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MRQ  
18 AUG 05

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

Subj: FAMILY READINESS COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 21 JULY 2005

Ref: (a) Proposed FRC Charter

1. Per the reference, the Family Readiness Committee (FRC) convened at 9:15 a.m. on 21 July 2005 at the Clubs of Quantico, MCB Quantico, VA. The FRC Chair was unable to be present at the start of the meeting, but requested via phone that the group begin without him.

2. Members Present:

LtGen James F. Amos, II MEF, Chair  
Rear Adm Tom Cullison, Medical Officer, USMC  
Lt. L. Havadtoy, Chaplain of the Marine Corps Rep  
Ms. S. Hagee, Spouse, CMC  
Ms. B. Nyland, Spouse, ACMC  
Col. James Kinnerup, MARFORRES Rep  
SgtMaj R. Colon, Senior Enlisted Advisor, II MEF  
Ms. Mae Ooka, MARFORPAC Rep  
Ms. K. Faison, MARFORLANT Rep  
Ms. C. Erickson, FAP Subcommittee Chair  
Ms. L. Bartel, L.I.N.K.S. Subcommittee Chair  
Ms. L. Osman, KVN Subcommittee Chair  
Mr. P. Quinn, EFMP Subcommittee Chair  
Mr. M. Downs, Ex Officio, MR  
Mr. M. Swords, Ex Officio, MR  
Mr. B. Driver, Recorder

Members Excused:

Mrs. M. Estrada, Spouse, SMMC

Others present:

Col Robert Michaud, FRO, II MEF  
Mr. Mike Flannery, MCCS Director Camp Allen  
Mr. J. Solis, AC/S MCCS Camp Lejeune  
Mr. Bill Lindsey, MCCS Director MCB Hawaii  
Mr. Michael Tharrington, MR Division  
Mr. Greg Gordon, MR Division  
LtCol J. Melton, MR Division  
Mr. Michael Berger, MR Division  
Mr. Bruce Barnes, MR Division  
Ms. Terry Hayden, MR Division  
Ms. Kathleen Facon, MR Division  
Ms. Susan Moore, MR Division  
Ms. Kim Gates, MR Division

Maj J. Bradley, MR Division  
Ms. B. Simms, MR Division  
Ms. L. Bradley, MR Division  
SgtMaj L. Lee, (Ret.) CNA  
Ms. A. Quester, CNA

3. FRC Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2004. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

4. Marketing of L.I.N.K.S. Subcommittee. Ms. Kim Gates, HQMC Family Team Building Program Section Head, briefed the ongoing marketing actions for the L.I.N.K.S Program. She discussed the creation of the L.I.N.K.S. marketing focus group and their recommendation to develop a short, high-impact commercial, standardized promotion kits, and lunch box briefs. Ms. Osman asked when the commercial would be ready. Mrs. Gates informed the committee that it should be ready by the end of the year. Mrs. Hagee commented that we need to make sure that the commercial is high quality and very professional. She recommended that MR Division think about working with the company who develops the Marine Corps recruiting commercials (J.W. Thompson). She also said that she would speak to the Commandant about the importance of getting the video completed and distributed.

5. L.I.N.K.S. Subcommittee. Ms. Lita Bartel briefed current committee membership and outreach efforts. Five sections of the L.I.N.K.S. curriculum update have been completed and a final draft will be sent to the field for review in the near future. Training data through June 05 shows that L.I.N.K.S. teams have provided 60 sessions with 615 participants. There are 274 active volunteers involved in delivering the program to spouses. This is a decrease from FY04, when L.I.N.K.S. teams provided 246 sessions to 2,786 participants with 2,186 active volunteers. Since October 2003 there have been 736 L.I.N.K.S. online enrollments.

6. KVN Subcommittee. Ms. Laura Osman briefed the ongoing actions and membership status of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee has been making regular contact with installation representatives to discuss issues, concerns, and best practices. It was also noted that they have been working on revisions of KVN training materials and they were present at the recent KV Trainers Conference. KVN training data through June 05 shows that 1,245 Key Volunteers, 280 Coordinators, and 283 Family Readiness Officers have been trained. This is a sharp decrease over last year, but the Subcommittee is not concerned because the KV's trained last years are still continuing to volunteer. KVN training online enrollments since April 2004 were 1049.

7. EFMP Subcommittee. Mr. Paul Quinn briefed the ongoing actions and areas of interest of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee is looking at changes in EFM office staffing in light of the increase in EFM enrollments. The staffing situation is expected to be further complicated when the TRICARE Extended Health Care Option (ECHO) is implemented on 1 September, as EFMP enrollment will be mandatory in

order to receive ECHO services. TRICARE ECHO replaces the Program for Persons with Disabilities (PFPWD) and provides financial assistance to beneficiaries who qualify based on specific mental or physical disabilities and offers an integrated set of services and supplies beyond the basic TRICARE program. MI Division is exploring with MR Division replacement of the EFMP legacy database with a modern support system. MR Division is currently defining requirements.

8. FAP Subcommittee. Ms. Cheryl Erickson briefed the ongoing actions and areas of interest of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee conducted a review of 1994 to 2004 central registry domestic abuse data. Initial analysis showed a notable difference between the ratios of reported to substantiated cases at similar installations. They plan to further investigate the cause of the disparities. Ms. Erickson reported that incidents of reported domestic abuse continues to decline with 589 substantiated incidents of spouse abuse, and 280 substantiated incidents of child abuse as of 30 June 2005. Compared with the totals of FY04 (835 and 482, respectively), this suggests that efforts to prevent domestic abuse are continuing to be effective, even in the face of increased operational and personnel tempo. There is a new OSD initiative to allow "restricted" reporting of spouse abuse. It would allow victims to report their abuse confidentially to Victim Advocates, counselors, and/or medical care personnel with the stipulation that neither command nor law enforcement agents be informed of identifying specifics. The intent is to eliminate the reporting barriers cited by some victims (adverse impact to sponsor's career and victim's financial support, intrusion by investigators, wide-spread airing of private issues), while ensuring access to medical care, support counseling, and safety planning. Committee members had several questions regarding the current number of reported domestic violence incidents. Mrs. Hagee asked if there had been an increase in the number of cases of child abuse committed by spouses while the Marine was deployed. Col Kinnerup asked if the decrease in spouse abuse cases was related to the number of Marines being deployed. Mr. Bull Barnes, HQMC Marine and Family Services Branch Head, informed the Committee they were in the process of a deployment cycle analysis and would provide results at the next meeting.

9. MCFTB Program Update. Ms. Kim Gates briefed ongoing MCFTB activities. The Children's Deployment Puppet Show- "Nothing to Worry About" was released in August 2004. Copies were made and distributed to installations including MARFORRES in January 2005. The Family and Commanders Guides to Deployment was posted on the MCFTB website in July 2005. The new Spouses Learning Series has been well received. The first tier of training, a one-day workshop entitled "Follow Your Dreams While You Follow the Military," has been presented at Okinawa, Iwakuni, Hawaii, Beaufort/Parris Island, Cherry Point, Camp Lejeune/New River, and Camp Pendleton/Miramar to 322 attendees. The second tier of training consists of 82 personal and professional growth courses available online via MarineNet. The third tier of training is a relationship building workshop that is based on the MCCS World Class Customer Service training, which is expected to rollout in

the fall of 2005. Facilitator training was conducted 19-20 July at Camp Lejeune and coordination with MCFTB Directors is being conducted to offer sessions at installations. MCCA One Source has been available to the Total Force since 1 February 2003. For FY04, the service registered 36,633 contacts. A total of 58% of the usage was website visits. FY05 year-to-date usage reflects 28,892 contacts and highlights a rise in telephone contacts to 3,623 cases compared to a total of 3,179 for FY04. Referrals for face-to-face counseling via One Source are now available and show a YTD total of 1,126 referrals with the topic "Couples Emotional Well Being" accounting for 48% of the usage. The most commonly accessed topics are "personal and family readiness" and "emotional well-being."

10. Children, Youth and Teen Program Report. Mr. Mike Berger, HQMC Children, Youth and Teen Program Section Head, briefed ongoing activities. The Marine Corps is currently meeting 75% of the aggregate potential need for childcare, however, a substantial need still exists at some of our installations. An additional 902 aggregate spaces are needed to meet the DoD 80% target. The long-term strategy for reaching the goal requires a multi-faceted approach to expanding childcare spaces to include family childcare homes and MILCON projects. The DoD child development fee ranges for School Year 2005-2006 will be the same as the previous year. In an effort to meet the increased need for child care as a result of the global war on terrorism the Marine Corps has entered into partnerships. The partnership organizations are: Boys & Girls Club of America (BGCA); Early Head Start (EHS); National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA); and Armed Services Young Men's Christian Associations (ASYMCA). These agreements were made to provide access to quality, affordable care for families who cannot access on installation military child care. The FRC Chair requested that MR Division provide a break down of usage by CDC fee category. Mrs. Hagee requested that MR Division provide a breakdown of unmet need and care preference. Mr. Downs told the committee members that we would get the information to them as soon as possible.

11. CNA Brief on Deployment and Retention. Dr. Aline Quester, Senior Economist and Manpower Project Director, Center for Naval Analyses, provided a briefing on how deployment affects retention rates, and provided a demonstration of a web-based calculator that helps Marines eligible for REDUX understand the long-term financial ramifications. The FRC Chair requested that CNA provide additional statistics on the reenlistment rates of first term male and female Marines. At the end of the briefing, the FRC Chair stated that he was not aware of the REDUX issue, and ensuring Marines were aware of the dangers was a leadership issue that may need to be addressed at the EOS.

12. Chair's closing remarks. In closing, the FRC Chair asked for comments from the committee. Mr. Quinn asked about the status of the new MCFTB order and the policy change allowing Family Team Building officers to be civilian employees. Mr. Downs confirmed that guidance has been sent out allowing commanders the staffing option. Further

discussion ensued about who currently has civilian Marine Corps Family Team Building Directors and who will be hiring them in the future. Mrs. Nyland announced that this would be the last meeting she would be attending, as her husband would be retiring very soon. She complemented all the members of the FRC and thanked the program managers for their leadership of the programs and hard work provided during her 5-year membership with the FRC. The FRC chair thanked Mrs. Nyland for her many contributions to the FRC. The FRC Chair closed the meeting by thanking the volunteer members of the Committee for their time and effort. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1407.

/SIGNED/  
JAMES F. AMOS JR.  
Chairman  
Family Readiness Committee

B. Driver  
Recorder