



February 2012

A message from the Commander's spouse to family members:

Dear Families:

Are you keeping your New Year's resolutions? Do you even remember them? The year is already off to a fast start, so keep your eyes on the prize. Don't compromise or take shortcuts. Use your gifts and talents to make those dreams and goals happen. It is your year to achieve what you have always wanted to accomplish. Work hard, work hard, work hard, but also maintain good balance in your life, too. Remember to take some time to smell the roses.

Speaking of roses... It's Valentine's Day on the 14th, and I hope everyone is sending at least one valentine or special note to someone you love. I may even hand-write mine this year. It's a great way to tell those you love how much they mean to you. Write it, say it, do it and show it. Use every way possible to make someone smile and feel special.

With that said, here are some early valentines from me:

To Warren Williams: Happy Birthday (I hear you enjoy many birthdays each year).

To Shelley Bianca: Thank you for texting me and inviting me to yoga classes with you. I'm going to make one yet!

To the Families On Point team: I love your passion for taking care of our families. You make a difference.

To Captain Bill Inns and family: Thanks for taking such good care of Frank and his crazy schedule. Thanks, also, for the long hours you have spent away from each other while doing so much for us.

To my own family: You are the loves of my life.

To everyone in our Command: Thank you for allowing Frank and I to serve alongside you. You constantly amaze us.

Here's one last valentine message I found online that says it all:

"What the heart gives away is never gone, but kept in the hearts of others, from dusk to dawn."

Love those around you every chance you get. Give great big bear hugs so they know you mean it. Love and time are precious gifts.

Lastly, please come join us from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Feb. 14 at Little Hall Theater for our Contracts' Game Show family event. I promise you don't want to miss this one. You might even be chosen as a contestant. Learn how our Contracts team supports our Marines and Civilian Marines, and have some fun, too. I plan to be there early to get a good seat. I hope to see you there.

Your Valentine,
Traci Kelley

From the desk of the Family Readiness Officer

By Gerard "Mac" McManus

Usually around this time of year we spend a lot of time complaining about the cold and the snow, but this year has been anything but usual. Trees and plants are starting to bud and blossom as temperatures are anything but winter-like in the 60s and 70s in recent weeks.

Not to be too distracted by the beautiful weather outside, but I need to draw your attention to a couple of events taking place either at MCSC or on Marine Corps Base Quantico that I believe you might be interested in.

The first event, the Contracts Variety Game Show, takes place Feb. 14 and is being hosted by the folks in Contracts. It is their way to introduce the rest of us to the various procedures and processes they go through to establish a contract with a vendor. It is being held from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Little Hall. This event is for all members of MCSC and their families. Plan to attend, and come out and see if you are "Smarter than a Contracting Officer."

The next event to be planned is the Annual Family Fun Day. The exact date has yet to be finalized, but we are looking at sometime during the week of June 18-22. Most local schools are scheduled to get out on June 15, so the thinking is that kids are out of school and it is still early enough for families to get on the road for their Independence Day vacation. Stay tuned for the exact date. In the meantime, if you are interested in volunteering to help with this year's event, contact me at (703) 432-3861. I'm sure there will be a place for you.

Lastly, we hope to have MCSC's eMarine page up and running this month. eMarine is the Marine Corps' solution to the Commanders' need to effectively communicate family readiness information and notifications to Marines, civilians, their families and extended families. It is secure and accessible from any computer, by anyone, as long as they have been entered into the system by the Family Readiness Officer. Marines will be entered first via their MOL account. Once that is complete, the civilians will be entered. It is a great tool, and I look forward to it going live.

As you can see, there is a lot going on and a lot for you to attend, participate or volunteer for. Don't be a stranger.

Black History Month honors contributions past and present

Black History Month, observed in February, originated as Negro History Week in 1926 through the leadership of historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson. The 2012 Black History Month theme is "Black Women in American Culture and History" to honor the efforts of women of African descent who have played a myriad of roles in helping to shape our Nation. These women of indomitable will have all enriched the Nation through their leadership, patriotism, intellect and artistic expression.

In American history only a few of the many accomplishments of black women are common knowledge. The prominent and familiar names of Phyllis Wheatley, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells and Rosa Parks are widely known for enormous contributions to the black community and America as a whole. However, equally important are the contributions of black female Marines who blazed new trails in the traditions of American public service. They were women such as Annie Neal Graham who was the first black female to enlist in the Marine Corps; Captain Vernice Armour, the Corps' first black female pilot and its first female combat pilot, and Colonel Gilda Jackson who became the first black female colonel and first female to command the Naval Aviation Depot Cherry Point.

During national African American History Month, events at Quantico and throughout the Marine Corps will recognize and celebrate the dedicated service and contributions of African Americans, both past and present.

There are various Quantico and local-area observances slated during National Black History Month, also known as National African American History Month. The Presidential Proclamation and other links are below:

- Presidential Proclamation -- National African American History Month, 2012

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/01/31/presidential-proclamation-national-african-american-history-month-2012>

-Black History Month Discussion & Movie Screening "Men of Honor" Guest Speaker: CW4 Phillip Brashear, USAR (Son of Carl Brashear) and Guest Speaker: CWO4 Les W. Burke, USNR (Ret) (28-year Navy Diver) at 11 a.m. Feb. 10 at the Pentagon Auditorium, Room BH650, Reception to follow movie presentation. POC: 703-695-0548, donaa_confevents.fct@navy.mil Per Event Host: All are invited to attend. The guest speaker will talk from 11-11:40 a.m.. The movie (90 minutes) is from 11:40 a.m. to 2 p.m.

<https://einvitations.afit.edu/MenofHonorMovieScreening/anim.cfm>

- "Washington DC celebrates Black History Month and remembers the contributions of African Americans in the United States with numerous events and cultural programs. Here are some special events and relevant places to visit in Washington DC to remember and recognize the history of Black Americans..."

<http://dc.about.com/cs/walkingtours/a/Blackhistory.htm>

- At 12:30 p.m. Feb. 25 the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) will host its annual Luncheon and Featured Authors Event; Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole will be the Guest Speaker at the Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C. Here's the link with the information.

http://www.asalh.org/Annual_Luncheon.html

- On Feb. 25, starting with a social hour at 5 p.m. followed by a dinner from 6-11 p.m., the Virginia Black History Month Association will hold its "Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Future" Black History Month Formal Dinner. Keynote Speaker is Ms. Vivica A. Fox, actress, and Master of Ceremonies Mr. Leon Harris, news anchor.

www.QuanticoBHMcommittee.com

'Are You Smarter Than a Contracting Intern?'

MCSC's Contracts Team is conducting an event that includes a series of variety game shows, including Acquisition Price is Right, Who Wants to be a Contracting Officer? and Are You Smarter Than a Contracting Intern? Volunteer contestants will be selected randomly from the audience.

The event will be held from 1:30-3 p.m. Feb. 14 at Little Hall. It is free and open to all MCSC and PEO LS employees and their family members. Light refreshments will be served.

The purpose of the interaction is to show Command team members what the Contracts Team does and what they are responsible for. This activity is the second volunteer event requested by the Families On Point Command Team that focuses on a different Command organization each quarter. The first event was the Ground Transportation and Engineers Systems Open House in October.

National Military Family Association newsletters

Click on the links to read the latest electronic newsletters for [Military Family Topics](#), [The Voice for Military Families](#), the [Monthly Bulletin](#) and [Spouse Club eNews](#), all published by the National Military Family Association.

MC&FP February 2012 eMagazine

The February 2012 edition of the Military Community and Family Policy (MC&FP) eMagazine includes the Department of Defense (DOD) and States Work Key Issues; DOD Camp Opportunities; Kids Deploy, Too; Little Kids, Big Questions Podcast; Military saves Week; MilSpouse eMentor Program; and much more.

Valentines for veterans

From Traci Kelley

This year's National Salute to Veteran Patients is Feb. 12-18. Each February, many people visit and volunteer at VA medical centers and send letters or valentines to those who have protected our nation.

We would like our Command to join in this salute. We want to write and deliver as many valentines as possible. These expressions of gratitude will help us say "thank you" to our veterans and those who care for them.

A basket of blank valentines and pens has been placed on the Command Quarterdeck. Stop by and write a valentine message to a veteran. Feel free to bring cards made at home by family members, too. Hang your valentine on our patriotic palm tree or place it in the box below it. We will make sure all cards get delivered to a deserving veteran. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who have worn the uniform on our behalf, and this will show our heartfelt recognition of their service.

Valentines are being collected Feb. 1-10. Brigadier General Kelley and I will start delivering our valentines to veterans the following week.

Let's make this a big salute and create some smiles this month. Don't miss this opportunity to make a veteran feel special.

Also attached to this email is the invitation to the Dollars for Scholars Mardi Gras Ball on March 2. See the invitation for details.

Military kids can apply for scholarships

The deadline is swiftly approaching for the Fisher House Foundation's 2012 Scholarships for Military Children Program, conducted at military commissaries worldwide.

Military caregivers to gain more support

First Lady Michelle Obama and other senior leaders gathered to honor the service and sacrifice of these military caregivers. Alongside Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, the first lady announced a proposal that would enable more military family members to take the time they need to care for their wounded and ill loved ones.

Taking care of pets while deployed

Although the wars are drawing down, the deployment schedules for our men and women in uniform aren't easing up. Troops continue to meet multiple operational needs, such as theater security exercises with partner nations, Navy ship cruises and other training requirements.

First Lady, Dr. Biden laud Community Challenge finalists

Noting their contributions to military families' lives, First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, yesterday announced the 20 finalists that will compete for top honors in the Joining Forces Community Challenge.

Site connects kids dealing with deployment

The Defense Department has launched a new website intended to bolster military children as they deal with deployments and the other stressors of military life.

Dr. Biden thanks Marines, families at Camp Pendleton

Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, took a whirlwind tour of the base, thanking Marines and their families at each stop along the way.

Dr. Biden: Military kids need schools' support

Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, yesterday joined a group of educators here for a discussion on how schools can better serve and support military families and to learn about a program that's having a positive impact in military children's lives.

New spouse employment programs unveiled at career fair

With more than 100 military-friendly employers on hand, the fair, hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hiring Our Heroes program, offered D.C.-area spouses a wealth of career opportunities, as well an opportunity to hone their resume and interview skills.

Mrs. Dempsey: Military families take care of each other

Caring about military families comes naturally to the wife of the nation's top military officer. She's been an Army spouse for nearly 36 years, and their three children have served in the Army.

Dr. Biden writes children's book on deployment

Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, has written a children's book to raise awareness among Americans, particularly children, of military families' challenges during deployment.

First Lady, 'iCarly' cast celebrate military kids

It was the last of four such appearances as part of the first lady's "Joining Forces" campaign with Dr. Jill Biden, which seeks to get all Americans involved in supporting military families. Similar events were held this week at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.; Naval Submarine Base New London, Conn.; and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

Career fair draws 1,000 job-seeking spouses

More than 1,000 military spouses were on the job hunt at the nation's largest hiring fair and career forum dedicated solely to career-seeking military spouses.

Medical colleges step up care for troops, families

The nation's medical colleges are the latest to join forces with First Lady Michelle Obama to ensure the best care for troops, veterans and their families.

Family readiness video available

The Commandant of the Marine Corps and his wife host a video about family readiness officers.

Medical colleges pledge to care for troops, families

First Lady Michelle Obama announced a commitment from the nation's medical colleges to better train civilian health-care providers in caring for war veterans and their families and to push for more research in the wounds of war.

Obama vows to 'keep faith' with families

Senior leaders underscored their commitment to caring for troops, veterans and their families, and the programs that support them, in a briefing that laid the groundwork for future defense spending.

Airport screening to speed up for families

Service members on orders and their families traveling with them will be moving through airport screening quicker in about six months.

Families foster future military working dogs

Navy veteran Hector Hernandez leans down to hug his dog as she pants noisily from her most recent dash around the living room. She nuzzles into his hand -- a momentary calm in the storm of activity that's Bella.

Military spouse enlightens, educates

Her life and experiences -- the search for self-identity, the revelation of family secrets, her academic triumphs, motherly aspirations, spirituality, perspectives on African-American history and culture, and a number of other topics -- have all been offered up for public consumption in the poetry she posts at <http://www.latoriafaison.com>.