



I Marine Expeditionary Force
Public Affairs Office
United States Marine Corps
Camp Pendleton, Calif. 92055



I MEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA DESK:

EMAIL: IMEFPUBLICAFFAIRS@USMC.MIL

PHONE: 760-763-7047

WEB: www.imef.marines.mil

MARINES AND SAILORS AUTHORIZED TO WEAR UNIFORMS IN 2013 SAN DIEGO PRIDE PARADE

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. -- Marines and sailors with I Marine Expeditionary Force are officially authorized to wear approved uniforms in the 39th annual San Diego Pride Parade, July 13.

For the past two years the San Diego Pride Parade has welcomed active-duty participation in the event's "military contingent," recognizing lesbian, gay, and bi-sexual service members.

A 2012 Office of Secretary of Defense community relations memorandum granted service members the wear of approved uniforms in the San Diego Pride Parade. Current DoD guidelines grant local commanders discretion to allow personnel to participate in related events in approved leave and liberty uniforms and attire. Service members do not need approval to wear civilian clothes and march or ride in nonpartisan parades.

I MEF is taking proactive measures to ensure commanders, Marines, and families receive accurate and timely information regarding the announcement authorizing Marines and sailors' abilities to personally participate in the 2013 San Diego Pride Parade military contingent.

Diversity remains one of I MEF's top priorities. We are proud of the diverse backgrounds, cultures, and versatile skills of our men and women and embrace their personal decision to participate in this community event honoring their service.

I MEF is committed to maintaining longstanding relationships with our San Diego and Southern California communities, including participation in events that recognize the courageous efforts of all Marines and sailors serving around the world and here at home.

For more information or questions contact the I MEF public affairs office at (760) 763-7047 or imefpublishaffairs@usmc.mil.

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