



2D BATTALION, 8TH MARINES FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM INTENT

"Marines take care of their own – period. This enduring pledge between Marines is never more sacred than during time of war. Just as every Marine makes a commitment to the Corps when they earn the title Marine, the Corps makes an enduring commitment to every Marine – and an enduring commitment to their family." — General James T. Conway, 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps

Dear 2/8 Families,

I would like to extend my thanks to each of you for your support of 2/8's Family Readiness Program. I fully appreciate the challenges you face in meeting your everyday personal and family requirements, while also selflessly giving your free time to assist others in the broader 2/8 family. You have my most sincere thanks and deepest respect. In the following paragraphs, I explain the background, purpose, and intent of our Family Readiness Program. This is important – it is our program, and I need your help, feedback, and support to ensure we truly maximize our potential and meet the needs of our families.

Our Family Readiness program is a critical vertebrae in the backbone of our Battalion – everything we do in this unit relies on the well-being and support of the entire family team. Our program is designed to assist the individual Marine and their family to successfully balance (1) life events, (2) career events, and (3) mission events. Our Family Readiness Command Team combines with MCCS to help meet the unique needs of our Marines, Sailors, and their families. Every Marine/Sailor has a family – which is why our program is fortunate to include advisors for both spouses (Joanne Harrill) and parents (Mr. Jim Diepenbruck). We also have a wonderful group of spouses who are trained as Family Readiness Assistants and are available to lend a helping hand for information and referral services.

My intent for this program is simple – 2/8 takes care of 2/8. Our Marines have applied this philosophy on the battlefields throughout the world. This same fidelity and commitment applies to our families. Whenever there is a Marine, Sailor, or family in need, we will be there to assist.

Communication and Assistance

Our Family Readiness Officer, Ms. Misty Weiser, facilitates the 2/8 Family Readiness Program. She will pass official communication from the command through several forms. First, our mass communication system will send emails, phone calls, and/or text messages to the family members designated by the Marine or Sailor. Official phone calls will come from 111 111-1111. This communication will consist of official messages only. Emergency information will not be passed through this system. Additionally, we will publish a monthly newsletter through the email system. Finally, our website at

<http://www.marines.mil/unit/2ndmardiv/8thmarreg/2ndbat/Pages/Mission/default.aspx>

will have updated stories and photos of our training, as well as links for the companies and platoons.

If you need assistance or desire more information, please contact our Family Readiness Officer, Ms. Misty Weiser at (W) 910-451-7836 (C) 910-382-0370. She will provide you the information necessary to meet your needs. For parents, our FRO will also facilitate your interaction with our Parent Network Advisor. Please do not hesitate to contact us regarding any of your needs.

Front Towards Enemy,

J.D. Harrill

Lieutenant Colonel, USMC