



## COMMANDER, U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND FAMILY READINESS POLICY



TO THE FAMILIES OF MARCENT TAMPA & MARCENT FORWARD BAHRAIN

On behalf of the Marines and Sailors of MARCENT, let me personally thank all of you for your continued support of the Command. Being the spouse and family member of a Marine, especially if forward deployed, is a unique challenge. When you add to this the rigors of our Marines and Sailors participating in contingency operations and the many exercises we undertake in around the globe, it makes being part of the Marine Corps and Navy family a significant challenge. You have my greatest respect and admiration as to how well you handle these challenges while you simultaneously raise your family and live your daily lives. Thank you.

The MARCENT Family Readiness Program exists for the following reasons:

- To provide a conduit for official information concerning your Marine or Sailor while in garrison and deployed.
- To equip families with the tools and life skills needed to be better prepared and to cope effectively with deployments and the stresses of military life.
- To provide information and referral services to enhance your family's resilience and cohesion.
- To create a volunteer network of like-minded "Spartan Spouses" able to handle the rigors of Marine Corps life.

By becoming involved in family readiness as a volunteer or simply by attending one of the many programs of Marine Corps Family Team Building, such as L.I.N.K.S., you will educate yourself as to how the Marine Corps operates, find a great number of fellow spouses who share your hopes and concerns, and become part of a support network allowing you to handle the challenges of Marine Corps life better. If you have already become involved with these activities, I would ask that you continue to do so and ask you to solicit the participation of fellow spouses who might only need some encouragement to get involved. Whether you take advantage of these tremendous opportunities or not, I must ask that all of you keep your unit Family Readiness Team Network informed of your whereabouts, especially if you move or change your phone number. We must know how to get in touch with you in case of emergency or to pass official information about your Marine and his or her unit.

Again, thanks for your unwavering support of our Marines and Sailors. I am committed to keeping you informed about the command's activities and doing all that we can to support you, especially while your Marine or Sailor is away.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert B. Neller".

ROBERT B. NELLER  
Lieutenant General  
United States Marine Corps