



Cornerstone: The Commandant's Combined Commandership Course April 29 - May 3, 2019

Dear Attendee,

Congratulations to your Marine on being selected to serve as the commanding officer or sergeant major of a Marine command! We are pleased you are able to attend the April 2019 Cornerstone Spouses Workshop and we look forward to meeting you. We recognize that spouses have varying degrees of experience with the Marine Corps, and we will do our best to answer questions and get you pointed in the right direction. Our goal for the week is to enhance your leadership skills, provide a peer support network, and empower you with knowledge and information as your spouse prepares to take command or occupies the position of senior enlisted advisor. Presentations will address our continuing theme of **how you can support** your Marine, the unit, your family, and yourself during command. We request that you plan to attend the entire week.

Some of the topics covered include:

- Perspective of Commander and Spouse / Sergeant Major and Spouse
- Leadership Perspectives
- Command Timeline
- Military Protocol and Etiquette
- Social Media
- Public Speaking
- Volunteerism/Recruiting
- Leading Through Generations
- 4 Lenses Personality Assessment
- Family Readiness Program

You will have the privilege of attending the following events:

- Evening social with Guests of Honor General Neller and Mrs. Neller
- Tour of the Home of the Commandants at 8th & I
- A social hosted by MARFORRES (reserve and I & I spouses only)

Listed below are some important details to help you plan for the week:

- Most sessions will be held at the Gray Research Center (GRC), aboard Marine Corps Base, Quantico.
- Each morning will begin at 7:00 AM, with an optional Grab 'N' Gab. This is an opportunity for spouses to stop by the food trucks for breakfast and gather in the Thomas Room to meet informally.
- Workshop sessions will begin at 7:45 AM daily, with the exception of the morning of the tour of the Home of the Commandants.
- Buses to Washington, DC will depart Quantico at 7:30 AM Thursday. Please plan to arrive early to the Grab 'N' Go breakfast and board the buses by 7:20 AM.
- Classes end at 5:00 PM on most days, with the exception of Friday, which will end at 12:30 PM.



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What to bring:

- Cash or credit card to purchase coffee, breakfast, lunch, soft drinks, water, and snacks.
- Comfortable shoes to wear during the Home of the Commandants tour, since you will be walking for a good portion of the day. No sneakers or flip-flops please.
- Following the tour, there will be a working lunch in Crawford Hall on the grounds of the Marine Barracks at 8th & I. Payment for these catered boxed lunches will be collected Monday morning during check-in. Cash only please.
- Umbrellas and a light jacket, just in case (check for inclement weather reports).
- The temperatures in auditoriums and classrooms vary; we recommend bringing a sweater or jacket to all classes.

Important information:

- Food trucks will be available each day for breakfast and lunch, and will be conveniently located just in front of the Gray Research Center (GRC). There is a cafe located in the Warner Center, and the town of Quantico is within easy walking distance. Lunch is typically one hour each day.
- Unfortunately, the Spouses Workshop is not able to accommodate infants and children. Please make childcare arrangements before coming to Cornerstone.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email us at: spouses.workshop@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at the course.

Sincerely,

Matrice Williamson

Spouses' Workshop Program Coordinator

Marian Eggerling

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Marines selected for command teams often experience competing feelings of excitement and trepidation. But it is not just Marines who juggle these emotions; their spouses also experience them as they realize their lives will likewise change when their Marine assumes command as a commander or senior enlisted advisor.

For some spouses, assuming a command team role is a comfortable progression; for others, it can be somewhat intimidating. Regardless of their perceptions, most spouses remain eager to learn more and hone the skills needed to help them comfortably mesh their private lives with their new, public responsibilities.

After the Marine Corps began screening lieutenant colonels and colonels for command in 1991, the Commandant directed the establishment of a course for slated commanders. In keeping with his emphasis on the importance of leadership team training, General Mundy also directed the establishment of a curriculum that focused on the spouses of slated commanders.

To prepare for its inaugural commandership program, a pilot Spouses Workshop convened at the Marine Corps Research Center, Quantico in April 1993. Designed by a committee of experienced Marine spouses, the initial Spouses Workshop curriculum was largely based on the Navy's CO/XO Seminar, the USMC's Command Team Seminar, and the Army Command & Staff College's leadership curricula. Various instantiations of the committee have continued to play an important role over the past 15 years, developing curriculum ideas and evaluating attendee feedback to ensure the Spouses Workshop remains relevant and informative.

In 2013 the Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps established the Sergeant Major Course for newly selected sergeants major. In 2015, with an eye toward promoting better collaboration across the entire command team, they combined the courses for commanders, sergeants major, and spouses into one entity. This collective course is known as Cornerstone: The Commandant's Combined Commandership Course.

While Cornerstone continues to evolve, its intent and focus remains constant: To prepare its attendees for their role as critical members of command teams. The fundamental idea behind the presentations and small group discussions at Cornerstone is therefore not to provide Marines and spouses with all the correct answers, choices, and precise courses of action for specific circumstances. Rather, the objective is to foster the development of a general toolkit of ideas, options, and best practices, while establishing a peer network for support and encouragement.



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Q: What is the dress code? Am I allowed to wear nice looking denim pants/jeans/jackets?

A: *The dress code is business casual to include slacks or skirts, blouses, sweaters, or dresses. Wear comfortable shoes for walking on tour and to lunch in town.*

***Please no denim, leggings, jeans or flip-flops.**

Q: What's the weather going to be like?

A: *Please check weather.com or equivalent site for forecasts. It is a good idea to bring a sweater or light jacket for the auditorium. Also we recommend that you bring an umbrella.*

Q: How much time will I have with my spouse and/or our friends who will be at the course as well?

A: *There are many joint presentations with Marines and spouses. Most days will end before 5 PM, which allows for socializing with friends over dinner. Spouses will also be given opportunities to network during scheduled breakout lunch sessions, while on tours, during transition times, and in small group sessions.*

Q: What expenses will I incur?

A: *With the exception of the Commandant's evening social, spouses will be responsible for all meals. Marines and spouses will receive per diem for this training. Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase throughout the week, or you may bring your own. If you have allergies, ingredient sensitivities, or diet restrictions, please consider planning ahead with purchases from the Commissary located on base.*

Q: Can I bring a tablet or laptop with me, and is there Wi-Fi available?

A: *Recommend bringing a laptop/iPad or other materials for note taking, if desired. Don't forget chargers to use each night in preparation for the next day. All presentation materials will be made available electronically for future reference. Wi-Fi is available in the education buildings.*

Q: How will I know where to go and where to park?

A: *There is a parking garage located directly across from the Gray Research Center. See enclosed map.*