



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE TRAINING COMMAND
MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER
BOX 788100
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92278-8100

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1000
MCCS

NOV 19 2010

POLICY LETTER 7-10

From: Commanding General
To: All Hands

Subj: "MARINES FIRST: PROJECT IN REAL LIFE" CAMPAIGN

1. The purpose of the "Marines First: Project in Real Life" Campaign is to provide commanders with a variety of programs and options for hardening our Marines for life's challenges. This campaign supports the Commandant's Planning Guidance (Priorities #1 and #4) to improve resiliency among our Marines and better integrate programs.
2. As the Marine Corps reaches a decade of involvement in combat operations, our family support programs have reached unprecedented levels of success. However, programs for our young and vulnerable Marines are not as successful. Because of our remoteness in the High Desert, it is imperative that Quality of Life programs actively attract single Marines and give them the tools to overcome their toughest issues.
3. I have asked my staff, and the staff of Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) in particular, to rejuvenate and expand the programs for single Marines. Along with improving the Quality of Life in our Bachelor Enlisted Quarters, I want to provide as many opportunities for Marines to participate in meaningful activities or to help them handle the many challenges they face in their daily lives. These programs are for off-duty hours and are in direct support of commanders and senior leaders. I have asked MCAGCC and MAGTFTC commanders and senior leaders to collaborate with my staff; to proactively target vulnerable Marines; and to promote Marines' participation in single Marine Quality of Life programs.
4. As we begin Fiscal Year 2011, the Marine Corps and MCCS are offering new initiatives, along with enhanced services for existing programs, to provide commanders and senior leaders a variety of options to support single Marine Quality of Life. These initiatives include:
 - a. Single Marine Program (SMP). SMP currently provides recreational opportunities including the Zone Recreation Center, off-base trips, pool and ping-pong tournaments, on-base tours, and events. SMP is expanding to offer chess, bowling, and golf tournaments, as well as introductions to woodworking and automotive skills. The Zone Recreation Center is exclusively for single Marines and Sailors and is an alcohol-free environment.
 - b. Combat Center Welcome Aboard Program. The Welcome Aboard Program is the premier effort to ensure Marines new to Twentynine Palms are familiar with the wide variety of services, programs, and activities offered aboard the Combat Center and in the local community.
 - c. Volunteer Program. The Volunteer Program includes opportunities to build a sense of community and support worthwhile efforts in the area. Volunteer hours are tracked and reported to commands.

Subj: "MARINES FIRST: PROJECT IN REAL LIFE" CAMPAIGN

d. Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) and Suicide Programs. These programs include prevention education as well as recreational events. The DDR and Suicide Awareness programs seek out Marines to participate in the Marines Got Talent Program, internet gaming tournaments, and other special events.

e. Mentoring Program. The Mentoring Program is a new initiative that assigns retired military volunteers to single Marines in an effort to build self-esteem and resiliency through mentorship with someone who "has been there." This initiative compliments unit mentorship programs.

f. Marine DSTRESS Line. This program is available to provide a confidential, 24/7, Marine-friendly counseling service for helping individuals develop coping skills, increase resiliency, and win personal battles common in our lives. An individual can call for themselves, family member, or a Marine on their right or left. Someone calling this line will speak to a counselor or clinician who is a Marine, corpsman, or civilian trained in Marine Corps culture. Contact is through 1-877-476-7734 or www.dstressline.com.

5. This is just a start and not inclusive. We will continue to develop and improve all our programs in support of "Marines First" while seeking ways to measure our effectiveness. I strongly encourage you to make this a team effort and make recommendations for improving the campaign to me, Sergeant Major Tanksley, the MCAGCC/MAGTFTC staff, or the MCCS staff.


H. S. CLARDY, III