



The Compass Point

Newsletter for Marine Corps Intelligence Schools and its regional commands
December 23, 2014

From the Family Readiness Officer:

Greetings Marines and families,

Season's greetings and happy holidays! I hope this newsletter finds you well. To our Marines and families who are receiving this for the first time, welcome to The Compass Point, the Official Newsletter from Marine Corps Intelligence Schools and its regional commands. It is our hope this venue keeps you informed of your resources. Additionally, I welcome our Marines and families from Ft. Belvoir and Newport. In this and future newsletters, I will add programs and opportunities relevant to your area too. As we continue through this season and into the New Year, thank you for all that you do. Please remember that each Marine family is a valued member of the team. If you are traveling to visit family and friends or remaining local, please be safe and have an enjoyable holiday! Thank you for the continued support! You are a model for the Nation with and indomitable spirit. You are a National Treasure.

Semper Fidelis,
Ramon Villa



Looking for Santa???

View minute by minute updates and countdown to the big day.

[Click Here to Follow Santa!](#)

DFAS Tax Schedule is Updated

Don't want to wait for 2015?
Your tax schedule is posted.

<http://www.dfas.mil/pressroom/dfasnewsreleasearchive/Release1312001.html>



Featured Article: Where did Santa Tracker Start?

NORAD tracker began with a TYPO and a good sport. [Click to Read Article](#)

Thanks for Amy Brandal from MCIS HQ for the submission.



With the New Year comes TAX SEASON ugh!!!

This can be a stressful time and confusing time. Consider your resources though. 1. Your installation VITA offices are available. This is open to all active duty Marines, dependents and retirees. VITA offices help with basic information, tax return and electronic filing assistance. All VITA volunteers are certified by the IRS. If you are interested in volunteering at a VITA office please visit your installation's office or visit the IRS website. We have a lot of service members who could use your quality assistance!



DFAS NEWS: Changes to Allotments

DFAS is changing its policy regarding voluntary allotments for consumer purchases. Service members will no longer be able to make allotments for the following types of purchases: Vehicles, such as automobiles, motorcycles and boats; appliances or household goods, such as furniture, washers and dryers; electronics, such as laptops, tablets, cell phones and televisions; and other consumer items that are tangible and moveable. Allotments still can be used for savings account deposits, investments, to support dependents, pay insurance premiums, mortgages, rents, make Combined Federal Campaign contributions, and U.S. government debt repayments." This change was put into place to help protect service members and family members from some of the more predatory business practices that rely on tapping directly into the military paycheck. For more information and the DOD article click: <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=123701>

Do you like FREE? I like FREE!!!

FREE Tax Preparation from Military One Source.

Military OneSource provides access to an [online tax filing service](#) at no cost to you. The service allows you to complete and electronically file your federal and up to three state tax returns or filings. Your calculations are guaranteed to be 100 percent accurate or the online tax service provider will pay the penalties and interest.

http://www.militaryonesource.mil/pfm/tax-planning-and-preparation?content_id=273404



MARADMIN 570/14: Eligibility and Funding Guidance for Off Base Child Care Fee Assistance. Supports child care needs of geographically dispersed Marines. [Click here for MARADMIN 570/14](#)

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MILITARY SPOUSE VIRTUAL HIRING FAIR JANUARY 8, 2015 | 11AM-3PM EST

Join us for a special live virtual hiring fair, connecting military friendly employers and employment seeking military spouses.

This free Virtual Job Scout event is open to all military spouses, including Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, Veteran and Gold Star Spouses.

- **Jobseekers:** Search job listings to find the perfect opportunity and connect one-on-one with recruiters online.
- **Employers:** Get free and instant access to a valuable talent pool of military spouses.

REGISTER ONLINE: HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG



HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG
Find us online:



Offers scholarships and professional support programs to help military spouses prepare for meaningful employment and to better contribute to their family's financial wellbeing. You must be a spouse with a valid military ID to apply. Scholarships and other awards range from \$500 to \$2,500, depending on the type of program you are pursuing and the funding we have available. You may apply each year, even if you have been awarded in a previous year. **Applications are open December 1, 2014 – January 31, 2015.** Want more info? Click the link: [Spouse Scholarships](#)

HOMES.mil is a service designed to connect Service members and their Families with



DoD-verified community housing rental listings located near U.S. military bases. Create an account or login to begin searching for homes at your current or future installation. Property Managers can list their properties at no cost. All Property Managers and properties are verified by Military Housing Offices throughout the world.

Hey FRO!!! What is L.I.N.K.S.?

L.I.N.K.S. is a life-skills program that is offered through Marine Corps Family Team Building (MCFTB). L.I.N.K.S. stands for Lifestyle, Insight, Networking, Knowledge and Skills. Your MCFTB Office can offer robust L.I.N.K.S. programs: for spouses, kids, couples and Marines. All of our L.I.N.K.S. classes are designed to enhance the readiness of Marines and their families by offering an orientation to the Marine Corps' lifestyle. The L.I.N.K.S. team uses information sharing, small group discussions, and interactive activities to keep the sessions fun, fast-paced, and interesting. For available courses and more information contact me at 757-492-0072 or ramon.f.villa@usmc.mil. Don't have a MCFTB near you? No worries! Contact me and we will make every effort to bring L.I.N.K.S. to you!



To register you may also visit: <http://virtualjobscout.org/>.



JOB OPPORTUNITY WITH MCCS!

Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) is looking for the best and brightest to join our Team!

Position: Installation Supervisory Program Manager Camp Lejeune

For questions related to a specific position or the application process please contact us at:

Human Resources Division

Marine Corps Community Services

(910) 451-JOBS | mccslejeune.com/jobs

Email questions to: lejeune.vacancies@usmc-mccs.org

For more employment opportunities with MCCS visit:

<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/careers/>



We Need Volunteers!!!

Do you have special skills or interests that could promote family readiness? Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity? Do you just want to get involved and help out? If the answer to any of these is yes, then I need you. Everyone has special skills and talents our program needs. Let's work together to promote family readiness and have a great time doing it! I am always looking for volunteers to assist the command in promoting the program. Become a volunteer! Feel free to contact me anytime at 757-492-0072 or 757-469-1920 and



ramon.f.villa@usmc.mil

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AAA Tidewater Virginia will once again offer its

TOW to GO

service in the Hampton Roads community this holiday season. The goal of the program is to provide a safe alternative to drinking and driving on area roads.

TOW to GO is available until 6:00 a.m. on January 1, 2015.

The service is FREE and available to both AAA members and non-members. Reservations are not accepted. Tows are available within the greater Hampton Roads area only.

Call (757) 631-1700 or 1-800-AAA-HELP.

For more information visit <http://www.tidewater.aaa.com/home/information/upcoming-events.html>



Single Marine Program Hampton Roads!

Calling all single Marines and Geo bachelors! The SMP is your program. Take advantage of the great events and volunteer opportunities! Here are some awesome events provided by the Single Marine Program. Contact your command SMP Rep or the SMP Coordinator Hampton Roads, Kurt Isenberg at 757-445-5104 / 757-333-1877 or isenbergka@usmc-mccs.org

Ski/Board Trip

10 January 2015

**Includes:
Transportation
Ski/Board Rental
Lift Ticket**

**Don't wait to sign up,
seats are going fast! deadline to register,
29 December!**

\$65

SATURDAY:

5 a.m. Meet and depart from Camp Allen administration building.
8:30 a.m. Estimated arrival at Wintergreen Resort, check-in, issue lift tickets and gear rental.
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Skiing/snowboarding (lunch on your own)
5:30 p.m. Turn in gear and change clothes
6 p.m. Depart Wintergreen Resort
10 p.m. Estimated arrival back at Camp Allen

WHAT TO BRING:

-Ski clothing (water resistant materials, gloves, hats, goggles, wool socks)
-Dry clothes to change into for ride home
-Extra cash for lunch, merchandise, etc.



**CONTACT YOUR SMP REPRESENTATIVE OR
Kurt Isenberg @ 757.445.5104
isenbergka@usmc-mccs.org**



Upcoming Sessions with MCFTB Camp Allen

L.I.N.K.S. for KIDS!!! Jan 10 2015, 11AM-3PM @ Camp Allen Gym in Norfolk. This is a great course for all kids 5-12. Make new friends, staying in touch, Marine Corps History, being safe and so much more! MCCS Camp Allen will contribute \$50 per participant to your unit party funds. Come to L.I.N.K.S. Contact me or Renee McCoy at 757-445-6875. View more events offered by MCFTB at [Camp Allen Upcoming Events](#)

LINKS
for School Aged Kids

Ages 5-12

- Learn Marine Corps history and lifestyle
- Make new friends
- Discover how to cope with deployments
- Make moving fun

10 January 2015
11:00-1500

Location: Camp Allen Gym

For more information or to register contact:
Renee HJ McCoy
[@mccoyrh@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:mccoyrh@usmc-mccs.org) or call
call: 757-445-6875

SMP/BOSS Reps may submit their events to this newsletter by contacting me at ramon.f.villa@usmc.mil or 757-492-0072

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Holiday Message from the
Commandant and
Mrs. Dunford

<http://www.marines.mil/>

Visit Mrs. Dunford's
Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Ellyn.Dunford2014>

CREDO is a program of the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps.

Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation

(CREDO) programs and personnel are operationally focused, family supportive, and flexible in the provision of ministry. CREDO Mid Atlantic's efforts are designed to meet these service demands by 1) maximizing operational impact, 2) offering standard retreat and training programs, and 3) clarifying responsibilities. Retreats are strictly voluntary and are held over the weekends. CREDO retreats and workshops enhance the Navy Chaplain Corps goal of developing spiritually fit sea warriors and family who are trained in ethics, morally grounded, family supportive, spiritually ready, sustained in her/his religious freedom, and mission capable. Contact your Chaplains office or me for CREDO workshops throughout the east coast region.



Changes to Your Roth TSP Contributions May Stop Unless You Act

If you are an active duty member making dollar-amount Roth contributions to your TSP account, these deductions will stop on January 31, 2015, unless you act.

How your election requirements will change:

- u An upcoming change in myPay will require you to designate your Roth contributions as a percentage of your pay, not a dollar amount. If you don't comply with this change, then the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) will not be able to process your Roth contributions. This change affects your Roth contributions only; your traditional contributions are already designated as a percentage of pay.

When the change will take place:

- u The new requirement will take effect January 1, 2015. If your new Roth election is not received by January 31, 2015, then DFAS will not be able to process your Roth contributions until you update them.

How to make the change:

- u Log into myPay. Click on "Traditional TSP and Roth TSP". In the "Contribution from Roth TSP" section, enter the percentage of your pay that you'd like to contribute (10%, for example). Click "Save".

From the FRO's Cocina (Kitchen)

For this month I thought I would share a little from my grandmother's kitchen. I remember growing up in New Mexico and seeing my Grandma Dominga preparing this holiday recipe. The whole familia would gather together throughout this season and enjoy some chocolate caliente and some homemade Bizcochos (cinnamon cookie). From my grandmother's kitchen to yours have a great holiday!

Makes: 300 Bizcochos . Yup! We had a big family!

Ingredients: 6 cups flour/2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt/2 tablespoons ground cinnamon (freshly ground when possible)/¼ teaspoon ginger/1 pound lard or shortening
1 egg/1 ½ cup granulated sugar/½ cup wine, orange juice or water

1 tablespoon vanilla/2 tablespoons anise seed

Sugar and Cinnamon Coating

1 cup granulated sugar/½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Sift flour with the next four (4) dry ingredients.

Cream the lard or shortening until smooth. Add sugar, egg, vanilla, and liquid. Pour wet ingredients into flour mixture. Add anise seeds at this time and knead together. If mixture is too sticky add some flour. Roll out the dough onto a floured board or counter and cut out bizcochos using a small-floured cookie cutter or you can put the dough into a cookie shooter using your favorite design. You will have to re-knead and roll out the dough several times until you have used all of the dough. Place the bizcochos onto an ungreased cookie sheet and bake for about 8-10 minutes. While bizcochos are baking, mix the sugar and cinnamon "coating" ingredients in a wide bowl. Set aside for coating baked bizcochos. After baking, coat bizcochos with the sugar and cinnamon mixture. Use favorite cookie cutter designs.

Feel free to submit your input to this newsletter. Just email me at ramon.f.villa@usmc.mil. We like to know about command events, what's happening in your area and all family readiness news. I hope you hear from your! -Have a great season! Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! Ramon



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Resources, links and phone numbers

Family Readiness Officer (FRO)

Ramon Villa
757-492-0027 Office
757-469-1920 Cell
ramon.f.villa@usmc.mil



Command Deputy FROs (DFRO)

MarDet Dam Neck: 757-492-0072
CWO3 Teddy Bunnell

MarDet Naval School of Music: 757-492-7504
MSgt Sean Helms/SSgt Justin Schmidt

MATSG 33: 757-433-3830
Maj Michael Woodard

MarDet Ft. Belvoir: 571-558-1620
GySgt Keith Winfrey

MarDet Newport: 401-841-4272
1Sgt John Lewis

Command SMP Reps

MarDet Dam Neck: 757-492-0228
Sgt Collin Rinderer
collin.j.rinderer@navy.mil

MarDet Naval School of Music: 757-462-7504
SSgt Zachary Wills
zachary.d.wills@navy.mil

MATSG 33: 757-433-3896
SSgt Seth Hanson
seth.g.hanson@navy.mil

Websites (Click on the link)

Marine Corps Intelligence Schools Public Site

<https://www.mcis.usmc.mil/fro/SitePages/Home.aspx>

[Naval Station Oceans Annex, Dam Neck Annex](#)
[Naval Air Station Oceana](#)
[Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story](#)
[Naval Station Norfolk](#)
[Joint Base Langley-Eustis](#)
[Army Community Services: Ft. Belvoir](#)
[MWR Newport RI](#)

Social Media! Feel free to "Like or Follow"

[MCIS Unit, Personal and Family Readiness Program](#)

[MarDet Dam Neck](#)

[Marine Detachment Naval School of Music](#)

[Marine Corps Family Team Building Camp Allen](#)

[Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story](#)

[Naval Station Oceana](#)

[NAS Oceana/Dam Neck MWR](#)

[MATSG33@FlyMarines](#)

[Ft. Belvoir](#)

[Newport, RI](#)



American Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org/>

Navy Marine Corps Relief Society

<http://www.nmcrs.org/>

DSTRESS Hotline

<http://www.dstressline.com/>

