Medal of Honor Golf Course

Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA

This historic golf course, originally called The Officers' Club Golf Course, began in 1930 as a six-hole layout, probably built by Marine Corps construction personnel and grew into a nine-hole course with two tee boxes on each hole around 1934.

Instrumental in the course's development and later expansion to eighteen holes in the mid-1940s was Ernest Stanley, Course Superintendent from 1933, until he retired in 1976. After this expansion, the golf course became known as the "Quantico Golf Course." Although not an exceptionally long track, the rolling terrain creates subtle challenges for golfers of every skill level. The course is well marked with interval disks in the fairways, marker stakes, and yardage shown on the sprinkler heads. Some very skilled players in Northern Virginia consider this one of the area's better courses. The course is dedicated to the memory of Marines who have been awarded the nation's highest honor. In 1980, the "Quantico Golf Course" was renamed the "Medal of Honor Golf Course."

The Medal of Honor Golf Course has become a popular retreat for Commanders-in-Chief starting in the 1950s with President Dwight Eisenhower, an avid golfer, and including Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, George Bush and Bill Clinton. Golfers who tee it up here, find the Medal of Honor Golf Course a tight layout, placing a premium on shot-making in order to avoid mature trees, sand bunkers and water lining the sculptured Bermuda fairways. Landing areas that set up the best approach angle to the well-protected greens are uniformly small and hazard-lined. The small, contoured greens feature a mixture of several varieties of bent grasses, making putting somewhat complicated. The course is open all year to Active Duty and Retired military, DoD civilian employees, their family members, FBI Academy, National Guard and Reserve personnel.

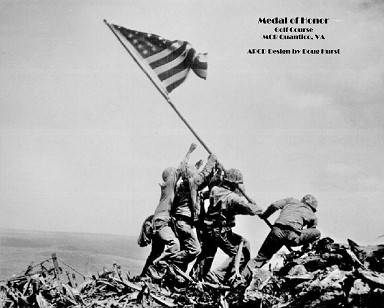


The course is layed out in a valley which is bisected by Fuller Road. The front nine is on the south side of the road and the back nine on the north side. The slope of both nines is down to Fuller Road so there are very few level lies even in the fairway. With the exception of the greens, there has been little alteration of the natural terrain in the course’s construction.

I have run, driven and cycled past this golf course going back to 1973 when I attended Warrant Officer Screening Course 1-73 and Warrant Officer Basic School 1-73. Even though I played on golf teams in high school and one year of junior college, I have never played this course. Still, I thought it was worthwhile to do it in APCD. I will also be doing the course at MCB Camp Pendleton, CA in the future.  
  
I should have been able to play it in 1977. There was a two-round qualifier for the All-Marine Golf Tournament held on Okinawa at the Awase Meadows Golf Course. I played well in the 1st round but made the mistake of going drinking with Master Sergeant that night and failed miserably in round 2.  
  
My rendition of Quantico is based on Google Earth and the elevations taken therefrom. This is not really an easy course even though it's short (6,700 yds). There are at least 4 blind, uphill dogleg tee shots and although all those holes are fairly short, deciding to cut the dogleg can lead to disaster. There are par 4's that cross Little Creek. So, it means there are several holes where you cannot use a driver off the tee.  
  
The course does not looked well-groomed in the APCD. The reason… it’s not well-groomed. The condition and grooming of service courses in general and Marine Corps courses in particular, is based on whether or not the Commanding General is a golfer. If he is an avid golfer the course is better taken care of. If not, Moral Welfare and Recreation (MWR) fund spending goes to other things.  
  
Because Google Earth is not terribly accurate on elevation, I’ve taken some poetic license on the green undulations. I have all 18 pin positions on each hole, 6 easy, 6 medium and 6 hard. If you play hard pin positions with Firm(C)/Fast(C) you can have a situation where if you're below the hole and do not get your putt or chip to the hole, it will come back to your feet. But I believe in every case, if you get the hole, it will stay up. I’ve worked very hard on this to make sure the hard pin positions are hard but fair.

Tee boxes:     

Logo: 

Splash Screens: 

Green Flags: 

Doug Hurst