



September 2012

## A message from the Commander's wife:

Dear Families,

This month I'd like to talk about doing the right thing. With school starting, it's important for us to talk about this with our kids, no matter the age. We adults can benefit from this conversation, too. I often hear my kids talking about situations in their lives and I find myself telling them to just do the right thing. Doing, saying and believing the right thing is not always easy... DOING THE RIGHT THING CAN BE HARD ...Standing up for what's right, even when it's uncomfortable or unpopular, takes courage, conviction and strength of character to then follow through with words and actions. Our Commandant, General Amos, has launched an ethics training program aimed at engaging every Marine to act ethically and responsibly both on the battlefield and the home front. We all need to assess our actions and rise to this challenge.

I hear people talking about doing the right thing everywhere, and we are doing it a lot:

- At a retirement, a Marine said: "My whole career I was just trying to do the right thing. I'm not special but I knew that I needed to be a good man and do the right thing."
- A certain Sergeant Major (whom we all know and love!) in an email to me: "I'm just trying to do the right thing."
- A friend of mine said: "I received credit for something I didn't do. It was so hard not to take the credit, but I told the truth and it all worked out well. It felt good to have done the right thing."

It's hard because sometimes you're tired and it's easier to go with the flow, not create waves, and take the easy way forward. Unfortunately, it usually doesn't work out so well and never ends up feeling right. Every day, we are challenged to do the right thing. Making the right decision is sometimes easier said than done. You have to practice making right decisions so it becomes second nature. When you are faced with a decision, stop and think. Remember, others are always watching. They may also be trying to do the right thing but not know how to start. They may make a try at it, botch it up, but with good intentions. Not everyone thinks the same or has the same comfort levels. Work at your own level and help each other along the way.

Take a stand to do what's right and others will follow. Sometimes others are just waiting for one person to act. Be that leader! You can't control the actions of others but you CAN control how you respond, react or answer to situations and people. You may sometimes be disappointed in others, but keep BEing a role model. Don't let your standards slip to make it easier. Show others the way through your actions. Be the "Class Act" in the room.

Speaking of class acts, we'd like to congratulate the following people in our Command on their awards at our latest Town Hall:

**Andrew J. Higgins Award**  
Lieutenant Colonel Brian Seiffert

**Eugene M. Stoner Award**  
Master Gunnery Sergeant William Leal

**Donald Roebling Award**  
David Keeler

Congratulations to all of you for a job well done! We know your families are proud of you and we are, too.

So say, do, spread and even better yet, think about doing the right thing. You don't always feel like doing it, but when you do, it feels good. Continue leading the way!

Sincerely,  
Traci Kelley

## From the desk of the Family Readiness Officer:

Can anyone say “whiplash?” It feels as though we were just at our Family Fun Day, and yet, here we are, starting another new school year! Where has all the time gone? Hopefully your summer vacation memories are filled with fun, family BBQs and just plain ol’ relaxing. Now that summer is officially over and the kids are back to school, it is time to once again hit the ground running with all the new school-related activities.

It has been an eventful summer for our Family Readiness Program as well. We had a visit by an Inspector General team in July that was beneficial in pointing out new ways to improve our program so we can have a greater impact on more members of our Command and their families.

Please mark your calendars for this year’s Command Holiday Social. We are scheduled to have this event once again at The Clubs at Quantico on Tuesday, Dec. 18. Make sure you check out some of the photos from last year’s event when you log onto eMarine. I’m sure they will help you ease into the holiday spirit.

Speaking of eMarine, if you are not able to log on, please contact my office at (703) 432-3861 so we can upload information which will then allow you to register. Then you will then be able to keep up with all the latest happenings regarding Marine Corps Systems Command, Marine Corps Base Quantico and the surrounding area. We even have links to family information for our workforce locations in Florida, California, Georgia, New Jersey and Michigan. If you really want to know what is going on throughout the Command, eMarine is the place to be, so sign up now!

Mac McManus  
Family Readiness Officer

## QOSO schedules ‘Welcome Aboard’ and requests donated gowns

The Quantico Officers' Spouses' Organization (QOSO) is inviting new personnel and families to attend their “Welcome Aboard” event on Monday, Sept. 17, at The Clubs at Quantico. With this event, QOSO welcomes newcomers to Marine Corps Base Quantico and hopes to make their transition better by providing an opportunity for them to become better acquainted with Quantico and the surrounding communities.

QOSO is also sponsoring the Beauty of the Ball Gown Collection. Dig those gently worn ball gowns out of the closet and donate them. Gowns will be given away to other spouses at a later date, before the balls begin. Also accepted are shoes, purses, jewelry and other accessories that are appropriate ball attire. You may also bring your gently used gowns and accessories to their Welcome Aboard on Sept. 17. They will have a collection point at the event. For more information on both the Welcome Aboard event and donated gowns, visit <http://www.qoso.org/>.

## MCCS holding two job fairs, one at the CDC and one at the MCX

Quantico’s Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) is holding two different job fairs at the same time on Saturday, Sept. 8, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The first job fair is at Quantico’s Child Development Center (CDC) at 3311 Purvis Rd., and the second one is at the Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) at 3500 Russell Rd. On-the-spot interviews will take place for child and youth program assistants at the CDC and retail positions at the MCX.

MCCS employees on Quantico are also provided access to MCCS recreational facilities, MCX, Quantico pool, Quantico base theater, Quantico bowling center, Barber Physical Activity Center, Medal of Honor Golf Course, Auto Hobby Skills Center, All Points Travel Office and more.

For more information, call (703) 784-3454 or check out the flyer located on VIPER at:  
<https://mcs cviper.usmc.mil/Lists/Command%20Messages/Attachments/372/Job%20Fair%208%20Sept%20flyer.pdf>

## National Military Family Association newsletters available

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.

## Exceptional Family Member Program schedules events

To learn more about the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) and to sign up for the EFMP classes and events listed below, visit <http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/marine-family-programs/exceptional-family-member-program-efmp/>. Unless otherwise indicated, classes and events are held at the EFMP House, 122 Neville Rd, Quantico, Va.

The EFMP Open House is an opportunity for families to meet the EFMP staff and share ideas with other families enrolled in the program. The EFMP Open House will be held Thursday, Sept. 6, 5-7 p.m.

Come meet other families enrolled in the EFMP and learn about available resources at the EFMP “Morning Coffee” event. Their guest speaker is Suzanne Bowers, Executive Director of the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC). She is committed to providing information and resources to individuals with disabilities and their families. Free on-site childcare is available during the event upon request by calling (571) 931-0524. This event will be held Thursday, Sept. 13, 10:30-11:30 a.m., at the McHugh Woods Community Center, 18005 Cutts Ave., Quantico.

The EMFP Respite Care Orientation class will be held Sept. 11, 11:30 a.m to noon, and Sept. 18, 5-5:30 p.m. To utilize the EFMP Respite Care Program, a sponsor or designee is required to complete one 30-minute session of the EFMP Respite Care Program Orientation class. Respite orientation is a requirement to participate in Quantico EFMP installation Respite Care program. Class registrations are required.

The EMFP Special Education Boot Camp will take place on Sept. 15, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Religious and Family Services Center, 3019 Embry Loop, Quantico. Knowledge is power when advocating for your child’s special education program. Join Chris Bastian in a three-part series teaching the basics for a successful Individual Education Plan (IEP).

The EFMP Military Committee for Persons with Disabilities (MCPD) will meet on Sept. 13 from noon to 1:30 p.m. R RHW McHugh Woods Community Center, 18005 Cutts Ave., Quantico. MCPD is an advisory committee made up of military members, active duty, retired military personnel and Department of Defense personnel who provide recommendations to the base commander regarding installation improvements or access to care for family members with special needs. Free on-site childcare is available during the event upon request by calling (571) 931-0524.

## Kick-off the weekend with a dance party at the Clubs

The Clubs at Quantico is featuring a Friday Night Jam Weekend Kick-Off Dance Party on Friday, Sept. 7, from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at their location near the roundabout, 3017 Russell Rd. It is open to all authorized patrons age 18 and up, and there is no cover charge. The party includes a cash bar and bar menu, free popcorn and a DJ, and the designated driver program. For more information, call (703) 784-4264 or 432-0363, or check out the flyer on VIPER at: <https://mcscviper.usmc.mil/Lists/Command%20Messages/Attachments/374/Friday%20Night%20Jam.pdf>.

## Muscle cars take over Quantico Saturday, Sept. 8

Marine Corps Base Quantico is hosting a Muscle Car Show on Saturday, Sept. 8. The registration fee is \$5 for active duty and \$10 for all others. A dash plaque will be given to all participants and awards will be given in eight categories. For additional information, contact Ms. Joey Scharlat, (703) 432-0170, or check out the flyer on VIPER at: <https://mcscviper.usmc.mil/Lists/Command%20Messages/Attachments/297/car%20show%20flyer.pdf>.

## Learn more about Space-A flights

Military personnel, retirees and family members are invited to a Space-A Information and Tips session on Sept. 26, 1-2 p.m., at Quantico’s Little Hall Theater. If you are interested in learning how to fly all over the world for almost no cost, then you may want to attend this event. The session covers Space-A eligibility, locations, document check, registration, flight schedules and checking in. For more information, contact Frances Seybold, [frances.seybold@usmc.mil](mailto:frances.seybold@usmc.mil), (703) 784-6083.

## MCCS tri-fold brochure lists monthly events and activities

Quantico's Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) lists all their events and activities on their monthly tri-fold brochure. Check out the September MCCS tri-fold on VIPER at:

<https://mcscviper.usmc.mil/Lists/Command%20Messages/Attachments/373/MCCS%20Quantico%20September%20Tri-fold.pdf>.

## MCEC newsletter is the *Voice of the Military Child*

Click on the link to read the latest Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) newsletter, which is called the *Voice of the Military Child*: <http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=61f9f7f30f3ae525ca9b494f0&id=8ab1b8900a&e=722022787d>.

## Employees, family members of Hispanic descent requested

Marine Corps Systems Command is looking to highlight a few Command team members and/or family members who came from, or whose ancestors came from, Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America or South America. If you are from any of these locations or have ancestors from there, and don't mind a little attention, please notify Corporate Communications at [mcscpao@usmc.mil](mailto:mcscpao@usmc.mil).

## Ball celebrates Marine Corps birthday and 25th anniversary

### *Tickets for the social event of the year go on sale Sept. 17*

The Command's annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball celebration will take place on Nov. 10 this year, the actual 237th birthday of the Marine Corps. This event will also commemorate the 25th anniversary of Marine Corps acquisition commands. This celebration, Marine Corps Systems Command's (MCSC) social event of the year, will again take place at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. A block of hotel rooms will be set aside for Ball attendees, but take note that in past years this block has sold out quickly. Reservation information regarding the rooms will be posted on VIPER once it is available.

Tickets, which go on sale Sept. 17, will be available to government employees, active-duty military, retirees and defense contractors on a first-come, first-served basis. Each organization within the Command will have its own Ball Committee ticket sales representative. The list of ticket sales representatives will be posted on VIPER. These representatives will sell tickets through Nov. 2, unless tickets sell out prior to that date. Those who purchase tickets the first three weeks will be placed in a drawing to have their purchase price reimbursed: three tickets the first week, two the second and one the third.

The chairperson for the Birthday Ball Committee is Kim Foster. Please call her at (703) 432-3277 if you have questions.

## Sign up to receive this newsletter and much more by email

All family members are invited to add their email addresses to the Command's family email list so they can receive this monthly family newsletter, Marine Corps Systems Command's monthly *The Point* newsletter, and more information, invitations, events and activities. You may have previously added your email address to the list, but in order to meet current Marine Corps requirements, the Command now needs to know the name of your spouse (sponsor, Command employee) who works at Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) or Program Executive Office Land Systems (PEO LS). The Command also needs to know if this person is an active duty Marine or a civilian government employee. If it is neither of these, but you would like to continue receiving information, please let the Command know your relation with the Command (former employee, defense contractor, etc.). To provide your email address, please send it and the required additional information to [mcscpao@usmc.mil](mailto:mcscpao@usmc.mil). If you have questions, please call (703) 432-3958.