



Family Care Branch



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SPECIAL POINTS

OF INTEREST:

INSIDE...

* Enhancing Quality of Life	2
* Informed Assignment Process	2
* Children's Safety and Health	3
* School Liaison	4
* Off Base Child Care Fee Assistance Modification	5
* Family Support Services	6
* TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery	7

Integrating the Programs in the Family Care Branch

We are utilizing the talents and capabilities in each of our programs to increase support to Marines and Families. We are keeping faith!

The Family Care Branch enhances Marines and their families' quality of life by providing programs which provide care and services for children, youth and teens, exceptional family members, and assistance to school age family members dealing with Local Education Agencies (LEAs). Specifically these programs include:

→Children, Youth, and Teen Program (CYTP). Marine Corps CYTP provides assistance to families in locating quality, affordable childcare, recreating, youth, and teen service options for full-day, part-day, and hourly needs. These services may be provided in a variety of settings on and off the installation. Resource and referral services shall be included to expand the availability of childcare, youth and teen services and provide referrals to quality, affordable childcare and youth programs.

→Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP). The EFMP supports families that support a member with a disability through family support via MCCS programs and through contractual partnerships with public and private organizations to facilitate a continuum of care. A Family Case Worker is assigned to each enrolled Marine family. Also EFMP provides legal assistance. EFMP attorneys provide individual attorney-client representation for EFMP families primarily to obtain benefits and services for the exceptional family member under state and federal laws. By following specific procedures and guidelines, EFMP will ensure that sponsors with exceptional family members (EFMs) are assigned to duty stations where services exist to support the EFM with access, and availability, to medical and educational services. Enrollment in the EFMP shall not prejudice advancement or promotion opportunities.

→School Liaison Program (SLP). The SLP identifies and coordinates community resources to reduce the impact of the mobile military life style on military school-age children and families; implements predictable support services that assist children/youth with relocations, life transitions, and achieving academic success; and provide a wide range of resources that facilitate school transitions to parents, students, schools, commanders and communities. School Liaisons (SLs) support all military school aged children within the SLs assigned area. SLs maintain direct contact with their assigned LEAs and provide materials, services, training, or other support that increase and enhance the LEAs awareness of the Marine Corps mission and educational needs of the military families.

Enhancing Quality of Life



The Family Care Branch enhances Marines and their families' quality of life. We will enhance the quality of life through our inclusion efforts.

EFMP is partnering with Children Youth and Teen Programs on the Kids Included Together (KIT) Project. The mission of KIT is to provide learning opportunities that support recreation, child development, and youth enrichment programs to include children with and without disabilities.

KIT will provide a phone-in support center, webinar training, Marine Corps specific training DVD, formal presentations and eLearning subscriptions to CYTP staff to better assist them as they focus on support and inclusion of children with and without disabilities. EFMP staff participate in the KIT installation site visits and workgroups to provide perspective particular to the challenges and needs of families who have children with special needs.

HQMC EFMP, CYTP and Semper Fit are working together to address barriers to access, programming and training. The intent of this collaborative effort is to encourage Semper Fit program access and utilization for individuals with special needs. This may include the use of adaptive equipment, creative programming or training to ensure Family Care staff are confident in their ability to support an individual with special needs. We look forward to building on our collective strengths in support of our families.

The Informed Assignment Process

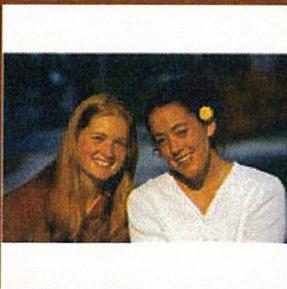


HQMC EFMP will individually review PCS orders to ensure availability, accessibility and reasonable travel time to medical appointments.

When we are alerted to a potential assignment concern, we will investigate. Recently HQMC EFMP was alerted to a concern regarding the effects of agriculture, climate and air quality on individuals with asthma and allergies in Yuma, AZ. HQMC EFMP Program Manager and HQMC Medical Screeners were involved in this effort. The informed assignment process includes diligent research to ensure that enrolled dependents will be able to receive the care they need in their future duty location. As a result of the above efforts, HQMC Assignment Coordinators will more fully assess assignments to Yuma, AZ when allergies or asthma are diagnosed and may call families to discuss any potential concerns. We encourage communication and coordination between families and the Yuma installation EFMP office prior to the PCS.



*U.S. Marine Corps
Children, Youth and
Teen Program
(CYTP)*



Children's Safety and Health is Number One

The U.S. Marine Corps Children, Youth and Teen Program (CYTP) makes your child's health and safety a top priority. The CYTP program takes your child's safety and health to heart in all our programs, and work daily to ensure children are safe and healthy and having fun.

Parents and caregivers of children of all ages know that they get hurt or ill in their day to day playing and interaction. Soon parents will begin to notice a new standardized "Incident / Accident / Suspected Child Abuse Report" (IR). This form will be used by all CYTP programs and allow the management and parents to have in-hand, a more detailed report. The CYTP management will also be able to track problem areas by logging each and every report, showing trends or reoccurring issues and areas for attention or correction.

Parents will be asked to sign these forms and will be provided a copy for their records. Parents will also be asked to follow up with the center so that a follow up report can be completed. This again will help us identify areas needing improvement.

If parents know that when they drop their child off in one of our CYTP programs that their child will be as safe as possible, they can go about their day with one less worry.

If you have any comments about this new standardized form, please contact your program administrator or your program director.



Welcome our New Senior School Liaison: Nick Mammarella

Born in Brownsville, PA, he graduated from California State College, California, PA on January 13, 1973 with a Bachelor of Science in Education with a Mathematics Major. At graduation he received a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Teacher's License for secondary education, mathematics and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He reported directly to NAS Pensacola for flight training and on October 18, 1973 was awarded his Naval Flight Officer wings for duty as a Radar Intercept Officer in F-4 Phantom aircraft. After assorted assignments, he went back to Pensacola for flight training and was designated a Naval Aviator on December 23, 1980 for duty in the F-4 as a pilot. From August 1984 to July 1987 he was the Enlisted Staffing Goal Model Manager in enlisted assignments at Headquarters Marine Corps. Beginning in September 1988 he transitioned to the F/A-18 Hornet. During the period of August 1990 to retirement on September 1, 1994 he was the FMF Force Structure Officer at MCCDC Quantico. After retirement, he reentered education serving as the Program Coordinator of a Regional Alternative Education Program for six years. During that time he received his Masters of Education in Administration and Supervision from George Mason University. From August 2000 to February 2011 he was the Assistant Principal at Colonial Forge HS in Stafford County, VA. His wife is a teacher in Stafford County and both of his children graduated from Stafford County schools.



On April 7th, 2011, The Congressional Military Family Caucus hosted a lunch and tour of the U.S. Capitol to which five children of Marines attended, escorted by Nick Mammarella, HQ School Liaison. The students had the opportunity to talk to staff of Capital Hill and The Sergeant Major of the Army, R.F. Chandler.

From Left to Right: Nick, Sami, Natty, Henry, Mitch and center, Skyler.

Off Base Child Care Fee Assistance Modification

Updates to Child Care Fee Assistance Program Offers Accessibility to Geographically Dispersed Marines

The Marine Corps has provided Marines with child care fee assistance through a national organization since 2004. Child care fee assistance supported by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies also known as NACCRRA, has undergone a major reformation within the Marine Corps. In July of 2010, Marine families enrolling and recertifying in the NACCRRA Fee Assistance Program were being placed on a waiting list with an indefinite end date. July 15, 2011 marks the final day for families to receive child care fee assistance services under the current policy. In the next several months, families will be notified of the change in policy and will be encouraged to seek child care support from the program that best meets their child care needs under Marine Corps guidance.

The intent of the Child Care Fee Assistance Program is to assist geographically dispersed families with the cost of child care so that families may receive quality care at a cost comparable to installation rates. Under reorganization Marine families wishing to participate in the off base Fee Assistance Child Care Program must meet the following requirements:

- Live 30 miles outside of a Military Installation
- Marine must not be assigned to a Marine Corps Installation
- Marine must be on Active Duty and/or Deployed Status

Marine families who meet the eligibility requirements will receive a maximum fee assistance in the amount of \$3,000 annually for up to two children. Families with more than two children in the program will receive fee assistance at a 20% lower rate, as many child care programs offer a discount for siblings. Families charged less than the monthly maximum will receive assistance at cost. For example, if there are 3 children in the family;

Fee assistance for 2 children: 2×3000 dollars annually=6000 dollars annually

Fee assistance for 3rd child: $20\% \times 3000$ dollars annually=2400 dollars annually

Fee assistance should never be more than the amount the provider charges. Example: If provider charges \$83 monthly, assistance will be \$83 monthly.

Those Marines living within 30 miles of an installation who still have a need for child care assistance may contact the installation Resource and Referral Specialist to get assistance in locating care on or near the installation or to discuss community based financial assistance options. While many Marines have found a convenience in using community based child care, some do not realize the level of quality that can be found on a military installation. Marine Corps Installation Resource and Referral Specialist can be located through the Marine Corps Community Services Website:

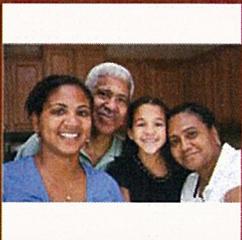
www.usmc-mccs.org/cytp.

While providing continued support to Marines and their families is our goal, the off base Child Care Fee Assistance Program is contingent upon funding. Please accept our gratitude for your patience during this time of transition.

Family Support Services

Marine Corps EFMP Family Support Services are provided to the family by providing case management, outreach, family training, special needs forums, family support groups, and local resources. Your local installation EFMP office is providing family support through a variety of means.

Recently the efforts of the staff at MCRD San Diego were highlighted in the daily DoD round up of health related stories. Janice King, MCRD San Diego Program Manager, and her staff detailed the supports available to EFMP enrolled families living at MCRD San Diego and those who are stationed remotely while on recruiting duty. Noting that enrollment is mandatory for all Marines who have eligible family members, Ms. King emphasized that enrollment provides benefits to both the Marines and their dependents, to include assignment coordination, case management and support services and respite care.



MCRD San Diego has the unique challenge of supporting Marines who are geographically dispersed. Her staff are meeting the needs of their families through information, referral, case management, telephone calls, respite care and creativity. Some Marines are unable to attend support groups offered at the installations. Knowing that families need the support of one another, Ms. King and her staff are connecting remotely stationed families to one another when requested. You can read more about what's happening at MCRD San Diego by going to the following web address:
<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/64388/exceptional-families-get-exceptional-support>.

Some of our installation EFMP programs have held a sensory movie night for families. To facilitate an enjoyable movie experience for all individuals, the volume is lowered, lighting is adjusted and previews are omitted. Individuals with specific dietary restrictions are encouraged to bring along their own snacks to enjoy during the movie. Partnering with Semper Fit, Camp Lejeune EFMP held a day at the pool where families could enjoy kayaking. Semper Fit provided kayaks with some modifications to ensure safe and comfortable paddling for all participants. EFMP and Semper Fit have also collaborated to provide specific classes, like Yoga, for children with special needs.

We encourage you to speak with your Family Case Worker if you have recommendations for programming that would be enjoyable for your family.



TRICARE Update: HQMC EFMP will assist families with their TRICARE questions. An ongoing feature of the Family Care Branch Newsletter will be information and press releases about TRICARE.

TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery Offers Convenience, Affordability

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Today people are always looking for opportunities to save time and spend less money. TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery allows beneficiaries to do this by delivering maintenance medications safely and securely to their home through the U.S. mail.

“For more than 10 years, TRICARE has offered home delivery as a convenient alternative to picking up prescription medications at a civilian retail pharmacy,” said Rear Adm. Thomas McGinnis, chief of TRICARE Pharmacy Operations. “TRICARE undertook an aggressive campaign to increase awareness of the benefits and savings of home delivery in 2010, which contributed to a 12.3 percent increase in participation.” More than one million prescriptions were filled through home delivery in each of the last five months of 2010 – a record.

Pharmacy home delivery is available to many categories of beneficiaries, including active duty service members deployed overseas. “Home delivery can be to any U.S. postal address and overseas Army Post Offices (APO), Fleet Post Offices (FPO) and in some cases, U.S. Embassies,” McGinnis said. “Beneficiaries have convenient and secure Internet access to their plan information and can manage their prescriptions online.”

Home delivery is especially useful for beneficiaries with prescriptions they need to take on a regular basis – maintenance medications. These medications are used to treat illnesses such as diabetes, asthma and high blood pressure. If beneficiaries need immediate relief from a pain medication or antibiotics, they should have their prescription filled at a military treatment facility or retail network pharmacy.

Pharmacy home delivery also features an automatic prescription refill option to ensure beneficiaries are always supplied with the medications they need and checks medical and prescription history to avoid harmful drug interactions. A phone line is available 24/7 to speak directly to a pharmacist.

TRICARE retail network pharmacies fill prescriptions with a 30-day supply. Home delivery fills prescriptions for the same copayment, but for 90 days. Home delivery costs beneficiaries \$3 for a 90-day supply for generic formulary medications and \$9 for a 90-day supply for formulary brand-name medications. TRICARE beneficiaries switching to pharmacy home delivery from retail pharmacies in 2010 saved 66 percent on their copayments, up to \$176 a year for a non-formulary prescription. They also saved taxpayers \$30.7 million.

McGinnis attributes this growth to outreach in 2010. For example, new “explanations of benefits” from retail pharmacies show beneficiaries how much they can save by switching to pharmacy home delivery. The new automatic prescription refill program also contributed to this success.

To sign up for pharmacy home delivery or to learn more about the program, go to: www.tricare.mil/homedelivery or call the Member Choice Center toll free at 1-877-363-1343.

From the TRICARE Media Center 15 Feb 11, <http://www.tricare.mil/mediacenter/news>





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