



Commanding Officer's Statement on Unit, Personal and Family Readiness



"The desired outcome of the Unit, Personal and Family Readiness Program (UPFRP) is a ready and resilient Marine & Sailor. This is defined as a Marine/Sailor whose unit, family, significant other, or any other individual associated with the Marine that he/she depicts as a contact, are equipped to successfully meet the challenges of military life"
- MCO 1754.9A

"People First, Mission Always." As an expeditionary force in readiness, we need to remain the most ready when the nation is the least ready. This is only attainable if our families and support networks are as mission capable as our Marines and Sailors. There is no better way to keep faith with our Marines, Sailors and families than to maintain a vibrant, effective, and fully-supported Family Readiness Program. Doing so will ensure our support networks remain intact and effective, maintain quality of life and enhance combat readiness.

My ultimate goal for our Family Readiness Program is ready and resilient Marines, Sailors and families that are able to respond to life, career and mission events. This resiliency, coupled with the knowledge that their families are ready and being cared for, allows our Marines and Sailors to focus on the mission. As leaders, we have the obligation to ensure that we take care of our Marines and Sailors. This includes the families and support networks that our Marines and Sailors rely upon to complete the demanding tasks and responsibilities in support of our Battalion's mission. Individual Marines and Sailors, especially those who choose to accept the added responsibility of having a spouse and children, must also accept responsibility for their family's care and readiness. A military family must be able to continue to care for itself, whether their Marine or Sailor is deployed overseas or conducting routine field operations in the surrounding community.

The four areas that will make our Family Readiness Program effective are communication, readiness and deployment support, information and referral, and volunteer management. The Family Readiness Officer (FRO) manages our program. I expect our FRO to maintain the highest level of training, and to be thoroughly familiar with all the services available to our families. The FRO will respond to concerns quickly and will provide accurate answers and/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. To accomplish these responsibilities, the FRO is assisted by Deputy Family Readiness Officers, Family Readiness Assistants and Volunteers, while also working closely with other members of the Family Readiness Team – i.e. the Executive Officer, Sergeant Major, Chaplain and our Command Team Advisors.

Although the Family Readiness Team performs many key functions within the program, it is no substitute for leadership and the Chain of Command. Leaders 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. To further ensure family readiness and well-being, all Marines and Sailors with families will maintain an accurate and up to date Family Care Plan.

For additional support and information contact our Battalion Family Readiness Officer, Mrs. Jessica Page, at 760-725-9564, or email at jessica.page@usmc.mil.

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