



October 2012

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

Dear Families:

What are your dreams? And I don't mean the ones you have while sleeping. I'm talking about your dreams and aspirations of achieving something big in life. I heard someone say once that dreams come in a size too big so we can grow into them. We need to give lots of energy and growing room to our dreams and take a chance to do something life-changing. Can you do something big at this stage in your life? Have new dreams and goals? You betcha! It's never too late to dream big and reach for excellence.

I'm sure most of you know this year is the Marine Aviation Centennial celebration (1912-2012). There are lots of celebrations around the country to mark the many milestones achieved as Marines have chased their dream to fly. Here are some of those Marines:

In May 1912, First Lieutenant Alfred Austell Cunningham became the first Marine ever assigned to duties with aviation.

General Keith B. McCutcheon, "The Father of Marine Helicopter Aviation," was one of the early commanders of Marines' first helicopter squadron, HMX-1.

General Frank E. Petersen was the first African-American Marine Corps aviator and the first African-American Marine Corps general.

John Glenn was a Marine combat aviator, an astronaut and a U.S. senator. He has lived life at full throttle and is still honored today for his accomplishments.

Women such as Lieutenant Colonel Sarah Deal, the first female Marine pilot, Captain Jill Stephenson, the first woman Marine to fly the EA-6B Prowler into combat, and Major Jennifer Marino, a highly decorated CH 46E Sea Knight pilot who also served in HMX-1, are more examples of Marines who achieved their dream to fly.

These Marine pilots and many others moved us forward to our great present age of aviation and flying. Did they dream big? Probably every waking moment of their lives.

My dad always dreamed of jumping out of a plane and by age 50 he decided to take the plunge. I admire his courage and persistence to see his dream through. Not an easy task when you are looking down from a plane at 10,000 feet and supposed to jump! Dad, thank you for teaching me that fears can be overcome, and I'm waiting for your next crazy adventure.

What are you made to do? Can you do more? If you're happy with where you are, help someone else achieve their dream. Be supportive, positive, and tell them they can do it.

A lot of our kids are off to college again. Talk about dreamers. They are visionary, invincible and full of energy. It is so exciting to watch them chase their dreams.

Enjoy October and its wonderful weather and keep dreaming. If you notice on Halloween, kids dream big even then, dressing as nurses, doctors, teachers, astronauts, scientists and the list goes on and on. Some dreams are not as explainable, though, such as my son's dead zombie businessman Halloween suit last year. I guess a mom can dream big for her son when he is sidetracked.

I'll leave you with a quote to think about this month because you know I love quotes: "Never give up on a dream just because of the time it will take to accomplish it. The time will pass anyway." - Earl Nightingale

Make every moment of every day count, and never stop dreaming.

Traci Kelley

From the desk of the Family Readiness Officer

By Gerard "Mac" McManus

Fall and the beautiful months of autumn are upon us. The leaves on the trees are already beginning to change their colors and the aroma of fireplaces burning fills the evening air. Yep. Fall is here.

As you go about your daily and weekend activities, let me add a couple of more things you may want to consider doing throughout the month:

I hope by now you have marked your calendars for Oct. 9. MCSC will host a Family Town Hall from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Chapel Annex, Room 125. Brigadier General and Mrs. Kelley will make remarks followed with presentations by Captain Nicole Fiedler, Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) Corporate Communications, on the development of social media within MCSC; Mack McLaurin, Director of Corporate Communication, on effective communication; and I will highlight MCSC's eMarine web page. Ivette Bennett from Marine Corps Family Team Building will lead us through the Four Lenses temperament assessment where we will discover our "colored lenses" on how we view the world and those around us. It should be a very enjoyable, yet informative time. We will also have free child care and free lunch. It's the best deal in town. Space for child care is limited, so register as soon as possible. I hope to see you there. For more information, call me at (703) 432-3961. [See RSVP information below.]

With the kiddos back to school and the school routine setting in, now might be a good time to think about returning to school yourself and earning that degree you have been putting off for so long. On Marine Corps Base Quantico there are at least 14 colleges and universities represented. Let me encourage you to call the Voluntary Education Office at (703) 784-3340 and speak with them to discover which one is best suited for you and your educational goals.

Although it is only the start of October, I am sure you are already being reminded that Halloween takes place later this month. There are three trick or treat events taking place on the base that you may be interested in. One is being held at the Quantico Base Library, (703) 432-4532, and is called "The Monster Mash." It starts at 10 a.m. Oct. 31. The children will stroll around the library while collecting their treats. Children are encouraged to wear their favorite costume. The second event takes place at Little Hall from 10 a.m. to noon Oct. 31. Multiple Marine Corps Community Services departments will be on hand with information for parents, activities and, of course, candy for the little ones. Lastly, for those who cannot wait until Halloween, Families Overcoming Under Stress (FOCUS), (703) 784-0189, will host an earlier event from noon to 2 p.m. Oct. 27 at the Marine Corps Museum. There will be lots of opportunities for youngsters to have a safe and fun Halloween experience.

Finally, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, The Clubs at Quantico will host a Latin Weekend Dance Party from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Oct. 5. Plan now to attend and have a fun time.

Family Town Hall set for Oct. 9

The next Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) Family Town Hall will be from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Oct. 9 at Quantico's Chapel Annex, Room 125.

What color are you? Orange? Blue? Green? Gold? Come to the Family Town Hall and find out. The Family Town Hall, open to all MCSC family and friends, will include the Four Lenses Temperament Assessment, latest Command news, family information updates and much more. Free on-site child care and a complimentary light lunch will be provided. RSVP to the Family Readiness Office by Oct. 2 via email at mcscpao@usmc.mil or by phone at (703) 432-3861 if you'd

like to attend. Be sure to include the total number of people attending and the number and ages of children needing childcare services.

Biggest losers triumph

Information Systems and Infrastructure announced the final result of the Eight for Forty Eight at Barrett Heights contest, otherwise known as the Biggest Losers finale.

Judging was based on greatest percentage of body weight lost by the end of the challenge. The final order was based on greatest percentage lost with these three top weight losers:

Alfredo Jimenez, third place

Russell Dunson, second place

Lavonne Robinson, first place

Get out the vote

It's Absentee Voting Week. The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) encourages service members, spouses, their voting-age dependents and overseas civilians who want to vote to visit [FVAP.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) at [http://www.fvap.gov/](http://www.fvap.gov) to register and request their absentee ballot if they have not done so already. MCSC voters should contact Command Voting Assistance Officer Major Alan Singleton at (703) 432-3968 for the most immediate information.

Citizens should vote their absentee ballot as soon as they receive it and return it immediately to their local election office to ensure it arrives in time to be counted. If voters do not receive their ballot by Oct. 6, FVAP recommends they complete and mail the back-up, Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to their local election office. If, after submitting the ballot, they receive their state absentee ballot, they should also vote and return it. If both ballots are received by the deadline, only the state ballot will be counted. The absentee ballot may be submitted any time after submitting an federal post card application.

Online voting assistants at FVAP.gov can help complete the application and ballot in minutes for the voter to download, print and submit to the local election official.

Voting assistance officers are ready to assist with the absentee voting process for all personnel and dependents. Watch for Absentee Voting Week events on military installations and embassies worldwide. FVAP's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP>, will highlight upcoming events.

Quantico thrift store closes permanently

Thrift store on Marine Corps Base Quantico is closing permanently Dec. 6. There will be no more discounted Marine Corps uniform items in the area. Current hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday, along with some Saturdays.

Marine Corps uniform items will be given to the Camp Lejeune Thrift Shop. All other items will go north to area bases. There are 30 percent-off sales on many items (uniforms, furniture, office items, etc.). As closing day approaches, discounts will go up and availability will be less.

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.

MCCS tri-fold available for October

The Marine Corps Community Services tri-fold listing events at Quantico is available at this link:

<http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/storage/MCCSQuantico/assets/00-PDFs/MCCSMonthlyOctoberTrifold.pdf>

Special Report: National Hispanic Heritage Month

As the Nation observes National Hispanic Heritage Month, an American Forces Press Service special report available at http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2012/0912_hispanic-heritage/ highlights the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the Defense Department's mission.

Defense Department studies families mourning service members

The Defense Department's Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences is conducting the nation's first large-scale study of the impact of a service member's death on surviving family members.

DOD receives military family support award

The Defense Department has been honored by a nonprofit organization for its collaboration with Congress in creating programs to support military families.

Council adds family reps, prioritizes troop, family support

The Defense Department's Military Family Readiness Council convened at the Pentagon yesterday with more family representation and an agreement to work to save troop and family support programs from budget cuts.

Family panel addresses exceptional issues

The panel's meeting last month in Alexandria, Va., was the third of its kind conducted by DOD's [Office of Community Support for Military Families with Special Needs](#), or OSN, in the past year to address the Exceptional Family Member Program's family support priorities.