

Company Event Details

Pick Up Events: Pick up means that the company is picking up new recruits. Some companies (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta) have their own pick up event that they do at the beginning of the cycle. For some this is just for spouses the day the Marines pick up (Friday of pick up week), or for the whole company (Marines and their families) on the Sunday after the Friday pick up. You will receive information about that from your Marine, and your Family Readiness Advisor (FRA), who is a spouse volunteer within the company.

Initial Drill: Three weeks after pick up the Marines will compete to see who has trained their recruits best in drill up to that point. This is a family event and takes place in the Reviewing Stand on the parade deck, which is the huge paved area by the recruit squad bays, in front of the tall flagpole on base. This is a Saturday event that goes from about 6:30 AM to 12:00 PM. You will not need to stay the whole time to see your Marine's platoon go because your FRA will send out a drill order sometime during the week before the event. Feel free to bring a dish to share! Kids are welcome. Please remain quiet while platoons are up.

Final Drill: Just like Initial Drill but takes place two weeks before graduation week on a Monday morning.

Family Day: This is when the recruit's families will come and see them for the first time since they left for boot camp. A Drill Instructor will be in the Museum Courtyard at about 9:00 AM to get the families fired up and ready to see their recruits. At 10:00 AM the recruits and Drill Instructors line up in front of 1st Battalion in preparation for the Motivational Run. Following the run (about 30 minutes) the families are taken to the Base Theater for a welcome and will get to then spend the rest of the day with their new Marine.

During the Motivational Run you can either hang out in your husband's labeled platoon area, though it can be very crowded with families. Another option is to go to the very end of the line of families by Support Battalion. The Drill Instructors and recruits will pass right by that area partway through their run, serving for a great photo opportunity.

When the families are taken to the Base Theater by the Drill Instructor, it's best to hang out on the steps of the theater. There will be a speech from either the General or Colonel after the run. Be sure to get in the theater before the families (soon after the speech) and sit in the first few rows in the center aisle. Sometimes this area is reserved for our DI families, sometimes it is not, either way, feel free to take up space there. Drill Instructors are individually introduced at this welcome. Your Marine will go to lunch at the Bay View so that he can have interaction with the recruit families; you are welcome to join him.

It is advised that if you would like to come and see Family Day, and your Marine, that you park in the parking lot across from the gas station on base, and walk toward the museum to get to the court yard.

Graduation: Graduation takes place on the Parade Deck, same place as Initial and Final Drill. There is seating reserved in bleachers to the left of the Reviewing Stand (when facing it). Graduation starts at 10:00 AM. It's best to be in your seat no later than 9:30 AM to ensure you get a comfortable spot on the bleachers. Especially in the summer months things can get crowded. Please do not try to park in the parking lot by the Parade Deck. Your best bet is to park in the lot across from the gas station and walk under the archway to the Parade Deck.

Outpost: This is where the company celebrates the end of the cycle, generally starting between 1:00 and 2:00 PM on Graduation Day. Some companies do this in the recreation center on base, others the boathouse, and some at restaurants. Your Marine will be the best person to get information on location from as it is often decided last minute. Outgoing Drill Instructors are sent off with kind words and a plaque. It is a highly motivating event for those who are newer especially because it shows there is an ending to the duty, and great for the spouses to see how much of a positive impact the hard work put in has on the Marines.