
**Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego/
Western Recruiting Region
Communication Strategy and Operations
1600 Iwo Jima Ave., Bldg 1
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MEDIA ADVISORY 2-24

Date: October 9, 2024

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MARINE VETERAN MAJ. BILLY HALL (RET.) RETURNS TO MCRD SAN DIEGO TO CELEBRATE 83RD ANNIVERSARY OF GRADUATING FROM BOOT CAMP

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO, Calif. (Oct. 9, 24) – Major (retired) Billy C. Hall is set to return to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego to celebrate the 83rd anniversary of his graduation from Marine Corps recruit training, Friday, October 11, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

Hall is expected to participate in Friday's morning colors and graduation ceremonies, where he will serve as the ceremony's Parade Reviewing Officer for the Marine Corps' newest Marines of Bravo Company.

At 98-years old, he is believed to be the last living veteran who enlisted into the Marine Corps before the attack on Pearl Harbor, and saw combat action in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

He served his country from 1941 to 1967 and his awards include the Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge, World War II Victory Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal, Korean Service Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal.

Hall deployed to Guadalcanal in 1942 as a radioman and gunner in a Douglas SBD dauntless dive bomber and later in the Grumman TBF Avenger torpedo bombers. By age 17, he had flown more than 100 combat missions and in 1945 completed 50 TBF anti-submarine and enemy shipping patrol missions.

In 1948, Hall joined the California National Guard, deploying to Korea as an Army infantry and communications officer in 1951, devising methods of radio communication improvement and securing the placement of communication lines.

Hall retrained as a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War. He played a critical role in delivering 75 helicopters to Vietnam, and during his nine months in Vietnam, and flew 50 insertion, extraction, supply, and medical evacuation missions.

MEDIA INSTRUCTIONS: Media interested in covering the event should RSVP with the Communication Strategy and Operations office by noon, Thursday, October 10, 2024.

Media ONLY will meet COMMSTRAT office escorts at Gate 2 (located on Tripoli Avenue) at 7:15 a.m.