

Marine Corps Family Team Building
Quarterly Council Board Meeting Minutes: 27 March 09
Globe & Anchor 0911-1025

Voting Members

Mr. Michael Jackson, MCFTB Director, Chair
Ms. Denise Loftesnes, 3D MARDIV FRO
Ms. Susan Hulseley, 1st MAW FRO
Mr. Terry Burmester, III MLG FRO
Mr. Chris Ulrich, H&S BN FRO
Ms. Jeanna Rodriguez, III MHG FRO
Ms. Kelly Goddard, Spouse Representative, 3D MLG
Ms. Anna Baker, Spouse Representative, 3D MLG
Ms. Sharon Damren, Spouse Representative, 31st MEU
Ms. Leah Harrell, MCFTB L.I.N.K.S. Trainer

Quorum Present? Yes

Others Present

Ms. Catherine Frank, MACS-4 FRO
Ms. Renee DeLeon, 3D CAB FRO
Ms. Andria Stephens, 7th COMM BN FRO
Ms. Dawn Payne, CLR-35 FRO
Ms. Stacey Zebb, 4th MAR REGT FRO
Mr. Derrick Williams, MALS-36 FRO
Mr. Ron Appling, HMM-262 FRO
Mr. Robert Moreno, MWCS-18 FRO
Ms. Monica Woods, VMGR-152 FRO
Ms. Samantha Cook, H&HS MCAS FUTENMA FRO
Ms. Ashley Kogo, MACG-18 FRO
Ms. Amanda Daniels, MWSG-17 FRO
Ms. Barbara Lilley, MWHS-1 FRO
Ms. Shandra Hardy, 3BN 12th MAR FRO
Ms. Liliana Blyar, MAG-36 FRO
Ms. Beth Freeman, CLB-4 FRO
Ms. Winnie Chrismer, 3D Dental BN FRO
Ms. Stephanie Schwartz, MASS-2 FRO
Ms. Stephanie Taber, CLR-37 FRO
Ms. Tolondra Johnson, 5th Anglico FRO
Ms. Debra Sparkman, CLR-3 FRO
Ms. Allison Roach, 3D Maint BN FRO
Mr. Kevin Lathrop, HMM-265 FRO
Ms. Paige Potter, 12th MAR REGT FRO
GySgt DeMarko Cannon, 12th MAR REGT Deputy FRO
Chief Brenda Stevenson, 3D Dental Deputy FRO
Col Paul Damren, CO, 31st MEU
Col Edward Banta, CO, MWSG-17
LtCol Michael Anderson, CO, MALS-36
LtCol James Blackburn, CO, MWHS-1
LtCol Matthew Crabill, CO, MWSS-172
LtCol Sean McPherson, XO, MWSG-17

Maj Mark Halverson, XO, 7th Comm
Maj Ernesto Bullicruz, XO, CLB 31
Chaplain Ron Tomlin, III MHG
Chaplain Randal Craft, CREDO Director
Chaplain Alfred Pena, 7th COMM
Ms. Grace Yoo, 4th MAR REGT Spouse Representative
Ms. Jill Spencer, 3D RECON Spouse Representative
Ms. Kim Matos, 7th Comm Family Readiness Advisor
Mr. Rich Milano, Deputy A/CS, MCCS
Mr. Bill Lenehan, Chief, M&FS
Mr. Steven Rowland, Chief, Semper Fit
Mr. William Saddler, CYTP, MCCS
Ms. Jenny Perham, MFLC, Counseling & Advocacy
Mr. KC Carlon, MFLC, Counseling & Advocacy
Mr. Ken Simonds, MCFTB FRPT
Ms. Kim Pearce, MCFTB FRPT
Ms. Hiro Tsumori, MCFTB Community Relations
Ms. Eiko Irei, MCFTB Community Relations
Ms. Stacy Brooks, MCFTB Office Manager
Ms. Mandy Davis, MCFTB RDST
Ms. Tausha Killinger, MCFTB RDST
Ms. Lizz Carty, MCFTB RDST

Proceedings

The Marine Corps Family Team Building Council Meeting was called to order at 0911. Michael Jackson welcomed all attendees and asked that all topics outside the scope of the meeting be addressed to the staff once the meeting had concluded.

Approval of the Minutes

The Council was given an opportunity to review the meeting minutes from 5 December 2008. There were no additional amendments voiced.

Update on items from 4th Quarter 2008 Meeting

- Council Charter-Col. Falcom will address this subject later.
- JSO participation graph-requested by Mr. Dossin; included in your packets

Reports

MCFTB Chief: Michael Jackson

- Thanks to the FROs who assisted with the Family Readiness Survey.
 - Followed up w/ survey; HQ was pleased with participation.
- Phase 1 for Voice of Volunteer was completed on 2 March.
 - Phase 2 will be completed on 22 June.
 - Phase 3 will be completed on 14 September.
- Draft MCO 1754.6B (MCFTB) Review in process. Contact your MSC FRO for additional guidance.
- Draft MCO 1754.7A (Unit Personal and Family Readiness Program) Review in process. Contact your MSC FRO for additional guidance.

Family Readiness-Ken Simonds and Kim Pearce

- Consist of Command Team Training (CTT), FRO Volunteer Training (FRV), and Family Readiness Officer (FRO) training
- Working with Tracy Wedan to train individuals on Mass Communication Tool (MCT) and Volunteer Tracking Tool (VTT)
- All FROs have received FRO training.
- There were 60 volunteers have been trained this year which brings the total to 150 trained volunteers.
- Executive summaries for the MCT trainings will be provided to the Commanders via the FROs.
- Comments from Ms. Fox-Volunteers are confused as to what their role is. HQ may come out with supplemental training to clarify roles. Camp Pendleton is conducting training right now regarding this. Individual units may request training and provide volunteers with a job description.
- Question from Denise Loftesnes-Is there something for our CGs and COs to help them with MCT training?
 - Response from Kim -An executive summary was sent out via email this morning.

LifeSkills -Tracy Wedan

- In February, 70 spouses and active duty members attended the Jacey Eckhart workshop.
- FROs may set up Family Care Plan unit briefs.
- On 7 April, we will be hosting another Space A workshop.
- We have a new Japanese Cooking & Cultural class that will be offered once per month or every other month. We will embrace other cultures too depending on availability of volunteers.
- PREP for married couples has been offered in the past few months. The marriage directive is in the process of being revised. Until a new directive is published, the current one is still in effect.
- An ESL Class is currently in a trial phase with 15 spouses. We are working only with JSO spouses now, but will open the class to the public in the future.

Readiness & Deployment Support-Lizz Carty, Mandy Davis, and Tausha Killinger

- A Beyond the Brief series was just conducted. For the Financial Planning workshop, we worked with the Personal Services Center. Counseling & Advocacy and FOCUS assisted us with the Coping with Deployment workshop.
- We are having a Kids & Deployment workshop on 31 March. Registration is required. The workshop is for children ages 4-11 but high school students may attend. Parents or a guardian are required to attend.
- The In the Midst workshop is scheduled for 14 April. The class filled up within 10 days. We will be having another In the Midst workshop on 26 May. The workshop will feature yoga and reflexology techniques as well as a session provided by Kim and Ken on how to make bath salts.

L.I.N.K.S-Leah Harrell

- Since the last council meeting, L.I.N.K.S for Kids was hosted and 40 children (ages 6-12) attended. Twenty-five volunteers helped with the class.
- Six L.I.N.K.S. for Spouses classes have been held in the past four month with 99 spouses being trained; this is a 50% increase from last year.
- Kubasaki invited MCCS to present a 20 minute presentation for 180 students during the school's Focus on the Future expo. During this session, L.I.N.K.S for Teens was promoted. The 2nd part of the expo event was held on Monday and featured over 600 students (grades 8-12).
- April is the month of the military child. L.I.N.K.S. for Kids has been scheduled on 7 April for SAC children. On 9 April, a class will be held for all children.
- The next L.I.N.K.S. for Spouses will be held in May.
- Japanese L.I.N.K.S. will be held on 21 April.
- Question from Col Banta-Can spouses take L.I.N.K.S. training online without a CAC card?
 - Response from Leah -You must have a CAC card. We are working with HQ to make it accessible to the public.
 - Response from Mr. Jackson-A Commander can vouch for an individual spouse to take training and IPAC can provide a temporary login for the spouse.
 - Response from Leah -The online class is a good option, but we highly recommend attending the class. Online training is not specific to Okinawa. Plus, taking the class onsite allows you to network with other spouses.

JSO-Hiro Tsumori and Eiko Irei

- JSO & Open Forum participation numbers have been increasing. In January, 24 spouses attended and in February, 28 spouses attended. In March, about 50 spouses participated. This is the result of networking. We will be sending out a JSO schedule to FROs.
- We will now be offering three to four classes each month.
- The Space A class is popular so we have scheduled one in April and June.
- We held a Cooking Class this month and Mandy Davis assisted with teaching spouses Cajun recipes. We will be having a Barbeque Cooking Class in June to prepare for Independence Day. Two more Cooking Classes will be scheduled later in the year.

- The Open Forum is now being offered once every two months at Camp Courtney. Participants may bring a potluck lunch.

Marine & Family Services-Bill Linnehan

- Two Military Family Life consultants have been positioned at Camp Hansen and Schwab. We may look at placing them at other camps in the future. The consultants are rotated every two-three months.
- Mr. KC Carlon and Ms. Jenny Perham introduced themselves. They provide short term solutions for counseling support for Marine & family members, but primarily focus on helping Marines. Counseling services are provided at any location except in homes. No records are kept on file for this confidential service. The consultants do not deal with medical issues such as clinical depression.
- Question from Mr. Kevin Lathrop-Can you make house calls to Southern camps?
- Response from Ms. Perham-We can meet anyone at any place except for in their homes.
- Question from Col Damren-How does this program fit in with Marine & Family Services? Can these counselors attend Pre and Post-deployment briefs?
 - Response from Mr. Karland- Yes we can attend those. We are an augment unit from Counseling & Advocacy.
- Comment from Ms. Fox- People say we need more counselors so this might be a solution to this problem.
- Comment from Denise Loftesnes-This is a good idea for single Marines up North due to lack of transportation.
- Question from Tausha Killinger-Is there an age limit for services? What about child counseling services?
 - Response from Mr. Carlon-The program offers opportunities for families. We are not set up to provide child services. There is a program at Lester through Mental Health Services that works with children. We can work with families and include children. Hopefully in the future, the CDCs in Okinawa will have life consultants

Additional items for discussion

- Comments from Michael Jackson-There were some last minute additional agenda items concerning deployed spouses' childcare. We are currently working with CYTP to get clear guidance. We are also currently working with the CSCs for support standardization and with Sponsorship for FRO support.
- Question from Denise Loftesnes- Will Sponsorship consider a grandfather clause for FROs who submitted paperwork?
 - Response from Mr. Jackson: We have submitted the issue to executive leadership and will have the answer by next week.
- Comments from Ms. Fox- The Children's Waiting Room is closed. Anyone 12 and under cannot come into contact with any items containing lead. This may affect Toys for Tots donations. An order will come out soon regarding this.
- Question from Kim Matos-Will the Children's Waiting Room be closed forever?
 - Response from William Saddler- Yes, it is closed permanently because of the lead content and the site's proximity to vehicles.

- Comment from Chaplain Kraft (CREDO)-The next retreat is from April 17-19 at the Pricia Resort. This is a great opportunity for couples. Registration is open Monday at 0800.
- Question from Andria Stephens-How will FROs be supported until an executive decision is made?
 - Response from Mr. Jackson-Seek assistance from your Commanders or work through your Comptroller if no money is available. Guidance should have been provided in advance, but as of now, we have exceeded startup costs.
- Question from Paige Potter-Which form do we use for unit funds request?
 - Response from Mr. Jackson-We have not changed the form. Other forms are only drafts.
- Ms. Fox-What about rollover funds? Division was able to do that, but Wing & MLG were not. Are funds still available for use?
 - Response from Mr. Jackson- MARADMIN 011/09 regarding Unit Family Readiness funds states that units can ask for a waiver to rollover funds, but it is not guaranteed. This decision is up to MajGen Krusa-Dossin. Division was the only unit to request for their funds to rollover and it was approved.
- Col Falcom- Mr. Jackson and his staff are in the process of drafting a council charter. The charter should provide a clear meaning of what the purposes and goals are of the Council meeting. Other topics included in the charter are membership and accomplishments. Per Mr. Jackson, a draft has been sent out to the Commanders during December 2008 for comments.
- Lizz Carty will be departing to Camp Pendleton. A farewell luncheon has been scheduled for 15 April at the Butler O Club.

Meeting Adjourned by: Michael Jackson at 1025

Assessment of Meeting: Well received

Minutes Submitted by: Stacy Brooks

Next Council Meeting: 26 June (0900-1100) Globe & Anchor

Minutes approved by:  Michael Jackson 11 May 2009