

1ST BATTALION, 5TH MARINES
HOMECOMING GUIDE FOR FAMILIES



1/5 Family,

Our time of deployment is almost to an end!! This booklet was developed to help you understand and prepare for the homecoming of your 1/5 Marine or Sailor. Keeping in mind that every deployment and homecoming is different, this book has a general outlook and unit specific information to help you prepare for this wonderful and exciting day. We hope you find it helpful. If you have any suggestions or ideas on how to make it better, please let your Family Readiness Officer know and I'll do my best to make it happen.

Important Names and Numbers

Family Readiness OfficerJuan J. Gomez, Jr.
office (during regular office hours)..... 760-763-1252
blackberry (during regular office hours and after hours for emergencies)..... 760-529-2830
email (anytime) juan.j.gomez5@usmc.mil

As the Family Readiness Officer (FRO), I am the liaison between the command and the families. Throughout the deployment, I have sent out messages and updates via the Mass Communication Tool. My assistants and I have been here to assist our families. For the homecoming, I will be the person to pass official information from the command regarding the Battalion's return. If at any time before, during, or after the homecoming you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to call me and I will do my best to assist or find the right answer for you.

As an additional resource during this time, you may call the Family Readiness Information Line for the most up-to-date Return Information. Beginning the first week in December, the Family Readiness Information Line will play a pre-recorded message from the Family Readiness Officer. It will contain the latest Return information and it will be updated whenever a change is made to the homecoming schedule. Please remember that all dates and times are subject to change. While I appreciate your patience and understanding during this very difficult and chaotic phase, please know that I will do my best to keep you informed and protect your loved ones.

Family Information Hotline 1-866-676-0662
Local Number (760) 725-0471 - Press 9, then 9, then 1

1/5 Officer of the Day (available 24/7) 760-763-1522
1/5 RBE (available during regular working hours)..... 760-763-1532

You may call the OOD or RBE if you have any emergency questions and you are unable to get in touch with the Family Readiness Officer.

5th Marine Regiment Chaplain 760-725-7330

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Speaking the Language

When it comes to speaking the language of the USMC, it can be quite confusing for the uninitiated. Many commonly used terms are traditional, others have evolved into what you see here today. Although we could not put all of the acronyms in this booklet, we did want to give you the ones most commonly heard during a homecoming with 1/5. If you'd like to have a full list and really get to know about the Marine Corps lifestyle make sure and ask your Family Readiness Officer about L.I.N.K.S. for Parents & Families, it's a great resource!

CT	Command Team – consists of CO, XO, SgtMaj, FRO, Chaplain, and multiple advisors
CO	Commanding Officer of the Battalion
XO	Executive Officer – Second in Command
SgtMaj	Sergeant Major – Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Commander; possessed of a wealth of information and experience in all things Marine.
FRO	Family Readiness Officer – the command liaison to the families
Advon	Advance party - typically the group that will come home first.
Armory	Secure facility where weapons are stored. Immediately upon arrival, the Marines will need to turn in their weapons at the Armory before meeting their loved ones.
Deploy	Deployment on orders.
Re-Deploy	To bring the Marines and Sailors back home.
In Country	They have made it to the country they were deployed to.
In Theater	Boots are on the ground they were deployed to and they are doing their jobs
Main Body	This will be one of the largest groups of Marines coming home, usually the group accompanying the CO.
Main Gate	Is also referred to as the Front Gate - the gate you come through to get on base.
OOD	Officer of the Day – Officer/NCO that is the designated representative of the command for a 24 hour period, usually from 0800 to 0800 the following day.
RBE	Remain Behind Element. - These are the 1/5 Marines who did not deploy and are here at Camp Pendleton.
CONUS	Continental United States
OCONUS	Outside continental United States
DET	Detachment of Marines on a deployment or TAD
OPSEC	Operational Security - for more information refer to page 3 of this guide
PMO	Provost Marshall - Military Police on any Marine base.

Military Time vs. Civilian Time

0001 = 12:01 am	0700 = 7:00 am	1400 = 2:00 pm	2100 = 9:00 pm
0100 = 1:00 am	0800 = 8:00 am	1500 = 3:00 pm	2200 = 10:00 pm
0200 = 2:00 am	0900 = 9:00 am	1600 = 4:00 pm	2300 = 11:00 pm
0300 = 3:00 am	1000 = 10:00 am	1700 = 5:00 pm	2400 = 12:00 midnight
0400 = 4:00 am	1100 = 11:00 am	1800 = 6:00 pm	
0500 = 5:00 am	1200 = 12:00 noon	1900 = 7:00 pm	
0600 = 6:00 am	1300 = 1:00 pm	2000 = 8:00 pm	

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Operations Security (OPSEC)

If you were going on vacation for a few weeks and planned to leave your house unoccupied, would you talk openly about this information in public? Would you update the specific dates you'll be gone on your Facebook account or post a countdown timer and hope no one takes advantage of this information? No matter how safe we believe we are, common sense tells us not to do either of these things. We want to make sure all necessary precautions are taken to ensure our house, property and valuables are protected while we are gone.

The military has a very similar philosophy regarding sensitive information known as Operational Security or OPSEC. OPSEC protects the details surrounding all US military operations whether they are just in the planning stages, in progress or already completed. As a family member or loved one, you play a critical role in protecting the information pertaining to an incredibly important mission – the safe return of your Marine or Sailor. You may have noticed that your loved one was hesitant to give you an exact return date or has spoken in “code” when referring to the timeframe surrounding the redeployment. This is because he is following OPSEC and, for safety reasons, expects you to do the same. The old World War II saying, “loose lips sink ships” is just as relevant today as it was then. Your Family Readiness Officer will provide you with a range of potential days your Marine could return. This is known as a “window of return” and is given to make sure the security of our Marines is not jeopardized, and also to account for changes in plans, flight-plans, and delays in the country your Marine is deployed. We have all seen how commercial flights can be changed, rescheduled or delayed on a moment's notice. The same is true for military aircraft. This “window” is provided to help you plan. Remember that the most accurate and up-to-the-minute information will be placed on your unit's Family Readiness Hotline. This information is passed directly through your Family Readiness Officer from the command; Family Readiness Officers do not pass rumored information. Once received, the window dates may be shared with others. Once you are given the specific arrival time, date and location (i.e. Wednesday, 11:30 at the UMA Lot in Camp San Mateo), this information may also be shared. Although we encourage you to share it with your family and friends, we would discourage you from posting it online in any manner whatsoever.

OPSEC Reminders:

1. Don't post, print, email or speak publicly about the return dates of your Marine/Sailor unless it has been released by the command/Family Readiness Officer. This is privileged information.
2. **The dates and times of the homecoming can change at any time.** *Remember to be flexible.*
3. **Family Readiness Officer does not know any more information than has been provided by the command.** If there are any changes, the FRO will be alerted and the information will be passed to you.



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Warrior Transition Briefs

A Warrior Transition brief schedule has been developed in order to ease the Marine's transition from a combat environment back to their stateside lifestyle. Please be advised that this series of briefs must be completed before the Marine is allowed post deployment liberty or leave. A sample of the Warrior Transition schedule is outlined below:

Homecoming

Arrival at MCB Camp Pendleton: Greet families and loved ones, remarks from unit

Day 1

CO's Remarks

Alcohol Abuse Prevention

Suicide Awareness

As required IPAC post deployment audit, weapons cleaning, dental, etc.

Day 2

Vehicle Safety

Public Affairs Brief

Family Readiness Officer Brief

As required IPAC post deployment audit, weapons cleaning, dental, etc

Day 3

Medical processing at medical office - to include medical brief

As required IPAC post deployment audit, weapons cleaning, dental, etc.

Day 4

Stress Management (Semper Fit)

As required IPAC post deployment audit, weapons cleaning, dental, etc.

Day 5

As required IPAC post deployment audit, weapons cleaning, dental, etc.

Liberty/Leave commences—Physical check/sign-out with the unit

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Homecoming Information for Out of Town Family Members

Off Base (Area) Lodging

You may search for lodging facilities online for Zip code 92672.

In addition, the following cities are listed in order of proximity to Camp Pendleton, with 1 being closest.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. San Clemente | 5. Costa Mesa |
| 2. San Juan Capistrano | 6. Irvine |
| 3. Dana Point | 7. Oceanside |
| 4. Mission Viejo | 8. Carlsbad |

On-Base Lodging

<http://www.mccscp.com/home/Lodging.aspx>

South Mesa Lodge

Call 760-763-7805/6/7/8 or email southmesalodge@usmc-mccs.org for more info.

Ward Lodging

760-725-5194/5304, 760-385-1311/0521 or email wardlodge@usmc-mccs.org for more info.
(call for reservations or availability information)

Local Airports

San Diego International Airport – SAN – Lindbergh Field..... 70 minutes to Camp Pendleton (San Mateo)
John Wayne Airport – SNA 37 minutes to Camp Pendleton (San Mateo)
Los Angeles International Airport – LAX..... 80 minutes to Camp Pendleton (San Mateo)

Driving Directions



Reminder: Make sure you have your driver's license, insurance, and vehicle registration. If renting, keep the rental agreement in the vehicle. Also, know your Marine's rank and that they are a part of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

To search directions via MapQuest, Google, TomTom, Garmin, etc. please use this info:

I-5 (Exit 71) San Clemente, CA 92672

This will place you at the Camp Pendleton Basilone/San Onofre Gate. *The Marines/Sailors will be arriving at the 5th Marines Parade Deck.*

From the Gate, head **northeast** on **Basilone Rd** toward **Chaisson Rd/Chaisson Dr**

Turn **left** at **San Mateo Dr, approx. 3.5 miles**

Turn **left** at **8th St, approx. 2.8 miles**

Parade Deck is located behind the 3/5 Command Post Building

For a printable map of MCB Camp Pendleton, please follow this link

<http://www.pendleton.usmc.mil/cpao/pages/pcs/map.pdf>

For more detailed maps, please follow this link

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Camp+Pendleton&state=CA>

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Driving directions from San Diego International Airport (Lindberg Field)

63.4 mi – about 1 hour 11 mins

**San Diego International Airport
San Diego, CA 92101**

1. Head west on Airport Terminal Rd	492 ft
2. Slight left to stay on Airport Terminal Rd	0.3 mi
3. Slight left toward N Harbor Dr	443 ft
4. Turn left at N Harbor Dr	1.1 mi
5. Turn left at W Laurel St	0.7 mi
6. Turn right at Brant St	0.3 mi
7. Merge onto I-5 N via the ramp to Los Angeles	54.3 mi
8. Take exit 71 toward San Onofre	0.3 mi
9. Turn left at Basilone Rd	10 ft
	57.1 mi – about 58 mins
10. Head northeast on Basilone Rd toward Chaisson Rd/Chaisson Dr	3.5 mi
11. Turn left at San Mateo Dr	2.8 mi
12. Turn left at 8th St Parade Deck is located behind the 3/5 Command Post Building	381 ft
	6.3 mi – about 12 mins

Driving directions from John Wayne International Airport

37.3 mi – about 40 mins

**John Wayne Airport
Santa Ana, CA 92707**

1. Head southwest on JWA Roadway	0.4 mi
2. Slight left toward N Airport Way	0.1 mi
3. Continue straight onto N Airport Way	0.2 mi
4. Turn left at Corona Del Mar Fwy/MacArthur Blvd	0.2 mi
5. Turn right to merge onto I-405 S/San Diego Fwy	7.9 mi
6. Merge onto I-5 S	21.9 mi
7. Take exit 71 for Basilone Rd toward San Onofre	0.2 mi
8. Turn left at Old Hwy 101/Old Pacific Hwy	62 ft
9. Slight left at Basilone Rd	440 ft
	31.0 mi – about 32 mins
10. Head northeast on Basilone Rd toward Chaisson Rd/Chaisson Dr	3.5 mi
11. Turn left at San Mateo Dr	2.8 mi
12. Turn left at 8th St Parade Deck is located behind the 3/5 Command Post Building	381 ft
	6.3 mi – about 12 mins

These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects, traffic, weather, or other events may cause conditions to differ from the map results, and you should plan your route accordingly. You must obey all signs or notices regarding your route.

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Driving directions from LAX

76.7 mi – about 1 hour 20 mins

**Los Angeles International Airport
Los Angeles, CA 90045**

1. Head south on World Way toward West Way	0.7 mi
2. Take the ramp onto S Sepulveda Blvd	0.7 mi
3. Turn right onto the I-105 E ramp	354 ft
4. Keep left at the fork to continue toward I-105 E and merge onto I-105 E	1.3 mi
5. Take the I-405 N/I-405 S exit toward Long Beach/Santa Monica	0.3 mi
6. Keep right at the fork to continue toward I-405 S and merge onto I-405 S	45.2 mi
7. Merge onto I-5 S	21.9 mi
8. Take exit 71 for Basilone Rd toward San Onofre	0.2 mi
9. Turn left at Old Hwy 101/Old Pacific Hwy	62 ft
10. Slight left at Basilone Rd	440 ft
	70.4 mi – about 1 hour 7 mins up to 1 hour 20 mins in traffic
11. Head northeast on Basilone Rd toward Chaisson Rd/Chaisson Dr	3.5 mi
12. Turn left at San Mateo Dr	2.8 mi
13. Turn left at 8th St Parade Deck is located behind the 3/5 Command Post Building	381 ft
	6.3 mi – about 12 mins

These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects, traffic, weather, or other events may cause conditions to differ from the map results, and you should plan your route accordingly. You must obey all signs or notices regarding your route.

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Things to Remember on Homecoming Day



After many months anticipating, countless phone calls received, packages shipped, and emails composed, you've made it to the Homecoming!!! Here are some helpful hints to make the day go smoothly:

- Dress comfortably, bring snacks and refreshments, and don't forget your camera! Remember to dress accordingly based on where the homecoming festivities are located. For instance, the Parade Deck can be hot or cold depending on the season and facilities are a short walk away. Flight times can be delayed and your Marine or Sailor will have to return his gear before reuniting with you. Keep these factors in mind when getting ready for the day.
- Bring your Family Readiness Officer's contact information with you. It may come in handy if you're lost, having trouble at the gate or aren't sure where to park. Remember to also bring the directions!
- Before leaving for base, check your unit's Family Readiness Hotline or website to make sure you have the most accurate arrival information.
- If you are unfamiliar with MCB Camp Pendleton, allow at least thirty minutes from the Basilone/San Onofre Gate to the unit's homecoming destination. Remember that parking can also be an issue, so please plan accordingly.
- **To be allowed on base you will need a valid ID, insurance card, and car registration.** If you've rented a vehicle, in lieu of a vehicle registration, you will need to bring your rental agreement.
- At the San Onofre Gate, let the guards know you are attending 1/5's homecoming and provide them with your Marine's name and rank. This is a simple process that should not take more than just a few minutes.
- Even though you're excited to get to the homecoming destination and see your Marine, be mindful of the posted speed limits on base. Why ruin a great day with a speeding ticket?
- When arriving at the designated location, check in with your Family Readiness Officer as they will provide you with more information regarding the day's events.

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Resources for You and Your Loved One

- American Red Cross** <http://www.redcross.org/> 800-951-5600
- Chaplain's Office** <http://www.chaplaincare.org> 760-725-7330
Reintegration & Redeployment Program, Warrior Transition, Pastoral Care & Counseling, Spiritual Formation, Crisis Intervention, after-hours assistance
- Military OneSource** <http://www.militaryonesource.com> 800-342-9647
Counseling services provided 24/7. Coping with deployment, stress management, etc. (all-inclusive)
- MCCS Camp Pendleton** <http://www.mccscp.com/home/home.aspx>
- Marine & Family Services** <http://www.mccscp.com/home/Family-Services/OnlineClassRegistration.aspx>
Financial counseling, employment assistance, relocation assistance, anger & stress management, communication in relationships, healthy relationships, suicide prevention, sexual assault, child & domestic abuse prevention, drug & alcohol abuse
- Marine Corps Family Team Building** http://www.mccscp.com/home/Family-Services/Family_Team_Building.aspx
Unit Family Readiness Volunteer Training, L.I.N.K.S., LifeSkills, Readiness & Deployment Support
- New Parent Support Program** 760-725-3884
For families with children 5 and under including expectant mothers. Provide Home visitation, Mommy and Me, Daddy Boot Camp and Parenting Education.
- Navy Marine Corps Relief Society** <http://www.nmcrs.org> 760-725-5337/5338
Emergency loans and grants, budget counseling, "Budget for Baby", etc.
- National Military Family Association** .. <http://www.nmfa.org>
- Military Child Education Coalition** <http://www.militarychild.org>
- Surviving Deployment** <http://www.survivingdeployment.com>