



June 2011

Newsletter

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

What a great time we had May 10 at The Clubs at Quantico with our spouses! Sergeant Major James Dalgarn welcomed us, and then we quickly got busy with our team-building activities. We put "skeletons" together (while blindfolded), played "telephone" (with mimed body movements) and then finished with a great lunch while learning about our new Command Family Readiness webpage and charter. Our beach theme got us in the mood for summer! I hope you were one of the lucky ones who won a gift to remind you of a day at the beach. If you weren't there, we missed you and want you to watch for the next Spouses meeting or family event – we have several in the works. If you have any suggestions or ideas for future events, send them to mcscpao@USMC.mil. We want to hear from you.

Speaking of summer, I think I hear all of our Command kids collectively saying, "Yeah – school's almost over!" It has been a really busy year, and we are all ready to relax. Be sure to come and relax with us June 29 at our Command Family Fun Day and Open House. Every year it just gets bigger and better. Join us for some good food and fun games. We are also heading to the ballpark in Washington, D.C., July 28 to see the Nationals play the Marlins. See you there.

Did you notice something new in "The Point" last month? We re-organized our newsletter into two separate sections so you can easily and quickly find what you want to know and read. It's a work in progress, and we are proud of all who are coordinating the efforts to get it written and published each month. Kudos to Corporate Communications!

We also thought we'd try another new idea beginning next month. We will ask a different person each month to write our introductory letter for "Families On Point." Sometimes it will be a Marine and sometimes a Civilian in our Command. We may even ask a family member from home to write it. If you are asked to write our letter, be sure to tell where you work, what you do and any other information about you or your family. This will give us all a better snapshot of our Command, and families and will also be a great way to learn more about each other. Be sure to share your special talents and skills, too. I know we have some exceptional woodworkers, musicians and athletes at our Command. Don't be shy. This is your time to shine and tell us about you.

I'm so proud to be part of "Families On Point" and hope you are, too. We are a wonderful team of families. In the words of Gloria Pryor in an email I received from her this month, "It is a motivating, feel-good team!" I completely agree.

Our website is <http://www.marcorsyscom.usmc.mil/families>. Be sure to visit it often because it will be updated frequently with information and event dates. We truly are communicating, connecting and caring.

As always, I love seeing everyone, so come out to enjoy our summer family events. There's nothing like spending time with your family and friends.

Thanks for reading "The Point" and for being part of our Command family and activities. I'm having fun and hope you are, too!

Sincerely,
Traci Kelley

Family Fun Day tickets on sale

Grab the kids and bring all your loved ones to work for Family Fun Day scheduled to take place on Hospital Point in front of Marine Corps Systems Command Headquarters, Building 2200, on the Parade Deck from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 29. An open house with static displays will also take place at this time. The date and ticket sales information were changed since the information was published in the *Marines On Point* magazine.

Tickets are now only \$6 per person with a \$25 maximum charge for an entire immediate family of five or more. Admission is free for children under age 12. Marines are also free, but they still need to sign up for their tickets. Tickets will only be sold in advance through June 24. They will not be sold on the day of the event.

All family members are invited to participate in traditional picnic-type events and activities, which include face painting, balloon animal creations, moon bounce and pony rides. A DJ will play tunes, and door prizes will be given away. There will also be a dunk tank this year sponsored by Systems Engineering, Interoperability, Architectures and Technology and supporting the Command's Birthday Ball.

Traditional drinks and eats such as hot dogs, hamburgers and chicken will be available along with candy, popcorn and snow cones.

If you have questions about the event, contact Bobbie Cave at (703) 432-3934. You can also become a Family Fun Day volunteer by calling that same number.

To purchase Family Fun Day tickets, see your unit ticket representative:

Craig Barrett	Bobbie Cave	Matthew Conklin	Rebecca Dembowski
David Denomy	Victor Diluzio	Desiree Dombek	Lori Forrest
Kelly Gibson	Nicois Harris	Tina House	Bill Johnson-Miles
Brian Jones	Antoinette Lloyd	Candy McMahan	Cathy Montgomery
Lavonne Robinson	Pam Sims	Catherine Swedish	Wilma Tuttle
Lorraine Updike	Cynthia Washington		

If your unit is not represented, ask your organization to provide a ticket representative and the name and point of contact information to Bobbie Cave.

Patriotic Pizza Sale on Flag Day, June 14

A Marine Corps Birthday Ball fundraising Patriotic Pizza Sale will take place on Flag Day from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 14 in the Bldg. 2200 basement conference room next to the cafeteria. Celebrate the red, white and blue with pizza for lunch. For only \$6 you'll get one slice of pizza, one soda and one desert. This fundraising event is sponsored by Program, Resource Management, Contracts and the Strategic Change Management Center.

Fundraisers and profits from sales enable all Command junior enlisted Marines to attend the Ball for free. They also help to reduce ticket prices for everyone. The actual MCSC and PEO LS Marine Corps Birthday Ball will take place Nov. 12 at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C.

It is suggested that all Command organizations conduct Birthday Ball fundraising events. If you are planning a fundraising event, contact Birthday Ball Committee Representatives Cathie Kummer at (703) 432-3722 or Sharon Crusenberry at (703) 784-0126. If you have questions concerning the Ball, contact Co-Chairperson Kim Foster at (703) 432-3277 or committee member Bill Johnson-Miles at (703) 432-3287.

Scheduled Birthday Ball fundraising events:

Date	Event	Organization	POC	Phone
June 8	AE Day Concession	Ammunition	SSgt. Bryant Wall	(703) 432-3143
June 8	AE Day Merchandise Sales	Birthday Ball Committee	Priscilla Johnson-Miles	(703) 432-3943
June 14	Patriotic Pizza Sales	RM, SCMC, Prog, Contracts	Wilma Tuttle	(703) 432-4403
June 28	Dunk Tank, Family Fun Day	SIAT	Craig Barrett	(703) 432-3894
July 28	Command Baseball Game	Corporate Communications	Kim Foster	(703) 432-3277
Aug. 5	Command Golf Tourney	PG15	Rick Daley	(703) 432-3743

Family events

Candice Hall has taken photos of her twins that will be included in the summer issue of *Marines On Point*. The pictures were taken Easter Sunday when the babies were a day shy of 6 weeks old. These and other pictures are regular features in the quarterly Marine Corps Systems Command magazine.

Megan Lukschander, daughter of Lynda Fullem, graduated with distinction May 7 from James Madison University. Megan received a Bachelor of Science degree in health sciences.

Marine Corps Community Services events at Quantico

What: Golf Tournament

When: Friday, June 17

Where: Medal of Honor Golf Course, Quantico

Tickets: Now on sale for \$40 per person

Cash (exact change only) or checks made payable to CRWA. No credit cards.

POC: Wilma Vaughn, Room 2, Lejeune Hall, (703) 784-3699

72 tickets available; first come, first served.

Captain's Choice, shotgun start at 8 a.m.

Lunch and golf cart included.

What: White Water Rafting

When: Saturday, June 25

Where: 408 Alstadts Hill Road, Harpers Ferry WV 25425 (800) 326-7238

Tickets: Now on sale for \$35 per person

Cash (exact change only) or checks made payable to CRWA. No credit cards.

POC: Wilma Vaughn, Room 2, Lejeune Hall, (703) 784-3699

About 20 tickets available; first come, first served.

Directions: 1 mile west of Harpers Ferry, turn from US Route 340 onto Millville Road at the flea market. Go 3/10 mile and make a sharp left onto Alstadts Hill Road. Follow to the top of the hill; building is on the right.

Lunch included beginning at noon.

Guided White Water Rafting begins at 2 p.m.

All participants will have to complete a waiver and release of liability form prior to trip departure. Go to

<http://www.riverriders.com/liabilitywaivers.htm> to download these forms.

Visit <http://www.riverriders.com> for helpful hints on the day of your trip.

What: Charter Fishing Trip

When: Saturday, July 9

Where: Point Lookout Marina, 16244 Miller's Wharf Road, Md.

Tickets: On sale starting June 14 for \$40 per person

Cash (exact change only) or checks made payable to CRWA. No credit cards.

POC: Wilma Vaughn, Room 2 Lejeune Hall, (703) 784-3699

Leave the Marina at 3 p.m.; Return to the wharf at 11 p.m.

Bait and tackle included. Bring dinner/cooler.

Transportation not provided.

About 20 tickets available; first come, first served.

[Program offers free museum visits](#)

Service members and their families can visit a vast array of museums across the nation free of charge through Labor Day, thanks to the second-annual [Blue Star Museums program](#). More than 1,300 museums in all 50 states have signed up to participate so far.

[Gates, Mullen praise efforts of troops, families, vets](#)

Flanked by the memorials of wars past, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said he has had no greater honor than serving and leading the U.S. military.

Blogger honors fallen, their families

About a year ago, I had the honor of attending a dignified transfer for two soldiers who had been killed just a few days prior in Afghanistan.

A pledge to remember

Deborah Mullen, a Navy wife and mom and a military family advocate, has been married to Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for 40 years.

Families can access military child guide

The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury has developed a military child resource for parents, other family members and health care providers.

First Lady lauds 'A Force of Families'

The nation's military is built and sustained on the strength of families, First Lady Michelle Obama told the U.S. Military Academy's Class of 2011 and their families at a banquet last night in West Point, N.Y., on the eve of graduation ceremonies.

War bride, minus the war

Sure, I can handle all the chores on my own. I've installed a thermostat, a backyard fence and even a toilet sans husband; mowing the grass is a breeze. I can put together a care package like a champ and know exactly when to take it to the post office to avoid the longest lines. I've given birth alone in the middle of a hurricane and seen two babies grow from newborn to near-toddlerhood with nary an adult around to help. I make a mean batch of family readiness group brownies, I rock at putting together the "we miss you" slideshows to send downrange and I can even listen to "Blood on the Risers" now without cringing. Let me tell ya', Rosie the Riveter's got nothing on me -- I can do it all alone.

First Lady visits military youth center

First lady Michelle Obama visited Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling youth center to complete a congressional spouses service project with 40 of the installation's youth.

Need for healthy diet hits home

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel, appeared on Capitol Hill earlier this spring along with other service leaders to report on the military's state of readiness, including the physical health of the troops. The news mostly was good.

My husband's PTSD

Diana Veseth-Nelson's husband, retired Army Capt. Adrian Veseth-Nelson, was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder after his second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He received treatment through the [Deployment Health Clinical Center's](#) specialized care program. Diana coped with PTSD as a military wife, supporting her husband throughout his treatment while reaching out to other military spouses.

First Lady announces fitness commitments

The first lady quickly urged the kids to "get moving" along with her at several fitness stations scattered around the South Lawn. With about 80 teens at her side, she danced to Willow Smith's "Whip My Hair," hopped through hula hoops in an obstacle course, practiced a few lunges, and took a few minutes to toss a football.

President honors military spouses

Just as service members serve our nation every day, so, too, do their military spouses. In recognition of their significant daily contributions, President Barack Obama proclaimed Military Spouse Appreciation Day.

Families Can Connect With Global Support Network

Nearly 2,000 professionals who support family programs gathered in Chicago for the 2011 Department of Defense and U.S. Department of Agriculture Family Resilience Conference.

Parents help children prepare for deployments

When Erin Hirvela was 2, her parents, Air Force Master Sgts. Gus and Danielle Hirvela, enlisted Sesame Street's Elmo to help their daughter understand why her daddy was going away for a while.

Top enlisted leaders talk family issues

The top enlisted leaders from each service led a packed town hall meeting to discuss their family-focused programs and to field questions from family support professionals attending the 2011 Family Resilience Conference.

First Lady lauds strength, resilience of military kids

First Lady Michelle Obama lauded the graduating seniors of Quantico Middle/High School here last night for their strength, resilience and maturity as they came of age in military families during a time of war.