

3/8 Homecoming Information

Homecoming Guidelines

As we stare homecoming in the face, here are some expectations to keep in mind while you are making your plans.

The Commander will not know exactly what company is on which bus. This information is usually available one week prior to our return.

Arrival times are TENTATIVE! Times can and will change at any time.

"Touch down to kisses" time is ROUGHLY 3-4 hrs. Please, arrive no earlier than the estimated touchdown time! Suggested arrival times will be available about a week prior to arrival.

You WILL NOT be admitted to the pier at Morehead City, so please don't spend your valuable time driving up there trying to see your loved one earlier. It is better to wait at home, the hotel, or the battalion area.

Due to safety concerns and policies, you will not be allowed in the armory

This is a military and family event. Please ensure there is no alcohol, no pushing and no profanity.

Please do not approach the Marines and Sailors until they have been dismissed. They will move from the armory to the battalion area as a unit and then be officially greeted by families/friends.

How Homecoming Works

Over a three day period, the Marines and Sailors of the BLT 3/8 will disembark personnel, equipment, and vehicles from their ships. The vast majority of personnel will move ashore in one day, while a handful of Marines will stay on ship to complete movement of equipment and vehicles. The Marines may even fly in via helicopter. From those points, they will load buses or drive their military vehicle to the battalion area. Once at the Battalion area, the Marines will go straight to the armory to turn in their weapons.

This is a very important step - nobody can see their family until all the weapons are in the armory. When armory accountability is complete, Marines and Sailors will move to the battalion area in buses and unload in the battalion parking lot. At this point you will be able to see them. After hugs, kisses and some time together, the Marines and Sailors will have to help each other with their packs, sea bags and other personal gear and some will move into barracks rooms. Some time later, when all are properly settled and everything is accounted for, companies will be dismissed and everyone can depart.

Once inserted to land from the ships, it takes about an hour for unloading and loading gear and getting on buses.

Add on another hour after the unloading phase for the drive to Lejeune.

They will go straight to the armory to hand in weapons and receive room assignments. This may take another hour.

Once **EVERYONE** is finished, they will make their way to the battalion area (at least 3 hours total will have passed since they landed).

They WILL NOT be permitted to see family/guests until they reach the 3/8 parking lot.

After spending time with family/guests, the Marines will still have some work to do; conduct personal gear accountability, help each other move into rooms, etc. all will be as efficient as possible, but patience is definitely important.

Marines/Sailors will be arriving throughout the day.

Those few Marines who will not be coming ashore on the day when the majority of the battalion arrives will know no later than a few days beforehand and will be able to contact you.

Please remember SAFETY at all times. The 3/8 command post and main parking lot is immediately adjacent to a main road and side street - there is considerable traffic. There will be buses, tactical vehicles and baggage trucks moving in and around groups of people. There will also be quite a bit

of construction near the homecoming site when the BLT returns. Please keep track of the excited children.

HOMECOMING TIPS

Here are some tips for making your experience more efficient and enjoyable.

Double check arrival times with the Officer of the Day before coming out. Call (910)451-1054.

Make the drive before homecoming to ensure you know where you are going. The battalion area is located at the intersection of McHugh Blvd. and A St. Maps of the Base will be given out at the Welcome Center.

The day of the event, there will be red signs, beginning shortly after you pass through the main gate, pointing clearly to the 3/8 Battalion Area. Those signs will say either 3/8 Homecoming or some may say Special Event.

Parking will be available in the Church lot across from the Battalion and behind the Base Theater located at the intersection of McHugh Blvd. and C St.

We will have some light refreshments at the reception area. There is Subway, Burger King, Domino's, Andy's and a food court available on base where you may get a full meal.

Bring lawn chairs, a book to read, crayons for the little ones, deck of cards, etc.

It will be COLD. Remember to dress accordingly with layers. The average daytime temperature is 50 degrees. There will be some shelter in case of rain.

Be prepared to be flexible. There are a lot of things that could slow us down getting off ship and to you.

Make a sign so your loved one can find you once he is dismissed from formation.

Visit <http://www.onslowcountytourism.com/> for hotels, area information, etc. Make your hotel reservations plenty of time in advance; with the amount of troop movements here at Camp LeJeune, you could experience limited vacancies.

Please be aware that the majority of the hotels here in the Jacksonville/Camp LeJeune area DO NOT accept pets. Additionally, out of state written checks are not normally accepted for payment.

There are several airports you may fly into varying distances from Camp LeJeune.

- Ellis Airport
<http://www.ifly.com/albert-j-ellis-jacksonville-airport> (20 min)
- Wilmington international airport
<http://www.flyilm.com/> (1 hr)
- New Bern Regional Airport
<http://www.newbernairport.com/> (1 hr)
- Raleigh Durham International Airport
<http://www.rdu.com/> (2 hrs)

Please take down any banners you may hang up on the fence off of Hwy 24 no later than two weeks after your Marine or Sailor returns. All banners in the immediate BLT Area will be removed by the BLT personnel when directed to do so.

Gate Passes

There are A LOT of people planning on attending, BUT the Base Pass office is small and so is their parking lot. You are able to get your Base Pass up to two days prior to the homecoming. Please, if it is within your power to get your pass early, do so. The MPs will thank you and your trip on base will be that much easier as you drive by the crowds waiting 45 min for a pass, right onto the base. You are able to get your base pass up to two days prior to the homecoming.

The following items are required for a pass:

Valid Driver's License

Proof of current insurance

Vehicle Registration

Inform the Marines that you are attending the 3/8 homecoming

Remember you are a guest on Base, please follow post regulations

Time Off and Leave: We intend to give our personnel the day after arrival off.

Block 1: 31 Jan to 9 Feb

Block 2: 9 to 18 Feb

Although each unit of MEU will observe slightly different leave periods, all will only get 10 days (that's just the way it is with other requirements that have to be met for MEU and subordinate units). There will be a MEU approved 96 from 1200, 31 Jan to 1800, 4 Feb. Those not on leave will get the 96. There will be another 96 for President's Day weekend.

I hope that this information will help you plan a safe and timely trip to beautiful Camp LeJeune, North Carolina!

Questions can be referred to the Family Readiness Staff Noncommissioned Officer Gunnery Sergeant Kirk at (910)451-4960, the Officer of the Day (OOD) (910)451-1054 or check the homecoming link on the BLT website at:

<http://www.lejeune.usmc.mil/2dmardiv/38/index.html>

See you all soon at the
3/8
Homecoming