

KEY VOLUNTEER NETWORK



1 April 2004
Volume 3, Issue 2



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

Key Volunteer Network & POC's

Key Volunteer Advisor

May Forde-February 689-1962

Kyong (Kay) Williams 677-4676

Family Readiness Officer Key Volunteer Coordinator

Lecia Negaard
477-8366

Jessica Mace
477-0172

Key Volunteers

SSec	Waiting for you!!	
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 Yif	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
	Cristina Shockey	254-2565
G-89	Pat Herkenham	678-3424
ALD	Carol Shafer	235-4241
	Nancy Lopez	254-9358
JPAC	Morna Darwich-Gatto	627-1579
HQ	Lynn Carroll	254-2148
	(S1-S4, Supply, HQBn Comp., Safety, Company) *All area codes (808)	

Mainland Reserve Contact:

SSgt Lambert (304) 678-0340
lambertds@mfr.usmc.mil



Have you ever wondered to yourself, *what is the most important thing I could do today?* The answer may surprise you.

So often our schedules fall prey to what so many of us call "the tyranny of the urgent." Is what you have to do today really **important** or just necessary? This year, each of you has a wonderful opportunity to have an impact in what truly is an important event. It is that time again when the wheels of democracy make another revolution. I encourage each of you to exercise your Constitutional right to vote.



Jessica Mace, EVM
HQSVCBN MFP

The military community has a special obligation to exercise their right to vote, since it is one of the basic freedoms we exist to preserve. As the family members of those servicemen and women, we should not take lightly the sacrifices that have been made to preserve that right.

Your vote is what allows our country to maintain strong leadership. We need to be sure that we have the knowledge and opportunity to exercise our right to vote. Internet access affords us a wealth of resources to educate each and every American on the candidates and issues at hand. One such website, www.fvap.gov, is a comprehensive website established to educate and encourage the vote of the service member and their voting age family members, specifically addressing the in and outs of absentee voting.

The following quotes underscore the importance of our voting responsibility:

"One of America's marvelous attractions is that we voice our choice through the elections of public officials. From the President of the United States to School Board members, you and I—we the people—hire and fire on Election Day. I want you make a conscious, intentional, deliberate choice to engage the election process. Register to vote. Encourage others to vote. Become familiar with the issues, and then on Election Day...vote. Remember, it is never too late to get involved. Your freedom to choose your own leaders is what the terrorists and despots of the world fear most. Your vote can change the course of an election...an election can change the course of the Nation...and the Nation can change the course of the world."

~LtGen W.C. Gregson Jr.,
CG Marine Forces Pacific

"As Americans, we are blessed with a system of governance that produces orderly transitions of power through free and open elections. The right to vote is precious. Unfortunately, many Americans take this privilege for granted and do not bother to enter the voting booth to let their voices be heard. I believe it is the responsibility of all citizens to stay informed about and involved in the affairs of our cities, states and nation. Ignoring that responsibility greatly diminishes our democratic system. Every vote does count. And every vote makes America a better place."

~ Governor Linda Lingle

A very fond farewell to several of our Key Volunteer Family.

Thank you for your commitment and contributions to the families of HQSVCBN MFP!
You will be missed.

**Mrs. Jodi Schlather, Mrs. Trudy Lovejoy,
Mrs. Connie Ferrin and Mrs. Lynn Carroll**
Aloha!



BGen Jerry McAbee and FSSG Marines preparing armor kits for Iraq.

Greetings From Our Commanding Officer

"Democracy depends most on citizen participation and voting is the greatest way that citizens can participate," says Amber Brown, an 18-year-old WireTap reader from California. "It is a trade in democracy, freedoms for voting, and voting for freedoms."

Imagine that you are the chairman, chief executive officer, and president of the largest company in the world. With this position you have the right to hire the best and to fire those who do not meet your expectations. As a registered voter you are these things, because the company you run is the United States Government.



Col William S February,
HQSVCBN CO

The ability to vote is one of our most treasured Constitutional Rights. Over the centuries, we have marched, fought, and died for this right. Voting provides us the opportunity to control, to a certain degree, our future by electing officials who reflect our views and who will serve as our voice in government. Consequently by not voting, you relinquish your right to influence government. More importantly, by not voting the will of the majority is consumed by the minority.

There will always be eligible voters who don't vote. Over the years, we have seen a downward trend of less and less eligible voters who register and even less and less of them who vote. Less than 40% of eligible voters actually voted in 2002, in comparison with the 70-80% who voted in the 1800s. We cannot let this downward spiral continue.¹

Elections seldom provide perfect choices. The first step toward informed voting lies in determining your own personal preferences and identifying those who share similar concerns. Many are confused as to whether they are a Democrat, a Republican, or party not yet formed. Here is a handy guide to help you determine your preference:

DEMOCRATS TEND TO EMPHASIZE:

discrimination (against minorities and women)
education
environmental protection
equality (reducing the gap between the rich and the poor)
health care (government provision)
freedom (free expression of one's views, freedom to pursue alternative life styles)

REPUBLICANS TEND TO EMPHASIZE:

crime protection and punishment of criminals
deficit reduction (not letting government go into debt for new programs)
lower taxes
motivation (providing opportunities for rewarding hard work and skill)
national security (protecting the nation for foreign enemies)
order and morality in society (opposing abortion, supporting prayer in schools, etc.)

LIBERTARIANS: Libertarians chafe against virtually all forms of government activity. They would abolish most government programs except for a limited national defense and police force. They see most government programs as ineffective and dangerous to progress and accomplishment. They prefer a government that allows individuals to pursue their own interests with only limited government interference.

REFORM PARTY: The Reform Party is a protest against "politics as usual." Its particular policy stands tend to vary with its current nominees. Its members express frustration with the choices offered by the two major parties and seek new and creative choices. The party has typically been opposed to extensive US involvement in foreign affairs and opposed closer trading ties with other nations in order to pay more attention to US domestic problems.

NON-PARTISAN: You are not controlled or influenced by or support any single political party. Your issues and concerns transcend all parties.

Regardless of your affiliation, concerns, or pet peeves, if you do not vote the other team wins! Each vote cast counts. Make a difference, be counted, **VOTE!**



"Democracy depends most on citizen participation and voting is the greatest way that citizens can participate," "...It is a trade in democracy, freedoms for voting, and voting for freedoms."

Amber Brown, CA
~18yrs old

Bless your bones!!!

Chaplain's Corner

I hope you are sitting down enjoying your favorite beverage. After all, you deserve a break today. I am re-reading a book called, *Tuesdays With Morrie*, by Mitch Albom. Mitch records the last days of his favorite college professor Morrie Swartz, who is dying of Lou Gehrig's disease. Please know that this reading journey is anything but morbid. In fact, Mitch captures "pearls of wisdom" from his Tuesday visits with his professor and friend. For example, "Accept what you are able to do and what you are not able to do." Another pearl is, "Accept the past as the past, without denying or discarding it." Ahhhh, this one has a "Dr. Phil" ring to it, "Learn to forgive yourself and to forgive others." And because Oprah is in the house, "Don't assume that it's too late to get involved." Wow, what a thought. It is never too late to get involved, to go into business, to return to college, or to make new friends.



Capt Henry Nixan
Chaplain, MarForPac/MarCent

What is clear from *Tuesdays With Morrie* is that Morrie makes a conscious, intentional, deliberate choice to remain active and productive until his quality of life is no more. The ability to choose really does make the difference in life. It is not failure, or the mistake, or misfortune that influence our quality of life, but rather how we choose to deal with them. Henri Nowen says that the most spiritual thing we do all day is "to choose." So when we have a bad day, we choose to become bitter from the experience or better. "To choose" is spiritual. It grows out of our sense of free will. Making choices is the essence of freedom. And so we choose between being happy and miserable, engaged in life or bored, Starbuck's or Seattle's Best frappacino. (Just want to be sure you are with me.) So choose!!! Choose to live, choose to be happy, and choose to love. When you need help sorting out your choices give Chaplain Rhodes or myself a call.

April is the month of the military child and Child Abuse awareness month!

Contact your nearest Family Service Center for special events on a base nearest you! Listed are a few events at MCBH Kaneohe Bay:

5 Apr - 1000 - Cake Cutting Ceremony at CDC **8 Apr** - 1000 - CDC Spring Parade

22 Apr - 1030-1200 - Family Lunch & Play Day at CDC

30 Apr - 1730-1830 - Family Picnic & Band Concert at CDC

Children Youth and Teens Activities — MCBH #257-7430 Manana #456-1662

Marine & Family Services (MCBH)— Angela Reed #257-7786 reedad@mcbh.usmc.mil



It is not failure, or the mistake, or misfortune that influence our quality of life, but rather how we choose to deal with them.

A Word From Your Family Readiness Officer



Family Readiness Officer
CW04 Lecia Negaard

DO NOT SURRENDER; REGISTER AND VOTE!!!

The last Presidential election was very close and absentee votes were critical to the outcome. During this election year, the President, several Senators, and numerous other federal, state, and local officials will be elected. These officials have a direct impact on the quality of life of Marines, Sailors and their families. Your vote makes a difference; by not voting, you are surrendering a privilege and a right to express yourself.

All eligible Marines, Sailors and their family members who are U.S. citizens can vote absentee in Federal, State and local elections. There have been numerous changes in the absentee registration and voting process to make it easier, but it all starts with the individual. The Federal Post Card Application Ballot (FPCA) is the key. This is the form used to register and request an absentee ballot.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program introduced the On-line version of the Federal Post Card Application (OFPCA); visit their website at www.fvap.gov. You may fill it out on-line, print it out, sign and date it. Or you may print out a blank form, complete it on a typewriter or print with blue or black ink, sign and date it. Place either in an envelope with proper postage and then mail it to the appropriate Local Election Official as stated in the *Voting Assistance Guide*. Only American Samoa, Guam, and Ohio do not accept the on-line version and require the card stock form. If you prefer, you can obtain from S-1, a postage-paid card stock FPCA to complete.

Remember, your vote counts!!!!



Happenings In The HQSVCBN MFP Sections

G-2 Snoop and Poop

OUTSTANDING G-2 Personnel receive awards!

Congratulations to:

CWO4 Bryon F. Overton-Meritorious Service Medal and Purple Heart
CWO4 Robert A. Valentine-Legion of Merit
MSgt Collins R. Simoneaux-Meritorious Service Medal
GySgt James F. Fawcett-Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal
Sgt Jesse Gutierrez-Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal

OUTSTANDING G-2 Personnel promoted to their present rank!

Congratulations to:

MSgt James E. Cecil
MSgt Andrew J. Furne

Fare Winds and Following Seas (Bravo Zulu)

MSgt & Mrs. Joel D. Wintjen (Catherine)
Sgt Jeffrey S. Vernet

STORK'S CORNER: Special Congratulations on the arrival of a new bundle of joy!

The stork failed to visit the G-2 this quarter for the first time in four years. However, we have a couple new arrivals scheduled for

next quarter.

Aloha & Welcome Aboard

Col & Mrs. Chris W. Burkhart (Atsuko)
LtCol Patrick H. Ooesterhuis
LtCol & Mrs. Kevin D. Tidwell (Lysette)
Capt & Mrs. Adam J. Becker (Cynthia)
Capt Eric D. Fagen
CWO2 & Mrs. Blankenship (Homeyra)
MSgt & Mrs. James E. Cecil (Kerry)
MSgt & Mrs. Leo V. Tiglao (Fecaridad)
GySgt Kenneth D. Ottley
SSgt Jason O. Whitesel
Sgt Jeffrey W. Chinn
Sgt Jesse A. Manibusan
Sgt & Mrs. Michael W. Presnall (Jennifer)



Retirements/End of Service

Sgt & Mrs. Jesse Gutierrez (Brandy)

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.

Gouge From the G-3

FAREWELLS

MSgt R. Ellington Jan 04 to MCBH
SSgt C. Davis Feb 04 to MCBH
Capt J. Garcia Feb 04 to MCBH
Lt R. Moore Mar 04 USS Blueridge
GySgt E. Norbrey Mar 04 MFP G-6
SSgt Miers Mar 04 MFP G-1

AWARDS-

presented on Feb 26th
LT Moore - MM
Maj Frasard - NC
Sgt McNeill - NC
Sgt Leibenguth - CC
Sgt McNeill - GCM
Sgt Villaneuva - GCM



JOINING THE IMA

Col Korman

CONGRATS

LtCol & Mrs. Kearney congrats on your baby boy! Matthew John H. Kearney was born Dec. 20th, 2003.

Calling All G-3 Spouses!

We will be saying Fair Winds and Following Seas to one of our G-3 Key Volunteers, Mrs. Trudy Lovejoy. Trudy has been instrumental in keeping our military spouses informed and up-to-date on G-3 happenings. Unfortunately LtCol & Mrs. Lovejoy & family will be saying Aloha in June.

Key Volunteers provide vital assistance to the command and remain ready to perform whatever tasks possible to maintain family readiness. If anyone is interested in becoming a Key Volunteer for the G-3, please call Trudy at 254-2656. This is open to G3 spouses of all ranks. We would greatly appreciate your help!

HAILS

MGySgt Robinson (Ging-Mae, on mainland)-NBC
Lt Maupin (Carrie) -COPS
GySgt Agee-FCC
SSgt Stewart (Dawn)-FCC
SSgt Lawless-FCC
SSgt Kemp (Patricia)-FCC
Sgt Anderson (Bret)-FCC
Sgt Manthey (Robyn) -FCC
LCpl Ferrell-ComCam

PROMOTION SELECTIONS

LtCol Yeager - Col
LtCol Merrill - Col
LtCol Batchelor - Col
LtCol Willis - Col

TERMINAL LEAVE

GySgt Blake 2 Jan-2 April

What's New In The G-4

Awards:

Col Yff Bronze Star (Debbie Yff)
LtCol McClain Bronze Star (Barbara McClain)

Promotions:

Maj Rohr selected to LtCol (Maureen Rohr)
Capt Schroeder selected to Maj (Deborah Schroeder)

Welcome Aboard:

MGySgt Bogus
MGySgt Kephass
SSgt Smith [Ralph Sgt Ryan C] (SSgt Gary Smith)

Farewells:

Capt Watson

Births:

MSgt and Mrs. Chris Taraschke gave birth to Laurel Grace 11 Mar 04.

She weighed 6lbs 5oz and is 18 1/2 inches long. Mother and baby are both fine.

Capt Rickman - Tammy Rickman gave birth to a 3lb 15 oz baby girl 11 Mar 04 at 2300. Baby is in Neonatal intensive care where she'll probably remain for a couple of weeks. Tammy is doing well.

Cyber-News ~ Comm from the G-6

Greetings from the MFP G-6. Earlier this winter we welcomed home some of our Marines who were deployed in support of OEF. MFP G-6 is now gearing up for more OEF, OIF II, and Individual Augmentation deployments as well as preparing for future training exercises and contingencies throughout our Pacific Area of Responsibility (AOR).

To the G-6 families, thank you for your continued support, commitment, and patience. Your efforts do not go unnoticed and are not taken for granted. It is your loyal support that allows your Marine family member to focus and concentrate on the mission at hand. Your daily commitment and patience reassures your loved one that while he or she serves their country they are not alone. **Thank you.**

Promotions:

Feb- Maj Hilliard

Mar- Cpl Angie Hidalgo, Cpl Bradley Reardon, LCpl Daniel Baisley, LCpl John Chang, LCpl Hector Alomar

SSgt Bradbury and family welcomed their new baby 3 Feb 2004, Corbin Theo Bradbury.

Sgt Mendoza's family welcomed the newest addition to their family on 30 Dec 2003, Mateo Arturo Mendoza.

LCpl Rodriguez married Amanda Marie Larson 20 Feb 2004.

Cpl Borja and LCpl Craig received their 1st Good Conduct Medals 2 Feb 2004.

MGySgt Bonilla underwent surgery at Queens Hospital in Feb and is quickly recovering.

PFC Adams represented MARFORPAC at the Pacific Division Shooting Matches in Feb 2004.

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

Sgt Keon Miller	Sgt Jose DeLeon	Sgt Joseph Neil
Cpl Parick Leverett	Cpl Thomas Houts	LCpl John Chang
PFC Kurtis Adams		

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

A Word From the G-5

As spring approaches we realize that our Marines have worked diligently and have traveled to 2/3rds of the globe. We applaud their efforts and continue to support their hard work.

Congratulations to the newlyweds: Cpl Robert Perez and Amber, who recently got married on January 16, 2004.

There will be a farewell luncheon on March 19th at the Sea Breeze restaurant in honor of Mr. Kerry Gershaneck who will be transferring to Ft. Shafer as the Public Affairs Officer. In addition, we have to say farewell to Capt Shannon Frison who left in February.

We would also like to send our heartfelt words of encouragement to the family of Mr. Mark Hashimoto (Maj USMCR). His wife Kathleen will undergo a long awaited kidney transplant on 16 April at Cedars Sinai hospital in LA. Mr. Hashimoto and his two daughters, Elizabeth and Marie,

Scoop From The G-8/9

Outstanding G8/9 personnel receive awards!

Congratulations to:

SSgt Jason Cooper (Lisa)-Navy and Marine Corps
Commendation Medal - 1 Mar 04

Promotion to present rank!

Congratulations to:

LtCol John Chadwick (Terri) --- 1 Feb 04

Retirements this summer:

Col Robert Herkenham (Patricia) --- 1 Aug 04

LtCol Kevin Emery (Felomina) --- 1 Oct 04

PCS (Outbound) summer 2004

LtCol and Mrs. John Chadwick (Terri)

Maj and Mrs. Peter Hart (Diana)

1st Lt and Mrs. Thomas McGoldrick (Lisa)

Aloha From ALD

ALD sadly bids farewell to three ALD families: MSgt Curtis Maddox, his wife Adina and their children will depart Hawaii in May for New Orleans, while MSgt Wise, his wife Brandi and their daughter will be moving to Yuma to join MALS-13. SSgt "Nick" Nichols and his wife Amber will also leave ALD for MALS-13 in Yuma. Nick has been serving ALD in Bahrain for the last six months.

We welcome four new Marines to our ALD family: Maj. (LtCol select) Robert Krekel and his bride Deborah from G-5, MSgt David Chandler and his wife Monica from HMT-301, GySgt Rodney Cook and his wife Urceal from 2nd MAW at Cherry Point and Sgt David Jeffries and his wife Lisa from MALS-14 at Cherry Point. We hope you enjoy your time at ALD.



For The Family



Have you ever wanted to teach your children or yourself more about our country and its government?

Here is a wonderful age appropriate website offering a comprehensive amount of information to assist you. The website will also direct you to other links which will complement your areas of interest.

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov>



Kids Voting USA

A national non-profit, nonpartisan organization that fosters an informed, participating electorate by educating and actively engaging young people and their families in voting and other elements of effective civic engagement.

www.kidsvotingusa.org



MCCS One Source offers you:

A real person to talk to when you need an answer to a question. An award-winning Website 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)



"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!"



CREDO Hawaii has moved to BLDG 244 adjacent to the Movie Theatre on Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Our new phone number is 257-1919 for information regarding the programs we conduct, registrations and business.

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**

Educational Opportunities Abound!

Unlike the families on many bases, the spouses and family members of HQSVCBN MFP are spread out all over the island of Oahu and beyond. Logistically it is sometimes difficult to attend some of the wonderful enrichment and educational classes offered to the spouses at MCBH. If you happen to live nearer to one of the on-island Army posts or would like to learn about Family Readiness and Family Team Building online our counterparts in the Army welcome you to visit them online or in class.

I am excited to talk with you about some of the classes that I have taken through the Army's MWR/Community Education program. First, let me start out by saying that these classes are free and open to military members and their dependents, regardless of branch of service. They are offered at various Army installations on Oahu: Schofield, Ft. Shafter, and AMR. To get a current listing of monthly classes you can go to www.MWRarmyhawaii.com or call 655-2400. Subjects offered range in topics as varied as "Good Discipline, Good Kids," "Living Healthy Habits," "Car Buying." The last time I counted there were over 20 classes to choose from. Some are offered in the day and some in the evenings.

As a Key Volunteer I chose some classes that would help me become better at what I do. The AFTB (Army Family Team Building) classes are great! You can use the information in almost every aspect of your life, such as building relationships, better communication with others, learning more about the military lifestyle. There are 3 levels of training and each level is a 3-part series. I recommend you take the first two levels online if you have access to a computer www.armyfamilyteambuilding.org. The third level class is more for putting together a Family Readiness Group (to support families of deployed military members) and must be taken in a classroom setting. The other class I loved was FRG (Family Readiness Group) Hospitality and should be a must for any KV! It is brief and discusses how to properly welcome, farewell, and care for families within your unit.

The great thing about taking these classes is that you expand your horizons, network with other people, share and compare ideas and experiences within a group setting. Whether you are military, a stay-at-home parent, working, or looking for employment, these Army courses are fun and informative. Some of the class material was review for me, but was great for re-awakening my brain!

~Trudy Lovejoy G-3

Tips For Flying Space-A

By Amanda Purdom

Getting Started:

- In order to travel without your spouse you must have a Command letter, which you can get from your Company Commander.
- Every Air Force station has certain information they need from you in order to sign-up. Call or go on the web to find out about their particular sign-up forms.
- Fax, email or walk in your request as soon as you know when you want to travel. Walk-in is best; they'll stamp your orders or command letter and your name goes on the list!
- Flight information is posted 24-48 hrs before departure. You can call the terminal and listen to the automated system or go to the front desk and speak to someone in person the day before your flight. It's recommended to speak to a live person; things can change by the minute.

Tips for Checking In:

- Always carry your Command letter and ID with you at all times, even when getting through security at the terminal.
- Once you get through security check in at the Customer Service Desk. You must sign-in or be marked "present" in order for your name to be called at roll call.
- Arrive 30 minutes before roll call or "show time" (which is usually 3 hours before your actual flight).
- You must be present at time of roll call or "show time" to get a seat on the flight.
- When flying out of Hawaii, if they direct you to go to the agriculture counter, you have a spot on the plane. Congratulations!

Hints on Packing:

- PACK LIGHT...bring only what you can physically roll or carry on your own. You might have to walk a distance to the bus or terminal.
- You are allotted two pieces of luggage (70 lbs each) to check and one carry-on bag. If you're traveling with a small child, that includes their car seat or stroller. However, car seats do not count as carry-on items.
- It is recommended children under five use a car seat. So, if you plan on carrying on a car seat, back pack or bag, and your child...PACK LIGHT!
- Everyone must wear closed-toed shoes (children included). Wear jeans & socks if you're prone to getting cold.
- Bring a small blanket for the kids (or you) to use while you wait or while you're on the plane.
- Bring a jacket or sweatshirt for the flight...it gets cool. If you own a pair of earplugs, bring them with you. They will give you a pair if you need them.
- Bring \$3.25 for a nice size box lunch/snack. It's large enough for two kids or one parent and child.

Tips for Your Return Flight:

- Your name needs to be on the list for your return flight. The sooner your name is on the list the more likely you are to travel when you want.
- Before you ever leave your original destination email or fax in your Command letter and sign-up form from your destination.
- Once you arrive at your destination go directly to the Customer Service desk and check back in for your departing flight.

General Information:

- You can sign up months in advance of when you want to go.
- C5 planes are more like commercial aircrafts. They are the largest planes the Air Force flies.
- C17 planes are much louder and the ride is a little rough. Seating is around the belly of the plane. You feel like you're on a real mission!
- Worst times to travel: summer and holidays. Expect delays! Weather and plane conditions are always a factor. It's fun...look at it as an adventure!



Hoping For The Best, But Preparing For The Worst: What You Need To Know About Casualty Calls

On February 10th, Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC) released MARAD-MIN 058/04 which outlines casualty procedures in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and announced the approval of an updated version of the Marine Corps Casualty Procedures Manual (Marine Corps Order P3040.4E). New policies and procedures have recently been adopted to provide more timely and accurate information to primary next-of-kin—extremely important in a wartime environment where the public media is embedded with deployed units and news of casualties is passed almost instantaneously. Let's face it—it's a tough situation when it's your loved one deployed in harm's way. But having some knowledge of casualty call procedures *can* help to alleviate some of the tension from wondering, "Now what?"

Here are some basic points of information family members should be aware of with regard to casualty reporting for deployed units:

1. The Marine Corps now employs a Department of Defense software system known as the Defense Casualty Information Processing System-Forward (DCIPS-FORWARD) to generate the Personnel Casualty Report (PCR), which is the basic document that starts the notification ball rolling. The PCR is generated by the deployed unit and sent via email and autodin message to the rear area command, the Casualty Branch at HQMC (MRC), and a litany of information addressees. In addition, *the parent command is responsible for calling MRC within one hour of the incident.*

2. HQMC (MRC) pulls Primary Next of Kin (PNOK)/Secondary Next of Kin (SNOK) and insurance information from the servicemember's record, and *tasks the closest unit to the PNOK and SNOK to provide notification and assistance. This is why it is extremely important that PNOK/SNOK information is kept current by the servicemember!* A Casualty Assistance Call Officer (CACO) could be assigned from a base or station, inspector/instructor (I&I) unit, or recruiting office, and are staff non-commissioned officers, warrant officers, or commissioned officers equal or higher in rank than the deceased. *All have had training in order to assist the family in acquiring all aspects of survivor support resources.*

3. The CACO will notify the PNOK/SNOK *in person and in dress*

blue or Service "A" uniform between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and midnight. If at all possible, a chaplain will accompany the CACO. *The only time PNOK/SNOK would be officially notified by telephone would be in the case of an injured or ill servicemember, and this call would come from the parent command.* The CACO will provide all known facts concerning the casualty incident to the family.

4. With the Marine Corps' reputation of "taking care of our own," the CACO's *primary duty* once assigned is *to ensure that the fallen servicemember's family obtains all benefits and entitlements granted by the federal government—no civilian attorneys required!* Although the listing of entitlements is too long to mention in detail, some of the major ones include: travel orders for authorized family members; payment of death gratuity (a lump sum \$12,000 non-taxable payment made to the PNOK within 48 hours to assist with living expenses pending receipt of additional survivor benefit funds and Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI)); transportation of household goods; continuation of basic allowance for housing or continued occupation of government quarters (if applicable) for 180 days; reissuance of family member ID cards; application for survivor benefits; beneficiary financial counseling services; and burial allowances. *Benefits will vary case-by-case, but the CACO is there to walk the family through the process!*

Now, the final (and most important) point of this article: **If your Marine or Sailor is deployed, does the battalion know how to reach you if necessary?** Many spouses decide to go back to the mainland to be closer to family during deployments. If you are planning to leave the area, please give your contact information to the command Family Readiness Officer and/or your Key Volunteer! Phone numbers and e-mail addresses are provided on the first page of this newsletter!

Want or need more information on casualty assistance?

Access the Marine Corps Casualty Section website at www.manpower.usmc.mil. From the left side of the screen, select "Personal and Family Readiness (MR)", then "Casualty Assistance" from the drop-down list. Two other organizations devoted to providing assistance to survivors are TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors—800-959-TAPS or www.TAPS.org) and Gold Star Wives of America (888-751-6350 or www.goldstarwives.org).

~Mary Forde-February KVA

COMMANDING OFFICER
HQSVCBN MFP
BOX 64129
CAMP H.M. SMITH, HI 96861-4129

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HONOLULU, HI
PERMIT NO. 232

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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

"This Key Volunteer Network newsletter is published with appropriated government funds to provide information of interest to service members, families of service members, Key Volunteers, and Family Readiness Officers and in no way shall be considered directive in nature. The content of this newsletter is not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the United States Government or the Department of Defense. Any mention of commercial activity in this publication does not constitute endorsement by DOD for the product or service."



Preparation Is Key ~ Family Care Plans

For a Marine to perform to the best of their ability and to concentrate fully on their mission, they need to know that their family is being taken care of. Having a plan made prior to your Marine's deployment will help alleviate stress when unforeseen situations arise.

A Family Care Plan (FCP) is a document that outlines the logistics of childcare, legal and financial paperwork, and medical information while your Marine is away from home. It is a great idea for every family to set up an FCP, but it is only required for those Marines who are single parents, dual active-duty couples, and Marines who bear sole responsibility for the care of elderly, disabled or family members with limited command of English or limited transportation to life-sustaining facilities. The complete Department of Defense (DOD) policy and procedure can be accessed MCO 1740.13A.

In your FCP, some of the things you will need to include are: caregiver/guardian designation and an agreement with them, special instructions, guidance on healthcare access and issues, family transportation arrangements, care of home/quarters, current Wills, Power of Attorney, financial allotments for care of family members, and financial access and arrangements.

The Staff Judge Advocate's Office (SJA) at Camp Smith can help you with Powers of Attorney and the SJA at MCBH with Wills. In addition, they can assist you with safeguarding Wills, initiating General and Special Powers of Attorney and Affidavits for caregivers. You can call 477-8505 or 257-2110 x 242/236 to make an appointment.

While sitting down to plan your official FCP, some additional things that you can consider are:

- To make sure checking/savings accounts are in order and prepare a comprehensive budget.
- That auto inspections are up to date along with instructions for future inspections. That base vehicle decal and State Safety Sticker are up to date.
- That insurance policies are current and safeguarded.
- **That your Marine's Record of Emergency Data (RED) is current**
- That you can locate all important documents-insurance papers, birth certificates, religious certificates, ownership papers, marriage license, Immunization records, Social security cards, citizenship and adoption papers.
- To make a week of daily schedules and include locations, time and phone numbers.

Keep a list of emergency names and numbers posted that includes family members, doctors and clinics, PMO/police, chaplain, your Key Volunteer, Red Cross, your Marine's Executive Officer and Family Readiness Officer. You can call your Key Volunteer or the Office of Information & Referrals (257-7786/7787) for help in finding the services you need. You can also find answers to almost any questions on the web at www.mccsonesource.com, www.lifelines.usmc.mil, or www.usmc-mccs.org. Call 257-2386 and attend a L.I.N.K.S. seminar to get valuable tips on deployments and other aspects of military life from other Marine spouses.

Take the time to prepare for the unexpected. The more thorough your family plan is, the easier the deployment will be for your Marine and for your family at home. It is an incredible responsibility that we accept as military families, but we can take pride in the job our Marines do and in knowing we have done our part to support their mission.

~Cristina Shockey - G-6

