

KEY VOLUNTEER NETWORK



1 January 2004
Volume 3, Issue 1

KEY VOLUNTEER
NEWS FROM THE HILL
CAMP H M SMITH, HI.

Key Volunteer Network & POC's

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Family Readiness Officer Key Volunteer Coordinator

Lecia Negaard Jessica Mace
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G-1 Jodi Schlather 253-0184
G-2 Sue Lowe 254-2564
 Connie Ferrin 253-0878
G-3 Trudy Lovejoy 254-2656
 Jennifer Murphy 253-0819
G-4 Debbie Yff 422-4326
G-5 Robin Liszewski 262-9878
 Ashley Slavik 236-7013
G-6 Alison Ghiselli 685-5531
 Rae-Anna Bonilla 455-1744
 Deborah Wyatt 235-5096
G-8/9 **Waiting for you!!**
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Happy New Year ~ From Your KVA

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou! Well, it's that time of year again for resolutions—when we all hope to better some aspect of our lives and improve on where we were last year. Some of us may want to lose weight or get in shape; others may be focusing on gaining more quality time with family or staying connected with old friends; some may be planning to take full advantage of their time left on island and do some "cultural enrichment" by playing tourist here; or maybe you've decided that this is the year you'll get your finances squared away and start saving for retirement. Whatever your particular goal or challenge, the measure of your success rests with **you**. There is a Japanese proverb that says "Fall seven times, stand up eight." So often we give up on our goals simply because we are afraid to fail. Fear clouds our vision, we lose direction and focus, and in subtle ways we procrastinate until we finally lose ambition. But if we keep in mind that **we have a choice whether or not to succeed**, we can find that our resolve has made a positive difference at the end of the year.



Mrs. Mary Forde-Febuary
HQSVCBn MFP
Key Volunteer Advisor

One of the simplest but most profound ways for you to make a difference, of course, is by exercising your right to vote in this year's Presidential election. Adlai Stevenson once said: "If we do justice at the polls to our own conscience and sense of responsibility, then alone can we do justice to the nation we love..." If you need assistance in registering to vote or filing a request for an absentee ballot, the Department of Defense Federal Voting Assistance Program has a website full of information for both federal and state elections and can be accessed at www.fvap.gov. Just remember that if you don't make a choice to vote, the choice is made for you!

This year many of our families will once again face deployment of loved ones back to the Middle East, and once again will have a **choice** in the way they will cope. Sometimes just being aware of our vulnerabilities to stress can help us. During this time of year the days are shorter (and often less sunny), the holiday bills are coming in, and then you may be expected to take on responsibilities as both mom and dad to your children. As my husband has said, your preparation is key. Attend the pre-deployment briefs. If you decide to go back to the mainland for an extended stay, ensure your spouse's Record of Emergency Data reflects that address and phone number. Be familiar with available resources to aid you—an especially good one to check out is MCCS One Source (www.mccsonesource.com), which contains great articles on all aspects of deployment and military life in general. (The userid for One Source is "marines" and the password is "semper fi".) If you prefer, you can even speak with a live consultant (24/7!) at 1-800-433-6868. If your spouse *isn't* one affected by the deployment, then this is a great opportunity for you to make a difference and help one of your neighbors who *is* affected. And of course, in either case, you can always feel free to contact your Key Volunteer!

In any case, this New Year offers us all a chance for revitalization of our hopes, goals and ambitions. Set your goals, and then plan your strategy to achieve them—one step at a time, one day at a time. Hold yourself accountable, and reward yourself along the way. And remember, you have the power to choose!

Mark Your Calendar

January

Jan 8, 15, 22, 29. "Cage the Rage" Anger management series (8wks) Call 257-7781 for more details.
Jan 8, 15, 22, 29. Don't miss story time at the base library from 10-11 am. Call #254-7624 for details.
Jan 23. HCDS "Parent's Night Out" Call #257-7430 for more details and reservations.
Jan 13, 14, 15. Looking for employment? Attend workshops hosted by FMEAP on Resume Writing, Federal Applications and Interviewing Skills. Call #257-7790 for schedules and details.
Jan 27-29. Key Volunteer and Volunteer Refresher training. 5:30-9:00 pm. Call #257-2410 for reservations.

February

Feb 2 & 16 Budgeting for Success. 10:30-11:30 am. Call #257-7783/87 for details.
Feb 5 New Arrivals Orientation in the base theater. Don't miss it! 7:30-12:00. Call #257-7790 for details.
Feb 11 6:00-7:00 pm & Feb 21 1:00-2:00 pm African American Program at the Base Library. Call # 257-7624 for more details.
Feb 25 1:00-3:00 pm "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families" Don't miss this one, call now for reservations! #257-7781

*For **many** more events for adults and youth during Jan-Mar call or go by MCCS at MCBH for monthly calendars or visit them at www.mccshawaii.com



Greetings From Our Commanding Officer

We begin this New Year mindful of the redeployment of Marines and Sailors back to Iraq. The impact of this redeployment can be measured in the faces of the wives, husbands and, more importantly, the children around you. Are you affected by what you see? If so, you should have all the more reason and resolve to **"make a difference"** this year. You may be thinking, "He's lost it; how can I make a difference with everything going on?" Actually, there are three things you *can* do to make a difference!



Col William S Febuary,
HQSVCBN CO

let someone else do it for you. If you are not a registered voter, don't worry--we are here to help you! Of the million or so military members eligible to vote during the last Presidential election *only one third* cast a ballot. Again, if you choose not to vote you have already voted. If you do not choose to vote you forfeit any right to complain about the outcome. Resolve to make a difference by registering and, **MOST IMPORTANTLY**, by voting!

First, ensure you are ready for this deployment. Do you have up-to-date powers of attorney and wills? Do you have a plan for the next deployment? Are you going back to the mainland? Do you have babysitting co-ops established to ensure you have quiet or not-so-quiet moments to yourselves? Are you financially ready? Do you know what your entitlements are? To help you answer some of these questions, Headquarters & Service Battalion will sponsor "Spouse Pre-deployment Briefs" to aid you in your preparation. Remember, your spouse may have not been called *this* time, but our Corps is small in comparison to the other Services so it is very likely only a matter of time.

Second, register to vote! Everyone 18 years of age and older has the right to vote. By not voting you relinquish your ability to make your own choice, and you

Finally, volunteer your time. Our time is our most important commodity. Volunteering your time to support others is a powerful contribution to your community and a proven method of overcoming depression and increasing self-esteem. To that end, Headquarters & Service Battalion welcomes any new or returning Key Volunteers to support our Key Volunteer network. If you decide that this something you want to do, please contact Mrs. Jessica Mace at the email address or phone number listed in this newsletter—you will certainly be a step closer to sainthood in *our* book!

The war on terrorism and Operation Iraqi Freedom will again see Marine Corps Forces Pacific deployed. Are you prepared? Can you help to make a difference? Yes, you CAN! Opportunity awaits in many forms.

Welcome it!



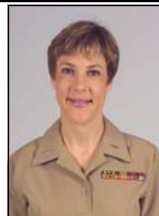
"Everyone 18 years of age and older has the right to vote. By not voting you relinquish your ability to make your own choice, and you let someone else do it for you."

A Word From Your Family Readiness Officer

"It's your future. VOTE for it!"

Primary elections play an important role in the electoral process. Why? Because the names that appear on the general election ballot on November 2nd are the candidates that were chosen during the primary election process.

A primary election is an election that selects a candidate(s) that will represent the party in a general election. The winning candidate is the one who receives the largest percentage of the votes during the primary election. This should not be confused with a majority. A majority is a number greater than half of the total votes cast in an election. The winner of a primary election does not necessarily receive a majority of the votes. What this means is that the higher the voter turnout the greater the possibility that the winner is indeed a true representative of the population at large. Voters who participate in these primaries can have a great impact on their outcome.



Family Readiness Officer
CWO4 Lecia Negaard

Voters in state primaries select their party's candidates for state and federal offices such as Governor, U.S. Senator, and member of the U.S. House of Representatives. While the Presidential primary selects or indicates preference for delegates, which may or may not be bound to vote for a particular Presidential candidate at the national convention, a state primary determines the actual candidates who will appear on the ballot the day of the general election.

Voter participation is crucial in any election and primaries are no different. Because dates for both Presidential and state primaries are spread throughout the year, be sure to consult the 2004 Election Calendar for election dates in your state on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website, www.fvap.gov.

Chaplain's Corner

"MAKING A DIFFERENCE"



CDR Jeffrey Rhodes
Chaplain, U S Navy

I think that we "make a difference" by contributing positively to those around us whose lives we touch. These people may be family members, friends, co-workers, and even those whom we do not know.

Benjamin Franklin received a letter thanking him for having done a kind act helping someone. He replied back to that letter with these words:

"As for the kindness you mention, I wish I could have been of more service to you than I have been, but if I had, the only thanks that I should desire are that you would always be ready to serve any other person that may need your assistance, and so let good offices go around, for mankind are all of a family. As for my own part, when I am employed in serving others I do not look upon myself as conferring favors but paying debts."

We are all indebted to those who have helped us.

But how about for us? Do we "make a difference" in someone's life when we ask them how they are doing, and we really mean it? Do we "make a difference" for someone if we call or visit them when we know they are going through a difficult period in their life, however short it may be? Do we "make a difference" for an organization, including the Marine Corps and Navy, when we work at a project just as hard as we can giving our all and our best?

Who has made "a difference" in *your* life when you most needed a lift? What benefits or special concern have you received from others, small or large, that have been life changing, if only momentarily?

Chances are, these acts of kindness and service are what will make a difference too in the lives of those we may touch. During this season of giving, as well as receiving, help us to serve others, and remember those who have "made a difference" in our lives. What Benjamin Franklin was conveying was what Albert Schweitzer said a century and a half later: "The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve."



"...the only thanks that I should desire are that you would always be ready to serve any other person that may need your assistance..."
Benjamin Franklin

MCCS One Source:

a comprehensive source to help you face life's everyday challenges.

Marine Corps Community Services introduces MCCS One Source...a Marine & family resource program to help make your life a little easier. Online or by phone, MCCS One Source is fast, confidential, and easy to use. It's pre-paid. And best of all, it's there for you any time of the day or night, wherever you are. The program can give you information, advice, and support on a wide range of everyday issues, including parenting and child care, education, older adults, financial, legal, and everyday issues.

MCCS One Source offers you:

- A real person to talk to when you need an answer to a question
- An award-winning Web site with online articles, workshops, locators, and much more
- Free booklets, audio recordings, and other materials to help you get the answers you need in the format you want
- Referrals to resources, services, and support in your community
- A commitment to always being there when you have a question or need help.

www.mccsonesource.com

(User ID: marines; Password: semperfi)



Important Phone Numbers	
American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Svc Ctr	1-877-272-7337
Force Chaplain	477-8529
Crisis Line/ Aloha United Way	211
Domestic Violence Hotline	531-3771
Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Pearl Harbor	423-1314 MCBH 254-1497
Poison Center	941-4411
Tripler Emergency Room	433-6629



Aloha From The HQSVCBn MarForPac Sections

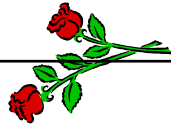


KV Appreciation Luncheon

Members of the HQSVCBn MFP KVN were treated to lunch at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kaneohe Bay Officer's Club by CO Col William Febuary. Col Febuary had many wonderful things to say and thanks to give for each of the ladies. The members of the HQSVCBn MFP have assisted with and supported many family related events throughout the year. They continue to provide vital assistance to the command and remain ready to perform whatever tasks possible to maintain family readiness.



Top row: CWO4 Negaard, Mrs. Rae-Anna Bonilla, Mrs. Lynn Carroll, Mrs. Trudy Lovejoy, Col William Febuary, Mrs. Debbie Yff, **2nd row:** Mrs. Nancy Lopez, Mrs. Mary Forde-Febuary, Mrs. Mona Gatto, **Seated:** Mrs. Deborah Wyatt, Mrs. Jessica Mace



Joint Military Family Abuse Shelter

Undoubtedly, and especially in these uncertain times, being in the military is one of the most stressful careers to undertake. And while it should also bring a sense of reward, accomplishment and pride to be a part of the military "ohana," there are many families in crisis.

Abuse is a serious issue, and while it can include actions like hitting, there are many other forms of abuse. Does the person you love control what you do, where you go, and who you see? Deny you and/or your children basic necessities? Destroy your personal or sentimental property? Threaten to hurt you, your children, pets, friends, family members or themselves? Insult you, call you names, ignore you, or make you think you are going crazy? If you answered yes to any or all of the above, you may be in an abusive relationship.

The Joint Military Family Abuse Shelter provides a safe,

comfortable environment for individuals and families experiencing abuse or the threat of abuse. It is a time-out for you to learn about the dynamics of domestic violence and to give you the chance to develop a safety plan for the future. It is a time for you to explore your options. Contact with the Shelter will be an opportunity for you to be understood, listened to, supported and accepted. The Shelter and Crisis Hotline are staffed with **professionals** 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It offers—**at no charge**—a safe place to stay, lodging and food, transportation, child care, crisis counseling, information and referral, advocacy, support groups for parents and children, and a children's program. Abuse is not limited to one particular demographic—it knows no boundaries with regard to rank, race, religion, neighborhood, or job. It occurs everywhere. Remember that you are not alone, and making that first call is the first step and the beginning of healing.

(808) 533-7125 (24 Hour Hotline)



"They (KV's) continue to provide vital assistance to the command and remain ready to perform whatever tasks possible to maintain family readiness."

G-2 Snoop And Poop

OUTSTANDING G-2 Personnel receive awards! Congratulations to:

GySgt John D. Caraway-Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal & Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal
Maj Michael J. Fogle-Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal

OUTSTANDING G-2 Personnel get selected/promoted to their present rank! Congratulations to:

Maj Fred W. Bista III Maj Gregory J. Estvander
 MSgt Gary F. Nolan (MGySgt select)

Retirements (Bravo Zulu)!!!

CWO4 & Mrs. Bryon F. Overton (Cathy)

Fair Winds and Following Seas (Bravo Zulu)

Col & Mrs. Stephen W. Clayton (Shirley)
 LtCol Joel B. Hummel
 LtCol James R. Wold
 Maj & Mrs. John M. Lewis (Debra)
 CWO3 & A.W. Moss
 MGySgt Patrick J. Moore
 GySgt & Mrs. James A. Fawcett (Geni)
 Sgt Jeffrey S. Verret

Aloha & Welcome Aboard

GySgt Christopher W. Merritt (Ruth)

 LtCol & Mr. Kimberly J. Harding (Tom)
 LtCol & Mrs. Gary L. VanOrden (Lisa)
 Maj & Mrs. Michael J. Fogle (Sandy)
 Capt & Mrs. Eugene P. Geraci (Deirdre)
 CWO3 Jeffrey J. Sterling
 MSgt Michael W. Washington
 Sgt Michael J. Lopez

STORKS CORNER: Special Congratulations on the arrival of a new bundle of joy!

GySgt & Mrs. Edwin M. Sandoval (Lisa) Cory Alexander born 12/2/03
 SSgt & Mrs. Arthur J. Grant (Telaya) Victoria born 11/30/03

FYI: A very special "THANK YOU" to all the G-2 Key Volunteers for their dedicated service to the HQSVCBn MFP KVN. If you would be interested in being a KV for the G-2, please contact Connie O. Ferrin at 253-0878.

News From The G-3

HAILS

LtCol & Mrs. Davis (Katie) GySgt & Mrs. McKenzie (Beth)
GySgt & Mrs. Rominski (Rachel) LCpl William Morris
Sgt & Mrs. Lucas Lavadour (Melissa)

PROMOTIONS

Maj Deeds to LtCol Capt Bane to Maj
SSgt Norbrey to GySgt Cpl Kreter to Sgt
LCpl Medina to Cpl PFC Morris to LCpl

FAREWELLS

SSgt Peavey

JOINING THE IMA DET

Col Shamburger SSgt McAdams

Congratulations to LtCol Bailey in his marriage to Ms. Kristin Phillips in October of 2003.

HAPPENINGS FROM G-5

PROMOTION

Capt Edwin Rueda to **Major** – 1 Oct 03

LCpl Brian Dovidio to **Cpl** – 1 Oct 03

FORWARD: Col Daniel Welch (Jul 03 – Jan 04)

PCS:

LtCol Oliver Grant - Oct 03

Sgt Patrick Reed – Oct 03

ALOHA & WELCOME

Farewell:

Maj Robert Krekel SSgt Debra Prebor

Welcome:

LtCol John McQuary – Oct 03 Sgt Shannon Luckus – Oct 03

LtCol Michael Kelly – Nov 03 Capt Shannon Frison – Nov 03

Congratulations to Maj Liszewski and Robin on their healthy baby boy, Matthew, 9 lbs 10 oz born 21 Oct 03.



Hearty congratulations and best wishes to the CDR Raoul and Tessa Allen of the G-4 for the birth of their first child, Baby Joshua Brandon Allen. Joshua was born 68 days early on Saturday, Oct 4th 2003 at 9:31 am at TAMC. Vital stats: 2 lbs, 9 oz. and 15.25" long. Joshua Brandon remained in the NICU until December 12th. Joshua and family are home and doing great.

Cyber-News ~ Comm from the G-6

Greetings from the MFP G-6. After gearing up for the Holidays, MFP G-6 is now preparing for future training exercises and contingencies throughout our Pacific Area of Responsibility (AOR).

To the families, thank you for your continued support, commitment, and patience. It is your loyal support that allows your Marine or family member to focus and concentrate on the mission at hand. Your daily commitment and patience reassured your loved one that while he or she serves their country they are not alone. Thank you.

Over the past couple of months we have had some great news: Sgt Mendoza and his wife gave birth to 7lb. 14 oz. 19" tall, Mateo Arturo at 12:25AM Dec 30, 2003 at Tripler Army Medical Center. Congratulations!

Sgt Carlos Mendoza also graduated from the KBay Sgt's Course 10 Dec.

MSgt Keven Knights received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for a job well done.

SSgt Jimmy Crespo also received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for outstanding work.

Sgt Tyrone Baugh and LCpl Gearold Provence participated in the USMC Regional Soccer tournament held in Okinawa Japan during the month of Sep. Sgt Baugh was also chosen to be an instructor at the KBay Cpl's Course.

Welcome back to SSgt Royal returning from MARCENT on 22 Sep.

GySgt Todd Nicodemous was promoted 1 Oct.

The Tech Net Asia convention was held at the Sheraton Waikiki from 3-7 Oct and was enjoyed by many members from the MARFORPAC G-6.

LtCol Mark Clester promoted 1 Dec 03.

Maj Brian Maki (Gina) retired 1 Dec 03.

Sgt Douglas Haynesworth graduated from the HRST course at KBay 12 Dec.

A Hearty WELCOME ABOARD to some new Marines and families at MFP G-6:

SSgt Collin Bradbury and his wife Stephanie- Sep

Sgt Marshall Heilman and his wife Jessica- Oct

LCpl Jerry Craig and his wife Mine- Oct

LCpl Corynne Grimely - Oct

A Heartfelt FAREWELL to some Marines and families at MFP G-6:

Sgt Benjamin White and his wife Dusty- Dec.

Cpl Bracy and his wife Diana- Dec Cpl Justin Brown - Dec

A huge thank you to the KV's who support the G-6. If you would be interested in becoming a part of the G-6 KVN, please call any of the KV's listed with the G-6 on the cover of this newsletter!

"L.I.N.K.S. (Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge, & Skills) is a spouse-to-spouse mentoring program offering information on PCSing, deployments, money matters, making each new community your home, and much more. L.I.N.K.S. provides a positive environment for spouses to learn to manage the demands of Marine Corps life and to work together as a team in balancing family needs as well as Marine Corps' expectations. Morning and evening sessions are offered and FREE childcare is also available. Reservations are required. Please call 257-2368 today!"



Marine Toys For Tots Foundation



The Toys For Tots Foundation hosted a gala at the Pacific Club in downtown Honolulu to promote the foundation and generate toys for the recipients. The event was a huge success and attended by many senior military members. The Marine Forces Band entertained the audience with their world-class performances.



Col William Febuary and LtCol (ret) Mary Forde-Febuary at the Toys For Tots gala.

Are you a little shorthanded on cash after the holidays?

Would you like to get out of the house and earn a little extra income?

If your spouse is deployed, would you like to take on a job to help pass the time?

~No-Cost Services For Persons Seeking Employment~

The Family Member Employment Assistance Program (FMEAP) offers a wonderful job bank service called Joint Employment Management System (JEMS) to all I.D. card holders (military active duty spouses, retirees and their spouses and dependents, and active duty service members, including reservists recalled to active duty and their families), who are seeking employment opportunities on the island of Oahu. There are over 1400 jobs listed in the JEMS database by approximately 300 employers. **The FMEAP Office is located at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Marine Corps Community Services, Personal Services, Building 216, Phone 257-7790.** The Department of Defense recognizes the importance of our military community and their employment needs which contribute to the economic well-being of the family unit. As a result, career planning and job search assistance are headed by this office to help the military community/ families secure gainful employment in Hawaii. A Career Resource Center is available to conduct job search activities which include, but are not limited to: Labor Market Research via the resource library and internet; computer stations to assist the client in developing resumes, cover letters, federal job application submissions; and access to the Joint Employment Management Systems (JEMS) job bank. Workshops for Resumes, Federal Job Application Process, and Interviewing Techniques are also conducted on a monthly basis. Keep in mind that every military base has similar services available to the military community.

JEMS is an on-line website that can only be accessed through a simple registration process. Registration is accomplished by an appointment with the FMEAP Counselor. Clients will be introduced to the Career Resource Center and the various methods to conduct job searches. There is no cost to the client and once registered for JEMS, individuals will have the capabilities to access the job bank website from any computer, even from the comforts of their own home. If you are interested in obtaining more information about JEMS, call the FMEAP office employment consultant at 257-7790, or visit the JEMS website (www.jemshawaii.com). However, you must first register and obtain a password to actually see the jobs listed in the database. If you have a need to use the Career Resource Center and/or want assistance in de-

veloping resumes and cover letters, we encourage you to make that appointment now and start your job search with tools needed to achieve your employment goals.

Consider using the America's Job Bank – AJB (www.ajb.dni.us) as another tool in your job search. This is a wonderful National job bank that is available to every State in allowing employers to list job vacancies. In addition to private industry and local businesses, Federal contractors are required to list their non-management positions with AJB. You can access this site from anywhere via the internet and seek employment opportunities in every State.

Temporary Employment Agencies are another source of employment. Again, you should not pay anyone for finding you a job. A temporary agency such as ADECCO, which is the largest in the Nation, has a partnership with the Department of the Navy and they would provide you with superb services in finding temporary work. Your employer would be the temporary employment agency and their clients are the local employers who enter into a contract with the agency to find them temporary workers. Many times these temporary positions can become permanent full-time positions under the prerogative of the employer who seeks to buy your contract from the temporary agency. This process is called "TEMP-to-HIRE." The ADECCO military program is called Career Accelerator Military Spouse Employment Program. For more information contact the local ADECCO office, or visit www.USADECCO.com/careeraccelerator. However, there are many other fine temporary employment agencies that provide similar services. If you're not sure how to proceed, contact your FMEAP counselor.

Roberto Katekaru, is currently the Family Member Employment Assistance Program Manager at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Marine Corps Community Services, Kaneohe Bay. He is a former naval officer who served 29 years in the military.





Guard And Reserve Families Receive Unlimited Shopping

The 2004 National Defense Authorization Act eliminated restrictions on commissary shopping for Guard and Reserve members, unless otherwise stipulated in overseas host nation agreements.

Commissaries immediately adopted the new provisions in November 2003, which means Guard and Reserve members and their families no longer have to present a Commissary Privilege Card when they shop and are no longer limited to 24 shopping days per year. The change also includes "gray area retirees," those Guard or Reserve members who retire before the age of 60. They were previously limited to 24 shopping days per year.

"Instructions have gone out to all commissaries informing them that reservists now have unlimited shopping and telling store managers how to wel

come members of the National Guard and Reserve to the full use of the commissary benefit," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "I want to thank Congress and the Department of Defense for their efforts in bringing the commissary shopping privilege to the total force."

The Defense Commissary Agency is also awarding scholarships to qualifying children of military members. **Applications for the DeCA scholarships are due Feb 4th, 2004.** Contact your local commissary for further details or visit www.militaryscholar.org for this and many other scholarships available to military children.



DoD Establishes Website For Students

A website created to help service members, spouses and children navigate the challenges associated with military moves and deployments debuted Oct. 7.

Sponsored by the Defense Department, the site "offers advice and resource assistance for school transition issues, military deployments and more," John Molino, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for military Community and Family Policy, noted during an Oct. 24 Pentagon interview.

DoD has long recognized the need to disseminate helpful information to the field "for students who transition between schools as their (military) parents are reassigned," Molino explained. For years, he noted, the department "has tried to provide as good information as is available to facilitate that transition."

The emergence of the world wide web, he pointed out, "has been an excellent opportunity for us to take advantage of that technology, provide that information, and grow from there."

The site, Molino explained, contains school transition and deployment information targeted to the concerns of military parents, children age 6-12, teenagers, families with special-needs children, military leaders and educators. Parents can access education-related information on transferring student records, graduation requirements and more.

The site also enables military children and teens to access tips and information to help them cope with family

moves and military parent deployments, adapting to new schools, and making new friends.

Monitored children's and teen's "chat rooms" also are available on the web site. The chat rooms, Molino pointed out, "will enhance the ability of children to share their own experiences, which will be most relevant in that age group."

Today's global war on terrorism, Molino pointed out, has brought the issue of deployments to the front burner for military families.

"In an age of increased deployments, it is more important to have this information on the web site," Molino said. The war, he added, has made school districts more aware of the concerns of military families.

The site's overall purpose, Molino said, is to help service members' children succeed within the framework of the military lifestyle.

"These are not insurmountable problems," he said. "These are challenges, much like the challenges they will face for the rest of their lives."

"This (Web site) represents the department's commitment to facilitate success for our military children."

www.militarystudent.org



"The site's overall purpose is to help service members' children succeed within the framework of the military lifestyle. This (web site) represents the department's commitment to facilitate success for our military children."

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We're on the Web at
www.mfp.usmc.mil/kvn.html

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HQSVCBN MFP Holiday Party 2003



Jacqueline Mace and Elsa Lovejoy show off their holiday face painting by LCpl Ortiz.



ISSgt Skinner and daughter Sturgif in front of the Christmas tree.



There were plenty of crafts and activities for all our HQSVCBN MFP children.



Mrs. Ashley Slavik did a tremendous job as our Toys For Tots elf at the holiday party.



Marines and family members enjoyed a wonderful spread of food.



The Glovers took time out for a family photo during the holiday party.