



22d MEU Family Readiness Newsletter

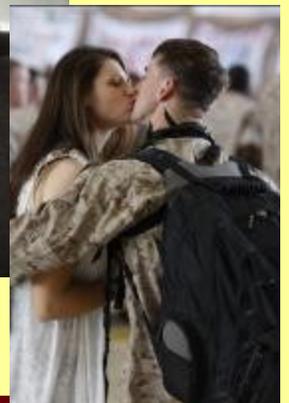


January/February 2012

THE HOMECOMING EDITION

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Marine Family Readiness 

FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER



***“...your Marines
and Sailors
continue to
perform in
superb fashion
and your daily
contributions are
greatly
appreciated.”***

Family and Friends of the 22d MEU,

Welcome to 2012! The Sergeant Major and I hope you had an enjoyable and fulfilling Christmas and New Year’s holiday. As we enter the final month of the deployment, many people find this phase of the deployment is sometimes the most difficult. We are as anxious as you to finally return home. As always, please keep a positive attitude – your Marines and Sailors continue to perform in superb fashion and your daily contributions are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Our departure from the Fifth Fleet Area of Operations is highlighted by our northbound transit through the Suez Canal. Other than being a bit cooler outside; the canal is always a sight to see. Once we enter the Mediterranean Sea, all three ships will proceed westward for two liberty ports before joining together for the trip across the Atlantic. Fortunately, the MEU will see some new places – Malta, Barcelona, Naples, Rota, and Lisbon. However, rest assured, the destination we are most looking forward to is North Carolina – we’ll be home soon.

Finally, the Advance Party has returned to Camp Lejeune and the projected return of the Main Body remains early February 2012 – exact dates will be released as we get closer. For January, Frank “The FRO” and the 22d MEU Family Readiness Team have planned a Return and Reunion schedule complete with seminars, classes, and other events to assist you in preparing for the return of your loved one. The return, while much anticipated by all of us, can also be accompanied by some tension and anxiety. Please don’t feel alone or removed as there are numerous resources and other assistance available to help you. If you have any questions about the MEU’s return, or for any Family Readiness matters, please contact Frank “The FRO” Smith at: frank.smith@usmc.mil or by phone in his office at 910-451-0421 or on his cell at 910-382-0896. Another great source of information is the 22d MEU website at: <http://www.marines.mil/unit/22ndMEU/Pages/welcome.aspx>.

As always, we truly appreciate the daily sacrifices you make for your Marine or Sailor. Wish all of you the very best, and we’ll see you soon!

Sincerely,
Col Eric Steidl
Commanding

FROM THE FAMILY READINESS OFFICER

Happy New Year Family and Friends of the 22d MEU,

We made it through the holidays and if you are anything like me, I am sure you did your part to help stimulate the economy during the 2011 Christmas holiday shopping period.

During this deployment, we here at Camp Lejeune, the 22d MEU's home base, have endured spring tornados, summer wildfires, earthquake aftershocks, and an early fall hurricane. Most made it through unscathed. Now we are one step closer to our Marines and Sailors returning home!

Homecoming is a very exciting occasion; however, it can also be a very stressful time. Anticipation, expectation, and anxiety all rolled into one momentous day. Please exercise patience and understand that it takes a lot of moving parts to get your loved ones back to you safely. Your Marines and Sailors will be required to take classes, post deployment health assessments, and will be offered counseling to re-acclimate themselves to the routine of home life after being aboard ship and away from you for ten long months. Fortunately there were no shots fired in hostility during this deployment, but continue to keep an open eye and ear on your service member for post deployment stress indicators.

The official date for the 22D MEU Command Element to return is Super Bowl Sunday; 5 February 2012. The reception location will be the 22D MEU Headquarters on Camp Lejeune. Return time is between noon and 6 pm. Times are tentative and could possibly change depending on weather, logistics, etc. As we get closer to the return date, we will be more able to pinpoint an exact time. For safety reasons, no one will be allowed to meet their Marines or Sailors anyplace other than the reception area.

We will have a welcome committee at the Camp Lejeune Main Gate to hand out temporary one day passes for visitors that do not possess a valid base decal on their vehicle. Security will be stringent. All adult visitors must have valid identification. Drivers must have valid license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance to get non-registered vehicles on base. You will have to give the name of the Marine/Sailor that you are here to meet.

As always, I am here to assist you in any way I can. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns. I can be reached by email at frank.smith@usmc.mil or blackberry (910) 382-0896.

Frank Smith Jr



"Look at everything as though you were seeing it either for the first or last time."

~Betty Smith;
A Tree Grows
in Brooklyn~ .

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Well, we are almost there! Plans are being made for the reunion and leave period. Excitement and apprehension are growing. Nothing can top that rush of relief as we collapse into each other's arms at the end of a long and challenging deployment. Cherish that moment. Take a picture of the joy and laughter on your faces. But, don't let the happiness fade. You can keep that joyful picture and make the homecoming transition much more smooth by remembering a few homecoming tips. (Don't worry; I'll be sharing these with your Marine or Sailor as well!)

Homecoming Tips:

1. Accept that things may be different so take time to readjust. We have lived a long time apart. And we all have been through challenging times. Take it slow.
2. Remember to encourage and support your Marine or Sailor when they return. Let them open up and share as they feel ready. Be a good listener and a good friend.
3. Remember intimate relationships may feel unfamiliar at first. Again, take it slow.
4. Homecoming fantasies are just that. Reality may be different. Be patient and don't try to cram a year's worth of activities into the first week! There is plenty of time ahead for fun.
5. Work on communicating well with your partner. Follow their lead. If he or she wants to have one-on-one time alone with you and the kids, do that. If they want to hit the road, visiting everyone from Uncle Earl to Cousin Martha, be open to that, too. Remember to talk and to listen. Do not shut down with each other.
6. Spend quality time together as a family. The kids will be overjoyed to see Daddy or Mommy. Or maybe they won't. Little ones especially will need extra time to adjust. Now is the time to switch back to a two-parent household. Make the move slowly, but definitely move toward it.

Just remember that the main emphasis is to enjoy being together again as a family. We have missed you all too and are excited to be with our families again!

May you and your family have a joyous and happy new year!

Semper Fidelis and Blessings!

LCDR Ted Williams
22d MEU Chaplain



VOLUNTEER VOICES & VIEWS

“Being a volunteer for the unit has made me feel a part of a family away from home. It makes me feel connected to the other spouses and helps me feel like I am not alone. It also provides me an opportunity to stay involved and busy to help deployment times pass more quickly. I can also say that I feel proud to be involved and making a contribution.”

If you are looking for a place to spend a rainy day, or just to pass the time as the deployment comes to an end; stop and, look no further than The Children’s Museum in Wilmington! This museum is geared towards kids ages 1-10 and has many different events scheduled throughout the year. The next event scheduled is on 23 January to celebrate the Chinese New Year. There are also a variety of interactive exhibits including the Secret Cove under the Sea, Teddy Bear Hospital and an Art Studio where little ones can let their imaginations spill out onto the paper! Check out their website at www.playwilmington.org to plan your next visit!

Wilmington offers a variety of activities for kids and adults including tours around the historic port town. An entertaining way to see the town is to take a guided carriage tour given by Horsedrawn Tours of Wilmington, Inc. . This company gives scheduled tours for private events as well as unscheduled tours for those wanting to take a ride around town and learn some of the history of Wilmington. Adults are 12.00 and children under 12 years of age are 5.00. See their website at www.horsedrawntours.com for more information concerning hours and exact location.



SECTION UPDATES

Public Affairs/Combat Camera - GySgt A. L. Rainey/SSgt W. Campbell

Over the past ten months the Marines of the Public Affairs/Combat Camera office worked hard in an attempt to keep family, friends and the public informed of what the hard working Marines and sailors of the 22nd MEU have accomplished throughout this deployment. In that effort, the office as a whole produced over 2000 photos, 80 videos and 150 news articles.

We would like to send a heartfelt Thank You to all of you for your support.

We continue to focus on distributing our products to the Web as quickly and efficiently as possible for you to see and read. We are proud to say all of our products are a true testament to the skill and professionalism of each of our Marines; many of which are used by local, national and international news agencies.

We know our families and friends are looking at our Web sites on a daily basis and we didn't want to leave any-thing out. To see the immense amount of products published, please visit our DVIDS Web site at www.dvidshub.net/units/22meu and our Official Web site www.marines.mil/unit/22ndMEU/Pages/welcome.aspx

S-1 (Administration) - Capt. Michael Beames, Adjutant

The MEU S-1 is very busy as we come to the end of the deployment. Awards, Duty Rosters, Letters of Instruction, Mail, Fitness Reports – the list is endless. However, the Marines are doing a great job maintaining order and structure to the process, and our Homecoming should go smoothly.

One thing to note – keep an eye on your pay and entitlements. As we transition home, many of the entitlements will cease, and "take home" pay amounts will be smaller. For example, once we disembark the ship, Career Sea Pay will stop. Also, Federal and State taxes (varies with State) will be deducted once we depart the Combat Zone Tax Exclusion Area. Imminent Danger Pay will stop once we leave U.S. Central Command's Area of Responsibility. And for service members who rate Family Separation Allowance, that entitlement will stop once we arrive home.

Additionally, if you participated in the Savings Deposit Program, ensure you know the rules and regulations for getting your returns. Finally, enlisted Marines who rate Commuted Rations, that entitlement will begin upon our return.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding pay and/or entitlements, please contact the MEU S-1.

SECTION UPDATES



**Public Affairs/
Combat Camera**



S-2 Intelligence

SECTION UPDATES

S-2 (Intelligence) - Maj. Meredith Tobin, Intelligence Officer

As anticipation mounts for us to get home and see our families... we've done some bean counting to see some of our deployment milestones. As we just passed January 8th and our deployment aged a ripe 291 days old; we by-passed the USS Abraham Lincoln as the longest big deck deployment since the Vietnam War. So, here are a couple statistics to take into account, by the end of the deployment we should have:

- 1050 weather briefs produced.
- 900 imagery products produced.
- 680 intelligence updates and readboards produced.
- 450 haircuts given by LCpl Tolentino.
- 200 Radio Battalion detachment products... (They swore me to secrecy so I can't really say what exactly they are.)
- 150 topographic products produced.
- 77 days as our longest underway period.
- 60 Marines and Sailors trained in Ninja Skills (a.k.a. Marine Corps Martial Arts Program) by Sgt Berry.
- 59 Marines that were a part of the S-2 for the deployment.
- 45 burger days... Gotta love those sliders!
- 45 pizza days.
- 11 deployments for GySgt Ramirez.
- 8 port visits.
- 3 different MEUs for Maj Tobin (13th MEU, 31st MEU and 22d MEU).
- 3 MEUs that we conducted turnover with (26th MEU, 13th MEU and 11th MEU).
- 2 beer days.
- 2, 22d MEU deployments for Capt Derryberry, GySgt McClain, Sgt Harven and Cpl Wells.
- 1 very, long deployment for all of us.

And some statistics that didn't change... Our oldest Marine will still be **Sgt Bunce** at 40 (!) years old and our youngest Marine will still be **Cpl Shortt** at 20 years old. Technically, our youngest was an augment for the deployment, **LCpl Spaun** who turned 19 while out on deployment with us. We are all looking forward to getting home so that we can make some new statistics with our loved ones...like number of days spent sleeping in, watching movies, eating family dinners and best of all, taking vacations! See you all very soon!

See photos of the S-2 staff on the previous page.

SECTION UPDATES

Medical - Lt. Jamie Longobardi, Medical Officer

In the next few weeks, the 22d MEU CE will return. In preparation for our return, 22d MEU Medical has sent three sailors back to Camp Lejeune. **HMCS Vincent Crews, HM1 Justin Foxworth, and HM3 Kevin Justice** are currently working to get the Aid Station operational in our new building. They have the next 4 weeks to get the job completed for our return. This will ensure smooth transition of medical care from ship to shore.

Still onboard the USS Bataan, **HM1 Al Watts, HM3 Ryan Dunlap and HM3 Robert Graham** are working to secure the aid station and preparing for rough seas in the process. We are expecting more than a few cases of sea sickness while transiting through the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean during the winter months. The last report was several storms creating 12 foot waves and larger in the Mediterranean Sea. When securing the ship for rough seas, all heavy items must be placed on the floor or tied down. This prevents boxes from falling over on Marines and Sailors heads, which could cause a concussion. Concussion is a mild form of traumatic brain injury or TBI. TBI is a major concern for deployed personnel and some of the long term effects can be: memory gaps, difficulty with creating long term memories and headaches. While a single concussion does not cause these long term effects, multiple concussions over a few years can. At home prevention of concussion and more severe forms of TBI includes the use of helmets. Helmets should always be worn when riding bikes, motorcycles or when on roller skates and skateboards.

As we wind down on the deployment, the HMs and I have worked hard keeping the 22d MEU CE Marines and Sailors healthy during this deployment. In doing so, we have completed 126 Periodic Health Assessments, and 171 HIV checks, 54 Tuberculosis screenings, and 669 vaccinations. We anticipate completion of 249 Post-deployment Health Assessments in the next few weeks and the remaining 78 HIV labs. We have also seen 624 Marines and Sailors in sick call. For the entire 22d MEU LT Analiza Enriquez has coordinated the movement of 68 Marines and Sailors to shore facilities for medical care both in theatre and CONUS. 27 of those sent to shore for medical care were able to return to the deployment. Most of those who left during the deployment for medical reasons were orthopedic, complicated surgical cases or head injuries. There were also numerous surgical procedures performed onboard the USS Bataan by Fleet Surgical Team 8. These procedures included: inguinal hernia repairs, appendectomies, debridement and closure of multiple wounds that occurred in the line of duty, and even a few vasectomies. Now that we are headed west, all elective procedures are on hold until we return home.

SECTION UPDATES

S-3 (Operations) - LtCol. Trevor Hall

The 22d MEU and BATAAN Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) recently returned to the Mediterranean Sea and are planning for our return home. We recently cleaned all our aircraft, vehicles, and equipment in Jordan; a requirement to have all the equipment inspected by department of agriculture officials prior to re-entering the United States. Our advance party has also returned home and will be working diligently to coordinate and make final preparations for our homecoming in early February.

Looking back, we accomplished a tremendous amount over the past 9 months. As you may recall, we had only completed half of our Pre-deployment Training Phase (PTP) when we were given the order to deploy in support of Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR (OUP) in the Libya Joint Area of Operations (JOA). While supporting OUP, we still had to complete our PTP while deployed in the Mediterranean Sea. It was challenging to find the time and areas to train, but we worked through it and were eventually certified in late July. That was just prior to the decision to deploy us to the Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR).

Because turmoil still existed in Libya, the decision was made for 22d MEU and the BATAAN ARG to conduct disaggregated operations between the CENTCOM, Africa Command (AFRICOM), and European Command (EUCOM) AORs. In August, the USS BATAAN and USS WHIDBEY ISLAND transited the Suez Canal and worked in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and the Persian Gulf while the USS MESA VERDE remained in the Mediterranean Sea. In doing so, this was the first time that one MEU operated across such a large area and supported two separate operations simultaneously. While in the Middle East, we sent four MV-22 Ospreys into Afghanistan and exchanged them with four MV-22s that had been there since November 2009. These were the same MV-22s that 22d MEU delivered to Afghanistan during our previous deployment. It was memorable to bring those aircraft back aboard the BATAAN again.

In all, 22d MEU conducted 15 Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) exercises in 8 separate countries. These countries included Greece, Spain, Romania, France, Djibouti, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, and Bahrain. The exercises gave us the opportunity to work with our coalition partners to bring strength and stability within the Middle East, Europe, and Eastern Africa. The exercises were very rewarding for the Marines and Sailors to see positive returns on their efforts and why we are deployed. The exercises kept us busy and helped us remain trained and ready for operational contingencies. We also had the opportunity to conduct 25 port visits in 10 separate countries. Those countries include Spain, Italy, France, Greece, Portugal, Malta, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Jordan.

This has certainly been a very long deployment. In fact, we set a few deployment records. On 8 January, our deployment was 291 days, which passed the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN's record (290 days in 2003) as the longest big deck deployment since the Vietnam War. On 20 January, the deployment will be 303 days, which will pass the USS OKINAWA's record (302 days in 1990) as the longest amphibious ship deployment ever. If we return as planned, only the USS MIDWAY's 1973 deployment (327 days) will have us beat as the longest deployment since World War II. This is one competition that we don't mind losing.

We are looking forward to returning home and being reunited with our family members once again.

SECTION UPDATES

S-4 (Logistics) - Maj. Sean P. Smith, Logistics Officer

As Norman Vincent Peale once said “Become a possibilitarian. No matter how dark things seem to be or actually are, raise your sights and see possibilities - always see them, for they're always there.” This quote became an unspoken motto for the Marines of the S-4 who spent nearly a year separated from their families and loved ones, missing countless holidays, birthdays and seasonal events.

With the holidays at an end, closing out a deployment that was 7,536 hours long or more for some, has most Marines anxious to close out this chapter of life and get home to the next, already focused on homecoming and Valentine’s Day at only 312 hours away. These facts, although indisputable are nothing compared to the family memories missed, lost personal experiences and we fully understand this sacrifice and for this, we send you a heartfelt “Thank you” with gratitude and respect for supporting your Marine over this long deployment.

In the end, every Marine within the section gave their all, returning with their heads held high knowing that “the ball” was never dropped in their court. Consistency and professionalism was maintained within the section and you’re your Marines are returning with pride knowing they have bettered themselves during this deployment, served a purpose and that both Americans and people of foreign lands are better directly because of them. We thank you all!

S-6 (Communications) - Maj. Robert Myers, Communications Officer

Since our last newsletter, **Cpl King and Cpl McLaughlin** were both promoted to Sergeant in December, and **Sgt Taylor** was promoted to Staff Sergeant on January 1st. This is a very significant promotion to the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer ranks. These are promotion 18, 19, and 20 for the Communications Platoon. Over one third of the platoon has been promoted since we deployed. Even as we approach the end of the deployment, your Marines continue to work hard and advance their careers, or prepare for the next one.

As we approach the ten-month mark, the MEU’s requirements for data, radio, and telephony services have not eased up at all. Your Marines have met a constant stream of requirements from day one and have not failed to accomplish their mission once. They have maintained a high level of performance when many others would have quit. You should be truly proud of their accomplishments and their impressive endurance. Your Marines have supported dozens of training exercises, maintained hundreds of radios and transmissions systems, installed and maintained hundreds of computers, created and maintained thousands of accounts, and over the course of the deployment have ensured the delivery of literally millions of emails. Operations would grind to a halt without their tireless efforts. It has been a privilege to work with each one of your Marines.

SECTION UPDATES

S-6 (cont.)



HOMECOMING 2012

FINALLY THE NEWS YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

The official date for the 22D MEU Command Element to return is....

Drum roll please....

Super Bowl Sunday; 5 February 2012.

The reception location will be the 22D MEU Headquarters (Bldg 14) on Camp Lejeune (map on the following page). Return time is between noon and 6 pm. Times are tentative and could possibly change depending on weather, logistics, etc. As we get closer to the return date, we will be more able to pinpoint an exact time.

For safety reasons, no one will be allowed to meet their Marines or Sailors anyplace other than the reception area. Also please remember that the MEU is composed of several different units. Each unit will return on a different date.

Media Tips during 22d MEU Homecoming

What to do if external media asks for an interview?

- Accept or decline.
- It's your choice, don't feel pressured.
- Act Natural.
- Tell truthful information.
- Tell how you feel.
- Do not speculate. (Stay in your lane)
- Don't release information if you believe it is OPSEC.
- If it doesn't sound right, it probably isn't.

Responsibilities - How a Marine or his family can get in trouble.

- Violating Operational Security (OPSEC) – Classified or sensitive material.
- Ship schedules, unit sizes, return dates, operational locations/details, etc.
- Violating Privacy Act – FOUO or personal identifiable information.
- Social security numbers, dates of birth, etc.
- Bringing discredit upon yourself or the Corps.
- Political statements, comments on policy, endorsements, solicitations.

- Refer all unanswered questions to 22d MEU Public Affairs Officer;
 Captain Binford R. Strickland
 Office (910) 451-0428; Cell (910) 546-4421 .

HOMECOMING 2012—VISITOR RESOURCES

Directions to 22 MEU HQ

From the front gate you will come down Holcomb Blvd to the traffic circle. You will enter the traffic circle and make your third right onto McHugh Blvd. You will make a left into the parking lot by the 22D MEU CP. If there is not parking available at that location there is more parking available in front of the Field House.



Order your 22d MEU shirt at

[Www.cafepress.com](http://www.cafepress.com)

HOMECOMING 2012—VISITOR RESOURCES

Camp Lejeune and Jacksonville Hotels

Base Operator 910-451-1110

Base Lodging:

Lejeune Inn (Hostess House) 910-451-3041 *Reservations may only be made 30 days in advance*

All Points Inn 910-451-2146

Onslow Beach cabins, cottages, and campsites 910-450-7502

In Jacksonville: (Disclaimer – The below list of hotels does not constitute endorsement by the Marine Corps nor the 22D Marine Expeditionary Unit Family Readiness Officer)

America's Best Value Inn	910-455-6888 (2149 Marine Blvd)
Best Western Courtyard Resort	910-455-4100 (603 Marine Blvd)
Best-Rest Inn	910-455-2063 (258 S. Marine Blvd)
Coastal Motel	910-455-1999 (across from the Air Station)
Comfort Suites	910-346-8900 (130 Workshop Lane)
Days Inn	910-347-5131 (505 N. Marine Blvd)
Fairfield Inn by Marriott	910-938-4499 (121 Circuit Lane)
Holiday Inn Express	910-347-1900 (2115 N. Marine Blvd)
InnKeeper	910-938-0800 (2139 N. Marine Blvd)
Liberty Inn	910-353-3336 (1723 Lejeune Blvd)
Quality Inn	910-347-6111 (701 N. Marine Blvd)
Sleep Inn & Suites	910-478-0099 (129 Circuit Lane)
Triangle Motor Inn	910-455-4923 (246 Wilmington Hwy)
Sunset Inn	910-347-3311 (497 Western Blvd)

Out of Jacksonville...

Villa Capriani	910-328-1900 (North Topsail Beach)
Best Western Silver Creek Inn	877-459-1448 (Cedar Point)

Campground and RV parks...

Blackbeard's Campground 910-328-1206	Lanier's Campground 910-328-9431
Cabin Creek Campground 910-346-4808	PineWood Campground 910-329-1618
Fulcher's Landing Campground 910-327-1300	Stump Sound Campground 910-329-1414
Surf City Family Campground 910-328-4281	Topsail Sound RV Park 910-329-0500
White Oak River Campground 910-743-3051	

USEFUL INFORMATION

BlackBerry: 910

Reference	Purpose	Website / Phone
American Red Cross	Emergency information to Service Members	www.redcross.org or 1-877-272-7337 or Local (910) 347-3581 Camp Lejeune (910) 451-2182
Camp Lejeune Base Housing	Information on how to obtain military housing and check the housing list	www.lejeune.usmc.mil/family_housing.com (910) 450-1627/1628
L.I.N.K.S.	Spouse information. Learn more about the Marine Corps	www.usmc-mccs.org/links/index.cfm
MyPay	Pay Statements (LES), and adjust pay	www.dod.mil/dfas/
MOTO MAIL	To send e-letters to deployed service members	www.motomail.us/
Hurricane preparedness	Local Emergency information and help	http://co.onslow.nc.us/emergencyservices
Marine Corps Family Team Building	Provides information on resources and services	www.usmc-mccs.org/mcftb/index.cfm (910) 451-0176
Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society	Provides emergency assistance to Families	http://www.nmcrs.org/ (910) 451-5346 Camp Lejeune
USO	United Servicemember's Organization	http://www.uso-nc.org/jaxarea.html (910) 455-3411
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	Assist with pre and post natal nutrition/support	2455 Tarawa Terrace (910) 347-3613
Military One Source	No cost professional counseling on any subject. You name it, we can help	http://www.militaryonesource.com 1-800-342-9647
MCCS Lejeune	Services, activities, and events on Camp Lejeune	http://www.mccslejeune.com
TriCare	Provides medical resource information	http://www.tricare.osd.mil 1-877-874-2273
New Parent Support Program	Provides information for New Parents	http://www.mccslejeune.com/mcftb/npsp.html (910) 449-9501, Bldg 4012B, Midway Park
Relocation Assistance	Incoming/Outgoing moving assistance, loan locker, welcome packages	(910) 451-1055 or 451-1056
Family Member Employment Assistance Program	Provides employment assistance information	2475 Tarawa Terrace (910) 450-1676 or 4014E, Midway Park (910) 451-3366
Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune Information	Information on Base Commands, Schools, Housing, Legal, etc...	http://www.lejeune.usmc.mil
Information on any military Installation	Directions, procedures to gain entrance, lodging, childcare	http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil

Frank Smith, Jr.
Family Readiness Officer
Frank.smith@usmc.mil
(910) 451-0421 (office)
(910) 382-0896 (mobile)

www.1ejeune.usmc.mil/22meu

*"The secret of
happiness is
freedom.*

*The secret of
freedom is
Courage."*

~Thucydides



What Is OPSEC?

Operations Security, or OPSEC, is keeping potential adversaries from discovering our critical information. As the name suggests, it protects our operations – planned, in progress, and those completed. Success depends on secrecy and surprise, so the military can accomplish the mission faster and with less risk. Our adversaries want our information, and they don't concentrate on only marines to get it. They want you, the family member too.

You Are A Vital Player In Our Success!

As a family member of our military community, you are a vital player in our success, and we couldn't do our job without your support. You may not know it, but you also play a crucial role in ensuring your loved one's safety. You can protect your family and friends by protecting what you know of the military's day-to-day operations. That's OPSEC.

Protecting Critical Information

Even though information may not be secret, it can be what we call "critical information."

Critical information deals with specific facts about military intentions, capabilities, operations or activities. If an adversary knew this detailed information, our mission accomplishment and personnel safety could be jeopardized. It must be protected to ensure an adversary doesn't gain a significant advantage. By being a member of the military family, you will often know some bits of critical information. Do not discuss them outside of your immediate family and especially not over the telephone.

Examples Of Critical Information

- Detailed information about the mission of assigned units.
- Details on locations and times of unit deployments.
- Personnel transactions that occur in large numbers (Example: pay information, powers of attorney, wills, deployment information).
- References to trends in unit morale or personnel problems.
- Details concerning security procedures.

