

*Welcome to **L.I.N.K.S.** for Marine Parents and Extended Family*

Lifestyle
Inights,
Networking,
Knowledge,
Skills

“Your LINK to the Corps”



L.I.N.K.S.

L.I.N.K.S. (Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills) is an official Marine Corps program which helps families connect to the Corps.

The Marine Corps has expanded its definition of family, to include the family Marines were born into, sworn into, and married into. The L.I.N.K.S. program now offers multiple curricula to accommodate all aspects of a Marine's family:

- L.I.N.K.S. for Spouses
- L.I.N.K.S. for Marine Parents and Extended Family
- L.I.N.K.S. for Marines
- L.I.N.K.S. for Teens
- L.I.N.K.S. for School-Age Kids

L.I.N.K.S. for Marine Parents and Extended Family

L.I.N.K.S. for Marine parents and extended family members recognizes that for many of our Marines, their parents and extended family members play a major role in their lives, providing both support and advice. The content focuses on parents and the extended family new to the Marine Corps community. The program offers an orientation to the Marine Corps lifestyle, helping the participant better understand the unique challenges military life often presents. With an increased level of understanding comes an increased ability to provide support and advice as the parent or family member of a Marine. It is imperative to understand however, that family members who are non-ID card holders will be unable to utilize many of the services listed within this document. This Handbook has been provided for informational purposes and to educate families on the services the Marine Corps provides to their Marines.

Let's look at what the name **L.I.N.K.S. means:**

L - Lifestyle is a way of living and in this case it means understanding the military community and the unique lifestyle it offers.

I - Insights come from experienced families who relate their experiences of living the Marine Corps lifestyle, who understand first hand what you and your Marine are going through, and who want to help you understand and adapt to the new culture into which your Marine earned entry.

N - Networking represents the people you get to know during your journey in Marine Corps life.

K - Knowledge is what you will leave with and what will help you understand and navigate the Marine Corps culture.

S - Skills to help you and your Marine enjoy and thrive in our Marine Corps community.

Content Outline

Introduction

Introduces the L.I.N.K.S. concept and welcomes participants to the Marine Corps family.

The Corps

The United States Marine Corps - Outlines USMC structure and mission to include Navy personnel attached to USMC units. Provides historical insights and discusses traditions.

- National Defense Organization
- History of the USMC
- Marine Corps Oaths
- Marine Corps Recruiting Command
- USMC Installations
- Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF)
- Marine Forces Structure
- Marine Expeditionary Force Structure
- USMC Rank Structure
- USMC Uniforms
- USMC Social Functions
- Common Terms Used in the Marine Corps
- How to Tell Military Time
- Marine Language Quiz
- Glossary of Traditional Marine Corps Language
- USMC Acronyms

The Maze

The Maze: Benefits and Services - An overview of benefits, privileges, and resources available to USMC families; including the location of these services and how to access their wealth of information. *This section is provided for information only, as non-ID cardholders many parents and extended family members are unable to access many of these services.*

- Local Map/Resources
- Commissary
- MCCS Programs and Services
- Other Quality of Life Programs and Services
- Casualty Procedures

Pay Day

Explain the differences between a civilian and a military paycheck, while introducing the Leave and Earning Statement (LES), including a general discussion on basic pay and allowances. Beneficial financial management tips are also presented.

- Leave and Earnings Statement (LES)
- Pay and Allowances and Deductions

Separation and Deployment

Discuss the inevitable separations Marine families experience and provide suggestions on how to successfully balance the additional responsibilities when your Marine is away.

- Corresponding with Your Marine's Leadership
- Deployment Emergency Contact Sheet
- Deployment Checklist
- Operational Security (OPSEC)
- Care Packages
- MotoMail
- Activities for Children
- Return, Reunion, and Re-Integration

Crossroads

Moving in the Military - Insights on the moving process; everything from the first packer's inspection to clearing quarters.

- Information Gathering-Who can help (RAP/Military OneSource/Sponsor)
- Money and Moves-Allowances and Entitlements
- Checklist for Moving
- Household Goods (HHG) Claims Information
- Words of Wisdom (WOW)

Staying Marine

There are many reasons why "Staying Marine" makes sense financially, emotionally and professionally. This section offers some of the more notable reasons to stay and provides a sample career progression for officers and enlisted alike.

- Example Career Progression - Officer
- Example Career Progression - Enlisted
- MOS Roadmaps - Paths toward Promotion
- Military Occupational Specialties (MOS)
- "Stay Marine" Overview
- Stay Marine - 11 Benefits
- Benefits at a Glance