

COMMANDING OFFICER'S STATEMENT ON FAMILY READINESS



Personal and family readiness is critical to our ability to focus on our primary mission—developing and training young Marines to fight and win wars. After 15 years of persistent conflict our operational tempo throughout the Marine Corps remains high, and a great strain has been placed on our force and those whom support us each and every day. Despite the fact this command is not in the operating forces, our tasks are no less demanding and our hours are as long, if not longer. We must ensure that what time we do have with our families is characterized by quality, and we must always show our appreciation for the many sacrifices our dependents and extended family members have made so that we can serve as Marines and pursue this life we have chosen. Family support is vital to our everyday sense of purpose and the energy we apply to training our Marines.

Our command team is committed to providing information, opportunities, programs and resources to all Detachment personnel on a consistent basis so as to maximize our collective quality of life and to take full advantage of various services and benefits available to Marines and their families. From the Commanding Officer on down, knowing our Marines and taking a genuine interest in their family life beyond normal duty hours will be a top priority, and will always be a hallmark of caring, engaged leadership here at Fort Leonard Wood. Just as we leave no Marine behind, we shall never leave a family member behind either.

Communication among all Marines and family members is the ultimate key to success. We will be aggressive in our planning of unit events and passing of important information so that our families are included every step of the way. Our intent is to create a marketplace of ideas in which we can all collaborate to create a better life for those affiliated with this Detachment. We will always be looking for new, innovative, and better ways to improve our program. Feedback from all of you will be eagerly sought after and happily accepted.

Assistance and additional information pertaining to Family Readiness is available from our Family Readiness Officer, Ms. Joanna Murray-Terpening. She may be contacted at (573) 596-0131, extension 68007 or joanna.r.murray-terpening.naf@mail.mil.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Markert". The signature is stylized and cursive.

George W. Markert

Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

Commanding Officer