



# Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz

Reactivation and Naming Ceremony



War In The Pacific, National Historical Park Guam  
Asan Beach, Guam

Hosted by the Commander,  
Marine Corps Installations Command

January 26, 2023



# SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Band Serenade

Chaplain's Invocation

Sound Attention

Sound Adjutant's Call

Sound Off

Presentation of the Command

Manual of Arms

Officers Center

Box the Staff

Honors

Uncasing of the Colors

Presentation of the Colors

National Anthem

Remarks

Pass in Review

Anchors Aweigh/Marines Hymn





# CEREMONY ROLES

## **Flyover**

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312

2nd Marine Aviation Wing

## **Ship Display**

Pacific Fleet

## **Ceremony Marchers and Staff**

1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Division

## **Band**

Marine Forces Pacific Band

## **Chaplain**

Chaplain of the Marine Corps

## **Remarks**

Governor of Guam

Commandant of the Marine Corps

Parliamentary Vice Minister of Defense

Parliamentary Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs

Family of Brig. Gen. Ben Blaz



## Brig. Gen. Vicente “Ben” Tomas Garrido Blaz

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Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz is named in honor of the late Brig. Gen. Vicente “Ben” Tomas Garrido Blaz, the first CHamoru Marine to attain the rank of general officer.

Blaz’s legacy reflects the strong relationship that the Marine Corps and the people of Guam have shared since the establishment of the Marine Barracks in 1899.

Born on Guam on February 14, 1928, Blaz was 13 years old when the island was attacked by Imperial Japanese Forces on December 8, 1941. He remained on Guam throughout the Japanese occupation until Liberation in July 1944. In 1947, Blaz was awarded a scholarship to the University of Notre Dame and was subsequently commissioned in the United States Marine Corps in 1951. During his honorable and faithful service, including a combat tour in Vietnam, he was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with Combat “V” for valor, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2), and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

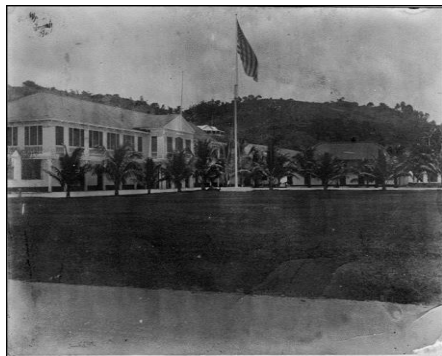
After his Marine Corps career, Blaz was elected to represent Guam as a Delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1984 through 1992. While representing Guam, he was instrumental in reorganizing Guam’s judicial system and advocated for improved educational benefits for veterans. He was an accomplished author whose notable memoir “Let Us Remember” captured the hardships and determination of the CHamoru people during the Japanese occupation in World War II. Blaz died January 8, 2014 having led a life of selfless public service to his nation and to the island of Guam. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

## History of Marines on Guam

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Marines have called Guam home almost continuously since the landing of U.S. forces on June 21, 1898, during the Spanish-American War. On August 7, 1899, U.S. Naval Station Guam was formally established and Marines came ashore.

Marine Barracks Guam has played significant roles in Marine Corps history for more than 90 years.



Marine Barracks Sumay, Guam

Marines in Apra Harbor fired the first shots by Americans during World War I. On April 7, 1917, Marines from the barracks fired warning shots against German sailors on the interned ship *Cormoran*. During World War II, on December 10, 1941, Marine Barracks Guam was forced to surrender to Imperial Japanese Forces. The Marines returned when III Amphibious Corps landed to retake the island on July 21, 1944. The island was declared secure on August 10, 1944, leading Guam to become a staging location for Marines moving forward across the Pacific, supporting invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

The Marine Barracks was reactivated on June 4, 1946 and remained an integral part of the U.S. presence on the island until its deactivation on November 10, 1992.

Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz was activated on October 1, 2020. This activation was an administrative action officially marking the initial operational capability of the base.

The formal establishment of MCB Camp Blaz is a significant milestone of the realignment of forces and honors an international agreement with the Government of Japan while securing a Marine Corps posture in the Indo-Pacific region that is geographically distributed and operationally resilient. MCB Camp Blaz will play an essential role in strengthening the Department of Defense's ability to deter and defend, and is also a testament to the strength of the U.S.-Japan alliance, which is a cornerstone of peace, security, and prosperity in the region.



## **The Marines' Hymn**

“From the Halls of Montezuma  
To the shores of Tripoli;  
We fight our country's battles  
In the air, on land, and sea;  
First to fight for right and freedom  
And to keep our honor clean;  
We are proud to claim the title  
Of United States Marine.

Our flag's unfurled to every breeze  
From dawn to setting sun;  
We have fought in ev'ry clime and place  
Where we could take a gun;  
In the snow of far-off Northern lands  
And in sunny tropic scenes;  
You will find us always on the job  
The United States Marines.

Here's health to you and to our Corps  
Which we are proud to serve;  
In many a strife we've fought for life  
And never lost our nerve;  
If the Army and the Navy  
Ever look on Heaven's scenes;  
They will find the streets are guarded  
**By United States Marines.”**



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# Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz

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Sabãnan Fadang Ribbon Cutting and  
Memorial Dedication Ceremony



Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz  
Main Cantonment  
Dededo, Guam

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January 25, 2023

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# SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Opening Narration

Moment of Silence

Remarks

Presentation of the Monument

Ribbon Cutting

Ceremony End

Paying of Respects





## History of Sabānan Fadang

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Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz constructed this memorial in collaboration with the Guam State Historic Preservation Office and the Honorable Lourdes Leon Guerrero, Governor of Guam, to honor and preserve CHamoru burials found during the construction of the base at what is now believed to be part of the ancient village of Sabānan Fadang.

The discovered burials include seven grave sites comprised of multiple individuals. Four grave sites were discovered in 2020, with an additional three grave sites discovered in 2021 during the construction of the monument.

MCB Camp Blaz is committed to preserving the rich cultural heritage of Guam and CHamoru history. In addition to this monument, the Government of Guam constructed a federally-funded \$12 million cultural repository to further preserve and study Guam's ancient history. This repository increases the archaeological storage capacity on Guam and allows for the further study of discoveries.

Much of Guam's history was passed down through oral traditions and historic findings, like the ones discovered at Sabānan Fadang. They provide greater insight and a deeper understanding of Guam's history to be shared and recorded for future generations.

