



Foundation helps Special Ops Marines transition to civilian life

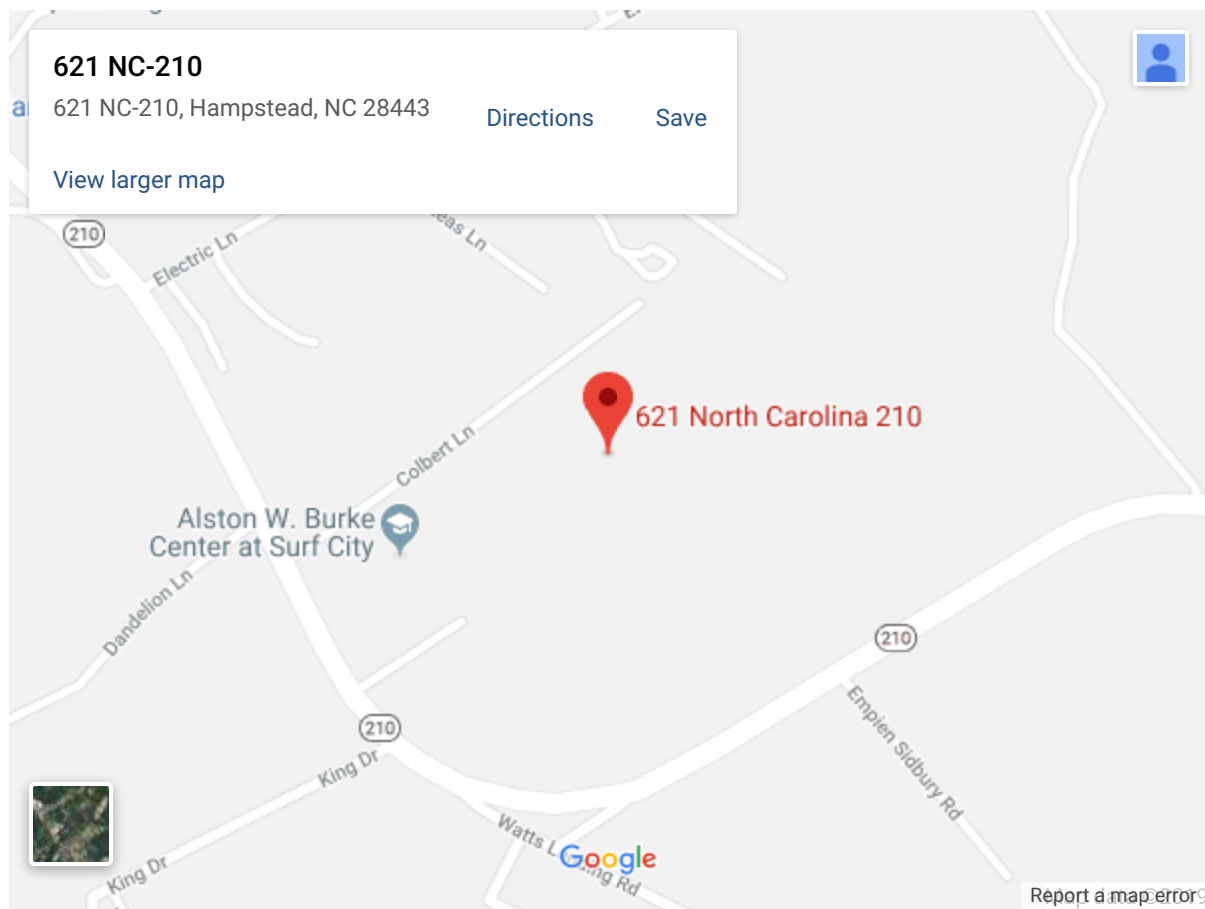
By Emily Dingler The Daily News

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The Honor Foundation may be located in a community college, but their goal isn't to help the men sitting in class get an Associate's Degree. The Honor Foundation's main goal is to help the Marines with Special Operations Forces transition smoothly into civilian life

“We want to make sure that they are able to successfully translate their skills from the military world to the civilian world,” Program Coordinator Kara Greco said. “Make sure they are able to obtain jobs that are relevant towards their work experience and make sure that they are not cutting themselves short in the civilian world when it comes to what type of jobs they can get.”

The Honor Foundation opened their first campus in San Diego in 2014. They opened a campus for Camp Lejeune at Cape Fear Community College, 621 N.C. 210, in Surf City in 2018 to provide for the Special Operations Marines in the area.



David Pouleris, director of The Honor Program, said that MARSOC , the Marine Corps Special Operations Component, at Camp Lejeune was activated in 2006. Pouleris said that the command has grown to be a force of around 3,000, with a majority of Special Operations Marines at Stone's Bay in Sneads Ferry.

Pouleris said that so far the average of people in the class is in the teens, with this group having 17 members.

"We're trying to reach an average of 20," Pouleris said. "Being such a new campus, we're still kind of spreading the word to our special operations guys from the Marine Corps that we're here to help them when they're ready to leave the Marine Corps."

Pouleris said that the program is completely free, and is paid for by the Marine Raider Foundation and through donations to the Honor Foundation. The program is also open to all branches serving under Special Operations Command under the command of MARSOC at Camp Lejeune.

Pouleris said that there are three phases to the program, with a majority of the phases centered on helping the individual find the right thing to do in their next stage of life so they can have fulfillment.

"One of the big benefits to the course was learning about myself in particular," Jeffrey Correnti, a fire support specialist with Special Operations Command, said. "And how to speak to people about myself in a way that doesn't turn people off, but rather kind of showcases the experience I got from the Marine Corps, and how it would apply to the business world."

Correnti recommended that all Marines with the Special Operations Unit look into The Honor Foundation Program if they have the chance.

"I would tell them that if they have the opportunity to do this it should be a must," Correnti said. "Through The Honor Foundation not only will you learn how to better interact with the business world, but they'll also develop a network that will enable them to reach out and potentially find a good job or a better job."

For more information, to donate or register, visit honor.org.

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