



# TECOM CONNECTION

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017



**TECOM Men's Fashion Club**  
"Voted by Editor as high-performers in dress, positivity and work"

## QUANTICO MEN'S GROUP



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### Seeking an informal workplace group meeting?

The Quantico Men's Group is a group that meets every Wednesday on Quantico, Virginia at Yale Hall. The mission of the men's group is to provide a supportive outlet to discuss various topics – no topic is off limit. However, there is limited confidentiality which is stated throughout the meeting. For example, if someone expresses harm to self or others than it must be reported. Essentially, whatever you discuss with the Chaplain is considered fully confidentiality.

Good news! Essentially, you do not need to register to attend the group meetings. Military and civilians are welcomed. As different perspectives are voiced the participant uses "I" statements for clarity and effective communication. Topics are not planned but there is always a topic of conservation. Group participants typically continue to follow-up with each other thereafter.

Above all, if you were to attend know that you are not alone regarding your problems and many times someone else have been through something similar. That is, you do not have to participate you can simply sit in and listen. There usually is opportunity to discuss things one-on-one with the Coordinator. The Coordinator can provide referrals upon request. Please contact the Coordinator, Mr. Silbert Grant @ (703) 432-1474 for more information.



Silbert Grant, Men's Group Coordinator

## TECOM SgtMaj William J. Grigsby



All:

It's an exciting time for TECOM as we continue to grow, we strive to remain as adaptable, motivated and responsive to our training and education needs. We pride ourselves on being proactive in developing training and education opportunities for the total force while continuing to be supportive of current requirements.

We are continuously transforming the way we operate to improve our ability to provide quality instruction and world-class training venues. Our TECOM employees have continued to meet the challenges of our Marine Corps mission. We all should be very proud of where we are today and excited about where we are headed tomorrow.

Before I close, I'd like to thank each of you for your areas of expertise. You, as individuals, have the vision, the knowledge, the where-withal and the experience to help us pave our way into the future. You are truly our greatest asset today and tomorrow, and we could not accomplish what we do without your support. As we embark on a new year, I ask you to stay engaged, keep us proactive and help us shape the future of TECOM. My personal respect and thanks goes out to all of you.

My wife and I are excited to have our daughter home from college for the holidays and along with our son, we intend to share the festive season with friends here in Quantico.

Happy Holidays! I wish all of you a safe and enjoyable holiday season whether you are staying local or traveling to visit family and friends. I look forward to seeing all of you in the new year.

Semper Fidelis  
William J. Grigsby  
Sergeant Major  
Training and Education Command

NOTE: We want to maintain a positive and pleasant environment for all our employees. Please know that all TECOM employees are free to talk to me at any time about any topic. Thank you!

## EVERY DAY IS A HOLIDAY

By Desiree Kinney



November 30 marked ten years since our head-on collision. Looking back, I recognize the blessings I had overlooked then. I realize many of you reading this have survived graver circumstances or may be in the midst of a similar crisis. I hope my humble account serves to remind you that love is all around you – some sweet and some disguised as a bitter pill.

I was well into my second trimester with my son, Carson, that cold November morning as I drove my then 19-month old son, Derek, to daycare before continuing on to work. It was a narrow country road with worn asphalt, no shoulders or demarcations, steep hills, plenty of twists and turns, and traveled by farmers moving their farm equipment. As we neared the top of one steep hill, at speed (45 mph), a woman driving another sedan suddenly crested it, dead-center in the road, and slammed into us before I could utter two words (thankfully).

There on the scene the blessings were self-evident. Derek was visibly shaken, but had only a small cut on his forehead. I could see and hear the other woman, she had opened her car door and was sitting sideways in her car groaning (I learned later she had fractured her hip). I felt calm; there was neither pain nor blood that I could see, but the front of the car had closed in on me and I could not move my legs or my torso. The cars had done their job and everyone was safe. I pulled my cell phone to me using the tether of the phone cord and made three calls before passing out. It was a miracle in itself to have cell phone coverage anywhere on this road. These calls got the emergency crew to the right location (they had erroneously been sent to another location) and secured Derek until my husband could fly home that evening. Two ladies from the daycare, Alice and Betty, arrived at the scene carrying an extra carseat. The only witnesses to the accident spoke no English, so Betty translated their testimony to the police while the firefighters and EMT cut through our car to extract me. These ladies also insisted Derek board the medi-vac helicopter with me to be evaluated, then met us at the hospital to transition Derek safely to family.

I awoke in an ER in Fairfax surprised and relieved to see my co-worker (former Marine) hovering over me; I had not called the office. I learned she had broken both her legs in a previous motorcycle accident; she was there to support me. I had fractured both legs, one arm, and slightly ruptured my placenta, but Carson's vitals were ok. They repaired the compound fracture to my leg and left the rest to fix after my pregnancy. I spent a total of two weeks in the hospital. My husband encouraged the doctors to keep me for as long as possible for he had had lower back surgery the year before and was afraid he would have to lift me. The first week I was passed between the orthopedics and high-risk pregnancy wards. On the morning I was supposed to go home, I awoke at 2 a.m. having difficulty breathing. A nurse responded to my call and then forgot about me until she was making her rounds five hours later. By then I was pale and she had doctors around me in less than five minutes tapping arteries for oxygen levels and routing me to MRI. I had thrown two pulmonary embolisms to my lungs, landing me in cardiology until I was finally discharged. One nurse really stood out to me during my stay. She inspected me from head to toe, looked under every bandage, felt my skin for temperature changes, and (finally) gave me a sponge bath before accepting me into her pregnancy ward. She was the toughest, the most thorough in performing her duties (to hospital and patient), but she was also one of the few medical professionals who made me feel like I was a human and not a cog.

A bus drove me to our home in Delaplane (one hour) after evening rush hour. I lived in a hospital bed with a bed-side commode in our living room – which is where family gathered to celebrate Christmas that year all around me in bed (we moved the commode)! My mother left her sister's bedside, who was dying from pancreatic cancer, and flew out from California the day after the accident to care for us for six weeks. Neighbors and co-workers visited, brought meals for my family, finished my Christmas shopping for me, and brought books and movies. No previous experience had prepared me for this recovery, but family and friends came forward and showed us with love.

## EVERY DAY IS A HOLIDAY

By Desiree Kinney

But there were dark days, too. Daily shots, nightly anxiety attacks, insomnia, infections, the temptation to feel sorry for yourself can all take a toll on the human spirit when you're lying in a bed for almost two months. In the hospital, I remember coveting my roommate's situation: a woman expecting triplets who walked herself to the bathroom and showered daily. The helplessness I felt when our dog approached me to be let out is when it really sunk in – I felt like a prisoner of my own body. But it would be a very incomplete picture of pain as well as the importance of having family and friends there to support if I did not mention the toll that caregiving takes on spouses and children. I am so thankful for those who came out to support us. I am also thankful for the opportunity to experience the care I would receive as an invalid while I was still young and able to make decisions, versus waiting until I was elderly with less latitude. After giving birth to Carson and completing one of my follow-up surgeries, my husband rewarded himself with a trip to the Caribbean. I understood he was under stress. Every day he took off work he was risking losing his team, he was dealing with the medical insurance, managing the household, and taking care of Derek and me. I'm sure I was not the most fun person to be around and I know the visits also took a toll on him as he tried to keep a schedule. While it was not this isolated event that broke us, but I would say it was surely an awakening for me. We finally divorced five years later.

During my recovery, I never used an electric wheelchair or a handicap sticker. Physical therapists made regular house calls and eventually mobilized me from wheelchair to a cane. By February I was in a walker, driving myself to PT appointments, and working part-time from home. My mom closed her eyes when the PT and OT double-teamed me one day to help me walk down the basement stairs using straps to hold and help balance me. Mom would take me out shopping in my wheelchair, help me shower, and wielded the brush and hairdryer in such a way that I emerged from the bathroom each time with a Farah Fawcett hairdo. But I didn't mind. How can you when you only have one good arm and it's better than what I could do myself? When I finally graduated to the cane, I was elated! Mom returned home to care for her sister after she felt I could get myself out of the house in the event of a housefire. Six months after the accident (including two months maternity), I was physically able to return to work. To this day I have a greater appreciation for my mom and also for disabled, elderly, and very young people. For one, not every family or community takes care of their own like mine did. Secondly, I learned that revolving doors are heavy and pharmacies are a long walk from the front door of the drug store (before drive-up windows) when you are barely able to get around. And just because a restroom is marked 'handicap' doesn't necessarily make it so.

My biggest blessing of all, Carson, was born full term (unprompted) on April 1<sup>st</sup>, a birthday he proudly shares with his older brother. He is healthy, happy, smart, caring, and very active. Like other kids, he has his fair share of struggles. He was born with strabismus which means his eyes were crossed (corrected with surgery). He has a condition called polymicrogyria (deformity of the brain coils) that causes some problems like epilepsy and an inability to organize his thoughts (executive function skills). While this condition cannot be corrected, we at least have peace in knowing what it is and we have a great pediatric neurologist with an effective care plan. Carson also has high functioning autism called Aspergers Syndrome Disorder, which means he struggles with impulsivity, social queues, judging appropriate behavior, and recognizing dangerous situations. Doctors say there is no way to determine whether the accident was the cause for any of this, but it doesn't really matter in the end. Derek treats him like a brother and looks out for him. He has friends. We have a terrific team of teachers, tutors, therapists, medical and developmental professionals, and family working together to help Carson meet his full potential and lead a fulfilling life. I am excited to see what the future holds for him.

The question now is how have I used my experience to benefit others or even myself? Honestly, I haven't done as much as I would like to because the workload of being a parent is constant and fairly intense for special needs children. I remarried this past summer to a very good man, Joe, who loves my children as his own. Ten years after the accident, I am a different person. I am more assertive and much more mindful of my how my actions impact others: showing kindness and compassion towards others and especially my spouse, teaching my children to seek God, modeling problem solving with patience, helping out a friend or another single parent who is going through something similar or just needs a lift. My experience as a cog in the hospital taught me to maintain focus on what is important – serving our customers (Marines) – and never consider a throughput number. Just like the medical industry, the military is a business of people with needs.

Reflection is valuable because it allows us to judge our decisions with objectivity in terms of how well they supported our ethics or met our goals. But if gaze into the rear-view mirror too long, you miss this miracle called Life. Blessings are all around us, though we may be too deep in a situation to recognize them. Back then, a good friend and combat veteran shared a quote with me by author Andrew Anthony Bufalo that goes, "Every day is a holiday, every meal a feast." It took me some time before I fully grasped the meaning. Before the accident, tears of happiness were foreign to me. Now, as I witness my children taking their first steps, graduating fifth grade, being baptized, or as I snuggle and read a book with them, my emotions sometimes get the best of me and I think to myself, "I almost missed this."



## TECOM YEAR IN REVIEW



**Charles "Kevin" Corroon**

*You will not be forgotten our fellow TECOM employee...*



# TECOM YEAR IN REVIEW



Town Hall



**TECOM Award Ceremony**  
Future TECOM Leader!  
***Cristhian Santana***  
He knows a lot from poultry farming to landscaping...just ask him.



Capt. Zack A. Pinkerton from Marine Corps Engineering School, Training Command, was nominated for and selected as one of DOD's Native American Heritage Month Spotlights. See <https://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/American-Indian-Heritage/> for his full profile



Professional book fair

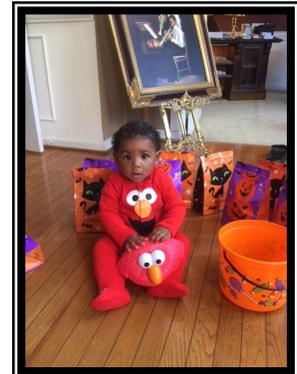
# 2017



Thanksgiving Feast at Rhonda Fortson



Guess Who?  
Tip: Carolina Panthers? Free agent?



Mrs. Ronnette Parks first grandson enjoying his first Halloween.



Editor's daughter AKA Belle from Beauty and the Beast, first Halloween Bash, kids participating in Storytime by Flashlight – BOO!



Everyday is Halloween...  
We just go crazy in October!



What is the son but an extension of the father?



# TECOM YEAR IN REVIEW



Major General Kevin M. Iiams



242nd MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL  
Lieutenant General George J. Flynn (Retired)  
"Entrance of Official Party"



Recognition of the oldest and youngest Marines



The Andrews Family at the Marine Corps Ball!  
Chase Andrews very first ball!

# 2017



MTESD Holiday party



Col Craft at the professional book fair



Happy Holidays from G-8



G1 Division Holiday Party fun with food and games!  
CWDT Branch won the Holiday Cup!! (Hooray!)



Ms. Lynette ready for the holidays!

## TECOM FEATURED DIVISION - G-4



The oldest Marine in the G-4 Division, LtCol Matt Scott, prepares to eat a piece of the birthday cake before passing it to the youngest in the G-4, LCpl Nicholas Best



The 2017 TECOM G-4 Birthday cake



The youngest G-4 Marine, LCpl Nicholas Best (Embarkation Specialist) tastes the birthday cake



Mike Hawkins, G-4 Director, shares an inspiring story with the G-4 Division, emphasizing the importance of taking this time to reflect on what it means to be a United States Marine.

The TECOM G-4 Division provides standard logistical, ammunition and facility support to TECOM, its major subordinate commands (MSCs) and its installations in order to ensure the delivery of quality training and education to the Marine Corps. The TECOM G-4 is led by the Director, Mr. Michael Hawkins and the Deputy Director, LtCol Matthew Scott. The G-4 Division is comprised of the following three branches: Logistics Operations, Facilities, and Class V(W) Ground Training Ammunition. Each branch within the G-4 Division is led by a branch head and comprised of a specialized team. Of recent note, the Safety Branch has been separated from the TECOM G4 and is currently a part of the Commanding General's special staff. There are currently 13 Civilians and Marines that keep the G4 operating.

The Logistics Operations Branch is currently led by the Logistics Branch Head, Mr. Ray Smith (acting) and the Logistics Operations Chief, MSgt Derrick White. The Logistics Branch provides specialized oversight and support in the areas of asset and maintenance management and general logistics management for TECOM Headquarters, MSCs, and their units. This branch supports policy development and end item support by interfacing with the TECOM G3/5/7 and G8 and with higher and adjacent logistics agencies. The Logistics Branch also provides specific oversight of the Table of Equipment Change Request (TOECR) process and interfaces with the Total Force Structure Division (TFSD). The Logistics Operations Branch routinely coordinates with Logistics Command (LOGCOM) and Plans, Policies, & Operations (PP&O), HQMC in order to address Principle End Item rotations at MAGTF-TC in support of exercise support division (ESD).

The Facilities Branch is currently led by the Facilities Branch Head, Mr. Richard Pringle. The Facilities Branch provides facilities oversight to all TECOM MSCs, units, and detachments, and provides programming, renovation and maintenance support to those agencies as well as to Training Command HQs and TECOM units aboard MCB Quantico. The Facilities Branch provides advice and recommendations to the CG, staff, and subordinate commanders concerning facilities resource requirements in support of training. The Branch also coordinates minor construction and repair (M1R1/M2R2) prioritization boards for TECOM and Training Command across the enterprise.

The Ammunition Branch is currently led by the Ammunition Branch Head, Capt Michael Ruegger and the Ammunition Branch Deputy, Mr. Bob Ronnell. The mission of the Ammunition Branch is to manage all ground training ammunition at the HQMC level. The Ammunition Branch consolidates all ground training ammunition requirements, prepares and submits input to the Program Objective Memorandum (POM) submission to the Deputy Commandant, Combat, Development and Integration (DC CD&I). The Ammunition Branch coordinates with Program Manager for Ammunition, MARCORSYSCOM for the supportability of the ground training ammunition requirement. Upon receipt, the branch provides the annual ground training ammunition allowances to the Total Force via the Total Ammunition Management Information System (TAMIS). The Ammunition Branch acts as the approval authority for all special allowance requests (SARs) for ground training ammunition, identifies training trends in ammunition consumption and reports annual ground training ammunition expenditures to numerous DoD entities. The Ammunition Branch also manages the TAMIS help desk and provides system training to users across the Marine Corps enterprise.

### Quotes from the team for what the Holidays mean to them:

"I love the holidays because I get to spend time with my family and friends and eat traditional food from Puerto Rico." - Cpl Rivera

"The holidays have always meant reconnecting with my friends and family and even more so now that I am a United States Marine." - LCpl Best

"I love the food!" - LCpl Ledbetter

"It's a time to spend quality time with family and reflect on everything that you have accomplished during the year and getting ready for the New Year." - MSgt White

## TRAINING PAGE

### LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Centrally Managed Civilian Leadership Courses (CMCLC) are development programs for Civilian Marines starting at GS-5 through GS-15 and pay equivalents that are centrally funded by the Marine Corps. These programs are open to all civilians in any pay system in any pay system, as long as they meet the GS grade equivalency requirement. For more information: Contact [Jamie.deets@usmc.mil/](mailto:Jamie.deets@usmc.mil/) (703) 784-3101



Leadership Course	Grade Levels	Course Summary
<p><b><i>Aspiring Leader Program (ALP)</i></b> Graduate School USA Program Length (3 months) (Jan 31, 2018)</p>	GS 04-06 or Equivalent	Prepares federal employees for potential positions as team leaders, supervisors, and managers
<p><b><i>New Leader Program (NLP)</i></b> Graduate School USA Program Length (6 months) (Jan 31, 2018)</p>	GS 07-11 or Equivalent	Develops future public service leaders by providing assessment, experiential learning, and individual development opportunities
<p><b><i>2019 Department of Defense Executive Leadership Program (ELDP)</i></b> Please submit COMPLETED nomination packages VIA ELECTRONIC EMAIL to <a href="mailto:Jamie.deets@usmc.mil">Jamie.deets@usmc.mil</a> NLT FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2018.</p>	GS 12-14	To develop leaders who are in grades GS 12 through GS 14 who have an understanding and appreciation of the global missions of the DoD
<p><b><i>2019 Capitol Hill Fellowship Program (CHFP)</i></b> HRD-SAs will submit the completed nomination packages VIA EMAIL (ELECTRONIC APPLICATION) to: <a href="mailto:Jamie.deets@usmc.mil">Jamie.deets@usmc.mil</a>, NLT FRIDAY MARCH 9, 2018.</p>	GS 13s and above or equivalents	Provides a unique opportunity for participants to broaden their understanding of the legislative process and the operation of the Congress
<p><b><i>Dwight D. Eisenhower School/ National Defense University (NON-ACQUISITION) Academic Year 2018</i></b> The deadline for submitting all application packages is NLT COB FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2018. VIA EMAIL to: <a href="mailto:Jamie.deets@usmc.mil">Jamie.deets@usmc.mil</a>.</p>	GS 14-15 or equivalents	The nominee is in a Supervisory, Manager, Team Lead position or demonstrates exceptional and outstanding leadership potential in their current position

**To learn more about the *Civilian Leadership Development Program (CLDP)*, *Mentoring Program* and *Academic Degree Program (ADP)*: Contact Jamie Deets (703) 784-3101 (Click on the websites below)**

[Human Resources and Organizational Management](#)

[HROM On-Site Training Courses](#)



## MARINE JUNCTION

### *“NCO of the Quarter” - Sgt Joshua D. Grigsby*



Photo of my fiancée and I at the Marine Corps Ball 2017, it was her first Marine Corps ball and my last on active duty



“Marine with Logs” - Typical morning of Unit PT in my section

I was born and raised in a small town in Kentucky called Fern Creek, I enlisted right after graduating in 2013 and I have been at Quantico working for TECOM as a Financial Management Resource Analyst(3451) for the last 3 years, and as a combat marksmanship coach for the last year. I originally enlisted under a Reconnaissance contract and completed the full School of Infantry course and received the 0311 MOS as well, however, during training at the basic reconnaissance course I became injured and had to drop from the course which resulted in my occupation changing to the 3451 MOS.

#### College

Currently I am not attending school, upon my EAS I plan to attend the National Outdoors Leadership School Wilderness Emergency Medical Training Semester to obtain my EMT certification and pursue a career as part of a Search and Rescue team for a National Park.



#### Why I joined the Marine Corps?

I enlisted in hopes to give back to my country and dedicate a fair portion of my life to keeping America safe and free.

#### Marine Corps Ball

Of course, I attended the ball, the Ball was held for Training and Education Command and Training Command at the Clubs at Quantico. I had returned from leave a week prior to the ball and drove back with my wonderful girlfriend from Kentucky who would be my plus one for the event, we danced and we drank and had a very wonderful celebration, as my last Marine Corps ball while on active duty, I don't think I would have wanted it any other way.

#### What does the award mean to me?

The Certificate of Commendation I was awarded for being selected as NCO of the Quarter and led to my meritorious promotion to the

rank of sergeant. It came as a bit of a surprise and I personally never considered myself that level of quality Marine they recommend for such things. But having received the reward I understand now that I have attributed more to the mission than I previously found fathomable. I urge all of the Marines to do everything they can to pursue excellence.

#### How do I celebrate the Holidays?

The last couple years I have been celebrating the holiday periods outdoors. Last year immediately following the Marine Corps ball I headed out to the Shenandoah mountains for 3 nights and I intend to do the same for Thanksgiving. I am planning leave for Christmas to climb Mount Katahdin in Maine on New Years for a photo shoot for a company I am sponsored by to do so.



Preston Ford

## SPOTLIGHT: PRESTON FORD

### *THEN/NOW*



Jamesky Mardy (MSgt Ret), Walter Gaskins (LTGen Ret), and Preston E. Ford (MGYSGT Ret)

Preston E. Ford Jr. (USMC Retired 1979-2007) is best known as Master Gunnery Sergeant and Disc Jockey for the 2017 TECOM Ball. Master Gunnery Sergeant Ford was born 15 June 1961 in New York City where he grew up. He enlisted in the delayed entry program in July of 1978. In June of 1979, he entered active duty; attended recruit training at MCRD Parris Island, South Carolina. In September of 1984 after reenlisting, Sgt Ford was assigned to recruiter's school. In December, he graduated 4th out of 219 students and was assigned to RS Baltimore as a canvassing recruiter in Baltimore City. Sgt Ford was meritoriously promoted to Staff Sergeant in April of 1986 after writing 62 contracts within 13 months on production. GySgt Ford was the first African American Career Recruiter ever to hold a billet at the Eastern Recruiting Region Headquarters. In March of 1998, MSgt Ford transferred to RS Baltimore to become SNCOIC of RSS Alexandria VA, where he achieved "Station of the Year" for FY 1998. In July of 1999, MSgt Ford became the first Recruiter Instructor of RS Frederick Md. In December of 2005, MGySgt Ford received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and graduated Cum Laude from Averett University. In June of 2007, MGySgt Ford retired from the United States Marine Corps after 28 years of loyal service. After retiring from the Marine Corps in 2007, MGySgt Ford completed his first Master's degree in Business Administration from Averett University in 2008. He took a role working for Headquarters, United States Marine Corps as a Management and Program Analyst. As a Civilian Marine. His former duties consisted of; consultant to the Commandant and SgtMaj of the Marine Corps, Communities of Interest program manager, Diversity/Model EEO program manager and Work-life programs manager. Before taking on a new role, MGySgt Ford's completed his second Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Phoenix in 2015.

As a civilian, Mr. Preston Ford begins working at TECOM Headquarters March of 2010 in the Workforce Development Section in G-1, TECOM HQ as the Diversity Manager, Telework Manager, Health and Wellness Manager and Acculturation Program Manager. During Mr. Ford's five year tenure with TECOM, he was very instrumental in the development and implementation of all the programs he was managing. While at TECOM, he was responsible for the Management Directive report which was a major portion of his daily duties which he provided information to HQ Marine Corps, DON and the EEOC. One of the areas of importance was the disability percentage that was required by the EEOC and OPM. Prior to Mr. Ford's departure in 2015, he was able to raise the percentage from 1.89% to 2.69% which was higher than the goal of 2% that is set by the federal government. In February of 2015, Preston departed TECOM for a promotion to work at the US Geological Survey HQ in Reston Virginia as the Management Analyst for the organization in the office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity. Since Mr. Ford's arrival at the USGS, he has been a stellar performer at his craft which caused him to be sought out by several different agencies for his MD 715 and Barrier Analysis skills. In 2015 -2016, Preston traveled throughout the Department of Interior and taught Barrier Analysis Training to all EEO and HR staff. Preston attributes his success at the US Geological Survey due to the training and development he received while working in the Workforce Development Section and his former supervisor Mrs. Ronnette Parks. She allowed him the flexibility to operate and provided him many opportunities for training that enhanced Mr. Ford's skills in the programs he was managing. Thanks Ronnie! He continues do things the things he loves such as manage his Disc Jockey business and he is starting a new Interior decorating business.

Please contact Mr. Preston Ford at the following: 703-648-7773, 703-969-1358, [Pford@usgs.gov](mailto:Pford@usgs.gov), [nycdjprestone@yahoo.com](mailto:nycdjprestone@yahoo.com)

# RIKKI'S REFUGE 5K RUN/WALK



On behalf of all the animals at Rikki's Refuge, a huge thanks to all the dedicated Marines, family and friends of MTESD and the TECOM Force Fitness Division who came out to support the Rikki's Refuge 5K Run/Walk at beautiful Lake Anna on 4 November. In total, 65 runners and walkers completed the hilly and beautiful 5K course. This hardy group of individuals faced the chilly fall morning with motivation and determination.



The volunteers who organized the event were inspired by additional support from runners to include those who arrived as early as 0630. The participants ranged from age 3 to the 70's. Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and friends of Rikki's, many awards and prizes were handed out.

The coveted 2017 Rikki's 5K Team Award team title went to the Marine team led by a determined and relentless Michele Venice. Michele now has the team trophy proudly on display at her desk for all to see. It is with great honor that we acknowledge these indomitable, unwavering competitors who ran to support Rikki's Refuge, a no kill sanctuary for unwanted and neglected animals.

Rikki's was established in August 1998 and is located in Orange County, Virginia. The 1,200 animals who live at Rikki's are supported solely by donations. Thanks to all those who made this 5K a great day, the animals continue to enjoy life as nature intended.





Phillip Warren

## FEMA SURGE CAPACITY FORCE TEAM 57

ASSISTING SURVIVORS FROM 2017 DISASTERS (By Phillip Warren)



For the first time in history the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), via Department of Homeland Security, reached out to other federal agencies to support their disaster efforts following the destruction of unprecedented hurricanes of Harvey and Irma, then subsequently followed by Hurricane Maria and the wild fires of California. This was made possible by the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-295) initiative the “Surge Capacity Force” (SCF). All volunteers were deployed to training in waves. Everyone in the same wave deployed at the same time. In total, 17 Waves were mobilized to various disaster and support locations. I was assigned to Wave 13 which consisted of over 500 volunteers from various federal agencies. After a brief training in Anniston, Alabama, 60 other Wave 13 individuals, were mobilized to the Nevada National Processing Service Center (NPSC). This was one of several FEMA Call Centers that were established to provide additional support to the three permanent FEMA national call centers. Once there we joined approximately 800 other NPSC staff members, and we were further divided into 4 teams of 15. We were designated as “Team 57” which included the following agencies: Department of Labor, Department of Defense, National Science Foundation, United States Department of Treasury, Department of Justice, Department of Interior, and Department of Veteran’s Affairs. All of the teams worked closely together to quickly learn FEMA’s systems and delivery of services.

Federal Emergency Management Agency’s mission is to support citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. Their core values are Compassion, Integrity and Respect and Fairness. The SCF supported FEMA’s Individuals and Households Program. Services include Housing Assistance (HA), Other Needs Assistance (ONA), National Flood Insurance, FEMA/State Other Needs Assistance, and low interest loan consideration through the Small Business Administration. HA includes home repair, temporary rental/lodging assistance and, and replacement and construction. HA provides financial assistance for uninsured and underinsured, assisting survivors to return to safe, sanitary and functional conditions. HA also provides assistance to eligible survivors to repair and replace the structures of homes wells and septic systems. Federal Emergency Management Agency provides ONA for personal property, transportation, moving and storage, medical, dental, funeral and other miscellaneous expenses.

Within five short weeks we became subject matter experts that full time FEMA employees learn over a period of years. We were trained in the National Emergency Management Information’s System for registration intake, to preform desktop inspection, in Document Management and Records Tracking System, help line tier I and II, Incomplete Registration’s and FEMA’s mission and history. Our primary focus was answering calls and assisting applicants with registration and management of the information in their accounts. Calls varied from providing information about the status of eligibility to correcting information that impeded the assistance process, to informing callers of the locations of Disaster Relief Centers and providing local phone numbers and addresses of local support agencies. Our efforts contributed to over 5 million applications being processed, approximately 100,000 documents being matched to applicant’s file and over 4 billion dollars of assistance. Over 20,000 federal, state, local, and tribal government personnel have participated in this effort.

## FEMA SURGE CAPACITY FORCE TEAM 57

ASSISTING SURVIVORS FROM 2017 DISASTERS (By Phillip Warren)



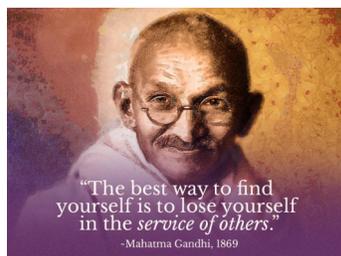
I must recognize and thank all Training and Education Command (TECOM) personnel who allowed and helped me to participate in this experience of continuing to serve this great country. I was able to function as the deputy team lead for my team, work 12 hour shifts, 6 days a week, and even assist fellow volunteers. I believe I owe a lot of my available time to my parent command TECOM, for not only preparing me but ensuring I was set up for success in my mission.

But by far, I have to save my biggest thank you to the people in my division MAGTF Training and Education Standards Division (MTESD). I understand that helping others is a noble effort, but I also realize MTESD, TECOM, and the Marine Corps has its own mission that must be accomplished. With that being said, I truly appreciate my chain of command for allowing me this opportunity to help. From the very moment I expressed that I wanted to participate in the disaster relief effort, my leaders were behind me 100%. Their continued support throughout this experience, it has encouraged and uplifted me. My co-workers that I work beside of on a daily bases, without hesitation were my strongest supporters. They volunteered to change their work schedules and assume my regular duties to guarantee that MTESD's mission were not be hampered by my absence. I am honor to be a part of this team.

Prior to leaving on my deployment and being accepted as a volunteer for SCF, several co-workers throughout TECOM congratulated me, thanked me for my service, and told me how proud they were of me. This helped to remind me that I was not just representing myself, my division, TECOM, or the Marine Corps. I was representing our nation and it was important to me that I did it well.

Reflecting upon this experience, our learning curve was steep, our days were long, the calls were numerous, and the stories were heart breaking. It was a first-hand glimpse into the personal tragedies of the thousands whose lives were forever changed. This was an unimaginable career opportunity and I am humbled by the opportunity to serve our nation during one of its most demanding natural disaster times. It was not only an honor to support FEMA's disaster relief efforts to so many deserving citizens but to serve alongside so many other dedicated and committed fellow government employees. Our team spirit was one of camaraderie. What I have learned about supporting and helping disaster survivors is immense. It is an experience that will continue to holds a special place in my heart.

If you're interested in discussing more regarding this article, please contact him at [phillip.warren@usmc.mil](mailto:phillip.warren@usmc.mil).



## HROM/HEALTH & WELLNESS CORNER



On November 16, 2017, the Annual Health & Wellness Fair was hosted by the Human Resources Organization Management Office (HROM) and held at the Clubs of Quantico including the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

*"I thoroughly enjoyed the Health & Wellness Fair. I am new to the federal government and was not aware of all the support and benefits that it offered. Everyone was very nice and helpful when I had questions. I was also given descriptions of the various insurance, financial, and wellness programs that allowed me to make informed decisions. I also received a free blood pressure and bone density test!"*

Kathy Marcum, Civilian, MCU IT Help Specialist (featured at the AETNA vendor)

## HAPPY WINTER from Work-Life Programs

As we enter into a new fiscal year this is a great time to review several items:

- 1) CIVILIAN HEALTH/WELLNESS PROGRAM: if you are participating in the program you should have completed the NEW PARTICIPATION FORM and forwarded to CWD/T and Ms. Fortson at [Rhonda.Fortson@usmc.mil](mailto:Rhonda.Fortson@usmc.mil).
- 2) TELEWORK: if you are participating in Telework this is a good time to review the dates of your agreement in TWMS and update if applicable. Additionally, if you have a new supervisor your agreement should be updated.
- 3) MASS TRANSIT: the benefit will be raised in 2018 to \$260. If already participating you may need to update your Commuter Direct account if applicable.

### TIPS TO HELP MINIMIZE THE STRESS THAT ACCOMPANIES THE HOLIDAY SEASON:

(Source: Community Counseling Program/ 703 784-3523 or 703 432-6442)

- |                         |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ⇒ Take care of yourself | ⇒ Accept your feelings             |
| ⇒ Plan Ahead            | ⇒ Reach out                        |
| ⇒ Stick to a budget     | ⇒ Take a time out when needed      |
| ⇒ Be realistic          | ⇒ Say no if you really have to     |
| ⇒ Set aside differences | ⇒ Seek professional help if needed |



## MILITARY RETIREES

### "HAPPY RETIREMENT WISHES"

Name	Rank	Division	Years
Beyer, Joshua	MAJ	MTSD	23
Casey, Robert	MSGT	MTSD	24
Clare, Lee	LTCOL	MTSD	20
Dalkiewicz, Matthew	LTCOL	MSTP	20
Donigan, Jonathan	LTCOL	MSTP	25
Eckerfield, Robert	CAPT	G3	20
Gonzalez II, Luis	GYSGT	G1	20
Koloski, Lia	LTCOL	G4	21
Loberg, Gary	LTCOL	MSTP	22
Maddux, Joseph	MAJ	G3	25
McBride, Christophe	CWO2	G8	22
O'Neill, Jeffrey	LTCOL	MSTP	23
Parker, Michael	GYSGT	G4	20
Plescia, Matthew	MSGT	MTSD	24
Pray, Larry	GYSGT	MTSD	20
Rullman, Devin	MAJ	SSEC	24
Salisbury, Michael	MAJ	MSTP	27
Schiefelbein, Peter	LTCOL	G6	26
Snyder, Mike	LTCOL	MSTP	26
Woody, Garnett	MAJ	G4	20

### SPOTLIGHT: FAMILY READINESS OFFICE (FRO)



Capt Sean Clark

FRO statement: The Training and Education Command's Family Readiness Command Team is dedicated to ensuring that our Marines, Sailors, civilians, and their families are mission ready.

The role of FRO entails providing an official communication channel between the command our Marines, Sailors, civilians, and their families.

- Provide information resource and referral services to meet the individual needs of Marines, Sailors, civilians, and their families.
- Provide Readiness and Deployment Support to our individual augments.
- Provide volunteer management for the UPFRP. Our volunteers are essential in supporting family outreach events and other support network activities and programs.

**Contact Info:** Captain Sean Clark:  
sean.r.clark@usmc.mil 703-784-3036

Gunnery Sergeant Joshua O'Connor:  
joshua.oconnor@usmc.mil 703-784-3707

## CIVILIAN RETIREES

### “HAPPY RETIREMENT WISHES”

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Years</b>
Hardy, William “Bill”	Deputy Director Aviation Training Specialist	MTESD	6 YRS/10 MTHS/ 21 DAYS
Kelly, Valencia L.	Information Technology Specialist	G6	7 YRS/4 MTHS/ 29 DAYS
Newbold, Mark A.	Academic and Compliance Branch Head	MCJROTC	11YRS/1 MTH/ 8 DAYS
Bennington, Terry J.	Supervisory Head Training and Education Capabilities Division	TECD	35 YRS/4 MTHS/ 12 DAY
Corroon, Charles K. (Deceased)	Program Analyst	G3	30 YRS/11 MTHS/ 2 DAYS
O’Neil, Bonnie A.	Administrative and Clerical Assistant	TECD	35 YRS/3 MTHS/ 27 DAYS
Ares, Antonio D.	Security Officer	SECURITY	18 YRS/7 MTH/ 15 DAYS
Janos-Morin, Barbara	Management Support Assistant	MCJROTC	25 YRS/6 MTHS/ 20 DAYS
Turner, Nancy B.	Financial Analyst	MCJROTC	40 YRS/0 MTHS/ 18 DAYS
Mobley, Daniel W.	System Support Officer	TECD	39 YRS/1 MTH/ 4 DAYS
Ingles, Ralph W.	Deputy Director MCJROTC	MCJROTC	37 YRS/4 MTHS/ 1 DAY
Klauser, Frederick J.	SUPV Program Analyst	MTESD	36 YRS/1 MTH/ 4 DAYS

### *Editor’s Message...*

Wishing you all a blessed holiday season and New Year!

Sincere thank you to all that participated as article contributors and readers!

Currently, seeking 2018 article participants for the new year.

If you’re interested, please send an email to the following: [TECOM\\_COI.fct@usmc.mil](mailto:TECOM_COI.fct@usmc.mil).

Many thanks.

~Terra Eidinger

