



## UNIT, PERSONAL AND FAMILY READINESS



The term "family" not only includes spouses and children, but also parents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, significant others, friends and supporters. All Marines have a family and the Family Readiness Officer is there to support everyone's family. The contribution of individual Marines and Sailors is the most important resource to the success of our unit and the Marine Corps. Over time, each of us sustains our ability to make these contributions through the support we receive from those we care about—our families. A family's support, in turn, is highly dependent on their level of resiliency with regard to the ongoing challenges of military life.

As the Commanding Officer, I am ultimately responsible for our Marines and Sailors and part of that responsibility is helping to preserve this key base of support. To that end, this command will have a viable Unit, Personal and Family Readiness Program that supports our Marines and Sailors as they maintain their families' readiness. Each of us has a role to play within this program.

Individual Marines and Sailors, especially those who choose to accept the added responsibility of having a spouse and children, must also accept the responsibility for their family's care and readiness. A military family must be able to continue to care for itself, whether it has a Marine or Sailor deployed overseas or conducting routine field operations in the surrounding community. To ensure their families' well-being, all Marines and Sailors with families will maintain an accurate and up to date Family Care Plan.

The Family Readiness Officer (FRO) manages our Unit, Personal and Family Readiness Program. I expect her to maintain the highest level of training, and to be thoroughly familiar with all the services available to our families. She will respond to concerns quickly and will provide accurate answers or referrals as needed. The FRO will serve as the primary link between the members of this command and the services available to our families. Perhaps most importantly, the FRO will also serve as the primary communication link between myself and the families of 5th Battalion, 11th Marines. To accomplish these responsibilities, the FRO is assisted by Deputy Family Readiness Officers, Family Readiness Assistants and Volunteers, and she works with other members of the Family Readiness Team: the Executive Officer, the Sergeant Major, the Chaplain and our Command Team Advisors.

Although the Family Readiness Team performs a key function within 5th Battalion, 11th Marines, it is not a substitute for the Chain of Command. Our leadership at all levels must be engaged. Any spouse or family member who is in need of help will be treated respectfully and professionally. The FRO will ensure that problems are identified to the Chain of Command and the Marine or Sailor as soon as possible.

For information and assistance in all Family Readiness matters, contact the 5th Battalion, 11th Marines Family Readiness Officer, Mrs. Joanna McBride at 760-725-9564, or e-mail [joanna.mcbride@usmc.mil](mailto:joanna.mcbride@usmc.mil).

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