

Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) Hampton Roads
Special Needs Forum and Installation Family Readiness Council (IFRC) Meeting
2nd Qtr. FY 18 / 6 February 2018

MCCS Camp Allen Personnel:

Vincent Negron, MCCS Director

Karina Phillips, MCCS Deputy Director, EFMP Program Manager

Tracy Fearon, MCFTB Director, MCCS Coordinator

Mike Corrie, Semper Fit Director

Renee McCoy, Training, Education and Outreach Specialist EFMP

Melanie Krogh, MCFTB Trainer

John Goodrich, SMP Coordinator

Command Representatives

MARDET Dam Neck: Capt Joseph Livi, FRO

MARDET NSOM: GySgt Shannon Farquhar, FRO

MARFORCOM & MARFORCOM HQSVCBN: Col Thomas Campbell, CO HQSVCBN; CAPT Steve Shaw, Force Chaplain; Capt Jason Weaver*; CWO2 Duran Sword, FRO; Colin Moore, FRO; Kai Faison, MCCS Director

MCSFR: Doretta Richardson, FRO; Mrs. Amanda Ward*

MATSD: MSgt Nathaniel Blacksmith

Other Community Representatives

Joanna Strong, Housing Service Center, Norfolk *

Sheila Crute, Family Housing, NWS Yorktown*

Danielle Mathis, Family Housing, NAS Oceana*

* present for Special Needs Forum only

1305: Opening Remarks

- Tracy Fearon, MCFTB Director, opened up the session
- Welcomed attendees
- Vincent Negron welcome attendees to Camp Allen
- Col Campbell thanked everyone for attending and highlighted the importance of Family Readiness
- Ms. Fearon introduced guest speaker Sylvia Muller

1310: Guest Speaker: Sylvia Muller, Program Manager: Military Mentoring, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Inc. (757)392-5155

- Family Readiness is important because it benefits families by decreasing risk-factors and addressing challenges unique to military families
- Showed video: "Operation Big" from Tampa, FL
 - o Program has been around for over 40 years
 - o For ages nine and older
 - o Volunteers are screened and have background checks
- Operation Big is now local
- Volunteers are mentors to military children that are in middle school to spend one-on-one quality time with the child once a week for a few hours. There are options to meet after school or on weekends. There is a site-based program option: three Virginia Beach schools working to have mentors meet with child during school hours and use the library or some other special location. The second option is

community-based. Activities may include golf course, park, board games, beach, or whatever the child likes to do.

- Important for kids to have mentors, someone outside the family that can provide individual attention and be a sounding board for any challenges the child might face
 - Col Campbell remarks: Some children do not have many things in their lives to call their own. A child's "Big" can give him/her sense of being special and unique
- Being a mentor gain from the program, as well. Giving back to the community in a meaningful way produces a sense of pride a purpose.
- Children who have mentors often end up becoming a mentor for someone else
- Some children face adversity. Military families may not have family support living nearby. Having a mentor can be a positive impact on them when distant family may not be able to be around.
- Volunteers send in an application submitted with references. Candidates are screened, get 3rd level background checks, interviewed for two hours to find the best match for the mentor and the child for relatable interests. Volunteers must commit to one year to being a mentor to enhance the relationship bond because relationships take time. Must be 18 years or older.
- Sylvia Muller can email resources and documents electronically (757)392-5155

- EFMP a mandatory program for Marines and their families to ensure the new duty station can support the needs of the EFM.
- Goal is to educate Marines, their families, and care providers to spread the word about the program. When people are educated they can have direction in case they or someone they know needs the information. If Unit Family Readiness is maintained then the Marine can keep their minds where they should be, on work.
- EFMP location is in Portsmouth at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Building 3 on the 4th floor. Camp Allen EFMP supports all EFM families from Ft. Lee and throughout Hampton Roads.
- The EFMP office has myriad resources that they can connect EFM families to
- Support happens daily, weekly and monthly through various programs:
 - Respite care, 20 hours per month (max six hour increments) for Level of Need three and four. This service relieves the primary care giver in order to rest and practice self-care.
 - Walk and Talk event 15 February at MacArthur Mall, any USMC family can attend.
 - Children's Museum, located in Portsmouth, will be hosting "special day for special needs" 18 March 0900-1100.
- Navy Housing Office will work with families with special needs
 - PPV oversight with medical equipment wavers to lower cost of some utilities
 - Additional housing support: workshops, buying, renting, realty questions, liaison with PPVs

- At this time, there are no civilian housing areas on the restricted list.
- Karina Phillips added: a "new" Functional Area Checklist (FAC) for the EFMP was released Jan 2018 and provided the hand out to all in attendance.
 - The FAC is used by IG teams to inspect commands.

1345: Break. Tracy Fearon suggests visiting I/R table

1355: UPFRP Updates and round-table discussion, including:

- Marine Corps Spouses' Thrift Shop has a scholarship for graduating seniors who are the child of an active duty or retired Marine. Scholarship application due 1 March
- Tax Season, inform Marines they can get taxes done for free.
 - Online at Military OneSource or on site at Naval Station Norfolk
- Safe and Sound at Home for personal safety 28 February at Camp Allen gym
- LINKS for Kids on March 10th. Ages 5-12. Marine families are spread out, this program brings the children together for fun activities at the Camp Allen gym
- PRS (Personnel Readiness Seminar) is part of "Marine for Life," and is one of the touch-points in a Marine's career
 - Required to take PRS 90 days after checking in at their first permanent duty station
 - MCFTB and FFSC work together to facilitate PRS.
 - PRS can be held on site by Command request
 - Next class 27 February

- The annual Volunteer Appreciation event is hosted each year by MCCA Camp Allen. It is required commanders acknowledge their volunteers at least once per year. April is Volunteer Appreciation Month.
 - Participating command FROs are asked to complete volunteer invite list, due March 2nd.
 - Command teams were sent a "save the date" email
 - Accepting Volunteer Appreciation gift ideas
- The annual Ooh Rah Day Summer Bash is 20 June. Around 1,000-1,200 people typically attend. The event being held at Slade Cutter Park. More information to follow.

U&FRF

- Show Me the Money. 1st quarter allocations of U&FRF were sent out. This year is the second of two funds reductions that will result in a 50% reduction from 2016 levels.
 - It is an option to pull all U&FRF funds for the year, based upon 1st quarter personnel count.
 - Vincent Negron mentioned even with the reduction of Marine Corps U&FRF, Commands on Navy Installations should still receive funds from Navy MWR.
 - To help offset cost for Commands who receive U&FRF, items for command events checked out from the Camp Allen Outdoor Rec will be at no charge. Must initiate with Tracy Fearon first.
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1410: Updates from MCCA Camp Allen department heads

- Single Marine Program: SMP Coordinator, John Goodrich

- SMP Council meeting, 8 February
- Humane Society volunteering 8 February
- Annual ski trip on 24 February, overnight
- SMP Symposium, location and date TBD
- April, SMP dates of service in the works for location
- Field meet May 18. Looking for new ideas, pass the word
- Col Campbell suggested John Goodrich have more open office hours in Yorktown
 - Office location and office hours TBD
- SMP can come and coordinate transportation to activity location
 - Van can be reserved on first come first served bases.

- Semper Fit: Semper Fit Director, Mike Corrie
 - HITT level 1 /2 in Yorktown for MCSFR was a success
 - HITT level 1 this week at Camp Allen
 - HITT level 1 April 9-13 (5 day training) at Camp Allen gym
 - HITT level 2 April 16-19 (4 day training) at Camp Allen gym
 - More information about HITT courses contact Chris Harper (757)445-1288
 - HITT courses can travel to command location upon request
- Spring Golf Tournament is a good team-building event
 - Friday, 20 April at Sewell's Point Golf Course
 - Fee includes: Food, trophies, prizes, cart rental, green fees and range balls

- o Discount rate prior to 11 April
 - o Dead line for all registration 16 April
 - o Save the date flyer forth coming
- Health promotions push from Commandant for tobacco cessation.
 - o John Durham (757)445-1288 for Tobacco Cessation classes
 - o Working alongside Sewell's Point clinic for nicotine patches, gum, and medication to help stop smoking
- John Durham offers other classes, including drinking and driving, alcohol/substance abuse, safe sex/STDs, suicide prevention to name a few
 - o February is Heart Health Month. John Durham will be arranging on site visits with commands for blood pressure screenings.
- Outdoor Rec office space is currently being renovated.
 - o Units that receive U&FRF from MCCA Camp Allen are eligible to free equipment check out for command events.
 - Command/Units initiate equipment request through Tracy Fearon (757)445-6875
 - Equipment request is done on a first come first served basis
 - o Rental items: Canoes, kayaks, tents, stand up paddle boards, and more
 - o Rental items 25% lower prices than MWR and out on town
- Indoor Shooting Range: MCCA Director Vincent Negrón
 - 2 bays, 14 lanes, hand gun, rifle and shot gun rentals

- Can work with group prices for Command events. Great for team building.
- Can bring in own fire arms. Specific gun limitations

- Marine Corps Exchange: MCCS Director Vincent Negrón
 - Uniforms, price matching, and will order items
 - Generates profits that are returned to Marines in the form of U&FRF
 - Service Station, good prices for basic car repairs
 - Car wash, open for command fund raisers
 - Call Mrs. Joyce to schedule

1. 1420: Open Floor

- Vincent Negrón stated MCCS Camp Allen is here to support Marines and their families and to let us know how we can better do that.
- Tracy Fearon stated May is Military Spouses Appreciation Month
- Vincent Negrón also stated MCCS Camp Allen provides contractual support for all the local area Marine Corps Birthday Balls.

1429: Adjourn