



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT/WESTERN RECRUITING REGION
1600 HENDERSON AVENUE, SUITE 238
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92140-5001

IN REPLY REFER TO:
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05 JUN 2020

From: Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Western Recruiting
Region, San Diego, California
To: Local Retired Community
Subj: ACCESS AND SERVICES ABOARD MCRD DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

Distinguished local military veterans and retirees,

As most of you know, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego is responsible for the entry level training of roughly half of all enlisted Marines. We are also, in more “normal” times, a touchstone location where the families of new Marines and area visitors come to get a better understanding of the Marine Corps and our legacy. That legacy, our history and traditions, are important to us; they connect us to those who have gone before and provide a source of strength for new generations. All of you who have honorably worn the fabric of the nation, regardless of service, are part of that legacy – we respect your service and are honored to be able to support you on the depot with services and activities.

Regrettably, these are not “normal” times. The CoVid-19 virus represents a real threat to all of us. With between 2,000 -4,000 recruits on the depot at any time, living in close proximity to each other, without much opportunity for personal space or time – this is our most vulnerable population. The Drill Instructors, staff and support personnel that interact with recruits are our next population of concern. While recruits stay generally within the Recruit Training Regimental area, West of the Parade Deck, the training staff and new Marines must circulate throughout the rest of the depot. On a small, 388 acre base, separating that group of Marines from a greater area population is problematic.

We have two other groups that we value and protect, our local retired military population (many of whom relied on the depot for services and support), and the greater San Diego community. To reduce the potential for infection among our recruit population, we have to reduce the risk of second hand exposure to the virus. On our small installation, the only way we believe we can do that is to reduce the access to the depot for the outside population. While limiting access for local retirees as well as foregoing public participation in Recruit Graduation events were difficult decisions, neither would justify increasing risk to recruits or the greater organizational mission.

At this moment, access to the depot is generally limited to essential personnel (military and civilian employees working aboard the depot) and the small group of families residing in quarters. There are a couple of current exceptions such as access to the gas station, RV Lot, and to the marina – to maintain and use watercraft stored there. We are working diligently to identify opportunities to make additional services available, but we have to ask you to be patient a little longer – we need to manage our reopening methodically, using community and installation based data to inform our risk assessment process. We’ll get there, but it may not be fast. Even when facilities and services do reopen, facial coverings and physical separations will continue to be

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mandatory. Until that time we ask that you utilize other area military installations, where physical space allows for more effective health and safety precautions.

One last thought. You are all part of a national legacy of service, but also valued as members of our community, as members of families. While I know you don't see yourselves in this light, many of you are in categories that Public Health Professionals would consider vulnerable. Even as the push for reopening creates more social opportunities, the virus remains active throughout our region, and as dangerous/deadly as ever. Please continue to critically evaluate your activities and protect yourself as best you can. Just because you can do something doesn't mean you should. And remember that frequent hand washing, rigorous sanitation of common areas and contact surfaces, physical distancing and the wearing of facial coverings, while not complete protection are the best we have right now.

For the most up-to-date information regarding access and service please monitor our official website at: <https://www.mcrdsd.marines.mil/> or <http://www.mccsmcrd.com/> or follow us on Facebook at 'MCCS MCRD San Diego/WRR-Marine & Family'

Sincerely,


R. P. HERITAGE