

MCCS Quarterly Support Council Meeting Minutes
01 September 2010
1000-1130

ATTENDEES

Mike Flanary- MCCS Director
Chaplin Weaver- MARFORCOM Chaplain
LtCol Taylor- MFC H&S BN XO
Chaplin Muehler- MCSF Regimental Chaplain
Karina Phillips- MCFTB Director/EFMP Manager
Rae Kerrigan- MCFTB Trainer
Chantal Arsnoe – LINKS Trainer
Mary Cisowski- Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Training, Education Outreach Specialist
Kim Carmon-Stanley- EFMP Case Worker
Michele Diamond- Single Marine Program (SMP) Coordinator
Michael Corrie- Semper Fit Director
Tina Carter- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR)
Ken Boyer- MCX Director
Arkesha Moses- 4th Supply Bn FRO
Pack Trotta – MCSF Regiment BN FRO
Mrs Anne Sloat- MCSF Regiment Family Readiness Advisor (FRA)

I. Call to Order

a. Welcome

Karina Phillips welcomed everyone to the meeting at 1000. She explained the purpose of the Support Council meeting and stated the meetings are held once a quarter. Family Readiness Officers, Chaplains, MCCS/MCFTB staff, Command Leadership and Family Readiness Advisors are invited to the meetings in an effort to learn more about the programs offered and be given the opportunity to express any concerns. Each person in attendance was asked to introduce him/herself. Karina welcomed the guest speaker – Mr. Bruce LaLonde, the president and CEO of the Hampton Roads USO and of Central Virginia.

II. Guest Speaker- Mr. Bruce LaLonde, president of the Hampton Roads USO

Mr. LaLonde, introduced himself and gave a brief overview of the United Service Organization, USO. The organization was founded in 1941 and actually stood up in the Hampton Roads area in 1985. There are 9 USO Centers within the State of Virginia; the USO station in Newport News is open 24 hours and day 7 days a week!

The USO does three things for service members and their families- 1) Quality of Life 2) Entertainment 3) Information and Referral. Their quality of life offerings also include the “home away from home” centers located at airports throughout the world.

The USO Hampton Roads touches 1.9 million Service Members and their families through their programs and events. 600,000 are touched via the airport centers, 750,000 are touched at entertainment events, and about 700,000 are touched for information and referral.

Upcoming events the USO will be hosting here in the Hampton Roads area are as follows:

- October 17: Free Admission to the Norfolk Zoo for all ID Card holders
- Thanksgiving Program, Adopt a Marine/Sailor
- December 4: Holiday Party at the "Little Creek" base

The USO Norfolk Airport is in dire need of Volunteers- please see their website if you or anyone you know is interested.

III. Program Updates:

a. Semper Fit: Michael Corrie

Semper Fit will have 2 additional employees who are trained and knowledgeable about Functional Training- Tactical Strength and Conditioning. There will be another Combat Tactical Strength and Conditioning course taking place in November. There are multiple fitness classes offered, kickball and basketball tournaments on going as well. Check out the monthly brochure "LIBO" or our website: www.mccscampallen.com for more information.

The 603 Gym, located on Camp Allen, will be gaining new weight machines. These machines will be Free Motion Weights and are expected to arrive mid to late September.

Outdoor Recreation has been somewhat of a success thus far; however, it is still being under utilized. Surf Boards have been a hot item this summer. All items are free to borrow.

b. Marine Corps Exchange: Ken Boyer

The Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) is up 223,00 year to date sales from last year! The MCX will now be offering more healthy choices within the "grocery section" of the exchange; fruit smoothies, fresh cut fruit, and salads are now available. Manic Mondays have started- each Monday of the month there will be a "buy one get one free" item. Papa John's pizza will now be offered at the Exchange instead of Pizza Hut.

The Red Box outside of the MCX will be offering Blue Ray Movies for \$1.50 per night.

MCX will be having many up and coming sales, be looking out for them! When you visit the MCX, be sure to register for the "Email Hookup" and receive great discounts and coupons via your emails.

c. Single Marine Program (SMP): Michele Diamond

The numbers are up and Marines are attending events and using the MAC Center more. The most successful trip(s) have been Off Shore Fishing Trips- great attendance rates. Another success event has been the Free Movie Nights. This month SMP will try to Regal Cinema's at MacArthur Center, \$5 Tuesday Night Movies. The next Movie Nigh is scheduled for 14 September.

This year's Regional Field Meet planning as begun and is schedule to take place on October 22. There will be 10 events; 5 sporting events and 5 Marine Corps Events.

The MAC Center will have all new computers, and in addition they will be gaining 2 more computers. These computers will be “gaming computers”.

SMP has adopted 2 streets here in Norfolk to look after and keep clean. The first one is Granby Street, and the second is a section of Hampton Blvd in front of ODU. The next street clean is scheduled for 30 September.

This Summer SMP has been able to work with the Virginia Beach Amphitheater- many of the concerts held this summer were able to be offered at no cost to the Single Marines because of the new relationship with the Amphitheater.

d. EFMP: Mary Cisowski

EFMP has successfully lifted off the ground and is home to 161 cases and there are currently 19 families utilizing the Installation Respite Care program.. A Facebook page and newsletter have been created and is being used as another resource for families – they currently have 49 followers.

If commands would like to include a piece on EFMP in their command newsletters, please let Mary know and she would be more than happy to include some upcoming EFMP information. There is a google calendar available, with special needs events listed, that can be found on http://www.mccscampallen.com/EFMP_local.htm

e. Family Readiness Program Training: Rae Kerrigan

The last Family Readiness Assistant/Advisor held on August 17 was a success with 3 attendees. The next training is scheduled for 18 September. Commands interesting in receiving Command Team Training may also schedule that through MCFTB, according to what is most convenient to the command. This training will cover, in detail, the new Family Readiness Program.

22 Marines and their significant other attended the 28 August PREP Workshop. This was a great showing and class.

MCFTB is looking to host a winery trip in mid October for spouses. This date will be set by the middle of September.

Holiday Party season is just around the corner- MCFTB would love to provide a children craft and resource table to the families/commands. Please work through your FRO and we can start planning!

f. Deployment Readiness Support- Rae Kerrigan

Pre-Deployment Briefs have been split into two groups; Single Marines and Married Marines. The Married Marines spouse attendance rate has been higher since the brief split. Each brief has is now approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour.

We have invited Semper Fit to join our Homecoming Briefs. This is a great way to promote the Outdoor Recr program and equipment in addition to all the trainings Semper Fit can provide.

g. LINKS Training: Chantal Arsnoe

Spouses Sessions

Alpha Company has requested a LINKS for Spouses session just for their company and it will be held on 18 September.

The next all comers LINKS for Spouses session will be facilitated over (2) days, 22 & 23 Sept, 8:30am-12:30pm. It will be held at the MCFTB building and as always, child care will be reimbursed at 3.00 an hour per child.

October 16th will be the next “all day Saturday” LINKS for Spouses, 8:00am-5:00pm, it will be held at the MCCS Admin Bldg.

The final spouse’s session of the year is on the 4th of December from 8:00am-4:45pm and it will also be held in the MCCS Admin Bldg.

A Mentor Training is also scheduled for 5 & 12 October, along with a LINKS for Kids, 9 October.

LINKS for Marines

CF2 is scheduled for a LINKS for Marines session on the 29 & 30 of September, and it will be held in the classroom at Charlie Company from 08:00-14:00.

h. Open Floor/Open discussion/Comments/Suggestions

Karina Phillips then opened the floor up for discussion.

Pack Trotta made the announcement regarding the MCSF Regiment Evening Parade, 10 September. She also stated the Regiment has launched an approved Facebook page.

Arkesha Moses presented an “ongoing” idea regarding the “Ohhrah Bash” in hopes it could be scheduled for a December date, with it being holiday focused. The discussion was to ensure the area commands would support allowing the Marines to be “off” for the day to attend with their family. Other concerns included that some commands would still want to “have their own” holiday party. The local FROs came up with a tentative date of 10 December. Karina will email all of the area FROs to schedule a follow on organizational meeting regarding this event. MCCS will support events in which the commands also support.

LtCol. Taylor thanked everyone for attending the meeting and expressed a sincere appreciation of MCCS and the efforts of the Family Readiness Officer.

i. Closing: Mr Michael Flanary

Mr Flanary reminded all of the value and purpose served by patronizing the MCX and appreciated the support by everyone.

j. Meeting Adjourned at 1130 and refreshments were enjoyed by all. Next meeting will be held in December/January timeframe.

Respectfully submitted,

Karina Phillips