"Marines of the Ozarks"

Policy Statement on Personal and Family Readiness

I view personal and family readiness as an inherent function of command, regardless of the command's deployment status. Even though the Detachment's mission does not include deployment as a unit, a well-developed unit, personal and family readiness program (UPFRP) is critical to our ability to focus on training our student Marines. A strong UPFRP recognizes the many sacrifices Marines, Sailors and their families make, and prepares them to successfully navigate life challenges that are part of military service. My vision for the program is to have well-educated, well-resourced, and resilient Marines, Sailors and family members who can successfully cope with these challenges and keep themselves operationally ready and who feel connected with the Detachment and other families. That said, the UPFRP does not replace small unit leadership. Rather, it complements small unit leadership by providing leaders contacts and ready information about the many support resources and activities available. Commanders and their subordinate leaders remain in the best position to know their Marines, Sailors and their families, and what their needs are.

The Detachment UPFRP will enhance personal and family readiness by:

-Providing training and informational sessions on available programs and resources to help cope with the challenges in our military lifestyle.
-Providing timely referrals to available resources.
-Disseminating information, using all available communication methods.
-Coordinating events that enhance readiness by building camaraderie and cohesion within the Detachment.
-Encouraging personal connections between our military members and families.
-Ensuring confidentiality and privacy policies are strictly followed.
-Building an enduring partnership with installation organizations, Marine Corps Community Services and Army Community Services.

I expect commanders to be actively involved with their Marines' and Sailors' personal and family readiness. I also expect each individual to take charge of his/her personal and family readiness and to encourage their families' involvement in the program. Finally, this program is for every Marine and Sailor, not just for those with families of their own in the local area. This program will also support our student Marines as much as possible, keeping in mind their transient status. Modern technology, such as the web site and Facebook page, allows family members not located at Fort Leonard Wood to participate in the program. For assistance, contact our Family Readiness Officer, Mr. Harry Bailey at (573) 596-0131 (ext 68007) or email at harry.a.bailey@us.army.mil.

I look forward to continuing to serve with you and your families.

Colonel N. A. Springer
Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Detachment, Fort Leonard Wood