



# GET TO THE POINT

**MARCH 2013**

Marine Corps Systems Command Monthly News

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MCSC is conducting a survey on body armor and needs your input

Highlights from the Black History Month Luncheon with Col. Stephanie Smith

Single Marine Program News and Upcoming Events

Mrs. Traci Kelley brings in the new month promoting good luck and fortune

Do you have a story to share?  
Submit content to [mcscpao@usmc.mil](mailto:mcscpao@usmc.mil)

Stretching to reach his father's lapel, Tony Jr., completed the pinning of MCTSSA Cyber Security Chief Master Sgt. Tony Alfaro in his promotion ceremony.



# GET TO THE POINT

MARCH 2013

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## this issue

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## Black History Month speaker stresses personal integration, interaction



Col. Stephanie Smith speaks to luncheon guests

Many Marine Corps Systems Command team members filled Mulligan's Restaurant Feb. 21 to hear the daughter of an original Montford Point Marine speak during the command Black History Month Luncheon. Col. Stephanie Smith is currently assigned to the Council of Review Boards as a member of the Physical Evaluation Board. However, she previously served as a special assistant to the Marine Corps Staff working on establishing the legacy of the Montford Point Marines.

In her remarks, Smith recounted the story of a black Marine stationed in the Pacific during World War II whose camera was confiscated by a white Navy photographer. Over time, the two became friends, and although the photographer was obligated by military policy to take the camera, he returned it to the Marine

at the end of his tour. As a result, the Marine was able to salvage some of the only known images of Montford Point Marines operating overseas, Smith said.

"It's important for all of us to reacquaint ourselves with that kind of grace," she said. "We need to use African American history month to refocus on that and rededicate ourselves to the [belief] that it doesn't have anything to do with the color of your skin; it has more to do with who you are. It's an opportunity to say, 'How integrated a life do I live? How purposefully do I interact with people from diverse backgrounds?' Many of us live completely segregated lives. And the vestiges of that actually thwart our ability to move forward.

## 'How integrated a life do I live? How purposefully do I interact with people from diverse backgrounds?'

"The Marine Corps story is one that is worthy of looking into — being honest and open about all of the negative facets of it, but also then focusing on the end result," Smith said. "In 70 years, we have fundamentally changed a society that was historically, from its inception, segregated. And that momentum can move us forward into the future."

The Black History Month Luncheon was hosted by the BHM Committee, Program Manager for Combat Support Systems.



Col. Michael Coolican, Program Manager Training Systems, and the Marines of PM TRASYS met with the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. John Paxton, Jr. February 20 to discuss the impact of PM TRASYS' acquired training systems and services to the fleet.

# MILITARY HAIL

*Thank you for your service*

# AND FAREWELL

## Welcome Aboard

Gunnery Sgt. Matthew Brown  
 Capt. Alexis Harvey  
 Hospital Corpsman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Jason Petrillo  
 Capt. Sean Rayburn  
 Capt. Timothy Shives  
 Capt. Christopher Stephenson

## Permanent Change of Station

Sgt. Justin Barrowes  
 Staff Sgt. Coral Guilbe  
 Sgt. Nathaniel Knopes

## Retirement

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Kurt Garret



Brig. Gen. Frank Kelley, commander, Marine Corps Systems Command, presents Staff Sgt. Coral Guilbe with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal Feb. 26, just prior to her leaving the command. Guilbe worked in MCSC's Staff Secretary Administrative office.

# AWARDS

*Job Well Done!*

# HONORS

## Meritorious Service Medal

Master Sgt. Norman Clark, Jr.  
 Gunnery Sgt. Jerry Embry II  
 Maj. Grant Heinrichs  
 Maj. Henry Kayser  
 Chief Warrent Officer 3 Doris Kosa  
 Master Sgt. Dean Price

## Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Staff Sgt. David Taylor

## Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Maj. Armand Frapper

## Certificate of Commendation

Lisa Baker  
 Shannon Bivens  
 Kimberly Cox-Streets  
 Karen Gillaspie  
 Cynthia Washington  
 Ashley Welsh

## Federal Length of Service Awards

Timothy Doane – 30  
 Doris Lambert – 30  
 Pamela Sims – 30  
 Jean Wood – 30  
 Joseph Burns – 25  
 Melinda Busansky – 25  
 Dale Carr – 25  
 David Wayne – 25  
 Michael Andrello, Jr. – 20  
 Ralph Brubaker – 20  
 Sherri Haag – 20  
 Richard Scitzs – 20  
 Gloria Tuck – 20

## Retirement Awards

Ronald Anderson  
 Theresa Walker

# Command reiterates emergency 911 call procedures

Before a fire or medical emergency occurs on Quantico's Hospital Point, the Marine Corps Systems Command security director reminds everyone of these basic procedures:

- Make the 911 call and provide as much information as possible concerning the exact location (i.e., building number, floor, etc.) and nature of the emergency;
- Notify the front desk at (703) 432-3964 and provide adequate information to explain the situation;
- Make every attempt to post persons outside to help direct emergency responders to the entry door closest to the victim or emergency; and
- Notify your emergency management coordinator and/or office manager and your leaders.

"We had an employee slip and fall, and the emergency responders were not able to respond as efficiently as they could have," said Timothy Wagner, director of security. "In the event of a heart attack or other life-threatening situation, the faster the responders get to the victim the better the outcome."

Those who work away from Hospital Point should modify the steps above to include notifying your mission assurance coordinator, emergency management coordinator and/or office manager.

If you dial 911 by mistake, notify the MCSC front desk and report it. "Emergency responders will show up based on a 911 hang-up," Wagner said. "We'll have to determine if someone placed the call and then lost consciousness."

## PM ISI combines high performance with family events

Program Manager Dan Corbin and Deputy Program Manager Deb Olson show support for PM Information Systems and Infrastructure by displaying milestones for all to read and view outside their office. Having open-door communication is the key to success for any organization and makes everyone feel that each person is valued. They also provide support to a group of people who meet twice a month as a high-performance working group, striving for an improved work environment.

**Having open-door communication is the key to success for any organization and makes everyone feel that each person is valued.**

Marine Corps Enterprise Systems had a meet-and-greet luncheon Feb. 14 for their new employees.

This was a way to formally introduce "new joins" to their work sections and teammates.

ISI members at Barrett Heights volunteered to support Final Salute with donations for "Bundles of Joy," a program that supports Marines that have new babies. The team has collected funds and baby items for two Marines so far.

ISI will team up with Program Manager Marine Intelligence for a June workshop presented by Marine Corps Community Services on the topic of Aging Parents and Elder Care.

# Albany lead logistician good as gold

Mike Brown won't get rich, even though hundreds of thousands of dollars in treasure passes through his hands on the sea floor.

The lead logistician supporting the Infantry Weapons Systems Program Office in Albany, Ga., Brown holds the record for the best known Colonial Spanish Cuzco mint gold coin ever found. The Cuzco mint only produced coins for four months in 1698, and they are extremely rare. He also holds the record for the best artifact recovered in 2012: a silver Spanish rapier (grip and guard) in near-perfect condition. Brown has been treasure diving for the last 32 years, but turned his recreational hobby into a part-time profession in 2008.



His team works under a lease with the state of Florida and has been diving looking for treasure lost July 31, 1715, when a Spanish treasure fleet of 11 ships was lost in a tremendous hurricane. Brown said there is an estimated \$750 million worth of treasure that has not been accounted for. The team locates and recovers the treasures, turns them over to the state and eventually receives a share of their finds.

A Florida native, Brown often gives presentations to dive and coin clubs about his passion, which he said sparks a lot of interest among everyone he meets.

***Diluzio moves to position in***

# DC RM

**V**ictor Diluzio has been selected to replace Amy Hammond as the operations chief in the office of Deputy Commander for Resource Management for Marine Corps Systems Command. He will serve as the community manager for the Corporate Operations and Administrative and Operations Communities of Practice. He will also oversee the command's external audit and Overall Managers Internal Control programs for Resource Management.

Diluzio was selected via a competitive board process. He brings more than 24 years of

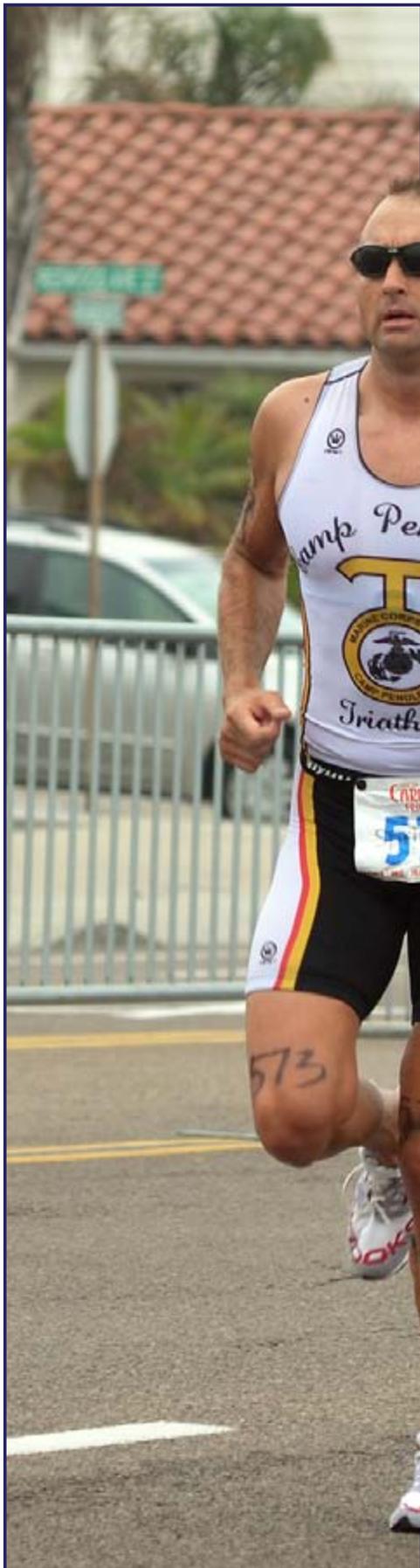
leadership experience as a retired master gunnery sergeant and now a civilian Marine. For the last two years he has served as the lead operations manager for Program Manager Combat Support systems.

He is Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act Level III certified in program management and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in human resource administration, a Master of Science degree in counseling and a Master of Public Administration degree.

*Congratulations* 5

## MCTSSA's McKinney wins Hard Corps Race Series championship

By Wil Williams, MCTSSA Public Affairs



Writing a feature story on a Marine winning a sporting event isn't normally a challenging or complicated exercise. Indeed, that was certainly a sports writing truism until Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity's Maj. Casey McKinney won the Hard Corps Race Series Championship at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Sponsored by the Marine Corps Special Operations Command, the Hard Corps Race Series is actually comprised of many athletic competitions scheduled across a calendar year that include unique and challenging races ranging from bike races to a triathlon to a marathon...and yes, even a mud run. Involving thousands of participants, the top 10 competitors in the four categories of male civilian, male military, female military and female civilian acquire points from their standings in each race, but it's not necessary to compete in all the year's events. Points are accumulated throughout the season, with the Race Series' yearly champion being the person who emerges as the highest point holder in each of the four categories.

The "Devil Dog Duathlon" was, for example, one of the first events in the Race Series where McKinney demonstrated his speed and racing talents.

"The Duathlon is a run, bike, run," said McKinney, who is MCTSSA's command and control chief domain engineer.

"It's a 5-kilometer foot race, followed by a 30-kilometer bike race, followed by a second 5-kilometer foot race."

For that race – with more than 400 athletes cycling and sprinting to the finish line – McKinney's recorded time was 1 hour, 26 minutes, 10 seconds – the fastest in his category.

In another Series event called the "Sprint Triathlon," McKinney – who daily averages eight miles of running coupled with 20 to 40 miles of biking – competed in a 500-yard ocean swim followed by an 18-mile road bike race, and topped off with another 5-kilometer run to win another first place in the Race Series' military category.

Several weeks later, there was the Camp Pendleton "Buffalo Alley" 10-kilometer run. In this competition, the major and 750 other racers followed the same backcountry trails and winding hills and ridge lines, reaching elevations of about 1,000 feet where the American buffalo once roamed. As picturesque and rugged as this run might sound, however, the most visually intriguing race within the

...Continued on page 7

Hard Corps Race Series Champion Maj. Casey McKinney took first place in the annual Sprint Triathlon, one of several competitions held at Camp Pendleton, Calif., as part of the yearlong Hard Corps Race Series. Training about 15 hours per week, McKinney competed in 13 racing competitions last year at Camp Pendleton and around southern California. The major's winning time for this Triathlon – a 500-yard swim, 18-mile road bike race and 5-kilometer run – was 1 hour, 21 minutes and 3 seconds.

Photo by: Denise McKinney

## New Sergeant Major reports aboard



Sgt. Maj. Fletcher Pearson has reported aboard Marine Corps Systems Command as the command's newest sergeant major. The Mississippi native arrived after serving as the sergeant major for the 4th Marine Regiment. This regiment, known as the "Oldest and the Proudest," is based at Camp Schwab in Okinawa, Japan, and is part of the 3rd Marine Division of the III Marine Expeditionary Force. Prior to the Oldest and the Proudest, he served as the sergeant major for 3rd Maintenance Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, Camp Kinser, Okinawa.

Pearson joined the Marine Corps in 1986 and worked his way through the ranks until he was selected for sergeant

major in 2007. He was deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990. In September 2004, he deployed to Abu Ghraib, Iraq, and in September 2006, he deployed to Camp Fallujah, Iraq. Pearson has also served at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The sergeant major's Military Occupational Specialty is Communications Field Wireman, 2512. He is also a trained drill instructor and senior drill instructor, shaping young Marines at Parris Island, S.C.

## MCTSSA's McKinney wins Hard Corps Race Series championship

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major's amazing event repertoire wasn't the Buffalo Alley run. It was Camp Pendleton's world-famous "Mud Run."

Originally developed to encourage civilians to come, participate and show their support for Marines, Pendleton's World Famous Mud Run – which includes tire obstacles, river crossings, 5-foot walls with mud on both sides, a tunnel crawl,

and a final 30-foot mud pit – has for at least 15 years attracted thousands of runners to Pendleton for a day of challenging -- if not spectacular – mud, mud, mud-splashing fun. In this year's Mud Run, McKinney took second out of 2,717 participants.

After tallying up the points accumulated throughout the year from all the competitions, McKinney successfully captured the Hard Corps Race Series Championship crown.

"I've been doing endurance races since 2006," said the major, who competed in 13 race competitions last year at Camp Pendleton and around southern California. "It sometimes feels like a second job, but I enjoy the dedication and camaraderie between athletes. Best of all, I enjoy the results of my hard work."

One last detail on MCTSSA's new endurance racing champion: He's 42. "Ooh-Rah!"

## Elliott new MCSC safety director

Kenneth "Tripp" Elliott has been selected as Marine Corps Systems Command safety director. He will serve as the Systems Engineering, Interoperability, Architecture & Technology director for safety and represent MCSC on Department of Defense, Department of the Navy and Marine Corps System Safety integrated product teams and advisory boards.

Elliott will also oversee the MCSC Occupational Safety and Health programs and continue to lead the Safety Community of Practice.

He was selected via a competitive process from a pool of highly qualified candidates and brings more than 20 years of acquisition and safety experience as a former Army infantryman, firefighter, engineer and now a civilian Marine. For the past two and a half years Elliott has served as the deputy safety director.

Elliott is Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act Level III certified in systems planning, research, development and engineering and holds Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in mathematics.

SAFETY  
FIRST

SAFETY  
FIRST

SAFETY  
FIRST

SAFETY  
FIRST



## MCSC Conducts Body Armor Survey

Marine Corps Systems Command is conducting a survey on body armor and needs your input. The information you provide will be used to support design changes that will enhance Body Armor fit and sizing in the near future. Your comments, opinions and experience are invaluable to this effort and completely confidential. Marines can access the online survey here: <https://usmcsurveys.natick.army.mil/>. The survey must be viewed in either Internet Explorer or Safari and requires a CAC (Command Access Card). The survey ends March 31.

## MCSC pilots new software acquisition approach

*“Our conventional modernization programs seek a 99 percent solution in years. Stability and counterinsurgency missions – the wars we are in – require 75 percent solutions in months. The challenge is whether in our bureaucracy and in our minds these two different paradigms can be made to coexist.”* Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, 2008

These sentiments expressed in a 2008 speech are felt throughout the Department of Defense and beyond. In the commercial world, the challenge is to take advantage of the latest technologies to gain a competitive advantage and increased market share. In DOD, the competitor is the adversary. The consequences of providing competitive capabilities to warfighters too slowly are far beyond the loss of market share. The consequences are potential injury, loss of life and defeat on the battlefield.

The need for an acquisition tempo that responds to operational tempos, the need to obtain high-quality software within a dynamic requirements environment and the need to enhance value amid looming financial constraints has led to DOD interest in agile software development methodologies.

These methodologies have been prevalent in the commercial world for more than a decade. Only recently has DOD started to explore ways to exploit the benefits of Agile software development methodologies in delivering effective capabilities to the warfighter. As a result, DOD is formulating policy that supports the use of these methodologies. As usual, the Marine Corps leads the way

in implementing these capabilities while making strides toward tailoring the existing acquisition framework.

The primary guiding principles of Agile software development emphasize these elements:

- Reduced bureaucracy without sacrificing engineering discipline;
- Continuous face-to-face communication between the customer and the developer; and
- Willingness to adjust to changing needs in order to give the customer the competitive advantages they have identified.

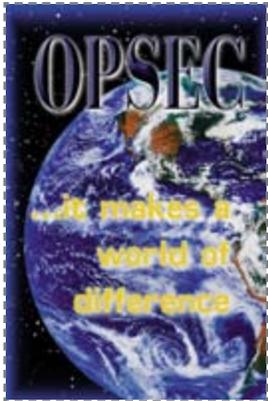
Two pilot programs, one in Program Manager Marine Intel and one in PMM 111, are implementing these principles. The Marine Corps Systems Command pilot programs can demonstrate working software to stakeholders early in the development process, producing significantly streamlined documentation and increased visibility into the status of software development – both without sacrificing quality or discipline. Most importantly, they continue to adapt as customer needs and priorities change. The Agile framework, emerging from lessons learned, has been termed MC-Agile.

The Command is offering monthly Agile informational workshops and will be publishing a monthly Agile newsletter beginning in April.

# Cresswell-Atkinson enters SES

Undersecretary of the Navy Robert Work has approved the selection of Michelle Cresswell-Atkinson as a Senior Executive Service member and as the deputy commander for Resource Management for Marine Corps Systems Command effective March 10.

Cresswell-Atkinson has extensive planning, programming, budgeting and execution, and program management experience gained during the last 24 years. Prior to her most recent position as director of Financial Management for MCSC, she served as director of Business and Financial Management for the Mine Resistant, Ambush Protected Vehicle Joint Program Office. She also served in the AEGIS Shipbuilding program at Naval Sea Systems Command. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Ohio State University.



## Davis new OPSEC manager

Robert Davis has been appointed as the Marine Corps Systems Command Operation Security manager. OPSEC is a systematic, proven process that identifies, controls and protects generally sensitive but unclassified information about a mission, operation or activity.

“The military has always closely guarded its classified information but unclassified information could be just as damaging if an enemy with the intent to do harm gains the opportunity,” Davis said.

He explained that enemies can piece together small bits of ordinary unclassified information like puzzle

pieces to gain a clearer picture of U.S. intentions and actions.

“When effectively employed OPSEC denies or mitigates an adversary’s ability to compromise or interrupt a mission, operation or activity,” Davis said. “Good OPSEC helps to blind our enemies, forcing them to make decisions with insufficient information.”

Social networking sites are a great way to connect with people, share information and market products and services, Davis said.

“But these sites can also provide adversaries with the critical information they need to disrupt your mission and harm you, your co-workers or even your family members,” he said. “The more information adversaries can obtain, the more opportunities they have to cause damage at your expense. Practicing good OPSEC will minimize the risks that come from participating in social networking sites, and help you to recognize and protect your critical information.”

OPSEC is a family affair.

“All family members and loved ones are part of the OPSEC team and need to protect Marine Corps information to ensure our safety,” Davis said. “OPSEC is more than just an acronym; it’s a way of life. OPSEC vigilance is our best defense.”

Submissions?  
[mcscao@usmc.mil](mailto:mcscao@usmc.mil)

## This Issue

### Hail and Farewell

*A special thanks to our Marines*

### Single Marine Program News

*Recent happenings and upcoming events*

### Around the Point

*Features on our Command members & their families*



“Life must be lived as play”

- Plato



*(Graphic by Lisa Koroma)*

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Submit content to [mcscpao@usmc.mil](mailto:mcscpao@usmc.mil)

## Family Readiness On Point Team

Organization	Name
Family Readiness Officer	Mr. Gerard 'Mac' McManus
Family Readiness Advisor	Mrs. Traci Kelley
Single Marine Representative	Cpl. Rodolfo Estrada
DC RM and Small Business	Ms. Liz Taylor
DC SIAT (includes Safety)	Ms. Katie Ruskin
AC Programs	Capt. Jason Lindauer
AC ALPS	Mr. Rod Montgomery
AC Contracts	Ms. Valerie Tolan
PM AFSS (PMM-114)	Mr. Chad Kernan and Mr. Jeff Nebel
PM CSS (PMM-115) and Office of the Counsel	Ms. Bobbie Cave
PM ISI (PMM-110)	Ms. Lavonne Robinson and Ms. Judy Campbell
PM IWS (PMM-113)	Ms. Shelly Bianca and Ms. Lori Forrest
PM MC3 (PMM-111)	Mr. Chris Zaffram and Ms. Amy Knapp
PM AMMO (PMM-116)	Master Gunnery Sgt. Larry Freetage
PM MI (PMM-112) and Ops Cell	Mr. Mark Billow
PM MRAP (PMM-301)	Mr. Derek Hutson
JPM Protection (PMM-302)	Mr. Noel Saunders
GCSS-MC (PMM-230)	Ms. Pam Sims and Ms. Veronica Ackers
CMO	Ms. Nicois Harris
Corporate Communications and Security	Ms. Lynda Fullem and Mr. Bill Johnson-Miles
International Programs	Ms. Antoinette Lloyd and Mr. Rick Wienert

## From The Desk Of The Family Readiness Officer with Mac McManus



Have I ever shared with you my acorn theory? A couple of years ago I noticed when we get a heavy falling of acorns in the fall, that indicated we were going to have a snowy and very cold winter. Remember three years ago when we had blizzard after blizzard after blizzard? Well, that fall I observed that the area around Northern Virginia, Washington, D.C. and Maryland was just carpeted with acorns.

The following year we barely had any acorns in that time frame. Did you know we had barely a flake last year? My theory is that nature knows what's coming so the little critters are provided for the long, cold, snowed-in winter. When snow is not coming and the critters will have access to food throughout winter, minimal acorns.

All of this is to say that now that winter is almost over, and all we've had thus far is just a couple of dustings, I can now safely say I forecasted this back in fall when I noticed, once again, a minimal amount of acorns on the ground. With this in mind, I can only conclude that the Northeast obviously had a lot more acorns on the ground than we did. Acorns—you gotta pay attention to them!

Speaking of acts of nature, we had quite a discussion on "Five Love Languages" last week as part of our monthly Family Power Hour presentations. Ivette Bennett put on a very lively presentation as she discussed the Five Love Languages which seem to permeate most marriages and families. The secret is to discover your love language—what kind of interaction best resonates with you—so you can better understand your spouses and your families. It's hard to communicate what you need when you are not speaking the same language. We had more than 75 folks attend this presentation just in time for Valentine's Day, and each attendee received a copy of the book by the same title. Make sure you mark the second Tuesday of each month so you can attend all future gatherings. In March we will have Sue Hoppin who co-authored the book "Family's Guide To The Military – For Dummies!" Ms. Hoppin will not only give us a broad presentation on her book, but will also take time to provide some of the more technical details of what is involved in writing a book. So if you have an inner urge to be an author, March's Family Power Hour is for you! I look forward to seeing you there!

Also coming in March is the Quantico Officer's Spouse Organization Dollars for Scholars Basket Auction. The main event, a silent auction, will be held on March 16 at The Clubs at Quantico. Commands of the base are putting together baskets that will be auctioned to the highest bidders. All proceeds go to the Quantico Scholarship Fund for graduating





# Mark Your CALENDAR!

## MARCH

Mar. 1-31	National Women's History Month
Mar. 10	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar. 11-12	DMV Mobile Unit, MCX Parking Lot
Mar. 12	Family Power Hour - Author Sue Hoppin, "A Families Guide to the Military for Dummies"
Mar. 12-13	New Join Orientation, Bldg. 2207
Mar. 14	National Women's History Month Panel, Gray Research Center
Mar. 15	Military Spouse Hiring Fair and Career Forum, Washington Convention Center
Mar. 16	QOSO Dollars For Scholars Evening (5-11pm)
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day
Mar. 20	First Day of Spring
Mar. 23	Navy / MC Ball at Washington Hilton (6 pm cocktails / 7:30 pm Dinner)
Mar. 25-29	Spring Break - Prince William County schools
Mar. 31	Easter

## APRIL

Apr. 1	April Fool's Day
Apr. 1-30	National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month
Apr. 1-5	Spring Break - Quantico, Stafford County and Fredericksburg schools
Apr. 9	Family Power Hour
Apr. 9-10	New Join Orientation, Bldg. 2207
Apr. 15	2012 Tax Returns Due
Apr. 19	Marine Day, MCBQ Range 15
Apr. 22	Earth Day
Apr. 24	Administrative Professionals Day
Apr. 25	National Take Your Youth to Work Day

## MAY

May 1-31	National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
May 5	Cinco de Mayo
May 7-8	New Join Orientation, Bldg. 2207

May 13	Mother's Day
May 19	Marine Corps Historic Half, Fredericksburg Expo Center
May 27	Memorial Day

*Other interesting holidays:*

### MARCH

- Red Cross Month
- National Peanut Month
- Social Workers Month
- National Frozen Food Month

### MAY

- National BBQ Month
- National Salad Month
- National Bike Month
- National Photograph Month

### APRIL

- Lawn and Garden Month
- National Poetry Month
- Keep America Beautiful Month
- National Pecan Month

## From The Desk Of The Family Readiness Officer with Mac McManus

*Continued from page 2*

seniors of both current and former Marines assigned to Quantico Marine Base. This year Systems Command's themed basket will be "Things Used for a Block Party." So far we have a corn hole set, picnic table, service set of four plates with cups, a cooler, grill utensils and a croquet set. All the programs within Systems Command have been invited to participate. For further information, feel free to contact me at (703) 432-3861.

That's about it for now. I close by encouraging you all to become more involved. Getting to know folks within Systems Command is a lot like eating an elephant – one bite at a time! Start small, just come to one event and once you've met one person, the process has begun. There is a person who will be attending the next event that is looking to meet you. You have to be there in order for that to happen. You are not the only person looking to meet someone else from Systems Command. So, come on out and meet that other person and make a new friend!

Respectfully,

Mac McManus, Family Readiness Officer

"If you double the number of experiments you do per year, you're going to double your inventiveness." ~ Jeff Bezos, CEO, Amazon.com



Mrs. Traci Kelley

## A Message from the Family Readiness Advisor

writing process. I met her at a book signing at the Marine Corps Exchange a few weeks ago, and she told me how interesting it was to write a “For Dummies” book. I can’t wait to hear all about the process. Who knows, maybe one day I will attempt to write my own “For Dummies” book. Maybe a “Mayhem Moms for Dummies” or “Moms of Many for Dummies” book. See, the creative juices are already flowing.

It’s already March and I can’t believe it. Are you accomplishing your goals? Feeling positive about your successes? March is often thought to be a month filled with leprechauns and luck – leprechaun lore and corned beef and potato meals. Let’s stop to think

Dear MCSC Families:

At the March 12 Power Hour we will meet Sue Hoppin, author of “A Family’s Guide to the Military for Dummies,” one of Mrs. James Amos’ Recommended Reading list books. We are so fortunate Sue agreed to speak at our March Power Hour. She’s going to not only discuss her book, but the entire book-

## Hoppin presenting seminar at MCSC



The co-author of “A Family’s Guide to the Military for Dummies” is conducting a seminar at the next Family Power Hour. Sue Hoppin, a nationally recognized expert on military spouse and family

issues, will discuss her book, how the book writing process works and how it was chosen for the reading list of Mrs. Bonnie Amos, wife of the Commandant of the Marine Corps. The monthly Family Power Hour, hosted by Marine Corps Systems Command’s Family Readiness On Point Team, will take place 11 a.m. to noon on March 12 in Trailer 2209, on the MCSC Headquarters campus aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico.

membership organization supporting the professional career and entrepreneurial goals of military spouses. Prior to her work on the NMSN, she served as the first deputy director for spouse outreach for the Military Officers Association of America. Hoppin co-authored her book for the popular Dummies series in 2007. That same year and the next, Military Spouse Magazine placed her on their Who’s Who of Military Spouses list.

Hoppin has been serving on the Blue Star Families Board of Directors since 2010, and was the Military Family Liaison to Fairfax County School Superintendent’s Business and Community Advisory Council from 2009 through 2012. She also continues to serve on the board of the Air Force Officers’ Wives’ Club.

In 2010, Hoppin founded the National Military Spouse Network, a professional development and networking

about the word “luck.” Do we make it happen or is it random? I like to think we have a part in it. If we set goals, take steps to meet them and fully commit to succeeding, I think luck often follows. Positive thoughts lead to positive actions, which often lead to positive outcomes.

### Let’s stop to think about the word “luck.” Do we make it happen or is it random?

Remember my earlier letter about the power of positive thinking? Create some “luck” or good fortune this month by being positive, helping others and making strides forward toward your goals. Don’t wait for luck to find you. Go after it and make it happen.

As usual, this month my kids will try to trap those crafty leprechauns again when they come at night to cause mischief. The traps are becoming more “engineered” with elaborate schemes to make them work. We’ve never caught a leprechaun, but we’ll never stop trying. Never give up. That’s our Mantra.

May good luck be with you this month and always.

Traci Kelley



## Got eMarine?

Visit <http://www.emarine.org/skins/emarine/home.aspx> to sign up. All Command Marines, civilians and their families are welcome to join.

# Stork News



Maj. Steve Musick and wife Natalia welcomed a baby boy in late December. Major Musick supports the Joint Battle Command – Platform Family of Systems in Program Manager Marine Air-Ground Task Force Command, Control and Communications. Their son, Allen, was born at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital.

Lori and Clint “Justin” Govar, an engineer in Program Manager Combat Support Systems, welcomed the arrival of daughter Sophie Kathleen Govar in January. This is their third child after sons Ethan, 5, and Nicholas, 2.

## Marines treat cancer patient to “best day” ever



For two hours, 14-year-old Kellen Walden set aside his personal struggles and joined the Marines for “the best day of his life.” The Feb. 8 outing on an Orlando, Fla., gun range was arranged through Marine Corps Systems Command Training Systems and its commander, Col. Mike Coolican.

Walden, son of former Marine Kelly Walden, has an extremely rare form of brain cancer called ectomesenchymoma. He was diagnosed in December 2008 after complaining of double vision. Right before that Christmas he had a nine-hour surgery to remove an orange-sized tumor from his brain. He underwent extensive physical and occupational therapy, four rounds of chemotherapy at Orlando’s Arnold Palmer Hospital and six weeks of proton radiation in Jacksonville, Fla.

He was in remission for 18 months before needing more surgery and still receives follow-up treatment.

“His dad was in the Marine Corps for four years, and the family reached out to me because Kellen wanted to talk to some Marines,” Coolican said. “I stopped by to see him last month along with Maj. Kevin Netherton, Marine training Reserve liaison officer.” During this meeting, Kellen mentioned how much he enjoyed visiting the gun range with his dad.

When the Marines planned a professional military education at the gun range in early February, they invited Kelly to meet them.

“We spent about two hours and had around 35 different weapons,” Coolican said. “The Marines were great with Kellen, showing him the different weapons and letting him fire them all.”

His time at the range was therapy all by itself, said Kellen’s mother. In a note to Coolican, Jill Walden wrote, “Right after his adventure with you, he had an MRI at Arnold Palmer. We sat in the lobby and he showed me each picture [taken at the range]. Typically, waiting for an MRI is filled with anxiety, but he told me, ‘Today was the best day of my life!’”

She added, “I can’t thank you enough for your compassion. Friday night was full of excitement, thanks to you.”♦

# Valentines

## send warm message to veterans



Jose Davila wrote a valentine in February, a token of admiration to a warrior unknown but much appreciated. His was one of many Valentines for Vets gathered through Marine Corps Systems Command people and

distributed to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, D.C., and given to wounded warriors as well as other veterans around the hospital.

Many of the valentines originated at the Command Quarterdeck where a basket of cards and writing tools were available. Others were handmade by family members at home, school or from Girl Scouts, who contributed more than 30 valentines.

"Our girls look forward to their fundraisers such as the nuts and cookies through which they collect donations," said April Burks, an MCSC business analyst and Girl Scout Troop 263 leader. "The donations are collected within our troop and outside. Each Girl Scout asks that the donations be made to their special organization, and every year it's been to the veterans."

For the last four years, the Girl Scouts have scheduled a day to visit the old veterans' home in Washington, D.C., to hand out the cookies. That day, Burks said, "is filled with wonderful stories and lunch with some of the oldest veterans in the area. In the past, we also collected for the Wounded Warriors so they would receive fresh cookies on Cookie Day Friday."

Girl Scout Troop 263 in Fredericksburg, Va., is a multi-level troop, serving girls from kindergarten through high school. "They love any opportunity to personally say 'Thank You' and give a little love back to our services' men and women," Burks said. "Valentines let the veterans know how much we appreciate what they did and continue to do for our freedom. We make it a point to visit our veterans and allow them to share their stories. We strive to guide girls to grow to be strong women – women who have strong work ethics, possess strong values and who will become strong leaders."

Another group of young people contributed their time and creativity to the valentines as well. KLR Studios for Dance and Music welcomed the chance for its competition dance team to say thanks to their heroes and do their part to brighten their days. Peggy Toth, a project manager within Program Manager Marine 110 and whose son is a member of the team, brought the idea to the studio directors who gave an immediate "Yes." On a Saturday afternoon, team members used their break times and periods between choreography sessions to write, draw and glue cheerful messages to the veterans and wish them a happy Valentine's Day.

"You can count on kids to make these things special," Toth said. "There were boys and girls of elementary through high-school ages at the studio that day, and each one embraced the activity. Throughout the day we heard, 'Thank You For Your Service' and 'Be My Valentine.'"

KLR is a family owned studio having just opened its doors in late 2012. The directors encourage family and community service as part of their dancers' overall life development. At the end of the day there were nearly 50 valentines done. The dancers, their parents and studio directors all said, 'Thank You' for the chance to brighten the veterans' holiday.

The MCSC commander's wife was touched by all the contributions from every source.

"Thanks to everyone for writing Valentines for Vets cards," Traci Kelley said. "Not only did our command and families write cards, but we also had cards made by the KLR Competition Team in Woodbridge and the Girl Scouts, along with some wonderful candy bags. It felt good letting our veterans know how much we all care."

"An old Japanese proverb states, 'One kind word can warm three winter months.' These cards made the writers and readers alike feel warm inside and out. You are each making a difference with your kindness and caring, so keep doing it," Kelly said.

Katie Ruskin, executive assistant for Systems Engineering Interoperability Architectures and Technology, made the candy bags, a family tradition born from a close tie to Marines.

"For the last few years – since my middle son became a Marine," she said, "I have been putting together the bags and handing them out to the wounded warriors, my son's unit and the people in the building where I work."

This year, Ruskin put together 230 bags of candy. Eighty were sent to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., where her son is stationed; 50 bags were given to Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Frank Kelley for their Valentine's for Vets hospital visits; and 100 bags were handed out in MCSC Headquarters.

"I don't do it for recognition," Ruskin said. "I do it because I want the Marines and civilian Marines to know I appreciate everything that they do on a daily basis to take care of all of us – especially the active-duty service members and wounded warriors. I read a quote by Mother Theresa several years ago, right before I began the candy bags. I remember it every year as I begin the bags. She said, 'It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing. It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving.'"

# Single Marine Program (SMP) Happenings



From Cpl. Estrada, MCSC Single Marine Program Representative

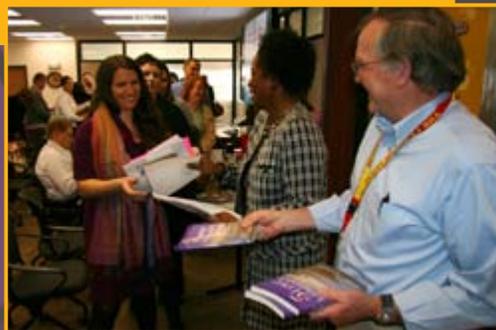
When the opportunity to be Single Marine Program representative first came about, I was a little skeptical due my workload in the Staff Secretary's Administrative Office. But after a few seconds of thinking about it, I took it without a doubt in my mind.

I think I was the best choice for SMP representative because I know 90 percent of the Marines in Marine Corps Systems Command. I knew who most of the single Marines were, and I had also had some experience with the SMP.

I've been to some of the events, I've been to the SMP house, and I know some people who work at the SMP house. I am glad I took the position as the representative. Even though I have only been doing it for a couple of months, I have already set up two of our single Marines with volunteer work and am sure there will be more to come.

I hope to make this my best "project" yet. This is my way of giving back to the command that has given so much to me. ♦

**M**ac McManus (right), Marine Corps Systems Command's Family Readiness Officer, helps Ivette Bennett hand out books at "The Five Love Languages" Family Power Hour on Feb. 12 at MCSC. Bennett, who works for Marine Corps Community Services at Quantico, conducted the session attended by 72 employees and family members.



## Upcoming SMP Events:

MARCH	
Mar. 5	Free Chow (Chili Dogs)
Mar. 6	SMP Meeting
Mar. 6	Troop Appreciation
Mar. 7	SMP Ski Trip (Bryce Mountain, free transportation and lift tickets, depart 7 a.m.)
Mar. 12	Free Chow (Soup and Sandwiches)
Mar. 19	Free Chow (Spaghetti)
Mar. 26	Free Chow (Burgers)
Mar. 27	SMP Trip to Busch Gardens, depart SMP 9 a.m.

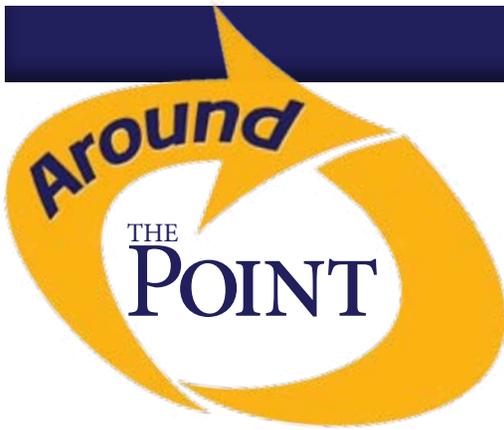
APRIL	
Apr. 3	SMP Meeting
Apr. 3	Troop Appreciation
Apr. 8	NCAA Men's Basketball Final Watching Party (free pizza at SMP House)
Apr. 10	SMP Trip to DC for Cherry Blossoms
Apr. 19	SMP Trip to Kings Dominion
Apr. 26	Trail Ride and Dinner
Apr. 27	Richmond NASCAR race (free transportation)

MAY	
May 1	SMP Meeting
May 1	Troop Appreciation
May 31	SMP Trip Busch Gardens

JUNE	
Jun. 5	SMP Meeting
Jun. 5	Troop Appreciation
Jun. 7	SMP Trip to Water Country USA
Jun. 27	SMP Trip to Six Flags

**SMP events are open to all active duty and Reserve single Marines. To register for the events, contact the SMP Program Office at (703) 432-0363.**

SMP House (Building 206)  
Hours of Operations  
Mon-Thur 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.  
Fri 9 a.m. - Midnight  
Sat 9:30 a.m. - Midnight  
Sun 9:30 a.m. – 11 p.m.



*The family that*

*runs together ...*



**M**aj. Martin Lewis and his wife, Anne, are newcomers to distance running, but they're rushing to make up for lost time.

The major is assistant team leader for Amphibious Operations, Raids and Reconnaissance for the Program



**L**avonne Robinson, a logistician with Information Systems and Infrastructure, is the proud mom of offspring at the bookends of their careers.

Her daughter, Kawanace Green, retired Feb. 13 from the Army at Fort Bragg, N.C. During her career the engineer deployed to Afghanistan three times. She has three boys and wishes to spend more time with them in her retirement. Meanwhile, son Royce Robinson, who once worked at Marine Corps System Command, is beginning a career with the Marine Corps, currently at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Manager for Infantry Weapons Systems. While he was deployed to Afghanistan in the first half of 2012, his wife decided to lose the weight she had struggled with for years. She had never been a runner, either as a school-aged girl or an adult. That notwithstanding, she connected with trainer Rachel Kern, whose husband is also a Marine and member of the Quantico band. Anne began a focused exercise regimen, which included running outdoors. The major was in for a surprise when his deployment ended.

“By the time I returned after six months,” he said, “she had lost 30 pounds and was up to running five miles a day. She said she wanted to run the Marine Corps Marathon’s 10K with me last year, and we did.”

Shortly after crossing the finish line of the 10K, Anne said she could see herself running a marathon. So far she has lost 40 pounds, and the couple is registered to run the 17.75K on March 23 to be guaranteed entry into the marathon.

“Our high-school senior is even running the 17.75K with us,” the major said. “We also plan to run in the Run Amuck in June, but that’s just for fun.”

## Guilbe completes Drill Instructor School

Sgt. Jesse J. Guilbe, spouse of Staff Sgt. Coral Guilbe of the Marine Corps Systems Command Staff Secretary’s Administrative Office, graduated Dec. 19 from Drill Instructor School at Parris Island, S.C., after a three-month course. He is now a drill instructor – the fifth hat – at Parris Island in 2nd Battalion Fox Company. Sergeant Coral Guilbe said, “He graduated the same day as our daughter’s fifth birthday, which made it that much more special.”



# Time to Share – Spouse's Spotlight

## Pride and Personal Growth By Nicole Jones

*Editor's Note: Nicole Jones is the wife of 1st Lt. Patrick Jones, an execution analyst in the Office of the Director, Financial Management/Comptroller. Lieutenant Jones and Nicole have been married since October 2009 and have a 2-year-old daughter. The following are some thoughts Nicole would like to share:*

When asked what it is like to be a Marine wife, I think first of pride. I come from a family tradition of service (three of four grandparents served in the military, my father is a former Marine, and both siblings served in the Army). We look at service to our country with great pride. I met Patrick right before he started Officer Candidate School, and when he asked me to marry him later that year, I did not hesitate to accept the Marine Corps lifestyle: willingness and readiness to change circumstances at little notice. Now that we are into our fourth year in the Marine Corps, I have a more realistic and well-rounded view of what it means to be a Marine wife. We all have different hats to wear, and in my case they include balancing the roles of: mother, wife, student, professor, researcher and Exceptional Family Member Program associate. Each hat involves unique benefits and challenges.

We have found the Marine Corps community to be extremely supportive of family life. Until recently, we lived on base, a wonderful, family friendly experience. Our daughter was born at DeWitt Hospital on Fort Belvoir. We had two years of having five parks

within walking distance, a library with children's programs and Daddy with only a 5-minute commute.

With our daughter at preschool age, I am back to building my career full time, so we have new challenges. In addition to my most important jobs as mother and wife, I am a George Mason University student, finishing my Ph.D. while I also work toward a school administrator's license. I was teaching elementary school and working part-time on my Ph.D. at GMU when Patrick and I met almost five years ago, and I plan to finish my studies next year. I continue to hone my teaching skills with an adjunct position at GMU. Additionally, I am a part-time research assistant with GMU's developmental psychology department.

I am happy to pursue career goals, but just like any working mother, I struggle to balance between always being there for my daughter and husband and excelling in my career. Although many families juggle varied commitments, what is different for a military spouse is how that affects career planning. A successful career involves networking and building relationships, tasks complicated by frequent moves. That uncertainty about frequent moves can feel a little precarious and confining at times, especially in the education field where accepting a teaching or administration position entails a yearlong commitment.

A new experience for me is being part of the Marines' Exceptional Family Member Program. As others in the EFMP know, continuity of care is important not only to health but to peace of mind. Finding appropriate physicians is not always quick or easy. The birth of our daughter precipitated a flare up of my rheumatoid arthritis, adding a layer of complexity to our lives. With the very high-quality medical care we found at Johns Hopkins University, I am still able to mother and work well – a blessing. Being an EFMP family means that the uncertainty we feel about an impending move, which we face this year, is especially visceral as it requires changing care providers.

Although moves are exciting – I grew up as a Foreign Service brat moving around the world – it can also be a little scary. We will go through the usual transitions of finding our daughter a new school, finding appropriate work for me, but also the unique challenge of finding specialized medical care for me so that my condition improves and we can continue to build our family. With so much at stake, I sometimes feel a little overwhelmed, but then I remember that many families are going through much more stressful experiences than us. Patrick has a relatively stable work schedule, and our daughter is thriving. As all parents know, as long as your family is happy and healthy, almost any new challenge is surmountable. ♦



# Coming Soon...



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*No tickets will be sold at the door.*

**Menu:**  
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• Sliders • Raw Baby Carrots  
• Bagged Apples • Jello  
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www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org

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University of Mary Washington

**Betsy Robaly Smoot**  
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HELP

## Links to check out

American Red Cross	<a href="http://www.redcross.org/">http://www.redcross.org/</a>
Children, Youth and Teen Program	<a href="http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/marine-family-programs/children-youth-and-teen-program-cytp/">http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/marine-family-programs/children-youth-and-teen-program-cytp/</a>
eMarine	<a href="http://www.emarine.org/skins/emarine/home.aspx">http://www.emarine.org/skins/emarine/home.aspx</a>
Education Center	<a href="http://www.militaryta.com/education_center/mcb-quantico-marine-corps-education-center-lifelong-learning-center.shtml">http://www.militaryta.com/education_center/mcb-quantico-marine-corps-education-center-lifelong-learning-center.shtml</a>
Exceptional Family Member Program	<a href="http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/marine-family-programs/exceptional-family-member-program-efmp/efmp-calendar-of-events/">http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/marine-family-programs/exceptional-family-member-program-efmp/efmp-calendar-of-events/</a>
Families OverComing Under Stress (FOCUS)	<a href="http://www.focusproject.org/">http://www.focusproject.org/</a>
Family Advocacy Program and Military Family Life Consultants	<a href="http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/marine-family-programs/family-advocacy-program-fap/">http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/marine-family-programs/family-advocacy-program-fap/</a>
Family Member Employment Assistance Office	<a href="http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/marine-family-programs/family-member-employment-assistance-program-fmeap/">http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/marine-family-programs/family-member-employment-assistance-program-fmeap/</a>
Lifestyle, Insight, Networking, Knowledge and Skills (LINKS)	<a href="http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/marine-family-programs/marine-corps-family-team-building-mcftb/links/">http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/marine-family-programs/marine-corps-family-team-building-mcftb/links/</a>
Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS)	<a href="http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/">http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/</a>
Marine Corps Community Relations	<a href="http://community.marines.mil/community/Pages/default.aspx">http://community.marines.mil/community/Pages/default.aspx</a>
Marine Corps Family Team Building (MCFTB)	<a href="http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/marine-family-programs/marine-corps-family-team-building-mcftb/">http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/marine-family-programs/marine-corps-family-team-building-mcftb/</a>
Marine Corps Base Quantico	<a href="http://www.quantico.usmc.mil/">http://www.quantico.usmc.mil/</a>
Marine Corps Systems Command Publications	<a href="http://www.marcorssyscom.marines.mil/CommandStaff/CorpCommDirectorate(CCD)/MarinesonPointQuarterly.aspx">http://www.marcorssyscom.marines.mil/CommandStaff/CorpCommDirectorate(CCD)/MarinesonPointQuarterly.aspx</a>
Military OneSource	<a href="http://www.militaryonesource.mil/">http://www.militaryonesource.mil/</a>
NAF Human Resources	<a href="http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/naf-human-resources/">http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/naf-human-resources/</a>
Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society	<a href="http://www.nmcrs.org/">http://www.nmcrs.org/</a>
New Parent Support Program (NPSP)	<a href="http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/marine-family-programs/new-parent-support-program-npsp/">http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/marine-family-programs/new-parent-support-program-npsp/</a>
Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR)	<a href="http://www.quantico.usmc.mil/activities/?section=SAPR">http://www.quantico.usmc.mil/activities/?section=SAPR</a>
Single Marine Program	<a href="http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/single-marine-program/">http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/single-marine-program/</a>

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**A Family's Guide to the Military DUMMIES**

**\* One hour seminar by Sue Hopkin, co-author of A Family's Guide to the Military for Dummies.**

**\* She will discuss her book, how the book writing process works and how it was chosen for Mrs. Amos' Reading List.**

**\* If you plan to attend, please RSVP to mcspeao@usmc.mil.**

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