order:

- Headquarters and Services Company
- Marine Corps Institute
- Guard Company

This revision is intended to make presentations easier and will take very little time to memorize. Keep in mind that educators should be able to intelligently discuss any of this material, although you will be able to go into greater detail about your own company and the duties with which you are involved. You are encouraged to tell about your individual experiences in the Marine Corps and what brought you to become a United States Marine. Your presentation should be age and grade appropriate.



## BARRACKS HISTORY

The history of the Marine Corps is as distinguished and celebrated of any fighting force in history. From the first Continental Marines in 1775 to today’s warriors and humanitarians engaged in operations throughout the world, all personnel associated with the Marine Corps display a special pride in knowing and being a part of a unique history that is unmatched in other organizations. To that end, Marine Barracks Washington has played a significant role in Marine Corps history since the beginning of the 19th century.

### HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Marine Barracks Washington was established in 1801 and has been the residence of the Commandant of the Marine Corps since 1806. On 31 March 1801, President Thomas Jefferson rode out on horseback with Lieutenant Colonel Commandant William Ward Burrows to locate a site for the Marine Barracks. Searching for a location situated within “easy marching distance of the Capitol” and the Washington Naval Yard, the current site of our Barracks was selected. Four days later, on 4 April 1801, the “National Intelligencer,” a local newspaper, ran a notice offering “a premium of \$100 to any person who will exhibit the best plan for Marines, sufficient to billet 500 men with their officers, and a house for the Commandant.” George Hadfield, an Italian-born Englishman, won the prize and is presumed to be the architect, however, the original plans have never been found.

The early 19th Century Barracks was arranged in a quadrangle, as it is today. The areas on the south and east sides were used for offices, maintenance facilities, and living quarters for the troops. The officers lived in buildings on the west side. The only original building still standing is on the north side – The Home of the Commandants. The other buildings in the quadrangle were all rebuilt between 1900 and 1907 on recommendations from the Sanitation Commission.

The training of new officers and recruits started at the Barracks soon after it was established and continued until 1911 when the base at Parris Island, South Carolina was established. The Barracks was also the location of the Marine Corps Headquarters until 1901. In addition to fulfilling their unique mission in Washington, D.C., Marines from the Barracks have participated in every major conflict the Corps has engaged in since the Barracks’ inception. Those conflicts include the War of 1812, served in the Indian Wars of 1836-37, the War with Mexico, the Spanish-American War, the American Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and most recently in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

## HOME OF THE COMMANDANTS

In 1806, Lieutenant Colonel Franklin Wharton, the third Commandant of the Marine Corps (1804-1818), and his family were the first to occupy the home. The original house measured 25 feet by 32 feet and was of simple Georgian-Federalist design containing four rooms on each floor.

The first floor contained a vestibule that led into the main hall, a dining room to the left, and a small parlor to the right. Beyond the main hall were two large drawing rooms. The second floor was divided into four bedrooms. Storage and servants' quarters were in the attic while meals were prepared in the basement.

### History Fact

In 1837, substantial additions were made to the Home of the Commandants, including its first indoor bathroom. In 1891, the attic was converted into a third floor by constructing the present mansard roof.



The Home of the Commandants was one of the few buildings not burned by the British when they sacked the Capitol in the War of 1812. This action by the British has given rise to several legends. One version is that Admiral Cockburn and General Ross, commanding the British troops, spared it to use as their headquarters, then neglected to apply the torch upon their withdraw. Another version contends that Marine at the Battle of Bladensburg so impressed General Ross that he ordered the house and the Barracks spared as a gesture of soldierly respect.

Square 927, now the block surrounded by 8th & I and 9th & G Streets S.E., was entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, and was then designated a National Historic Landmark by the Department of the interior in 1976.

## CENTER HOUSE

The Marine Barracks Washington Center House is one of six quarters located at MBW. It is the first house on the left as you enter the Main Gate of the Barracks.



The original Center House (located on the spot currently occupied by Quarters III) was destroyed by a fire on 20 February 1829 and was rebuilt the same year. Following a recommendation from the Sanitation Commission, the original Center House was demolished along with all the other Barracks buildings (the Home of the Commandants being the lone exception) in 1902. Rebuilt on its present location in 1907, only the name "Center House" remains from the original building. At present, Center House is a multipurpose facility that supports numerous officer meetings and social functions. Additionally, Center House contains bachelor officer and VIP billeting, an Officers' Mess, and the duty room for the Officer of the Day. However, Center House is more than just an Officers' Mess or quarters; it is a symbol of cherished Marine Corps traditions and history.

Throughout the main floor of Center House are various reminders of Marine Corps history and tradition. Authentic weaponry and paintings on loan from the Marine Corps Historical Foundation help create the friendly, comfortable atmosphere noticed by every guest on their visit. The elegant first floor parlors and dining room set the scene for social activities that often include the Commandant and his Lad, and distinguished civilian and military leaders. Following the Evening Parades, the historic rooms of Center House swell with the same chorus of friendship and good humor that resounded during the early days of Marine Barracks Washington that began with Thomas Jefferson.

Current Marine officers are still carrying on the traditions of those before them, such as the "clever young gentlemen" mentioned in the diary of Rear Admiral Semmes, a Confederate States naval officer, who was held prisoner in Center House from 29 December 1865 to 7 April 1866. Admiral Semmes'

## CENTER HOUSE (CONT'D)

complete diary entry read, “The Marine Lieutenants are clever young gentlemen and their companionship is pleasant, as we converse freely on topics that may suggest themselves.” That same companionship mentioned by Admiral Semmes is apparent in the Drum Room where conversation flows freely with the spirits dispensed from the bar. The room is decorated with snare drums from Marine Corps and British musical units of the past and present, from whom it receives its name. The glow of pewter mugs hanging along the Drum Room walls adds another touch of tradition to Marines and guests. The mugs are hung in seniority beginning with the Secretary of the Navy, Commandant, Assistant Commandant, and ends with the junior officer of the Barracks. Each mug has an engraved list of former Barracks officers who enjoyed the companionship of Center House and have since transferred. Adding even more prestige to the room is the Jefferson Mug, named in honor of Barracks’ founder President Thomas Jefferson. This cup bears the names of each President who has come to review their Marines at the Oldest Post of the Corps.

## MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON ARTIFACTS

### 57MM FIELD GUN

Located on the North side of Center Walk at the flagpole. It was made by a German manufacturer (Krupp) and was captured on 3 July 1900 during the Boxer Rebellion. A detachment of Marines led by Major L.W.T. Waller captured this piece near the west wall of Tientsin, China.

### 61MM FIELD GUN

Located on the South side of Center Walk at the flagpole. It was captured in Peking, China by a detachment of Marines led by Major L.W.T. Waller on 15 August 1900.

### GRAVESTONES

The two gravestones located on each side of Center Walk mark the grave sites of former Barracks mascots, Sergeant Chesty VII (1979-1992) and Corporal Chesty IX (1989-1992).



## OFFICIAL USMC MASCOT

Renowned for their tough, muscular, and aggressive appearance, the English bulldog has long suited the Corps’ need for a symbol and faithful mascot. This tradition began during World War I when German soldiers referred to Marines as “Devil Dogs” during the battle at Belleau Wood, France. The Germans compared the fierce fighting ability of the Marines to that of wild mountain dogs of Bavarian folklore. Soon after the battle, a Marine recruiting poster painted by artist Charles B. Falls appeared depicting a dachshund dog attired in a spiked German helmet and iron cross, fleeing from an English bulldog that was wearing a helmet with the eagle, globe and anchor insignia. The inscription read: “Teufel Hunden – German Nickname for U.S. Marines ... Devil Dog Recruiting Station.”



Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler, while serving as commanding officer of the Marine Barracks at Quantico, Virginia, carried the fledgling tradition further by enlisting a so-called “Private Jiggs” into the Marine Corps on 14 October 1922. Jiggs, formally King Bulwark, was sired by the once-famous pedigreed English bulldog Rob Roy, and whelped in Philadelphia on 22 May 1921. Jiggs received rapid promotions, becoming a sergeant major on 17 July 1924. Following Jiggs’ death on 9 January 1927, former boxing heavyweight champion James J. (Gene) Tunney, who had served with the Marines in France, continued the tradition by donating the English bulldog Jiggs II to the Marines at Quantico.

Keeping with tradition, the Barracks acquired Private First Class Chauncy in 1956 and deemed him the official mascot of the Corps by virtue of his duty station. Chauncy’s successor, Chesty I, named in honor of legendary Marine Lieutenant General Lewis “Chesty” Puller, became a part of the very first Evening Parade on 5 July 1957. Many English bulldogs have served honorably at the Barracks, and some were given formal burial honors within the Barracks grounds (see Marine Barracks Washington Artifacts).

Lance Corporal Chesty XIV is the current official mascot of the U.S. Marine Corps. This pedigree English bulldog enlisted in the Marine Corps in early 2013. His is always on duty motivating spectators in countless performances.

## EVENING PARADE



The Evening Parade is held every Friday evening between May and August. As the Oldest Post of the Corps, we take pride in performing a strictly traditional military review ceremony, full of precision and discipline, for thousands of guests. Today's version of the Evening Parade has undergone some slight modifications over the years in order to effectively highlight all of the parades elements, while ensuring an exciting show for our guests.

The first parades at the Barracks were traditional revile and morning musters conducted with varying frequency throughout the year. As these parades became more popular, Marines were asked to perform during Presidential inaugurations and other specific occasions, which prompted the Barracks' ceremonies of the early 1900s to become a routine event. In 1934, the Barracks initiated its first season of regularly scheduled weekly parades. These early parades, known as Sunset Parades, were conducted in the late afternoons on Mondays or Thursdays from April to November, and concluded the week of the Marine Corps birthday. While they bear the same name, the early parades were different events than the current Sunset Parades held on Tuesdays at the Marine Corps War Memorial.

The present-day Evening Parade was first conducted on 5 July 1957. During the winter of 1956-7, Colonel Leonard F. Chapman, Commanding Officer of the Barracks, began to develop the idea of the Evening Parade. In planning the parade sequence and format, he insisted that the parade drill be conducted by "the book" with no fancy theatrics, trick drill, or Queen Ann salutes, which frequently characterized drill routines of that period. Keeping in mind those basic guidelines, the planning of the parade matured into actual execution and incredible success. The Evening Parade's heritage is entwined with military rituals such as tattoo, retreat, and lowering of the colors. The name Evening Parade belies the true character of the formation. It is not only a parade, but a retreat ceremony and grand pageant as well.

## MC WAR MEMORIAL AND SUNSET PARADE

On 23 February 1945, five U.S. Marines and one Sailor raised the American flag atop Mount Suribachi on the volcanic island of Iwo Jima. This historic World War II event has become one of the most recognizable events in U.S. history and epitomizes the fighting spirit of the Marine Corps. To pay tribute to the success of the Marine Corps' service to the nation, the government approved an appropriate site near Arlington National Cemetery, and a private foundation commissioned a sculptor – Felix de Weldon – to create a lasting memorial. Dedicated on 10 November 1954, nine years in the making, the memorial commemorates the sacrifices of all Marines who have fought and died in the service of the United States of America.

Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal's Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of the flag raising inspired the sculpture. The photograph used to create this monument was of the second flag raising on Mount Suribachi. After witnessing the enthusiasm inspired by the first flag raising, the senior commander on the landing beach instructed his Marines to raise a larger flag so more Marines across the island could view it. This was not intended to be a staged event. However, Mr. Rosenthal was unable to get a picture of the first flag raising, and subsequently captured the immortal photograph as the larger flag was being hoisted.

Felix de Weldon worked on the project from 1945 until its completion in 1954. The process of casting the bronze from plaster molds alone took nearly three years. The statue was bolted and welded together from the inside using a trap door in one of the figures' cartridge belt. The total cost of the memorial was \$850,000, and Mr. de Weldon was paid \$554,829. The statue is the largest bronze statue in the world at 78 feet tall and weighing 100 tons. Each figure is approximately 32 feet tall and is accompanied by either a 16-foot long M-1 Garand rifle or 12-foot long M-1 Carbine, and 5 1/2-foot long combat knives. Their helmets are 3 1/2 feet in diameter and 11 feet in circumference. If their canteens could be filled, each one would hold 8 gallons. At the top of the 60-foot flagpole flies a 10x19 1/2-foot American flag. The statue rests on a 700-ton concrete base surrounded by 389 tons of highly polished Bonaccord black granite from Sweden. The names of the conflicts in which Marines have participated in are inscribed in the memorial's black granite base. The following Marines and Sailor are depicted on the statue:

Sergeant Michael Strank of Conemaugh, PA  
 Corporal Harlan H. Block of Weslaco, TX  
 Private First Class Franklin R. Sousley of Ewing, KY  
 Private First Class Ira Hayes of Bapchule, AZ  
 Pharmacists Mate John H. Bradley of Appleton, WS

## MC WAR MEMORIAL AND SUNSET PARADE (CONT'D)

Sgt. Strank, Cpl. Block, and Pfc. Sousley were killed during later phases of the battle for Iwo Jima.

Although the battle for control of Iwo Jima was hellacious and costly, the Marines prevailed. In a letter dated 19 February 1970, then-Commandant of the Marine Corps, General J.F. Chapman, Jr. explained the significance of this battle and what this memorial depicts for all Marines:

.....  
*“Twenty-five years ago, on this date, our V Marines Amphibious Corps began one of the most famous battles in history. Despite the strength of its defenses, Iwo Jima’s strategic location as a stepping-stone to the enemy’s home islands made its capture imperative. On Iwo, members of the 3d, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions, and supporting air, sea and land elements demonstrated in magnificent abundance the qualities of courage, loyalty, and selflessness which have always been our tradition.”*



Building on the military review performed during the memorial’s dedication ceremony, the Barracks began to hold a Guard-Mount, colors ceremony, and three-volley firing salute in the late summer afternoons. Since September 1956, the Barracks’ marching and musical units have been paying homage to those whose “uncommon valor was a common virtue” by presenting the Sunset Parades. The ceremony has evolved over the years to a formal parade incorporating the original three-volley firing salute. Highlights of the parade are the battalion march on, musical performances by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, and the Silent Drill Platoon.

## MARINE BARRACKS HISTORICAL EVENTS

<b>DATE</b>	<b>HIGHLIGHTS</b>
31 March 1801	President Jefferson and Commandant William Ward Burrows select location for the Marine Barracks in Southeast Washington, DC
<b>20 June 1801</b>	<b>Marine Barracks established at Washington</b>
1806	Commandant Wharton occupied the Home of the Commandants, now known as Quarter 6
<b>1814</b>	<b>Marine Barracks burned by the British during the War of 1812</b>
1815	Reconstruction of the Capitol begins
<b>1902-1908</b>	<b>Reconstruction of the Barracks following the recommendation of the Sanitary Commission</b>
2 February 1920	Marine Corps Institute established at Quantico
<b>10 November 1920</b>	<b>Marine Corps Institute transferred to Washington</b>
1934	First Friday Evening Parade
<b>4 November 1934</b>	<b>U.S. Marine Drum &amp; Bugle Corps formed</b>
27 December 1972	Home of the Commandants entered in the National Register of Historical Places
<b>7 October 1974</b>	<b>Barracks Band Hall dedicated in honor of John Phillip Sousa by J. William Middendorf II, Secretary of the Navy and General R.E. Cushman, Commandant of the Marine Corps</b>
1976	Marine Barracks Washington and the Home of the Commandants became a national historic site
<b>June 2001</b>	<b>The Barracks celebrated its 200th anniversary</b>
6 November 2004	Gen. M.W. Hagee, CMC, dedicated the new John Phillip Sousa Band Hall on Sousa’s 150th birthday
<b>5 November 2005</b>	<b>Statue of Sousa dedicated outside the John Phillip Sousa Band Hall</b>
17 June 2006	Bicentennial celebration of the completion of the Home of the Commandants

## U.S. MARINE BAND

The U.S. Marine Band (USMB), known as “The President’s Own,” was established by an Act of Congress on 11 July 1798 and is America’s oldest continuously active professional musical organization. The USMB made their White House debut in 1801. President Thomas Jefferson is credited with giving the band its title of “The President’s Own.” It is the only musical unit that is dedicated to providing music for the President of the United States.



The current USMB also includes the Marine Chamber Orchestra and Marine Chamber Ensembles. The USMB has been present at many of the nation’s most cherished moments in history, including the dedication of the National Cemetery in Gettysburg when President Lincoln made his immortal address. The most famous conductor of the band was John Philip Sousa, who provided his leadership and musical talents from 1880 to 1892. Two of his most famous marches are “The Stars and Stripes Forever” and “Semper Fidelis.”

The USMB tours the country each fall and has done so since Sousa commenced the practice in 1891. However, one section of the band always remains in Washington to fulfill its traditional mission of providing music when directed by the President.

Members of the USMB are the only Marines who are not required to go to Marine Corps recruit training. Once auditioned and selected to be a member of the USMB, band members assume the rank of staff sergeant and are trained by the USMB leadership and support staff. All USMB Marines receive classes on Marine Corps history, customs, courtesies, traditions, uniforms, and a variety of other topics. They are required to adhere to the Marine Corps weight standards, but are not required to do any other type of annual Marine training such as physical and combat fitness tests, and weapons and swim qualifications. Their officers are selected from within the enlisted organization. There are a total of five officers and 154 enlisted members. The first female officer in the history of the USMB was commissioned in 2004. All USMB Marines are permanently stationed at the Barracks until their contract expires or they retire.

## U.S. MARINE DRUM & BUGLE CORPS

The history of the U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps (D&B) can be traced to the early days of the Marine Corps. During the 18th and 19th centuries, military musicians, or “field musics,” provided a means of passing commands to Marines in battle formations. The sound of various drum beats and bugle calls could be easily heard over the noise of the battlefield and were used for numerous reasons as signals to the Marines. Through the 1930s, posts still employed a number of buglers and drummers to play the traditional calls and to ring a ship’s bell to signal the time.

The D&B was formed in 1934 at the Barracks. The unit provided musical support to ceremonies around the nation’s capital. During World War II, they were tasked with Presidential support duties. For this additional role, the D&B was awarded the scarlet and gold breast cord by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, which they now display on their uniform. When the war ended, the D&B resumed performing at various military and public ceremonies. During the early 1950s, the unit gained considerable acclaim by performing for an increasing number of civilian audiences. Music composed specifically for their unique selection of instruments helped establish their reputation for excellence. By composing original sheet music, marching to perfection, and displaying precise military order, the unit was formally designed at “The Commandant’s Own,” a title noting their special status as musicians for the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

In 1968, Truman Crawford, formerly of the U.S. Air Force Drum Corps, became the musical arranger and instructor for the D&B. During his 30-year career as a Marine, he created a unique and popular image for the D&B. It would be difficult to overstate the tremendous influence he had on the development of the organization. Col. Crawford has been called the “John Philip Sousa of the Drum Corps.” In his honor, the new D&B rehearsal facility is named the Truman Crawford Hall. The D&B performs martial and popular music for hundreds of thousands of spectators each year. The Corps of more than 80 musicians, dressed in ceremonial red and white uniforms, is known worldwide as a premier musical marching unit.

In the tradition of their “field music” predecessors, the musicians are Marines in the truest sense of the word. Every member is a graduate of Marine Corps recruit training and is trained in basic bandsman skills. Prior to enlisting, each must pass a demanding audition for service in the D&B. A little known fact about the D&B is that it does not march in parades of state. Instead, it is held back in reserve by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

## ALPHA AND BRAVO COMPANIES

Companies A & B are the ceremonial infantry units of the Barracks. They provide details throughout the National Capital Region to include the White House, Pentagon, Washington Navy Yard, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Joint Force Headquarters. They also provide contingency response within the district as part of the Joint Forces Command Force.



## SILENT DRILL PLATOON

The Silent Drill Platoon (SDP) is 3rd Platoon, Company A. Each member of this platoon competes for a position to serve in the platoon. The 24-man rifle platoon performs a unique, precision-drill exhibition. This highly-disciplined platoon exemplifies the professionalism associated with the Corps.

The SDP first performed in the Sunset Parades of 1948 and received such an overwhelming response that their performance soon became a regular part of the Friday Evening and Tuesday Sunset Parades.

The Marines execute a series of silent marching and rifle movements. The weapons they use are M1 Garand rifles, weighing 10.5 pounds, with fixed bayonets.



## U.S. MARINE COLOR GUARD



The U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard is a 15-man section within Company A. This detail is entrusted with the care of the official Battle Colors of the Marine Corps. The 54 streamers and silver bands that grace the colors represent every battle, campaign, and expedition the Corps has participated in since its founding. The Marines of the color guard execute an average of 1,000 Marine Corps, Naval Service, and Joint Color Guard ceremonies every year.

## HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANY (HQ SVC)

Headquarters & Service Company (H&S) provided the leadership, staff planning, and logistical support to the Barracks. The company is comprised of the following sections:

- S-1 (Administration)
- S-3 (Operations)
- S-4 (Logistics)
- Supply
- Clearance
- Medical
- Food Service
- MCCS
- Maintenance
- Public Affairs
- Chaplain



## MARINE CORPS INSTITUTE (MCI) COMPANY

The Marine Corps Institute was established on 2 February 1920 in Quantico, Va., under the name of “Post Schools,” and supervised by Maj. Gen. J. A. Lejeune, commanding officer of Marine Barracks Quantico. The name was changed to Marine Corps Institute in June 1920, when courses were opened to Marines worldwide. Once appointed to commandant, Lejeune moved MCI to Washington, D.C., on 10 November 1920 to keep a closer eye on “his project.”

MCI facilitates the training and education of individual Marines worldwide. It provides Marines access to educational courses that improve job performance and enhance professional military education.



## GUARD COMPANY

Guard Company was officially stood up 17 October 2008. They are responsible for providing post security and provost marshal services for Marine Barracks Washington, D.C.



## OUTLINE FOR EDUCATORS

### WELCOME TO MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON

Welcome to Marine Barracks Washington, “The Oldest Post of the Corps”  
 Personal introduction (name, rank, company, place of birth).  
 State your purpose (objective of informing/topic).

### MARINE BARRACKS HISTORY

Founded in 1801.  
**Site elected by President Thomas Jefferson and Lt. Col. William Ward Burroughs for the sum of \$6,000 with an additional \$20,000 for construction.**  
 Site selected because of close proximity to the Capitol and the Washington Navy Yard (where the Barracks’ armory was located).  
**Flag is a replica of the one flown in 1801.**  
 Has 15 stars and 15 stripes, representing the first 15 states.  
**Flown to commemorate the founding of the Barracks in 1801.**  
 It’s commonly known as the Star Spangled Banner.  
**Still similar in design as in 1801 (quadrangle).**  
 Officer’s quarters to the west.  
**Center House (Officers’ Club and bachelor officer quarters) was relocated to present location so the Barracks’ commanding officer’s quarters were on Center Walk.**  
 Enlisted quarters were to the east.  
**Col Truman W. Crawford Hall (formerly Sousa Hall) to the south.**  
 Home of the Commandants to the north.  
**CMC Home has been occupied by every commandant since the 3rd commandant, Lt. Col. Frank Wharton.**  
 It’s the oldest continuously occupied residence in the nation’s capital.  
**CMC Home was occupied by British forces in the War of 1812, in the year 1814.**  
 CMC Home was one of the few buildings not burned by the British during the War of 1812. One reason for this contends that Marines so impressed the British Commander Gen. Ross, at the Battle of Bladensburg, that he ordered the house and the Barracks spared as a gesture of soldierly respect.  
**Both the Barracks and the CMC Home are “National Historic Landmarks” as designated by the Department of the Interior in 1976.**  
 The Barracks served as Headquarters Marine Corps and trained new officers and recruits until 1911, when Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., was established.

## MARINE BARRACKS HISTORY (CONT'D)

Barracks Marines have participated in the War of 1812, Indian Wars of 1836-37, the War with Mexico, the Spanish-American War, the American Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean War, Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and most recently in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

**The first Friday Evening Parade was held on 5 July 1957.**

The Barracks is composed of 7 companies.

## “THE PRESIDENT’S OWN” UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

Formed by an Act of Congress on 11 July 1798.

**America’s oldest professional musical organization.**

Oldest continuously active unit in the Marine Corps.

**Only unit in the nation’s military whose sole mission is to provide music for the President and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.**

First performed at the White House at the request of President John Adams on 1 January 1801.

**Given the name “The President’s Own” by President Thomas Jefferson because of its close association with the White House.**

Performs at the White House over 300 times a year.

**Gives an additional 500 public performances a year.**

Has performed at every inaugural since Thomas Jefferson.

**Composed of 156 musicians from the world’s finest universities, conservatories and music schools.**

Their versatility can be found in different groups within the band – from flute and harp, to a country group, jazz band, dance band, or string quartet, chamber orchestra, or full band.

**Its 17th and most famous director, John Philip Sousa, was born a block and a half away from the Barracks.**

Sousa first joined the USMB as a musician’s apprentice at the age of 13.

**As director, he led the band to an unprecedented level of excellence, becoming world famous, and beginning the tradition of a national concert tour.**

The USMB tours for 7 weeks every fall around the U.S.

**Sousa’s prolific composing of marches earned him the title “The March King.”**

Sousa wrote our national march, “The Stars and Stripes Forever,” but considered “Semper Fidelis,” which he dedicated to the officers and men of the Corps, to be his finest composition.

**The USMB also gives concerts from June through August every Wednesday night at the Capitol steps at 8 p.m., and every Thursday night on the grounds of the Washington Monument at the Sylvan Theater.**

## “THE COMMANDANT’S OWN” DRUM & BUGLE CORPS

Composed of 80 Marine musicians.

**At one point, there were more than 60 drum and bugle corps in the armed forces. Now, the D&B is the only one still remaining.**

Established in 1934 to augment the U.S. Marine Band at the Barracks.

**Travels 50,000 miles a year.**

Performs for hundreds of thousands of spectators a year.

**Performs more than 400 times a year.**

The armed forces’ premier musical marching unit.

**Part of the Battle Color Detachment.**

Wear red to commemorate “field musics” which were “non-combatants” in early America used to signal troops and pass on commands.

**Audition to be accepted for consideration.**

Go to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., for 6 weeks in February to prepare their drill

**Perform in each Friday Evening and Tuesday Sunset Parade.**

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt awarded the scarlet and gold cord to the D&B for presidential support duties during WWII.

## ALPHA COMPANY

Is one of two fully trained infantry companies at the Barracks.

**Can be seen at each Friday Evening and Tuesday Sunset Parade.**

Perform ceremonial duties for the White House, Pentagon, and funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery.

**Is comprised of Marines selected for their military appearance by the first sergeant.**

Includes the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

**The SDP is also part of the Battle Color Detachment.**

Performs hundreds of times per year.

**Performs their drill without use of verbal commands.**

Each Marine is hand-picked to become a member.

**Trains in MCAS Yuma each year to establish a new sequence.**

PLEASE NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY DURING THE INSPECTION (LONG LINE).

**Includes the Marine Corps Color Guard.**

The CG is also part of the Battle Color Detachment.

**Carries the Official Battle Color of the Marine Corps with its 54 streamers and silver bands commemorating the military campaigns in which Marines have fought.**

The national ensign is carried by the Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps.  
**CG Marines must be at least 6 foot 4 inches.**

## ALPHA COMPANY (CONT'D)

Has several teams performing over 1,000 ceremonies a year.

**Even though they are the Barracks' smallest section, they are involved in more than half of the Barracks' ceremonial obligations every year.**

The Color Sergeant's billet was first officially recognized in 1965, and he is the Presidential flag bearer for State functions.

**As with most Barracks Marines, the Color Sergeant must be eligible for and obtain a White House clearance.**

## BRAVO COMPANY

Is one of two fully trained infantry company at the Barracks.

**Can be seen at each Friday Evening and Tuesday Sunset Parade.**

Perform ceremonial duties for the White House, Pentagon, and funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery.

**Composed of Marines selected for their military appearance by the first sergeant.**

Includes body bearers.

**Body bearers must meet strict physical requirements and must undergo intense weight-lighting strength training.**

Perform hundreds of funerals a year.

**Also tasked with firing the ceremonial 40mm cannons at the south end of the parade deck for visiting dignitaries and during the parades.**

Participate in joint funeral services for high-ranking officials and dignitaries.

**Only burial team in the military to lift the remains to eye level before laying them to their final resting place.**

Their motto is "The last to let you down!"

## HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANY

Composed of 13 sections.

**Responsible for security, administration, public affairs, and logistical, transportation, and grounds/maintenance support for the Barracks.**

The first to start setting up for the parades and the last to complete their tasks after the parade.

**Ensures each company of Marines fulfills their tasks.**

Ensures Marines are paid and keep leave balances.

## GUARD COMPANY

Activated, 17 October 2008.

**Stand guard at the Latrobe Gate of the Washington Navy Yard.**

Provides security for all Barracks property and residents.

## MARINE CORPS INSTITUTE COMPANY

Was established in 1920 by Gen. John A. Lejeune, the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

**The commanding officer of the Barracks is also holds the title, Director, Marine Corps Institute.**

The first director was Lt. Col. W.C. "Bo" Harlee.

**The premier distance learning center in the Corps.**

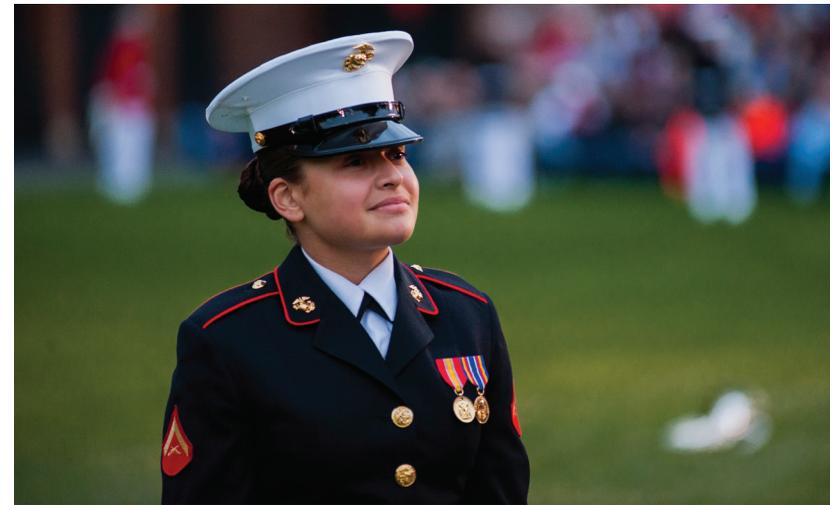
Provided non-resident specialized skill training courses and professional military education for the Corps.

**Offers courses in everything from accounting, spelling, electrical wiring, nutrition, metal working and welding, as well as numerous military subjects.**

Has been located at the Washington Navy Yard since 1967.

**Composed of a staff of Marine and civilian Marine personnel.**

A hybrid organization that blends the talents of experienced warfighters with highly educated civilian specialists.



## CLOSING

Thank you for attending.

**Please let the participants know you appreciate them.**

Join us again at any of the parades or concerts.

**Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/marinebarracks](https://www.facebook.com/marinebarracks), on Twitter, @MBWDC, Flickr at [flickr.com/marinebarracks](https://www.flickr.com/photos/marinebarracks/), and check out [barracks.marines.mil](https://www.marines.mil).**

## TOUR GUIDE

### WELCOME TO MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON

Marine Barracks is commonly referred to as “8th and I,” after the intersection of those two streets here in the southeastern quadrant of the city.

The Barracks was established on 31 March 1801 when President Thomas Jefferson and Commandant Lieutenant Colonel William Ward Burrows rode from the capitol to select the site.

President Jefferson needed a home for his Marines that was close to the Washington Navy Yard and within easy marching distance of the nation’s capital in order to provide security to the capitol region.

The government put in a bid for Square 927 at the price of \$6,247.18 to property owner J. Elgar Commigs.

Two centuries later, the Barracks still serves its original purpose, and was designated a national historic landmark in 1976.

With the exception of the Home of the Commandants to the north, the buildings here were built between 1900 and 1908, modeled after the original wood buildings, which had been rebuilt several times.



### A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE COMPANIES AT 8TH AND I



Marine Corps Institute serves as the distance education center for the Marine Corps.

“The President’s Own” United States Marine Band performs at the White House up to three hundred times per year and gives an additional five hundred public concerts across the nation.

“The Commandant’s Own” United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps is the only drum and bugle corps in the Armed Forces and performs in more than 500 ceremonies throughout the nation and abroad.

Two marching companies, Alpha and Bravo, are comprised of infantry Marines who provide support for ceremonies throughout the National Capital Region, including our Friday Evening Parades and Tuesday Sunset Parades, which take place every summer. Alpha Company is the home of the elite Marine Corps Color Guard, which includes the Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps, and the Silent Drill Platoon, who represent the finest in Marine Corps precision drill. “The last to let you down,” the Body Bearers, and ceremonial firing party call Bravo Company home and lay fallen Marines in their final resting places. All infantry Marines at the Barracks are required to meet specific height and appearance standards. The standard height for marchers is 70-74 inches. The standard height for color guard is 74-78 inches.

Headquarters and Support Company consists of support personnel for the Barracks, including security, administrative services, and an operations center.

**CRAWFORD HALL**

Named for Col. Truman W. Crawford, the commander of the Drum and Bugle Corps from 1973 to 1998, this facility is the headquarters for the Drum and Bugle Corps.

Formed in 1934, the Drum and Bugle Corps was originally created to supplement the Marine Corps Band during the Sunset Parades at the Barracks.

The D&B grew in popularity, eventually distinguishing itself as “The Commandant’s Own” in 1957.

**PARADE DECK**

8th and I served as Marine Corps Headquarters from 1798 until 1901.

It was also the recruit and officer training center until the establishment of the recruit depot, Parris Island, SC in 1915.

The Evening Parades began in 1957. A one hour and fifteen minute performance of music and precision marching. The Evening Parade features “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band, “The Commandant’s Own” The United States Drum and Bugle Corps, and the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

The Evening Parades, held every Friday during the summer, has become a universal symbol of the professionalism, discipline and esprit de corps of the United States Marines.

The three 40mm cannons are fired by Bravo Company’s Body Bearer section to honor visiting dignitaries and at the Friday Evening Parades during the Drum and Bugle performance of “Ode to Joy.”

*Anecdote: Marines used to play and train out on the parade deck. There even used to be a softball field here. But during the summer, the parade deck needs to look perfect during ceremonies like the Friday Evening Parades. So, they say if the grass isn’t green by Friday, it will be green on Friday by any means necessary (spray paint included!)*

**TROOP WALK/ARCADE (SOUTH END)**

The southeast side of the Barracks used to house the enlisted Marines until 1972 when the towers across the street were completed. Now, they serve as the offices of Headquarters and Support Company.

Troop walk is where Alpha and Bravo Companies march out during Friday Evening Parades.

*The arcade pillars make a great staging ground for the Marines before the march out during the parades, but that wasn’t there original purpose. When the Barracks was rebuilt in 1908, the architect constructed these pillars to be exactly the right size for one Marine to stand behind and defend the Barracks from invaders, using his bayonet.*

*The sound of the Marines, as they perform inspection arms and slam their rifle butts to the deck in unison during a Friday Evening Parade, is unlike anything you have ever heard. The “click, pop, and boom” sounds like single clap of thunder and always gets enthusiastic applause.*

**CENTER WALK/BELL**

All orders and commands come from Center Walk during the Friday Evening Parades.

Center Walk is also used for christenings (names inscribed inside the bell) and weddings for any Marine who requests it.

This is the only post in the Marine Corps that still uses a bell and live bugle calls to tell time – bugle: morning colors, evening retreat, and taps – bell: 0800, 1200, 1600, 2000.

The 57mm field gun on the east side of the parade deck was manufactured in the late 1800s by Krupp of Germany. The gun was captured by Marines in 1900 during the Boxer Rebellion.

Facing this gun is another, larger field piece captured by Marines at Peking the same year. Both were captured by Marines under command of Major Waller participating in the international effort to restore order in China.

**CENTER WALK/BELL (CONT'D)**

The Boxer Rebellion was an uprising in 1900 by the Chinese in an attempt to expel foreign influence from their country. The Chinese felt as if they were treated as second class citizens in their own country due to treaties China's government was forced to sign.

1992 was a sad year for Marine Barracks Washington because we lost three mascots. Two of them are buried here.

*When the bell rings, we're usually happy about it, because it means it's either time for chow, or liberty!*

*(The neighbors have come to depend on the Barracks) Although the tradition has been discontinued, Fifers used to perform a reveille ceremony on the parade deck every morning until the early 1900s when one of the general officers complained about the noise. When the ceremony was stopped, the neighbors organized a protest outside of the gates. The ceremony had become such a part of their way of life every morning that they were distressed by its absence.*



**TROOP WALK/ARCADE (NORTH END)**

The Marine Corps emblem overhead is the original design of the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor. It was placed there in 1908 upon completion of the reconstruction of the Barracks.

Brigadier General Jacob Zeilen made the EGA the official emblem of the Marine Corps in 1868.

The globe stands for worldwide service. The eagle represents our nation. The anchor signifies our naval heritage.

**HOME OF THE COMMANDANTS**



Is the oldest, continuously occupied building in Washington, D.C.

It has been the home of every commandant since 1806.

Lieutenant Col. Franklin Wharton completed the house in 1806.

The Commandant's House was one of the few buildings not burned by the British when they sacked the capital in 1814. The omission by the British has given rise to several legends as to why the house was spared. One version is that Admiral Cockburn and General Ross, commanding the British troops, spared it to use as their headquarters, then neglected to apply the torch upon their withdrawal. Another contends that Marines at the Battle of Bladensburg so impressed General Ross that he ordered the house and the Barracks spared as a gesture of soldierly respect. Which theory do you think is more popular around here?

It is a tradition that the current commandant leave a gift for the future commandants to use. Some gifts from the former commandants include fine furniture, crystal, and china.

**HOME OF THE COMMANDANTS (CONT'D)**

*Gen. Hagee, 33rd commandant of the Marine Corps, in the spirit of the Marine Corps motto, "work hard, play hard," left a wine chest as his legacy to future commandants so that they may enjoy the same tradition.*

*On the same note, it's no secret that Marines enjoy their drinks. To ensure the home was constructed in a speedy manner, Lieutenant Col. Wharton authorized two pints of rum, daily, to the Marines who built the home. Considering the Marine Corps was born in a tavern, we wouldn't have it any other way!*

*During the Seminole Indian Wars of the 1830s, our 5th commandant, Archibald Henderson, actually tacked a note to the front door of the home for the president. The note read, "Gone to fight the Indians. Back when the war is over."*

*The United States fought the Seminole Wars against the Seminole Indians to stop attacks on American settlements in Georgia.*

*Archie, affectionately known as the "grand old man of the Marine Corps," actually passed away on a couch in the home in 1859. Sadly, his wife, Josephine, passed away three weeks later; they say she died of a broken heart.*

*Josephine actually had this same iron fence you see here today constructed when she became fed up with the devil dogs trampling in her yard.*



**OFFICER'S WALK**

On the right hand side are quarters reserved for some the Marine Corps' most senior generals.

The centerpiece in each garden you pass represents a different element of the Marine Corps tradition: a sundial for aviation, an artillery shell representing " a force in readiness," an anchor standing for naval tradition, the shot representing Marines as proficient marksmen when onshore, and the bell from the U.S.S. Forrest – a World War II Destroyer with five battle stars.

The bell in front of center house is from the U.S.S. Nicholas. The bell used to preside at Center Walk, but was retired due to age and a crack (original hangs in Center House foyer). The U.S.S. Nicholas was a World War II Destroyer.

The first house is the home of the Assistance Commandant of the Marine Corps. The ACMC is always taken from the aviation element.

The commanding officer of Marine Barracks Washington is housed in the center of the Barracks, formerly the location of "Center House." However, Center House was moved because it was deemed appropriate that the CO's home overlook the center of the Barracks.

**CENTER HOUSE**

**FOYER**

Center House contains the officer's mess and is a meeting place for officers and their guests following parades and ceremonies. Celebrities and dignitaries from all over the world have been entertained here.

The house has been furnished with antiques and artifacts from throughout Marine Corps History.

The weapons on the wall were carried by Marines, captured by Marines or are gifts from various military organizations.

In the display case to the right of the door, you will see retired baldrics and maces, worn and carried by the Drum Major of the United States Marine Band. Notice that each baldric bears the names of battles and campaigns in which Marines have fought.

## CENTER HOUSE CONT'D

*Anecdote: The 1775 recruiting poster entices Marines to the “glorious days.” Marines were originally recruited to provide security on ships, manning the weaponry and invading opposing vessels – kind of like pirates!*



## STUDY/DINING ROOM

It's a tradition of officers of the mess to leave a book behind when departing the Barracks for the benefit of incoming officers. Here you can see everything from Dr. Seuss to Encyclopedias.

The book, “Marine!” was signed by Chesty Puller, one of the Marine Corps' greatest heroes.

*Anecdote: You'll notice the portrait of Archibald Henderson on the wall in the dining room. During a party after one of the first Evening Parades in the 1950s, a discussion amongst the officers regarding the inclusion of females into the Marine Corps' active duty ranks arose. One general was purported as saying, “If Archibald Henderson here heard this, he'd roll over in his grave!” Legend has it that it was at that very moment that his portrait fell off the wall! This was considered just a tall tale until 2001 when we were giving a tour and told this same story. An elderly lady spoke up, saying she was actually present during that discussion, and it happened exactly as said. It turned out that she was the daughter of one of the generals. Thus, the rumor was confirmed!*

## DRUM ROOM

The drums you see were presented to the Barracks by the British Royal Marines, the British Grenadiers and the Fort Henry Guard.

The pewter mugs are given to each officer stationed at the Barracks. They are arranged in order of seniority. You will notice the Secretary of Defense at the very top.

Located on the far side of the bar is the Jefferson Mug, named after Thomas Jefferson, the founder of the Barracks. This mug has been reserved for the President of the United States since Dwight Eisenhower. You will see inscribed on it the names of each president who has visited the Barracks, including George W. Bush and Barrack Obama.

*Anecdote: You will notice a check on the wall made out to the Barracks for a rather large sum. Another tradition here involved the British Royal Marines stationed at the British Embassy. One night out of the year, these counterparts are brought to Center House, and made to stand trial for the pillaging of Washington, D.C., during the War of 1812. Every year, they are found guilty and required to make reparations. One year, they presented us this check for restitution. However, it's said that every year at the event, the Brits consume so much alcohol, that the check is really just their bar tab!*

## CONCLUSION

For further information on the history of the area, people can follow the “Heritage Trail,” which begins at the Eastern Market metro and is comprised of informational signs at several historic spots, including the Washington Navy Yard to the south and the home of John Phillip Sousa.

Archibald Henderson's grave is located off of I Street about four blocks east at the Congressional Cemetery.

If you need to get something to eat, 8th Street, commonly known as “Barracks Row,” contains over forty restaurants.

