



FAMILY READINESS= OPERATIONAL READINESS

POLICY STATEMENT dated Friday 14 February 2014



Military Families are truly special; they are highly respected and deeply honored by Americans all over our great Nation and many of our counterparts all over the world. Our- *-Your -* Family Readiness Officer is Sergeant Kevin Rogers. Sergeant Rogers has been in the Marine Corps for 8 years, and has been deployed twice in support of

Operation Enduring Freedom. He understands what it means to be away from family for extended periods of time, and understands what it is to leave a family behind. Sergeant Rogers is married with a son. He has served as the Deputy Family Readiness Officer since March 2013, and is very eager to serve Headquarters & Support Battalion and their family members as the Family Readiness Officer. Thus, this command shall have an energetic, motivated, and extremely positive Family Readiness Program tailored to support our Marines and Sailors as they maintain their families' readiness in order to improve everyone's overall quality of life...I truly believe that Family Readiness = Operational Readiness!

The United States Marine Corps has defined family as any unit the Marine is born into, sworn into, and married into. Our Commandant's- General James Amos- message is that a Marine makes an enduring commitment to the Corps and the Corps in turn makes an enduring commitment to every Marine and to his/her family. Also, *"family"* now includes anyone the Marine or Sailor designates as his or her family. This has opened up the Family Readiness Program to many different family dynamics; for example, single Marines with or without children and married Marines/Sailors with or without children. Our Beloved Corps has broadened this scope to welcome parents, in-laws, grandparents, siblings, aunts & uncles of Marines and Sailors into the program! If you are interested, you only need to have your military member inform our Family Readiness Officer (FRO) so that they are added to our contact list. Marines and Sailors who choose to accept the added responsibility of having a family must also accept the solemn obligation for their families' care and welfare. The Family Readiness Program is beneficial to the Marines and Sailors, & their families, but also affects a unit's morale as a whole.

The primary goal of your FRO is to support and take care of Marines, Sailors and their family members. Family Readiness is viewed as families who are prepared and equipped with the skills and tools to successfully meet the challenges of the military lifestyle. This program directly affects the fundamental purpose of the Marine Corps to make Marines and win battles by building commitment and raising morale, thereby increasing unit readiness. Our FRO provides the day-to-day management of our Family Readiness Program; this critical billet shall maintain the highest level of training & education and will be thoroughly familiar with all the services available to our families. The FRO serves as the principle communication link between the Command Team and Headquarters and Support Battalion families.

However, the FRO is not a substitute for the chain of command; the FRO is a special staff officer dedicated to assisting one's chain of command as we support our Marines & Sailors. As the Commanding Officer, I am ultimately responsible for the support we provide to our Marines, Sailors, and their families. For this reason any spouse or other family member(s) who is in need of assistance shall be treated with dignity and respect. **THE GOLDEN RULE** is always in full effect! The FRO will ensure that the chain of command and the Marine or Sailor is informed as soon as possible so that all reasonably available resources are utilized. The solution to every dilemma or "curve ball" that life throws at all of us can be solved by caring, engaged, positive & proactive leadership at all levels within one's the chain of command.

While our Marines and Sailors are ultimately responsible for the readiness of their families, rest assured that this command is here to provide guidance in a timely and professional manner. Part of the way I shall accomplish this is by having triennial "town hall" type meetings with your families. Additionally, per our Commandant's intent, every active duty member of this Battalion **will** enroll into eMarine. If you need any help with eMarine or have suggestions on how to make it more user friendly, do feel free to contact our FRO. Finally, my goal is to ensure that all family members have the opportunity to participate in every event. If you would like to volunteer in any aspect, please contact our FRO team. Two way dialogues is vital to ensuring that everyone who is part of the Marine Corps family is taken care of to the best of our synergistic abilities, capabilities, skills and talents- -OOh Rah!

Semper Fidelis & May GOD Bless the United States of America!

Michael E. Cordero
Colonel Michael E. Cordero, USMC

Commanding Officer of Headquarters & Support Battalion