

1700
MRQ
23 Jan 2008

From: Chairman, Family Readiness Committee
To: Chairman, Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS), Board
of Directors (BOD)

Subj: FAMILY READINESS COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 12 DECEMBER 2007

Ref: (a) FRC Charter

1. Per the reference, the Family Readiness Committee (FRC) convened at 0805 on 12 December 2007 at the Davis Center (Building 3300), Marine Corps Combat Development Center, MCB Quantico, VA.

2. Members Present:

LtGen K. Stalder, CG II MEF, Chair
Ms. T. McLaughlin, MARFORRES
Ms. K. Faison, MARFORCOM
Ms. E. Simms, MCRC
Mr. S. Kelly, MARCORBASESPAC
CAPT L. Greenslit, Chaplain of the Marine Corps (Rep)
CAPT D. Gibson, Medical Officer of the Marine Corps (Rep)
Ms. A. Conway, Spouse, CMC
SgtMaj R. Himsworth, Senior Enlisted Rep, II MEF
Ms. C. Fox, KVN Subcommittee Chair
Ms. M. Regner, L.I.N.K.S. Subcommittee Chair
Mr. T. Larsen, Ex Officio, Director, MR
Mr. B. Barnes, Ex Officio, Deputy Director, Marine and Family Programs,
MR (Acting)
Mr. B. Driver, Ex Officio, Recorder, MR (Acting)

Members Excused:

Spouse, APMC
Spouse, SMMC

Others present:

LtCol J. Melton, MR Division
Capt L. Philipp, II MEF
Ms. K. Lewis, MR Division (VTC)
Mr. G. Gordon, MR Division
Ms. M. Petrella, MR Division
Mr. R. Winkelhausen, MR Division
Mr. J. Clarke, MR Division
Mr. W. Dillon, MR Division
Ms. C. Erickson, MR Division
Ms. K. Johnson, MR Division
Mr. D. Turner, MR Division
Mr. G. Mayberry, Camp Lejeune
Maj J. Snellgrove, MCAS Cherry Point
Mr. R. Soule, MCAS Miramar
Mr. J. Sollis, MCB Camp Lejeune
Ms. G. Kramlich, L.I.N.K.S. Subcommittee Advisor
Ms. M. Rau, MR Division
Ms. S. Doss, MR Division
Ms. G. Reed, MR Division

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Others present continued:

Mr. T. Loughlin, MCB Quantico
Ms. C. Catlin, 29 Palms
Ms. S. Della-Corte, MCB Camp Pendleton
Ms. J. Mohrlock, MCB Camp Pendleton
Ms. S. Stalder, Spouse, CG II MEF
Ms. S. Himsworth, Spouse, Senior Enlisted Rep, II MEF
Mr. M. Swords, Deputy Director, Military Personnel & Recreation
Ms. C. Nance, MCCDC
Mr. S. Pauli, Camp Butler (VTC)
Mr. R. Milano, Camp Butler (VTC)
Ms. P. Caserio, MCLB Albany

3. Overview of Feedback from the Road Show. Mrs. Lewis reported that the Road Show had received overwhelmingly positive feedback from Marines and their families. Approximately 1,400 people had participated in the meetings held at Camp Lejeune, Camp Pendleton and Camp Butler. The Team heard concerns about both the military and civilian FRO options, number of allotted FROs, shorter FRO tour length and promotion potential, pay setting, simplifying unit family readiness funding, and support for Navy personnel. The team also heard many positive comments about standardizing volunteer recognition programs and including parents in family readiness programs. Feedback was also received about wide acceptance of the training plan and that current FRO's wanted to be involved in refreshing content. Miscellaneous comments were also received regarding fixing the overseas screening process, status of policy revision for the Family Care Plans, and unit policies about enhancing websites.

Discussion ensued regarding the feedback provided by the Road Show Team. Mrs. Conway said that she was surprised to hear about the pay disparity issue for civilian FROs. Mr. Sollis informed her that the issue deals with one East Coast command and was being corrected. Mrs. Conway also recommended that the tour length for Military FROs be no less than 18 months. LtGen Stalder said his number one concern was finding the manpower to fill the dedicated military FRO billets. He informed the committee that this need will be reviewed during the uncompensated structure review process.

Mrs. Regner asked how the issue of developing and maintaining rosters is going to be addressed in the new paradigm. Mrs. Lewis responded that rosters have always been an issue. Under the new system, the FRO will be responsible for updating the rosters using the Mass Communication Tool (MCT). The Family Readiness Assistants will be focused on contacting new joins and providing information and referral. Mr. Larsen said that we are putting a lot of faith into the capabilities of the MCT. LtGen Stalder said that II MEF would be beta testing the MCT and will share their experiences with other commanders.

Mrs. Fox asked if the issue of civilian FRO availability has been addressed. Mr. Larsen said that the FRO will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Mrs. Fox asked how aviation units will continue the practice of passing information to family members about aviation mishaps using the MCT. Mrs. Conway added that, due to culture differences, there needed to be different standards for the types of information passed to ground and aviation units. LtGen Stalder agreed that MR should examine this issue.

SgtMaj Himsworth said he would work with the NCO Academies to address family readiness training needs. He also said that FRO assignments should be for 24 months and that he felt being one should not have an adverse effect on the

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promotion of a Marine. In his experience, FRO responsibilities would prepare a Marine to be a unit First Sergeant as most of his time as a First Sergeant was spent dealing with family issues.

CAPT Gibson said that Navy personnel stationed aboard Marine Corps bases appreciate the support that MCCS provides, but there are still some gaps. Camp Lejeune's Navy-specific L.I.N.K.S. has been very helpful. LtGen Stalder requested that MR examine what else can be done to help Navy personnel.

Action Item 1: MR will examine how to use the MCT in aviation units in the event of an incident.

Action Item 2: MR will examine ways to address family readiness needs of Navy personnel that are part of Marine units and stand-alone squadrons.

4. Review of 29 September 2007 Meeting Minutes. The minutes were approved as submitted.

5. Old Business Updates/Status. LtCol Melton began a review of the actions generated at the 29 September 2007 meeting. Some of the tasks had been overcome by events. MR was directed to scrub the list and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

Action Item 3: MR to provide updates on old business items at the next meeting.

6. Review Operational Planning Team (OPT) Draft Charters. Mr. Barnes briefed the committee on the proposed OPT charters. Discussion ensued about adding Marine Corps Recruiting Command as a member of the Policy, Manning and Staffing OPT. Mr. Larsen told the committee that commanders would select their representatives. The Chair asked the committee to provide a sensing on the concept of the draft charters and the members were all in favor.

Action Item 4: MR to report on OPT memberships once the membership has provided their feedback on the draft charters.

7. Subcommittee Charters Update. The update of the subcommittee charters was tabled until changes in the family readiness program are finalized.

8. Focus Group Overview. Mr. Barnes discussed the draft MCCS Focus Group Instructional Guide. Discussion ensued and the committee wanted to know what the focus areas would be. Mr. Larsen explained to the committee that those areas had not yet been determined and would be based on the feedback that has been collected by the Road Show Team.

9. MCRC Generational Characteristics Brief. Mr. Dan Wiedensaul, MCRC Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, Advertising, MCRC, briefed the committee on the generational characteristics of the Marines, specifically "Millennials (Generation Y)". Discussion ensued about how best to reach them with our family readiness message.

10. Family Readiness Newsletter Update. Mr. Larsen briefed the draft family readiness newsletter that he will send out each month. Discussion ensued and Mrs. Conway requested that a section be added for Senior Spouse input.

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11. Family Readiness Campaign Plan. Mr. Larsen briefed the committee on MR's intent to publish a campaign plan document. LtGen Stalder asked that the committee be given an opportunity to review the final document.

12. Closing Remarks. The chair opened the floor for comments from the committee members. Mr. Larsen noted that starting in January 08 the Road Show would be going to installations not already visited. Mrs. Conway asked if we were allowing enough time to advertise the new civilian positions. Mr. Larsen responded that enough time is being allotted and that we are not going to settle for unqualified personnel. Mrs. Conway thanked the committee members and MR Division Staff for their efforts to help Marines and their families. LtGen Stalder closed the meeting at 1042.

/s/

K. J. STALDER
Chairman
Family Readiness Committee

B. J. DRIVER
Recorder (Acting)