

**Employees:**  
Share with your family!

# ON POINT

## Families

COMMUNICATING - CONNECTING - CARING



MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND  
2012

- ▶ Keeping Faith with Families
- ▶ FRO Focus on Family Needs
- ▶ Evolving MCSC Supports Warfighters

# A message from the **COMMANDER and his WIFE**

## To all family members:

The family members of Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) employees, active-duty Marines and Civilian Marines, contribute greatly to the success of our mission. They are a very important part of our team. That's why we made families one of our top priorities in 2011.

Since our last family magazine (*Spouses On Point*, January 2011) we created a new name and logo, designed our own family readiness web page, added eMarine.org, wrote a team charter, held several family events, reached out to new Command families moving into our area, wrote to families of our deployed team members and started a monthly family electronic newsletter. Families are also attending quarterly events where they learn the stories and successes of various organizations within our Command. We are communicating, connecting and caring better than ever before, and it feels good.

We thought this would be an opportune time to seize the moment to recap fast-moving changes within the Command for newcomers and old-timers alike. This publication is the perfect vehicle to do this, which is why we created a snapshot of MCSC on the move as we keep the Command relevant in a dynamic world. In this spirit, you will find a large feature beginning on Page 10 titled: "An evolving MCSC equips the warfighter to win." Additional stories in this magazine tell you all about our "Family Readiness On Point" program and discuss additional family programs and information.

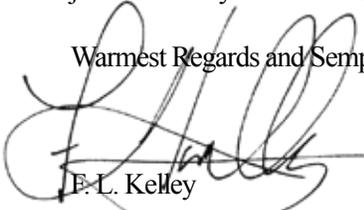
Certainly, you'll want to stay in touch with all our changes and opportunities for MCSC families. Just send your email contact information to [mcscao@usmc.mil](mailto:mcscao@usmc.mil) to receive our monthly newsletters. They are sent out the first Tuesday of each month, and you will find them to be good resources of family readiness and Command information. They also include upcoming event dates to help you plan your activities.

Also, be sure to visit our Command family web pages at [www.marcorssyscom.usmc.mil/families](http://www.marcorssyscom.usmc.mil/families) and [eMarine.org](http://eMarine.org) where you will find digital Command publications, phone numbers, important links to videos and websites, upcoming events and pictures of our very own families.

We have come a long way in 2011, and we should all be proud. We expect 2012 to be even better. Following the fourth priority of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, we are keeping faith with our Marines, Sailors, families and each other. What you do matters, and what we do together matters, too. Let's keep supporting and caring for each other while working and having fun.

Thank you for all you do. We enjoy seeing all of you at our family activities and welcome you to join us at many more events in the coming months.

Warmest Regards and Semper Fidelis!

  
F. L. Kelley  
Brigadier General  
U. S. Marine Corps

  
Traci Kelley  
Commander's wife



Brigadier General Frank Kelley (center) with his wife Traci in blue on his left and the rest of his extended family gather together after a Sunset Parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va. (CVIC photo)



# A message from the FAMILY READINESS OFFICER

## To all family members:

Last year was a good year for families at Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC), as there was a drawdown of liaison officers (LNOs) from Iraq in 2011. There are still Marines and Civilian Marines from our Command deployed to Afghanistan and Kuwait, but the drawdown is happy news for those LNOs and their families.

Also, 2011 saw the founding of our “Family Readiness On Point” Command Team, intended to look after and encourage engagement between all Command employees and their families. The Family Readiness Officer (FRO) now chairs this committee.

As the FRO, I have primarily dealt with Marines and their families. The well-being of the active-duty Marine and his or her family will remain my top priority in 2012. However, as a member of the Family Readiness On Point team, I will be a part of the group that reaches out to Civilian Marine families and active-duty Marine families as one.

Family readiness is defined as families being prepared and equipped with the skills and tools to successfully meet the challenges of the military lifestyle. Having a family prepared to meet those challenges directly affects the fundamental purpose of the Marine Corps, which is “To make Marines and win battles.” We can help by building family commitment and raising morale. This raised morale has a positive impact on the unit as a whole.

Morale is absolutely vital to our mission at MCSC. Our Family Readiness Program is here for all families because we need all our Marines – active-duty and civilian alike – to be as focused as possible on their mission.

As always, information and referral will be the cornerstones of our program. If you or your family might benefit from our programs, made for the unique demands of military life, the resources are there for you to use. As the FRO, I have a dedicated link to Marine Corps Community Services and I am able to provide keen insights into the numerous programs available to all Marines and their families should the need arise. Many of these programs are also available to Civilian Marines and their families. If you need help of any kind, contact the Family Readiness Office at (703) 432-3861. We are standing by to assist.

Take care of yourselves and each other in this New Year.

Regards,



Gerard “Mac” McManus



**Brigadier General Frank Kelley**  
Commander  
Marine Corps Systems Command

**Sanford "Mack" McLaurin**  
Director  
Corporate Communications

**Bill Johnson-Miles**  
Editor, Staff Writer

**Jim Katzaman**  
Staff Writer, Copy Editor

**Carden Hedelt**  
Primary Copy Editor, Staff Writer

**Editorial**  
Address editorial inquiries to:

Marine Corps Systems Command  
Corporate Communications Directorate  
Public Affairs Office  
2200 Lester Street, Room 153  
Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA 22134-5050

Phone: (703) 432-3958  
Email: MCSCPAO@mcsc.usmc.mil  
www.marcorsyscom.usmc.mil

**Layout and Design**  
Laura Bachmann  
Kirk Nelson  
L-3 Communications  
2525 Pointe Center Court, Suite 150  
Dumfries, VA 22026  
Phone: (703) 445-8999  
www.l-3com.com

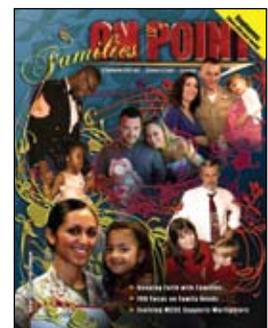
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Base education services open to family members



**On the Cover:** Command employees and their families attended many events throughout the year including Family Fun Day and the Command Holiday Social. (Cover design by Kirk Nelson)



# Communicating Connecting Caring

## Family Readiness On Point Command Team keeps faith with families



Members of the Family Readiness On Point Command Team work hard to turn Marine Corps Systems Command into a family friendly environment for the workforce. (Photo by Barb Hamby)

The Family Readiness On Point Command Team came into existence in May 2011 with a vision to keep faith with Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) families by communicating, connecting and caring. In these first few months, the Family Readiness On Point program has made significant progress to turn the Command into a family friendly environment for the workforce.

But within that workforce lie big challenges. It's a workforce of around 3,000, spread in multiple locations, with many more Civilian Marines than active-duty Marines. The wants, needs and challenges that arise within the workforce can swing greatly from cubicle to cubicle. Although the Civilian Marines and active-duty Marines might face different issues at home, they drive in through the same gates, share the same space and have the same mission: equipping the warfighter to win.

According to Gerard "Mac" McManus, Family Readiness Officer (FRO), the Family

Readiness On Point program was chartered to address the needs of the Marine and Civilian Marine populations as one.

"Although our Family Readiness Program's primary focus is Marines and their families, we recognize that we have a 3-1 ratio of Civilian Marines to active-duty Marines," McManus said. "They also require and deserve the attention of the Command. My role is to help bridge the gap between the Marines and the Civilian Marines in terms of providing information, direction and support for all our families."

The FRO and the rest of the Family Readiness On Point Command Team, of which McManus is the lead, have worked with Corporate Communications to provide websites and several newsletters that fill that gap and communicate important information. All families should register at [eMarine.org](http://eMarine.org) and the Command's family web page is located at [www.marcorssyscom.usmc.mil/families](http://www.marcorssyscom.usmc.mil/families) (see story on Pages 12-13).

The publications include the monthly electronic newsletter *The Point* and the *Family Readiness On Point* newsletter. Anyone interested can sign up themselves or their loved ones to receive these newsletters





The Family Readiness On Point Command Team discusses topics at a recent meeting.  
(Photo by Barb Hamby)

by going online at [www.marcoarsyscom.usmc.mil/families](http://www.marcoarsyscom.usmc.mil/families) or by sending an email to [mescpa0@usmc.mil](mailto:mescpa0@usmc.mil). There are also sign-up sheets available at Command family events.

All the contact information goes into a database. Everyone in the database receives the monthly newsletters on the first Tuesday of each month. The Family Readiness On Point newsletter typically contains a greeting from Mrs. Traci Kelley, the Commander's wife. It also includes information about upcoming events, pertinent seasonal information and additional information that might be beneficial to family members.

Another publication to keep an eye out for is this very magazine. This is the second "family" magazine published in 17 months; the first was called *Spouses On Point*. According to Family Readiness On Point team members, it's a good source of information on a number of activities around the Command and Marine Corps Base Quantico.

Live interaction between MCSC leaders and families is another way families can stay connected to the Command. Family events such as the Family Town Hall meeting are good examples. The Command held its first Family Town Hall in February 2011, and another Family Town Hall was being planned at press time.

"These are great venues for families to come together to learn about our Command and each other," Mrs. Kelley said.

The Family Readiness On Point Command Team sponsored an event in October 2011 organized by then-Ground Transportation and Engineering Systems product group (PG15).

About 150 Command employees and family members attended the PG15 Open House, which featured many of their products and vehicles. Some of the systems on display included the Ground Renewable Expeditionary Energy Network System, the Solar Portable Alternative Communication Energy System, Marine Combat Tractor Skid Loader and mine detectors. More than 40 adults and children tried out the mine detectors. Also, about 70 Command employees and their children took off-road rides in High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs). PG15 is now Combat Support Systems.

The Command's Contracts team put on another Family Readiness On Point event Feb. 14. It emulated popular game shows including "Acquisition Price is Right," "Who Wants to be a Contracting Officer?" and "Are You Smarter Than a Contracting Intern?" The games helped families and employees understand what the Contracts team does – namely, writing the contracts to purchase the goods and services, and



During Family Fun Day in 2011, Dr. John Burrow (above), Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) Executive Director, takes his turn in the dunk tank, and Brigadier General Frank Kelley (right), MCSC Commander, speaks with a group of children. Both gentlemen are part of the Family Readiness Command Team structure.  
(Photos by Bill Johnson-Miles)



Mac McManus, Command Family Readiness Officer, and Mrs. Traci Kelley (right), the Commander's wife, talk with a visitor at the Families On Point table during the Ground Transportation and Engineer Systems Open House in October 2011. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)



acquire the gear Marine warfighters need for the best value possible.

Sergeant Major James Dalgarn, the top enlisted Marine at MCSC and a member of the Family Readiness On Point Team, sees good value in family events.

"What we gain [from the events] is the trust of our families and their professionals in knowing that we care about our families and that we want our families to know we are here to be a conduit of information by caring, connecting and communicating with them," he said. "[At the Family Readiness On Point events] I believe families gain a better perspective of what we do and why we do it."

The Command Team is organizing more frequent Family Readiness On Point events and family get-togethers. They want to schedule activities so family members can see each other on a regular basis, and thus, develop friendships.

Mrs. Kelley knows the value of a good support network from personal experience.

"I can't count all the times that a neighbor or a friend has come over to give me a hand or was just there as someone to reach out to," she said. "Even having someone there to talk to or call can make all the difference in the world."

MCSC's events can help families meet other families, creating and providing that support network.

"All our events are open to everybody," Mrs. Kelley added. "We want everyone to come and enjoy getting to know each other."

Within the first few months of the Family

Readiness On Point team's existence, the Command has held a family town hall meeting, a spouses team-building luncheon, an open house and a game show; published a monthly family newsletter and created two websites. In the future, there will be more family town hall meetings, more Family Readiness On Point events and more publications.

According to Dalgarn, this is a good start.

"We have laid a solid foundation," he said. "What we're trying to do now is figure out what the floor plan is going to look like and does it fit to the liking of our families. That's important to us, and we need to get it right before erecting the final structure. So, we continue to plan and look at different layouts to best fit the house we're designing. Our families deserve the best built and designed home."

— By Carden Hedelt, MCSC Corporate Communications



Command family members attended several events in 2011, including a Spouses Team Building Luncheon. (Photos by Bill Johnson-Miles)





# Family 2012



# y FunDay

Command employees and their family members enjoyed many activities and traditional picnic food during the Family Fun Day in June 2012. Family Fun Day usually takes place in late June after children are out of school and before the Independence Day weekend. Tickets usually go on sale in late May. (Photos by Bill Johnson-Miles)

# Many MCBQ facilities open to DoD civilians and family members

Family members who have never been on Marine Corps Base (MCB) Quantico ought to coax their sponsor to take them sometime. There's an awful lot on base they could be missing out on.

There's a wide range of facilities and services available for use not only by active-duty military but also by Department of Defense (DoD) civilians. Spouses and children may use some of these services, but they may need to be accompanied by their DoD civilian sponsor. Some of those same services are also available for defense contractors, but options are fewer.

The dining choices are plentiful aboard MCB Quantico for active-duty, DoD civilians and contractors alike. This includes McDonald's, Dominic's of New York, Starbucks and the food court at the Marine Corps Exchange and any of the privately owned businesses in the Town of Quantico. The Marine Mart (also known as the Seven Day Store) is also available but only for consumable convenience items.

One of the dining facilities on base, Mulligan's Restaurant, is the 19th hole for the Medal of Honor Golf Course. The par-72, 6,711-yard course lies off of Fuller Road and comes with all the amenities of a top-notch

course, including a practice range, putting green and a pro shop. The course is available for active-duty, DoD civilians and contractors. Those interested in playing on weekdays should call 48 hours in advance of their tee time to reserve their spot. Play on weekends and holidays is on a space-available basis. For more information on the course, tee times and dress code, call the course at (703) 784-2424.

There is also much to enjoy around the base in terms of recreation. These include Information, Tickets and Travel (ITT); All Points Travel; auto hobby shop; bowling center; marina; and the base swimming pool. A big attraction is Lunga Park nestled along a 420-acre reservoir about 7.5 miles west of the MCBQ South Gate on MCB-4. The office and general store are approximately 1.5 miles past the FBI Academy. In the park, you can rent boats, camp out, picnic, fish, hike and much more.

The base movie theater, located in Little Hall at 2034 Barnett Avenue, is another popular attraction.

Seven-year-old Timothy plays on a specialized jungle gym at Lunga Park. (Photo by Corporal Meloney R. Moses)



Exercise and fitness classes are common at the Barber Physical Activity Center. This exercise called shakers is part of the Maximum group fitness class. (Photo by Lance Corporal Shandra Dyess)



The theater shows near-first-run movies, and admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children 2-12. The facility sells popcorn and refreshments at the lobby snack bar, and the theater can accommodate several hundred people. The movies being played are displayed on a marquee in front of the theater, and the theater can be reached at (703) 784-2279.

Besides movies and other on-base facilities to keep youngsters occupied, Quantico's Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) has children, youth and teen programs available for active-duty, DoD civilians and contractors alike. The Children, Youth and Teen Program consists of the Child Development Center, Family Child Care, Quantico Youth Center and School-Age Care Program. For information or registration for any of these programs, contact the Child Care Resources and Referral Office at (703) 784-0674 or (703) 784-4453. For children, youth and teen programs, DoD civilians fall under specific categories. Ask about these categories when you call. *(See story in Family Notes, Page 23.)*

Youth sports are also very popular at the Barber Physical Activity Center, which is open to both active-duty and DoD civilians. This includes the fitness

center, exercise classes, health promotion and intramural sports. The Barber gym is a 57,000-square-foot facility that opened in spring 2004. The facility houses a 9,600-square-foot fitness deck, group exercise room, spin studio, fitness room, three racquetball courts and one full-length basketball court. There is also a TV and Wi-Fi lounge, child co-op, locker rooms and separate saunas for men and women. Butler Stadium behind the gym has recently added a new track, new bleachers and pull-up bars. For more information, call the center at (703) 432-1475.

For more information regarding base services available to DoD civilians and others, visit Quantico's Marine Corps Community Services website at [www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org](http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org).

*— By Carden Hedelt, MCSC Corporate Communications*



The Medal of Honor Golf Course is open to active-duty military, Department of Defense civilians, contractors and family members. *(Photo by Private Andrew S. Keirn)*

Relaxing by the lake at Lunga Park is a common occurrence. *(Photo by Lance Corporal Lucas G. Lowe)*



## Family information, links to services, available online

Most of the information that family members need and want is sitting online right at their fingertips. Located at [www.marcorssyscom.usmc.mil/families](http://www.marcorssyscom.usmc.mil/families), the Marine Corps Systems Command's (MCSC) *Family Readiness Officer – Spouse and Family Information* web page focuses on “Communicating, Connecting and Caring.”

There, beneath the logos for the Family Readiness Officer (FRO) and Family Readiness On Point, is a continuing scroll of photos from recent family events along with an events calendar displaying family-related activities scheduled during upcoming months.

Besides photos and events, videos are available at MCSC's family site. These include the Commandant of the Marine Corps' (CMC) family readiness video and the CMC's FRO video. MCSC is also working on a family video, and it should be uploaded soon.

This magazine is available on the Command's family site, too, along with other publications like *The Point* and *Family Readiness On Point* monthly newsletters, the FRO quarterly newsletter, the Command magazine *Marines On Point*, and Marine Corps Base Quantico's Guide and Phone Directory.

Probably the most popular items on the website are links designed to bring visitors into an interconnected world of family activities.

Two of the links prompt emails; the first one is for visitors to add their email address to the Command's database, which will allow them to receive family information, invitations and the monthly newsletters. With the second link, family members can add their name to the Command's volunteer list. Another link produces important phone numbers for spouses and families.

The newest link to be added to the web page connects visitors to the Command's eMarine site, which is geared more toward active-duty Marine families and readiness but also has plenty of information for civilians. It provides information and support to all unit members, email, announcements, calendar events, documents, photos, forums, surveys, polls and reports. This is where family members can get important information about their Marines' unit from anywhere in the world, 24/7.

Clicking on *Important Links and Websites for Spouses and Families* leads to a list of links for an assortment of sites such as the Marine Corps Family Foundation, Marine Family Network, Military One Source, Quantico's Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) and Quantico MCCS Marine and Family Services.

These links connect visitors to many more websites designed for family support, including some of the following sites.

The National Military Family Association at [www.nmfa.org](http://www.nmfa.org).



# r Fingertips

militaryfamily.org has ever-changing topics. “The National Military Family Association takes great care to inform and educate our supporters and military families,” the website states. “One of the best ways for us to provide up-to-date news and relevant information is through our publications – we want to keep you in the know.”

One visit offered these articles linked from the association’s home page: military spouse scholarship applications available now; recent activities by Congress threaten to eliminate commissary savings; and find out how deficit reduction could affect military families. Beyond that, the association posts several publications. These include “Community Toolkit,” which “suggests easily achievable action items and useful resources to guide anyone who wants to support military families but doesn’t know where to start.”

The Military Child Education Coalition posts E-News through its website at [www.military-child.org](http://www.military-child.org). The coalition is a nonprofit, worldwide organization. Its work “is focused on ensuring quality educational opportunities for all military children affected by mobility, family separation and transition.” Recent E-News topics included “Building Resilient Children” and internal links to “On the Move” magazine, “Military Parent Information,” “Child and Student Programs,” “Education, Training and Resources” and “Coalition Partnerships.”

These and other features originating from the Command’s family website, helps to strengthen the bond between the Marine Corps and its families. They also help the Command to communicate, connect and care for its family members.

– By Jim Katzaman, MCSC  
Corporate Communications

## MILITARY FAMILY WEBSITES

[eMarine.org](http://eMarine.org)

Marine Corps Systems Command Family Readiness:  
[www.marcorssyscom.usmc.mil/families](http://www.marcorssyscom.usmc.mil/families)

Quantico’s Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS):  
[www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org](http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org)

Quantico MCCS Marine and Family Programs:  
[www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/MarineFamilyServices](http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/MarineFamilyServices)

National Military Family Association:  
[www.militaryfamily.org](http://www.militaryfamily.org)

Military Child Education Coalition:  
[www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org)

Marine Corps Family Foundation:  
[www.marinecorpsfamilyfoundation.org](http://www.marinecorpsfamilyfoundation.org)

Marines.mil Family Information:  
[www.marines.mil/usmc/Pages/Family.aspx](http://www.marines.mil/usmc/Pages/Family.aspx)

Marine Family Network:  
[www.emilitary.org](http://www.emilitary.org)

Military One Source:  
[www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil)



# FAMILY

## Readiness Officer

### McManus concentrates on family needs

The Command's Family Readiness Officer (FRO) prepares and equips families with the skills and tools to successfully meet the challenges of the military lifestyle. This is how the Marine Corps defines family readiness, and for the Marine Corps acquisition team that responsibility falls to Gerard "Mac" McManus.

"Family readiness is the ability of families to successfully balance life, career and mission events," McManus said. "It's a combat multiplier, equally as important as the individual, equipment and combat readiness. Family readiness directly affects the fundamental purpose of the Marine Corps, which is to make Marines and win battles. We do this by

building commitment and raising morale, thereby increasing unit readiness."

Even though he supports the families of both civilian government employees and active-duty military, his top priority is the active-duty side, especially when it comes to deployments. McManus makes sure that families of deployed Marines know help is available.

"My primary responsibility is to ensure that our Marines and their families are good to go," said McManus, who has supported families as the Command's FRO for nearly four years.

He filled this position not long after the Marine Corps Family Readiness Program started. It

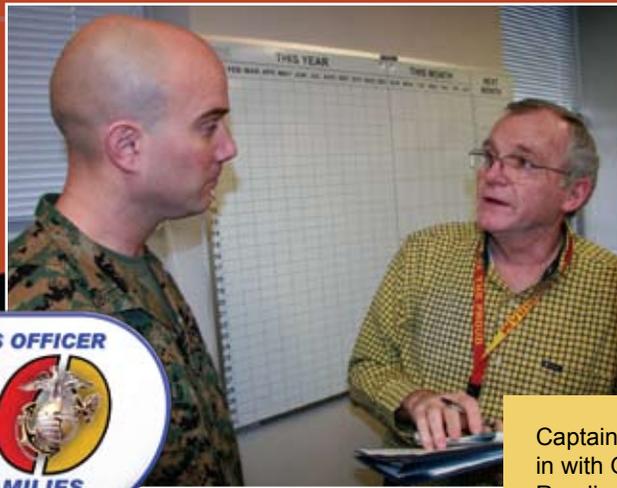
stemmed from an initiative in 2006 in which the Commandant of the Marine Corps made a commitment to not only better equip Marines for their deployments, but their families as well.

The preparation begins with a pre-deployment briefing, which McManus offers to every Marine who travels overseas for an extended time.

"This briefing provides information on all the essential items the family needs such as having all their personal documentation in order," McManus said. "It ensures they are properly prepared for any



During a Family Readiness On Point Command Team meeting, the Family Readiness Officer Gerard "Mac" McManus discusses a topic with Mrs. Traci Kelly, the Commander's wife, and Lynda Fullem (right) of Corporate Communications. (Photo by Barb Hamby)



Captain Dennis Herold of Programs checks in with Gerard "Mac" McManus, Family Readiness Officer, shortly after arriving at the Command. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

unforeseen circumstance. If a Marine knows his or her family is going to be well cared for, the Marine can then focus on mission and safety."

The Command FRO pointed out that single Marines also have families – parents, brothers and sisters – so the pre-deployment briefing is important for them, too. In addition to the Family Readiness Program, there is a Single Marine Program, and the Command representative is Corporal Erica Burruss.

"She attends meetings regularly and provides information on all the services and activities specifically designed for the single Marine," McManus said.

Those meetings are with Quantico's Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS), an organization the FRO has a direct connection with. This helps him inform all Command Marines about the many services and activities on base that can benefit them and their families.

"On Quantico we have the Exceptional Family Member Program, Family Advocacy Program and School Liaison Program, just to name a few," McManus said.

Supporting Marines and their families has given the FRO a wealth of knowledge and information that he shares with the family members of the civilian workforce as well. He does this primarily as the head of the Family Readiness On Point Command Team (see story Pages 5-7). McManus arranges different kinds of family counseling, classes and services on base for all family members, but active-duty military members have priority on available seats. (To learn what base services are available to government civilians and contractors, see story Pages 10-11.)

"MCCS has many programs – childcare, recreational services, something for teens," McManus said. "Families don't have to call all over base for support. They can just call the Family Readiness Office at (703) 432-3861, and we'll facilitate for them."

In addition to base services and deployment support, the Command FRO is the chairman of the Family Fun Day subcommittee and the Holiday Social subcommittee. These are events specifically organized for family members. Family Fun Day is an annual Command picnic that takes place in late June (see photos Pages 8-9), and the Command Holiday Social, which St. Nick himself attends, occurs in mid-December (see photos Pages 16-17).

"These events are a lot of fun," McManus said. "The Command really knows how to throw a party."

Keeping Marines and their families happy is important to the Marine Corps.

"Family readiness is a key component in the Marine Corps' ability to retain Marines," the FRO said. "When Marines and their families know they are important and feel valued, they will be more inclined to want to remain in the Marine Corps."

And this makes McManus happy.

"My satisfaction comes from being associated with such a fantastic group of people," the Command FRO stated. "Except for the Coast Guard, I have worked in some capacity with all the military services, and I have concluded that Marines are a breed apart. It is a privilege to serve them as they serve our country."

– By Bill Johnson-Miles, MCSC  
Corporate Communications

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**Family Readiness Office**  
**(703) 432-3861**

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# Holiday 2011



Employees and family members attended the Command's Holiday Social in December 2011 at the Clubs at Quantico. The event included a holiday dessert contest, and Lisa Miller (pictured above holding the first-place certificate with her husband, Captain Shawn Miller of Program Executive Officer Land Systems, her children and the judges) won with her White-Chocolate Oreo Truffle Holiday Mice. Anyone interested in the recipe can request it by sending an email to [mcscpao@usmc.mil](mailto:mcscpao@usmc.mil). This year's Holiday Social will again take place in December, and tickets should go on sale in November. (Photos by Bill Johnson-Miles)



# Social

## An evolving MCSC equips the warfighter to win

Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC), in conjunction with the Corps' Program Executive Officer Land Systems (PEO LS), outfits Marines with literally everything they drive, shoot and wear. Specifically, the Command's mission is to serve as the Department of the Navy's (DoN) systems command for Marine Corps ground weapon and information technology (IT) system programs in order to equip and sustain Marine forces with full-spectrum, current and future expeditionary and crisis response capabilities.

The Command has management authority and accountability for assigned Marine Corps expeditionary forces weapon and IT system programs with the exception of naval aviation programs and that authority and responsibility specifically assigned to a PEO or Direct Reporting Program Manager. MCSC also has dual-reporting responsibilities. For research, development and acquisition matters, Brigadier General Frank Kelley, MCSC's Commander, reports to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. For in-service support, execution of logistics sustainment and operating forces support, the Commander reports to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

MCSC's focus is the young Marine in harm's way, protecting him

or her, and providing this warfighter the wherewithal to execute the mission. With the help of contracted specialists, MCSC's team of professional civilian Marines and active-duty Marines equips the warfighter to win. They listen, learn, research, develop, test, procure and sustain – whatever it takes to get Marines what they need, when they need it, and according to MCSC officials, they do it efficiently and for the best value possible.

In order to continuously improve the way acquisition programs and personnel are managed, and to keep standards high and effective, the Command has evolved. MCSC, headquartered on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., has realigned under core competencies to “become the systems command the Marine Corps needs and deserves,” Kelley said. The aim, he added, is to strengthen the Command's five primary functions: program management, engineering, contracts, resource management and logistics.

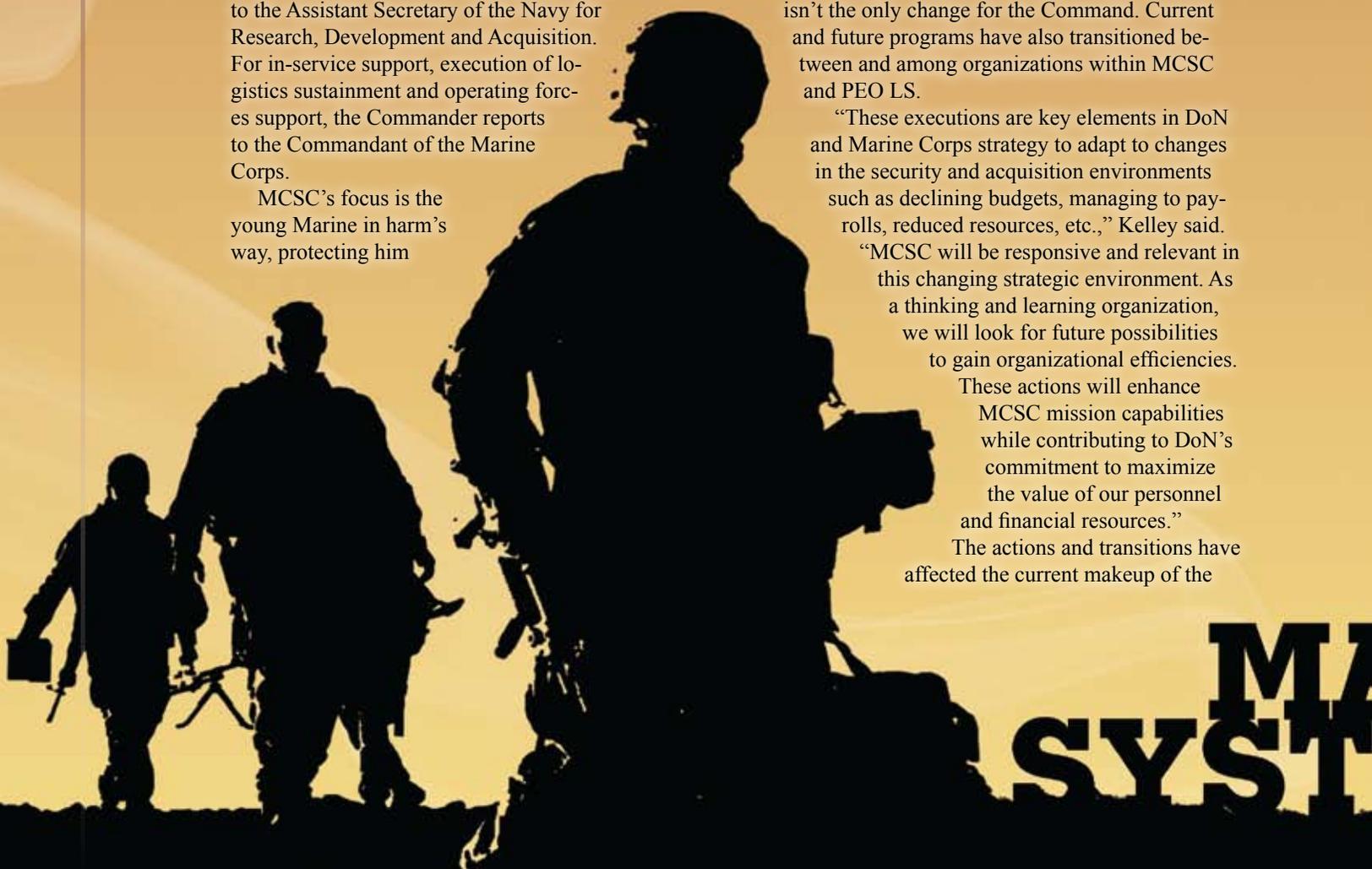
Becoming a competency-aligned organization isn't the only change for the Command. Current and future programs have also transitioned between and among organizations within MCSC and PEO LS.

“These executions are key elements in DoN and Marine Corps strategy to adapt to changes in the security and acquisition environments such as declining budgets, managing to payrolls, reduced resources, etc.,” Kelley said.

“MCSC will be responsive and relevant in this changing strategic environment. As a thinking and learning organization, we will look for future possibilities to gain organizational efficiencies.

These actions will enhance MCSC mission capabilities while contributing to DoN's commitment to maximize the value of our personnel and financial resources.”

The actions and transitions have affected the current makeup of the



# MA SYST

Command. The term “Product Groups (PGs)” and numbers are no longer used. Former PG Directors are now Program Managers (PMs), and many former PMs within those PGs are now Product Managers (PdMs). The Command has also stood up new PMs and others have received new programs and responsibilities. The following is MCSC’s current structure:

**Program Management Offices**

**PM ISI** – Information Systems and Infrastructure, located in Stafford, Va., provides acquisition and sustainment of systems, applications and infrastructure to meet the needs of the Marine Corps. Within its realm ISI focuses on Information Technology (IT) Strategic Sourcing, Marine Corps Network and Infrastructure Services, Total Force IT Systems, Marine Corps Enterprise Services, Emergency Response Systems, and Logistics and Deployment Support Systems.

**PM MC3** – Key elements of the former PG11 and PG12 have combined to form a more robust portfolio alignment as Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Command, Control and Communications (MC3). It also includes programs such as Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Detector Dogs from former PG16 and Counter IED Systems from the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicle Joint Program Office. Additional MC3 programs are Tactical Communication Systems, Networking and Satellite Communications, Radar Systems, MAGTF Command and Control Systems, Digital Fires and Situational Awareness. The following former PG11 programs have moved to PEO LS: Marine Air Command and Control Systems, Composite Tracking Network and Ground Based Air Defense systems.

**PM IWS** – Infantry Weapons Systems equips and sustains the Marine Corps with fully integrated infantry weapons and related systems. Recently, the Infantry Combat Equipment (ICE) program and the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear



Colonel Joe Shrader, the former Product Group Director for Combat Equipment and Support Systems (PG16) and the current head of Armor and Fire Support Systems (PG14), speaks with PG16 team members prior to the product group’s merger with Ground Transportation and Engineer Systems (PG15), which then became PG31. Programs from PG16 moved primarily to PG31, but also to Infantry Weapons Systems (PG13) and Marine Air Ground Task Force Command, Control and Communications (PG23).  
*(Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)*

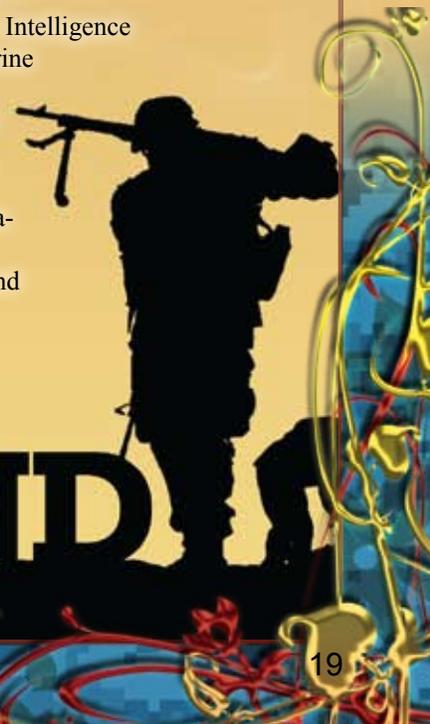
program moved from the former PG16 to IWS. Also, the Marine Expeditionary Rifle Squad program shifted from IWS to System Engineering, Interoperability, Architectures and Technology (SIAT).

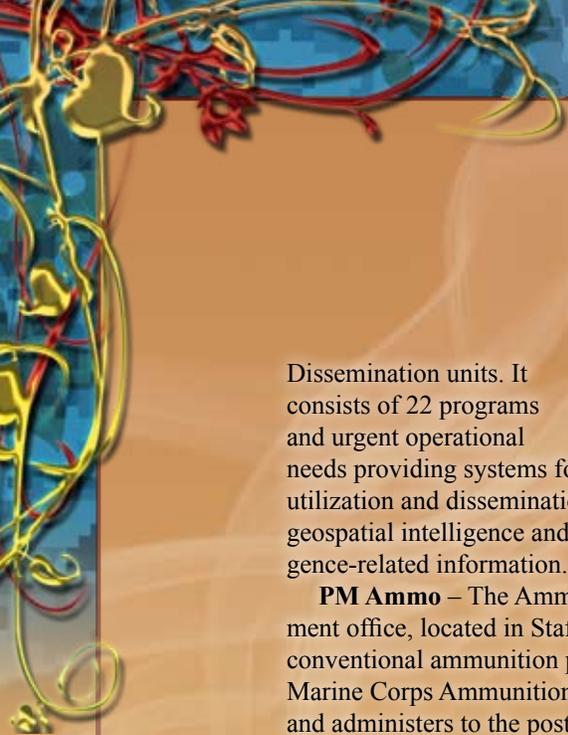
**PM AFSS** – Armor and Fire Support Systems equips the operating forces with assault amphibious vehicle systems, fire support systems, High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, Expeditionary Fire Support Systems and Tank Systems to accomplish their war-fighting mission. AFSS is scheduled to receive the Lightweight 155 mm Howitzer program from PEO LS in the near future.

**PM CSS** – Elements of the former PG16, specifically Combat Support Equipment (CSE) and Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment (TMDE) have merged with elements of the former PG15, Engineer Systems and Expeditionary Power Systems, to form Combat Support Systems. Motor Transportation (MT), which was under the former PG15, transitioned to PEO LS in December 2011. With these transitions and mergers, CSS provides the operating forces with acquisition and lifecycle management of expeditionary power, combat engineer, test measure and diagnostic, and combat support systems.

**PM Marine Intel** – The new Marine Intelligence program expeditiously provides the Marine Corps Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance-Enterprise (MCISR-E) integrated capabilities required by the Marine warfighter and MAGTF intelligence units. Marine Intel is a consolidation of the former PG12’s Intelligence Systems and Intelligence Data Fusion and

# MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND





Captain Robert Hatchley receives his Captain bars from his parents during a promotion and award ceremony in April. Colonel Michael Bergerud, Program Manager for Marine Intelligence, officiated the event. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

Dissemination units. It consists of 22 programs and urgent operational needs providing systems for the collection, analysis, utilization and dissemination of signals, human and geospatial intelligence and other forms of intelligence-related information.

**PM Ammo** – The Ammunition program management office, located in Stafford, Va., executes all conventional ammunition procurements, serves as the Marine Corps Ammunition Inventory Control Point, and administers to the post-production total lifecycle management support for all conventional ground ammunition required by Marine forces to train for and successfully conduct expeditionary maneuver warfare.

**PM LAV** – The Light Armored Vehicle program, located in Warren, Mich., provides technologically superior weapons systems while supplying focused lifecycle management to customers. The team’s goal is to achieve world-class leadership in innovative system acquisition and effective sustainment of armored vehicles.

**PM TRASYS** – Training Systems, located in Orlando, Fla., improves the warfighting effectiveness of the MAGTF and globally deployed maritime expeditionary forces by providing training support and developing and sustaining training systems and devices. They are the training systems acquisition arm for the Marine Corps. The various training products they provide include simulators, mock weapons, range targets and range instrumentation. TRASYS also provides training technology research and development, distributed learning capabilities, training observation capabilities, after-action review systems, training personnel and combat environment role players.

**Joint Programs and GCSS-MC**

**MRAP** – MCSC’s Commander is also assigned as the PEO for the Joint Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle. Manned by civilian and military acquisition personnel from both the Army and Marine Corps, the Joint MRAP Vehicle Program Office (JPO), located in Stafford, Va., and Warren, Mich.,

delivers survivable, fully capable MRAP vehicles to warfighters

and customers. The JPO demands and supports maximum readiness for MRAP vehicles for all services and Special Operations Command, always operating with speed and a sense of urgency.

**Protection** – The Joint Project Manager for Protection (JPM P), located in Stafford, Va., is one of the seven JPMs under the Joint PEO Chemical-Biological Defense (JPEO-CBD) organization. JPEO-CBD provides the Department of Defense and other customers with the protection required to effectively conduct active combat, consequence management and homeland defense operations in Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) environments. JPM P develops, fields, and sustains CBRN protection and hazard mitigation capabilities for the nation. They also facilitate the research, development, testing, procurement, operations and sustainment, and delivery of CBRN survivability and force protection systems in support of all programs designated as CBRN mission critical and those requiring CBRN capabilities.

**Robotics** – The Robotic Systems Joint Program Office, located in Warren, Mich., manages the acquisition, engineering, integration, fielding, testing and sustainment of Unmanned Ground Systems for the Army and Marine Corps. The office ensures safe, effective and supportable Unmanned Ground Systems for the military in combat. RS JPO reports to both the Army’s PEO for Ground Combat Systems in Warren and MCSC.

**GCSS-MC** – MCSC provides administrative, budget and contractual support for Global Combat Support System-Marine Corps, which also falls under Space and Naval Warfare Command’s PEO for Enterprise Information Systems. GCSS-MC, located in Stafford, Va., is chartered to deliver integrated functionality and a logistics software demonstration evaluation. This is implemented through the maximum use of commercial off-the-shelf software, enterprise application integration and middleware software, and web portal software.

At a St. Patrick’s Day event, Mr. James Smerchansky (right), Deputy Commander for System Engineering, Interoperability, Architectures and Technology (SIAT), welcomes the Marine Expeditionary Rifle Squad (MERS) program team members to SIAT. MERS moved from Infantry Weapons Systems (PG13). (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

### ***Support Organizations***

**DC RM** – The Deputy Commander for Resource Management is responsible to the Commander for MCSC Financial Management and Human Resource Management.

**DC SIAT** – The Deputy Commander for SIAT is responsible for leading MAGTF systems engineering and integration efforts, ensuring Marine Corps systems interoperability with coalition and joint forces, and identifying and pursuing science and technology transition opportunities for Marine Corps systems. SIAT is the technical authority for all MCSC and PEO LS programs. The Marine Corps Tactical System Support Activity at Camp Pendleton, Calif., also falls under SIAT, and recently, the Marine Expeditionary Rifle Squad program moved from the former PG13 to SIAT.

**AC Contracts** – The Assistant Commander for Contracts provides quality, timely, cost-effective and value-added procurement solutions to Marine Corps customers, all while being diligent and faithful stewards of the taxpayers' dollars and trust.

**AC ALPS** – Life Cycle Logistics and Product Support recently joined forces to form Acquisition Logistics and Product Support (ALPS). The Assistant Commander for ALPS applies the core strength of the Lifecycle Logistics competency (under a competency-aligned organization) synergistically aligned with the cross-domain knowledge and problem solving techniques inherent to product support. Ultimately, ALPS will assist the Program Managers, Program Executive Offices and our enterprise partners and stakeholders to bring best value (i.e., on time, on target, best cost to government) products and services to Marines and warfighting customers.

**AC Programs** – The Assistant Commander for Programs is a primary staff advisor to the Command's senior leadership and key external customers

in matters of strategic, operational and tactical importance.

**CMO** – The Chief Management Officer (CMO) serves as the Command's leader for strategic change, enterprise business operations, continuous process improvement, and quality facilities and infrastructure by improving, standardizing and integrating essential management and business policies, processes and systems. The Command Information Office and Facilities, Services and Supply fall under the CMO.

Those are the primary organizations within the Command, but additional support organizations include Corporate Communications, Office of the Counsel, Operations Cell, International Programs, Office of Small Business Programs, Postal, Reserve Affairs and Security. Collectively, MCSC's team of professional civilian Marines and active-duty Marines works hard to be timely and consistent in providing quality systems and equipment to the operating forces. They then expertly manage systems and equipment during their entire lifecycle.

The technological advantage MCSC provides helps Marines to shoot straighter, move faster and communicate more effectively so they can continue to win battles in every clime and place. The Command cares deeply about each and every individual Marine and works hard on a daily basis with one thought in mind; that is, to provide our Marines with the systems and equipment necessary to ensure they return home to their families safe and sound.

*– By Bill Johnson-Miles,  
MCSC Corporate  
Communications*





## Sign up to receive information, invitations

All family members are encouraged to provide their email addresses so they can receive the Command's monthly electronic newsletter *The Point*, the monthly *Family Readiness On Point* newsletter, the Family Readiness Officer's quarterly newsletter, important family information and services, and invitations to family events and activities. *The Point* and *Family Readiness On Point* newsletters are emailed the first Tuesday of every month. Family members are also invited to submit articles that may be of interest to other family members and the Command.

To sign up to receive the newsletters and additional items important to family members, send your name, email address and your sponsor's name to the Command's Public Affairs office at [mcscpao@usmc.mil](mailto:mcscpao@usmc.mil). This is also the

email address to submit articles. Email addresses and personal information will not be shared and will be used only to provide important information to family members.

If you have additional questions, email Public Affairs or call the office at (703) 432-3958.

## Survey provides feedback

The first Family Readiness On Point survey launched in early December 2011. The intent of the survey was to obtain feedback from employees and their families regarding past and future activities, to raise awareness about the team's services and to recruit volunteers for future events. A total of 207 people responded and provided valuable feedback that the Family Readiness On Point Command Team will use to plan events for the next year.

Potential activities that generated positive responses included bowling, a

fun walk/run, movie night, a Command open house/get to know us event and a pool party.

Even though the survey has ended, the need for feedback, especially from family members, is ongoing. The Family Readiness On Point Command Team and the Family Readiness Officer want to know how they are doing. To provide feedback and suggestions or submit ideas for events, click on the feedback link on the Command's family web page at [www.marcorssyscom.usmc.mil/families](http://www.marcorssyscom.usmc.mil/families) or send an email to [mcscpao@usmc.mil](mailto:mcscpao@usmc.mil).

## Child, youth and teen programs available on base

Quantico's Children, Youth and Teen Program includes the Child Development Center (CDC), Family Child Care (FCC) homes, Quantico Youth Center and School-Age Care Program. These facilities and programs are open to both active-duty and Department of Defense (DoD) civilian employees who work on Marine Corps Base (MCB) Quantico, but keep in mind that active-duty and single parents receive priority.

The CDC, located at 3311 Purvis Road (a new CDC is currently under construction), is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and classrooms accommodate children according to their age, personal development and any special needs. The CDC is certified by DoD and the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Their U.S. Department of Agriculture-sponsored meal program ensures that children receive healthy food. Two meals and one snack are provided Monday through Friday.

The CDC offers three types of child care: full-day care, part-day preschool care and hourly care. The hourly and full-day care is for children ages 6



At the Spouses Team Building Luncheon last year, ladies sign up to receive information by providing their email addresses. (Photo by Bill Johnson-Miles)

weeks to 5 years, and the part-day pre-school care is for children ages 3 to 5 years. For hourly care, reservations are usually needed two weeks in advance.

FCC homes are certified on-base child care providers for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years. FCC offers full- and part-time home-based care as well as space-available hourly care. FCC providers successfully complete background checks and are inspected monthly for compliance in the areas of fire, health, safety and developmental programming. They also participate in ongoing training to ensure they provide quality child care.

The Quantico Youth Center, located at 3312 Purvis Road, is the focal point for youth activities aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico. The youth and teen program is affiliated with the Boys and Girls Club of America and offers a variety of activities for children ages 6 to 18. The center provides young people with caring one-on-one relationships, and fun, age-appropriate, well-rounded programming. Activities specific to age groups include arts and crafts, games, sports and many special events. Their School-Age Care Program is available Monday through Friday at 6-8:30 a.m. and 2:30-6 p.m. for children ages 6 to 12. The Youth Center is also open Friday nights 6:30-10 p.m., and their Teen Center is open Saturdays.



For information or registration for any of these programs, contact the Child Care Resources and Referral Office at (703) 784-0674/4453.



Family Services Annex, the Clubs at Quantico, Little Hall and O'Bannon Hall. For more information regarding LINKS, call (703) 784-1211. For all the other events and family activities, call MCFTB at (703) 432-1901.

## Family Team Building House offers free classes

The Marine Corps Family Team Building (MCFTB) House, located at 126 Neville Road, offers many classes, programs and events to foster personal growth and enhance the readiness of Marine Corps families. According to MCFTB officials, these activities will enable families to understand and successfully meet the challenge of the Marine Corps lifestyle.

As is stated on the MCFTB website, they “want to ensure that your needs and the needs of your family are met every day to promote both personal and family stability and give you peace of mind about what is important in your life.”

All MCFTB programs are free and include the family readiness program, readiness and deployment briefs, deployment support groups, mid-deployment self-care workshops, a monthly coupon exchange, family and elder care classes, life skills classes, marriage classes, the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program, and the Lifestyle, Insight, Networking Knowledge and Skills (LINKS) program.

LINKS for Girls and LINKS for Spouses meetings are held monthly at the MCFTB House.

Some of these classes are also held at the base chapel's Religious and

## Base education services open to family members

The Voluntary Education Center (VEC) offers a variety of free educational services to active-duty military, family members, Department of Defense civilian employees and reservists. Their goal is to provide the information and tools necessary to achieve educational goals.

The center administers exams for credit, certification and admissions; provides financial aid and tuition assistance advice; and offers education counseling, including information on local colleges and distance learning. The VEC is located on base at 3088 Roan Street, and their phone number is (703) 784-3340.



KEEPING FAITH WITH OUR MARINES, OUR SAILORS AND OUR FAMILIES

# COMMUNICATING CONNECTING CARING

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**Command Family Readiness Office  
(703) 432-3861**

**Corporate Communications Directorate  
Public Affairs Office  
*The Point* and *Family Readiness On Point* newsletters  
(703) 432-3958  
[mcscpao@usmc.mil](mailto:mcscpao@usmc.mil)**

**Command Officer of the Day  
(24-hour duty)  
(703) 432-3966**

**Quantico Base Police  
(703) 784-2252**

**Quantico Eagle Eyes  
Report Suspicious Activity  
(703) 432-Eyes (3937)**

