

Marine Corps Posts and Stations

PURPOSE

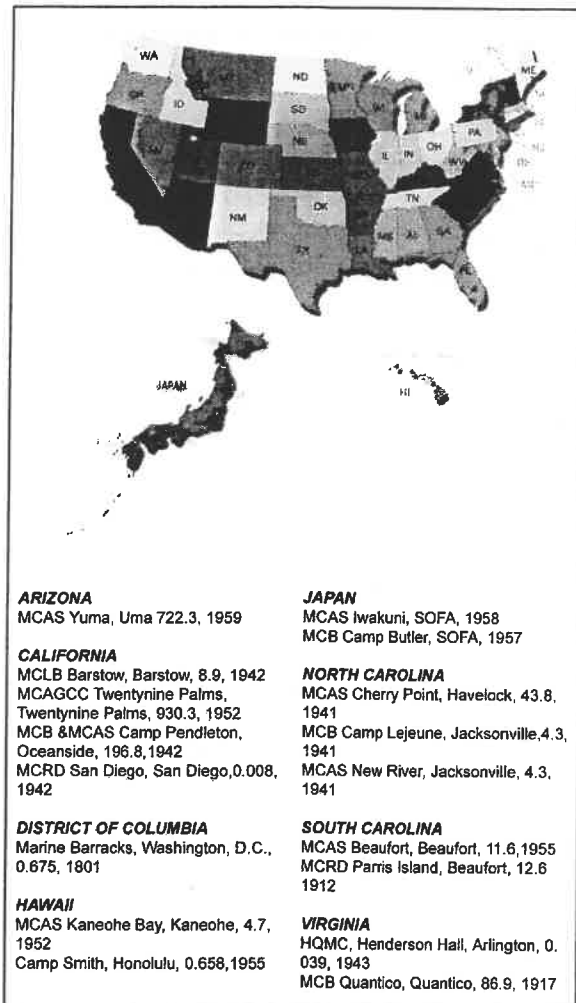
This lesson introduces the posts and stations of the Marine Corps. These are the places where Marines spend much of their career. You will learn about a typical post organization, the facilities and services provided on a typical post and the major posts and stations of the Marine Corps.

Introduction

Marines are located all over the world. Only the globe itself (trademark of Marines) limits the number of places where a Marine may ultimately serve. As a member of the MCJROTC, you may be provided an opportunity to visit a Marine Corps **installation**. This lesson will focus on major **posts** and **stations** and their organization.

Posts of the Marine Corps

A number of major **bases**, posts and air stations form part of the Marine Corps Supporting Establishment and are maintained exclusively for Marine Corps forces. Marines in the security forces, man more than 20 Marine barracks and shore-based Marine detachments at home and abroad. Except for posts with missions directly reflected in their titles (such as the Recruit Depots), the Corps has the following kinds of stations.



Marine Corps Bases (MCB) and **Marine Barracks (MB)** are the basic permanent posts for support of ground units of the Corps. Both are autonomous and self-supporting. Marine Corps bases and camps are devoted to field training and support of major tactical units, whereas Marine barracks perform security missions.

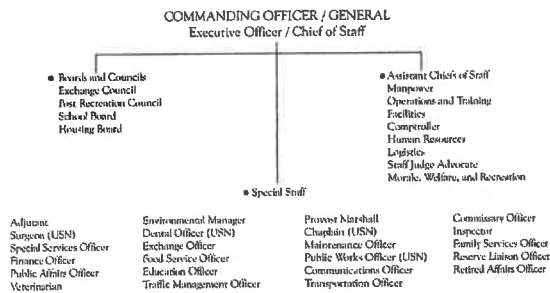
U.S. MARINE CORPS. JROTC
Category 5 – General Military Subjects
Skill 6 – Chain of Command

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) is the aviation counterpart of a Marine Corps base (MCB). Like MCBs, air stations are also permanent, autonomous, and self-supporting. All MCASs have a common mission: support of Marine aviation units.

Marine detachments are the smallest organizations of the Corps. A Marine detachment depends administratively and logistically on some larger organization, sometimes Navy, and often enjoys less permanent status than other Marine activities.

A Typical Post

Most posts follow the same organization. A typical post or base organization is shown below:



Command

The commanding officer (CO) (if a general, called a commanding general) commands the post. The CO is responsible for all that the command does or leaves undone. The executive officer is the line officer next junior in rank to the CO. The executive officer relieves the commander of administrative detail and succeeds to command in the latter's absence. The extent and character of the duties vary somewhat according to the policies and leadership of the CO. On a post commanded by a general, the

executive officer is entitled "chief of staff". The general may also be assisted by a deputy.

Staff

Executive staff and special staff assist the post commander. The executive staff includes assistants for manpower, operations, facilities, fiscal matters and the full range of services that posts and stations must provide. In addition, most posts have a few special staff functions.

Provost Marshal

This is the post "chief of police" or "sheriff," responsible for the public safety, traffic control, criminal investigation, internal and external security, regulation of pets, law, and order in general. Frequently, the provost marshal acts as a fire marshal and thus becomes responsible for fire protection. Law-abiding members of the post usually encounter the provost marshal in connection with licensing of vehicles or pets and obtaining passes for guests and family members.

Maintenance Officer

This officer bears responsibility for minor construction, repair, and upkeep of the physical plant of the post. He or she is also responsible for its cleanliness and shipshape appearance.

Public Works Officer (CEC, USN)

On large stations, this Navy officer supervises new construction, improvements, and plans for post development.

Boards and Councils

To supplement the staff, most stations include one or more standing boards or councils. Some are required by regulations, while others exist to meet local needs. Typical examples are:

- Exchange council
- Recreation council
- School board
- Athletic and sports council
- Housing board

Facilities and Services

In many ways a post resembles a small community. Most, if not all of the facilities and services you could expect in such a town have counterparts on a Marine post. Like small towns, however, stations of various age, locality, and mission exhibit considerable local disparities. Thus, what you find on one post might not exist, or hardly exists, at another.

One key to gaining the most benefits from the military community resides in the USMC family programs and family service centers maintained by all bases and activities. Family service centers provide a single point of reference for Marines as they change locations. Relocation specialists provide the latest information on new duty stations and civilian communities; housing, child care, schools, employment, vehicle and firearms registration; and non-Marine Corps activities.

The centers offer seminars and orientation courses on the many aspects of family and personal development. Trained counselors and social workers provide guidance and referrals to outside agencies. Courses, home visits, and specialized assistance are available for new and expectant parents. For those families experiencing crises, family advocacy counselors supplement the wide variety of counseling services. Also offered is employment counseling for family members and retirement preparation for Marines. These services are often not available in communities,

except at considerable expense. A Marine assigned to another service's installation and his or her family may also use the host command's center. Toll-free numbers are provided for both East Coast or West Coast services.

Medical and Dental Care

Every Marine post includes medical installations for health and sanitation of the command. These may range from a dispensary (sick bay) to a clinic (dispensary with limited facilities for inpatient care) or, on the largest posts, a naval hospital that can handle any medical or surgical emergency. Routine treatment and consultation are afforded daily at "sick call"—a fixed time of day when the sick bay is fully staffed. Emergencies, of course, are dealt with at any time, day or night.

The Medical Department not only cares for ailments but also wages a ceaseless preventive campaign. All Marines must undergo certain immunizations and every officer must have a thorough physical examination. These examinations are ordered every other year until the officer reaches thirty-five years of age and annually thereafter.

Medical Care for Family Members

The government on a space-available basis provides medical care for service families and for retired officers and their families. CHAMPUS (Civilian Health and Medical Program, Uniformed Services) permits civilian medical care and hospitalization. A small percentage of the total annual cost of a civilian's medical care and hospitalization is borne by the individual.

Virtually all family members (spouse and unmarried children under age 21 with few exceptions) of Marines on active duty are eligible for civilian medical care and care in service medical facilities. In order to receive such care, however, armed forces personnel must enroll their families in the DEERS (Defense Enrollment Reporting System) Program. Family members cannot be treated without DEERS certification. If a Marine dies while on active duty or after retirement, their surviving dependent remains eligible for care at armed forces or U.S. Public Health Service medical facilities as well as for certain civilian medical care and hospitalization.

Identification and Privilege Cards for Family Members

The Department of Defense issues, on application, a standard Identification and Privilege Card (Form DD 1173) for family members (except children under age ten) of all active-duty personnel. This card is essential to enable military families to use the medical facilities, commissary, exchange, and post theaters. It is honored not only on Marine and Navy posts and stations, but on those of the other services as well.

Commissary

The military equivalent of the supermarket is the commissary. The privilege of making purchases is limited to regular and retired personnel; to reservists on active or training duty; and to certain government civilians. Family members of anyone entitled to commissary privileges may also use the commissary. Everyone entitled to commissary privileges must be prepared to present identification. The ID card identifies active personnel, as well as retired personnel; family members are identified by the

identification and privilege card. Stock and services available in commissaries vary somewhat according to the size of the post and the availability of adequate civilian facilities off the post.

Marine Corps Exchanges

Marine Corps exchanges (post exchanges, or PX, as they are known) are maintained by all posts of any size. Any regular Marine Corps organization may, with the approval of the commandant, establish its own exchange.

Post exchanges go far back into U.S. military history. During the nineteenth century, when the Army pushed our frontier westward, each isolated post had its "post trader" authorized to keep store at post. One of the trader's prerequisites was the right of trading with Indians, trappers, and hunters, and from this arose the title, "post exchange". The name carried over from the Army to the Marine Corps. In early times, the prerequisite of keeping the post trader's stores at the various Marine barracks was awarded to the widows of some officer or senior NCO. The modern Post Exchange system was established by General Heywood, the ninth Commandant.

Today's exchange is the post general store. On large stations, it's about the size of a small department store. But, the size of an exchange depends on the size of the post and the accessibility of civilian shopping centers.

Eligibility to use the exchange, like the commissary, is a privilege that extends only to active or retired service personnel, to their eligible family members and surviving spouses, and to reservists on active or training duty.

Welfare Activities

The chaplain, special services officer, and legal assistance officer provide welfare services. Most large posts also have representatives of the American Red Cross, Navy Relief Society, and Navy Mutual Aid Association.

Educational Facilities

Many posts have their own public schools for the children on the post. Every post has a free library, open to Marines and their family members. Marine Corps Headquarters provides the books. A few large posts have museums. Even the smallest station and detachment features an Education Office which provides information on educational opportunities available on and off the post, including correspondence courses. Many of these programs lead toward various types of college degrees. The same office will provide information on tuition aid, veteran's assistance, and loan and scholarship programs.

Recreation

Most posts feature excellent on-station recreation opportunities. Facilities for athletic activities and hobbies are open to all. Frequently, instruction in various sports and hobbies are available at no cost, and will provide opportunities to learn skills for present or future enjoyment. Posts may also have golf courses, tennis courts, marinas, gymnasiums, skeet and small bore ranges, swimming pools, stables, flying fields, and various workshops.

Major Posts and Stations

Marine Barracks, Eighth and Eye Streets, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20390

"Eighth and Eye" is the senior post of the Corps, both because of its age and because it houses the commandant. The post has been a Marine Barracks since 1801, and quartered Marine Corps Headquarters throughout its first century. It is the "spit-and-polish" post of the Corps, famous for its weekly Evening Parades and constructed about a historic barracks square in the heart of Southeast Washington.

The Barracks provides ceremonial troops for official occasions in the nation's capital; it supports the U.S. Marine Band and the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps, and the Marine Corps Institute. Marines are assigned to certain special security duties in and about Washington and in the Navy Yard.

Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC), Quantico, Virginia 22134

MCCDC is, in many ways, the showplace of the Marine Corps. It is located on the Potomac River, approximately 35 miles south of Washington, D.C. It is the only base in the Marine Corps to be the site of a national cemetery. The base also includes the Marine Corps Air Facility (MCAF), Quantico, and the Naval Medical Clinic. Because of its educational and developmental roles, MCCDC is called the "Crossroads of the Marine Corps."

Marine Activities in Norfolk, Virginia 23551

Although the Norfolk-Hampton Roads area includes no major Marine Corps posts, it is the location of: Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Joint Forces Command, and its supporting Camp Allen; Landing Force Training Command,

Atlantic Fleet; and the Marine Corps Security Force Battalion. In addition, because Norfolk is the home of the United States Joint Forces Command and the primary East Coast base of the Atlantic Fleet, many Marines serve in the area as part of the U.S. Joint Forces Command and Fleet staffs. Thus, Norfolk and the surrounding area can be considered a Marine Corps station of importance.

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), Cherry Point, North Carolina 28533

Commissioned in May 1942, Cherry Point is the largest Marine Corps air station in the world and is one of the best all-weather jet bases. It is home to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, the only Marine Corps – operated Naval Aviation Depot, and a naval hospital.

Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542

Camp Lejeune is the East Coast base for the ground units of the Fleet Marine Force. It accommodates the Command Element, Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), 2nd Marine Division; 2nd Force Service Support Group; 6th Marine Amphibious Brigade, Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune; and adjoins Marine Corps Air Station (Helicopter), New River. Its neighboring community is Jacksonville, North Carolina.

Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina 29905

In the mid-1500, colonial empires clashed on the shores of Parris Island as Spanish and French explorers sought strategic footholds in the New World. Although more than 400 years have passed, the military tradition continues to be as vital today as it was then. More than one million recruits have been trained on Parris Island since “boot camp” was established there in 1915. Currently, male recruits from the eastern United

States and females from throughout the nation are trained at the place “Where the Difference Begins.” The commanding general of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, is also the commanding general for the Eastern Recruiting Region.

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), Beaufort, South Carolina 29904

MCAS, Beaufort (pronounced “Bewfort”) is a major jet air base capable of supporting two Marine aircraft groups and associated service units. It is close to Parris Island and provides it with military air services.

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), Yuma, Arizona 85369

MCAS Yuma is one of the newest of the Marine Corps air stations. It has a 13,300-foot main runway, an instrumented range, and some of the finest flying weather to be found.

Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC), Twentynine Palms, California 92278

MCAGCC is 932 square miles of area, twice the size of Los Angeles and big enough to encompass Pendleton, Lejeune, and Quantico with room to spare. MCAGCC is not only the largest post in the Marine Corps but it is also a primary training and experimental center for Marine artillery and guided missiles. It is also the location of the Communications-Electronics School and has facilities for the major part of the 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB). The base also includes the Tactical Exercise Evaluation and Control Group, which exercise the combined-arms capabilities and readiness of Fleet Marine Forces (FMF) units in a live-fire environment.

**Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow,
California 92311**

The Marine Corps Logistics Base at Barstow is located to take advantage of transportation routes and the Mojave Desert's hot, dry climate, which inhibits deterioration of stored material. Barstow supports all Marine organizations west of the Mississippi and in the Far East, operates a central repair shop for Fleet Marine Forces equipment except aircraft, and stores designated items. The ten-acre repair shop at Yermo is the largest building in the Marine Corps and is surrounded by a forty-acre concrete platform.

**Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD), San
Diego, California 92140**

The primary mission of the MCRD, San Diego is twofold. First is the recruiting of new Marines from the Western Recruiting Region, which is composed of the 8th, 9th, and 12th Marine Corps Districts. Second is the training of Marine recruits using facilities at San Diego and Camp Pendleton, California. Also located at MCRD are the Recruiters' School and the West Coast Drill Instructors' School. The depot is located in central San Diego on the Pacific Highway.

**Marine Corps Base (MCB), Camp Pendleton,
California 92055**

"Pendleton" is the prime amphibious training base in the Corps. It serves as the major West Coast base for ground units of the Fleet Marine Force and provides facilities and support for the 1st Marine Division and the I Marine Expeditionary Force. Other tenants units include the 1st Force Service Support Group (FSSG), elements of Marine Aircraft Group 39, and the Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity (MCTSSA). Recruits from Marine Corps Recruit

Depot, San Diego, spend two weeks at Camp Pendleton's Edson Range and Weapons Field Training Battalion for weapons training. Those who go into infantry, attend the School of Infantry at Camp San Onofre after graduation from San Diego. Several other formal schools are also conducted at Camp Pendleton.

The Marine Corps' role in Camp Pendleton history dates from 25 September 1942, when the 125,000-acre tract of land was dedicated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and named in honor of Major General Joseph H. Pendleton.

During World War II and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, Pendleton was the training "funnel" through which the majority of Marine battle replacements passed on their way to combat. Today, the base's 196 square miles of varied terrain provide training areas for thousands of Marines each year, as well as for Reserve and other service personnel.

**Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), Miramar,
California 92145**

Miramar has become the Marine Corps' largest aviation facility, following its reversion to USMC control in the late 1990s. A former cattle and citrus ranch, it first served Army infantry in 1914 as Camp Kearny. After World War I, Miramar became an auxiliary field for the Navy and an air base for the Marine Corps. When World War II broke out, Miramar quickly expanded. At the end of the war, the Marines moved and Miramar was developed as a master jet station. On 1 October 1977, Naval Air Station Miramar reverted to a Marine Corps air station.

Marine Activities in the Hawaiian Area

Camp H. M. Smith, HI 96861

MCAF Kaneohe Bay, HI 96863

Marine Barracks, Pearl Harbor, HI 96860

The island of Oahu includes several permanent Marine Corps installations with diverse missions. The headquarters and (nerve center) of all Marine Forces Pacific activities is at Camp H. M. Smith, overlooking Pearl Harbor from the site of the World War II Aiea Naval Hospital. In addition to Camp H. M. Smith, there is MCAF, Kaneohe, on the “windward” side of the island, home station of the 3d Marine Regiment and 1st Radio Battalion, and one of three Marine Corps air facilities outside the continental United States. Here, both ground and air units of the Fleet Marine Forces train and operate as an integrated air-ground team. The Pearl Harbor Marine Barracks performs security missions. Because of its superb site and outstanding facilities, Camp H. M. Smith was chosen by the commander in chief, Pacific, for his headquarters, which is a tenant activity. Camp Smith is thus the only Marine Corps station that also serves as the headquarters of a unified command.

Marine Corp Base (MCB), Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa (FPO AP 96373)

Located at Camp Foster, Headquarters, MCB Camp Butler, is responsible for operation of all Marine facilities on the island. They include Camps, Schwab, Kinser, McTureous, Hansen, Courtney, and Foster, and MCAS, Futenma). Headquarters, III Marine Expeditionary Forces, 3d Marine Division, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, and 3d Forces Service Support Group are also garrisoned at Camp Butler.

Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan (PSC561, FPO AP96310)

Iwakuni is the home of all tactical jet aircraft units of the first Marine Aircraft Wing

(whose headquarters is at Camp Butler, Okinawa) and of Japanese naval aviation units as well.

Smaller Posts

In addition to the large posts just described, the Corps maintains a dozen units of the Marine Corps Security Forces (MCSF) ashore. Formerly made up of Marine Barracks and Detachments, these reformed in 1986 into MCSF companies, monitored by a battalion headquarters. Two of the old barracks have retained their original status. Listed below by location are smaller posts both in the United States and overseas.

- *California:* Expeditionary Warfare Training Group (EWTG), Naval Air Base, Coronado; Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport
- *Georgia:* Marine Corps Security Forces Company, Submarine Base, Kings Bay
- *Maryland:* Marine Corps Security Forces Company, Naval Air Station, Patuxent River
- *Missouri:* Defense Finance and Accounting, Kansas City Center
- *Virginia:* Marine Corps Security Forces Battalion/1st Fleet Antiterrorist Support Team (FAST) Company, Norfolk; 2nd FAST Company, Yorktown; EWTG, Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek.
- *Washington:* Marine Corps Security Forces Company, Submarine Base, Bangor
- *Bahrain:* Marine Corps Security Forces Company, Naval Activities, Bahrain
- *Cuba:* Marine Barracks, Naval Operating Base (NOB), Guantanamo Bay

U. S. MARINE CORPS JROTC
Category 5 – General Military Subjects
Skill 6 – Chain of Command

- *Iceland:* Marine Corps Security Forces Company, Naval Air Station (NAS), Keflavik
- *Italy:* Marine Corps Security Forces Company, Naval Activities, Naples
- *Spain:* Marine Corps Security Forces Company, Naval Activities, Rota
- *United Kingdom:* Marine Corps Security Forces Company, Naval Activities, London

Embassy Guards: The Marine Security Guard Battalion

The Marine Corps administers and operates the Marine Security Guard program for the Department of State. The Corps maintains more than 120 State Department security detachments, commanded by noncommissioned officers, in most of the capital cities of the world.

Conclusion

During this lesson, you have learned about a typical post organization, the facilities and services provided on a typical post and posts, stations, and detachments of the Marine Corps. These Marine Corps locations exist to ensure mission accomplishment of the Corps.

U.S. MARINE CORPS. JROTC
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Skill 6 – Chain of Command

LEON HIGH SCHOOL
MCJROTC
MARINE CORPS POST AND STATIONS
STUDENT HAND OUT

Name: _____
Date: _____
PLT: _____

1 (LE2-C5S6T4:LQ1)

Do you like to travel to other states or countries?

Yes, I love to travel and have had the chance.
Yes, I like the idea, but have not had the chance (yet).
It is OK, but I am not that interested in travel.
No, I don't like to travel.

2 (LE2-C5S6T4:LQ2)

Marines have permanent posts in which of the following countries?

United States and Japan

3 (LE2-C5S6T4:LQ3)

In which of the following locations is there NOT a Marine Corps Post?

Texas
Alaska

4 (LE2-C5S6T4:LQ4)

On a typical post, who is responsible for public safety on the post?

The provost marshal

5 (LE2-C5S6T3:LQ5)

True or False:

The PX is the general store of a Marine Corps Post.

True

6 (LE2-C5S6T4:TQ1)

_____ is the location of the home of the senior post of the Corps.

Yuma
Camp Lejeune
North Carolina
None of the above

7 (LE2-C5S6T4:TQ2)

Where are major Marine Corps bases, posts and air stations found?

Arizona, California, Washington D.C, Japan
Hawaii, North Carolina
Virginia, South Carolina
All of the above

- 8 (LE2-C5S6T4:TQ3)
Which state has the largest installation?

California

- 9 (LE2-C5S6T4:TQ4)
What services are normally found on a military installation?

Medical and dental care

Commissary, post exchange, recreation

All of the above

LEON HIGH SCHOOL
MCJROTC
MARINE CORPS POST AND STASTIONS
QUIZ

Name: _____
Date: _____
PLT: _____

- 1 (LE2-C5S6T4:LQ1)
Do you like to travel to other states or countries?
 - A Yes, I love to travel and have had the chance.
 - B Yes, I like the idea, but have not had the chance (yet).
 - C It is OK, but I am not that interested in travel.
 - D No, I don't like to travel.
- 2 (LE2-C5S6T4:LQ2)
Marines have permanent posts in which of the following countries?
 - A United States, Japan, and Germany
 - B United States and Germany
 - C United States and Japan
- 3 (LE2-C5S6T4:LQ3)
In which of the following locations is there NOT a Marine Corps Post?
 - A Texas
 - B Arizona
 - C Alaska
 - D Both A and C
- 4 (LE2-C5S6T4:LQ4)
On a typical post, who is responsible for public safety on the post?
 - A The commanding officer
 - B The public works officer
 - C A council
 - D The provost marshal
- 5 (LE2-C5S6T3:LQ5)
True or False:
The PX is the general store of a Marine Corps Post.
 - A True
 - B False

6 (LE2-C5S6T4:TQ1)

_____ is the location of the home of the senior post of the Corps.

- A Yuma
- B Camp Lejeune
- C North Carolina
- D None of the above

7 (LE2-C5S6T4:TQ2)

Where are major Marine Corps bases, posts and air stations found?

- A Arizona, California, Washington D.C, Japan
- B Hawaii, North Carolina
- C Virginia, South Carolina
- D All of the above

8 (LE2-C5S6T4:TQ3)

Which state has the largest installation?

- A Washington, D.C.
- B Japan
- C California

9 (LE2-C5S6T4:TQ4)

What services are normally found on a military installation?

- A Medical and dental care
- B Commissary, post exchange, recreation
- C All of the above